



† saint benedict's table



2023



annual report





# annual report 2023

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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 Anishinaabe, Cree, Dakota, Sioux and Ojibwe people and the homeland of the Metis 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 2023

Disciples, 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 join with you in giving thanks to God for our life in ministry and mission. I hope that your celebration and recounting of ministry this day enables you to reflect upon where God is guiding the whole Church. One extraordinary year passes, and we now embark upon yet another extraordinary year. I am grateful for the generosity expressed in every parish that expresses God's love to the world around us. I am glad that we, among other groups, remain important to our neighbourhoods and regions while we engage to do God's mission.

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.

While sharing with us at Synod 2022, our Primate, Archbishop Linda Nicholls described many across the Church, especially clergy, as brittle, explaining further that so many of us are simply exhausted. I have clearly seen this amidst our Diocese, in meetings, worship and general conversation. More than a pandemic, we are worried about economies, loss of control and for the state of the Church. These things I describe are also things that Jesus addressed in ministry, and with all who were willing be in conversation with him. May we continue to think and act as the Body of Christ, planning for an innovative and blessed tomorrow in God's home.

The Body of Christ lives not for itself but for God. May we live lives of thanksgiving to God, and may our decisions be for God.

The blessing of the Holy and undivided Trinity restore and strengthen you. Amen.

+ Geoffrey

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# minutes of the 2022 annual general meeting

2022 Annual General Meeting

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## saint benedict's table

### Annual General Meeting

**CALL TO ORDER**

Saturday, February 26, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. by Robin Shugart.  
Meeting was conducted via Zoom

**LAND  
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT  
AND OPENING PRAYER**

The land acknowledgment and opening prayer were given by Robin.

**ATTENDANCE**

Jamie Howison, Murray and Audrey Krushel, Pierre Plourde, Lois Gillespie, Robin Shugart, Martin Lyons, Jim Cornelius, Kathleen Estey, Kathy Berard, Paul Peters Derry, Danielle Morton, Ian and Pat Mowat, Bramwell Ryan, Jennifer Wiens, Chris Sones, Brad and Trish Vrolijk, Annick Boulet, Christen Rachul, Rob Kwade, Karen Merkel Kopp, Barb Beaupre, Adam Kroeker, Sarah Hodge-Kolisnyk, Krista Waring, Zoe Matties, Danielle Morton, Beth Downey-Sawatzky, John Badertscher, John Berard, Angeline Schellenberg, Fred Dugdale, Gilbert Berg, Katharine Langille

**RECORDING  
SECRETARY**

Katharine Langille was appointed recording secretary.

**REPORTS**

**WRITTEN REPORTS**

**It was moved by Adam Kroeker and seconded that we receive the written reports as distributed. Carried.**

**PASTORAL COMMENTS**

Jamie Howison gave his opening comments, which highlighted how challenging this year has been from on-again, off-again in person worship, to some leave takings. He noted we are rescheduling Makoto Fujimuro event, hopefully to April 2. A fall conference is planned, Idea Exchange resumed. Mask mandate will be left in place (Bishop Geoff). We will remain careful, be ready to pivot if necessary. Zoom has been very good!

**2021 FINANCIAL  
REVIEW**

Jim Cornelius presented the financial review. Systems will hopefully be in place next year to document processes. Jim described the activities of the year. Expenses were much lower than anticipated, and he explained the rationale. We ended up with a surplus, mainly due to the federal government wage subsidy. Krista expressed thanks to Jim and the committee for all their work.

Murray Krushel gave a report on behalf of the Finance Committee. He noted how beneficial e transfer has worked. An audit has been completed.

**It was moved by Murray Krushel and seconded to approve the 2021 financial statements as reviewed by the Financial Committee. Carried.**

Jim commented Canons require appointment of an auditor to review the finances of the parish.

**APPOINTMENT OF FINANCIAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**It was moved by Martin Lyons to appoint members of the Finance Committee to conduct an internal review of the congregation's 2022 accounts and financial statements prior to the statements being presented to the annual meeting of the congregation for approval. Seconded. Carried.**

**PROPOSED 2022 BUDGET**

Jim presented the 2022 budget.

- 1) Prudence was exercised in preparing the budget.
- 2) Offerings are projected to remain the same.
- 3) No more revenue from wage subsidy program.
- 4) Expense side:
  - a. staffing the same as later 2021
  - b. Activities: hoping for a return to some of the activities.
  - c. \$19,000 in the Collegeville grant remaining

The budget is projecting a small surplus.

**It was moved by Kathy Berard and seconded that the 2022 budget be approved. Seconded. Discussion. Carried.**

**COMMUNITIES OF CALLING**

Jamie gave an update on the Collegeville Grant. Leadership team is a clergy person, staff person and a lay person. Changes have been made but still intact.

We can have Makoto Fujimuro for an event because of this grant. We recently received \$1000 for a refreshing retreat for the community. Online song book has been done as well from this grant.

**SYNOD DELEGATES**

Jamie explained the function of a Synod which will be in October of this year.

Delegates – Krista Waring and Vonda Plett  
 Alternates – Beth Downey Sawatzky and Jim Cornelius

**Moved by Jamie Howison and seconded that Krista Waring and Vonda Plett be affirmed as our Synod Delegates, and that Beth and Jim be affirmed as our alternate delegates. Carried.**

**WARDENS**

- Robin Shugart is continuing her term as a warden, for her final year. Adam Kroeker has now completed his term as a warden, but will remain on the Kitchen Table.
- John Berard has agreed to step into the role of incoming warden

**Motion – Be it resolved that Robin Shugart and John Berard be affirmed as Wardens. Moved by Beth Downey Sawatzky and seconded. Carried.**

**KITCHEN TABLE**

- Chris Sones, Danielle Morton are stepping down from their positions on the Kitchen Table. Thanks to the both of them for their good service over the years.
- Ian Mowat, Krista Waring, Adam Kroeker, and Katharine Langille have offered to return as members for 2022.
- Paul Peters Derry remains on the Kitchen Table as an *ex officio* member on account of his being a member of the clergy.
- Vonda Plett will join Krista Waring as synod delegates, and so are both *ex officio* members.
- New members: Rob Kwade, Christen Rachul, and Zoe Matties are coming on board as new members.
- Jim Cornelius will continue to serve in his capacity as treasurer.

**Moved by Murray and seconded that Krista Waring (ex officio as synod delegate), Vonda Plett (ex officio as synod delegate), Ian Mowat, Katharine Langille, Adam Kroeker, Rob Kwade, Christen Rachul, Zoe Matties, Robin Shugart, John Berard, and Paul Peters Derry (ex officio as clergy member), be affirmed as members of the Kitchen Table, with Jim Cornelius serving as treasurer. Carried.**

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**REFUGEE COMMITTEE** Ian Mowat talked about the Refugee Committee and what our role is in the Habeeb family from Syria. Jamie added some detail. We are putting our name on the documentation. This will be a partnership between us and St. Margaret's Church.

**ADJOURNMENT** The meeting was adjourned at 2:15.



## *from the* **rector** – *Jamie Howison*

It was exactly twenty years ago now, in February of 2003, that a circle of about fifteen people sat down with Bishop Don Phillips to talk about our desire to test out a potential new worshipping community within the Anglican Diocese of Rupert's Land. This was following on about two years of talking and thinking together about the idea of what would become saint benedict's table, and on that evening in 2003 Bishop Don recognized a readiness to move forward. With his support and blessing, we gathered five times for evening liturgies over the course of that spring, with just seven of us attending the first gathering, and twenty-five people present at the fifth. With people making vacation plans for the summer, we set aside our gatherings for the next two months, reconvening for a retreat and discernment day at Nanci and Steve Bell's home in late August.

The morning that day was spent in silence and prayer, with just one question on our collective plate: are we ready to move forward in launching this new community? After lunch the fifteen people present began to talk together, and as we settled into our afternoon we were faced with a few very basic questions:

- Do we want to move forward? – Yes!
- Are we prepared to commit to attending liturgies on Sunday evenings? – Yes!

Those two answers came quickly, so we turned to the question of what we might call our fledgling community. A number of ideas were tossed around, but in fairly short order we landed on the name of saint benedict's table, which blended the name of an ancient saint—and one who pioneered a new way of being community in the 500s, just as Roman society was crumbling into what has since been named “the dark ages”—with the word “table”, signifying our desire to be a Eucharistic people but also a community that believed that hospitality and shared meals were crucial to the health of a church.

We had been offered the use of St Alban's Church in the south Osborne neighbourhood for our Sunday evenings, so we began our gatherings in that space, continuing there through until the Spring of 2004 when we made our move to All Saints. At the time I was still serving as the Incumbent Priest at the Church of St Stephen and St Bede in Silver Heights, but it was becoming clear that we'd soon be in position to have me move into full-time ministry with this new community. We were officially established as a Mission of the diocese on October 3, 2004, and I was inducted as the Priest-Missioner on November 28, 2004, the first Sunday in Advent that year.

From there we began to grow, both numerically and in our sense of vision for this new community. Looking back at our Vestry Book (which records all the services held by saint ben's), I see that we had 98 people for Christmas Eve in 2004, which jumped to 182 the following year, on to 225 in 2006 and over 300 in 2007. This was a time of explosive growth for us, which in turn led to the establishment of a half time "ministry coordinator" position in 2008. That position has since morphed into the position that Sarah Hodges-Kolisnyk holds as our admin and program person, in which she plays an invaluable role.

There were certainly some bumps and challenges along the way, but on the whole it has been an extraordinary time. The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in March of 2020 brought some very particular challenges—and here I'd want to acknowledge the input and perspective of our associate priest at the time, Rachel Twigg—with which we continue to contend right up to today. Financially we have remained quite robust over these past three years, but while both *Hear the Silence* and the 4pm family-friendly have fully rebounded, we continue to have a considerably smaller Sunday 7pm congregation than we did pre-pandemic. There are a number of reasons as to why this is the case, and we shall just have to see where the next chapter in the life of saint ben's takes us.

And it is the matter of "the next chapter" that I've had to wrestle through over this past year. Last winter I began to recognize that I was living with a fair level of physical and mental tiredness, and so in the weeks after Easter Day I engaged in a series of conversations with someone who has served as something of a ministry "coach" with me at various times over the years. He was not surprised at the tiredness, and commented that for anyone in a role that has required constant changes, shifts, and adaptations during the COVID pandemic, each year of work was essentially taking the toll of two years. That insight led to an ongoing correspondence with this person, through which I've had to look very hard at the current limits of my strength and adaptability, and over the past few months I have prayerfully determined that after almost 36 years of ordained ministry, the time has come for me to plan for my retirement. In conversation with Bishop Geoff Woodcroft, I have indicated that I wish to retire at the end of August, 2023, and in the meantime will do all that I can to lay the groundwork for the next chapter in the life of saint benedict's table.


In some respects, this is the toughest decision I've ever had to make, yet at the same time it feels right and natural. Not that I will cease to be a priest, nor will I retire into some stereotypical life of golfing and going to Florida for the winters (the good Lord save me from either!), as I do have another book to write which is in the research and planning stages, and I will seek to serve where I can as a preacher and teacher. It is just that the day-to-day work of a parish priest is about to exceed my capacity to do a good job of things, and the last thing I want is to be one of those folks who stays on in a position too long.



The entire experience of saint benedict's table has been a delight and a privilege, and ultimately an act of God's grace. My debt to all who have served us as wardens, Kitchen Table members, financial officers (a particular nod to Jim Cornelius), committee members, musicians, and staff members is all but incalculable. A particular word of thanks to Larry Campbell who steered our music for so many years, to Charles Garinger who picked up Larry's mantle admirably and carried us forward, and to Gord Johnson whose music with us has been a rare gift.

And to all who have called this community their home over these twenty years, the strongest word of thanks is due.

Under the Mercy,



Jamie Howison



*from the*

## **“honorary assistant”** *– Paul Peters Derry*

As I sit down to write this report, probably like the others who have submitted reports, I take stock of all that the past year has offered – the good, the bad and the spirit-filled, and I attempt to capture at least a sense not only of what has happened, but the import of same for our community of faith. Professionally, it’s been a year of change, as I concluded my time as Clinical Service Lead – Spiritual Health Services at Victoria Hospital, and likewise, vocationally, with my ordination to the priesthood on All Souls’ Day (November 2, 2022).

As well as the “up-front” or “public” involvement that I’ve enjoyed, whether preaching or presiding, or sharing in other aspects of leadership, there are a couple of items I want to note. In May, I presented a paper at Vancouver School of Theology’s Inter-Religious Conference on Climate Change, “From COVID-19 to Climate Change: Engaging Lived and Living Theologies ‘When the Ol’ Grey Mare Just Ain’t What She Used To Be.” Throughout the year, also, I’ve been part of virtual meetings of a national task group for the Anglican Church of Canada on Spiritual Harm and Abuse, and faithful responses in the midst of this.

Throughout it all, I continue to appreciate saint benedict’s table as a context for working out my discipleship. Time and again, in our occasions to gather both in person and virtually, I find grace in the ways that we engage with each other.

Again, thank you for being part of this, and for welcoming me as part of st ben’s journey.

In faith, hope and love ...

*Paul Peters Derry*



*from the* **director of music**  
— *Charles Garinger*

The year of 2022 was certainly an improvement over the previous two years. Although I was all in on mask mandates, it is certainly nice to be able sing without one. A sense of lightness is beginning to return, at least in terms of the music ministry.

I did have a bit extra on my plate last year as Gord was away for several months due to knee surgery, but he returned in the fall and has been very productive as usual.

Also, the return of Rachel Coleman meant I had a solid new worship leader who has been writing some great songs as of late. Her husband is a pretty fine horn player, as well.

Overall I am optimistic about the future and hope we have a productive and meaningful 2023.

Thanks to those who participated in music

Gord Johnson, Larry Campbell, Rachel Titterton, Trish Vrolijk, Brad Vrolijk,  
Timothy Cruikshank, Mark Holmes 'a Court, Nick Kolisnyk, Tatianna Friesen,  
Lois Gillespie, Rachel Colman, Andrew Colman, Adam Kroeker,  
Chris Sones, Anne McKenzie, Krista Wiebe

Thanks to Rob Kwade for his producing gifts, and to Lyndon James who does his thing so well.

Peace be with you

*Charles*



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

This past year has been about building relationships and rhythm, particularly as we transitioned to a new normal with more in-person gatherings in light of loosening Covid restrictions. (Though we of course remain committed to gathering safely!)

Building connections throughout our various communities guides all that I do. As I work at nurturing connections with our volunteers, artists, 4pm families, online communities and more, I simultaneously aim to fine-tune the broad patterns of our congregational lives, hopefully making our communications clearer and more effective for all. Thank you to all who have offered suggestions and feedback along the way! These adjustments may seem small and unremarkable, but are particularly important in honouring the schedules and contributions of our volunteers and supporters, whether they are supporting our regular gatherings or our special events. Moving forward I hope to continue improving our use of digital tools to connect clearly and efficiently while respecting the privacy and individual preferences of our community.

In June of 2022, I had the privilege of visiting Collegeville Institute in Minnesota as part of the *Communities of Calling Initiative* team. We had the opportunity to share successful projects that have grown through this Initiative - such as Samantha Klassen's *The Threads of Vocation* book, the "Art + Faith" event with Makoto Fujimura; our ideaExchange "the church in the city" series; and plans for our November church + media conference.

We also had the opportunity to be inspired, and through focused conversations about calling and vocation, our team (of Jamie, Bramwell Ryan, and myself) were excited to imagine a next step in the *Communities of Calling Initiative*, one we hope will continue to develop our unique, expressive voice within the digital commons. It is our hope that the new Digital Commons Coordinator position, recently filled by Andrew Coleman, will help others from our community find their calling in the digital space. As a former journalism and radio student, I personally love the idea of sharing "story meetings" and training sessions that can grow digital content right out of our own community - all while celebrating the wonderful stories and creativity you all have to offer!

Another highlight of the year was working with the team planning what became known as *Babel 2.0: Can the Church Survive Online?* This conference took place in early November 2022, but planning started nearly a year prior. One of my personal takeaways from the event was actually

found betwixt the formal sessions: connecting with members of the st. bens community and beyond in discussions about the benefits and utilities of exclusively online church communities. I heard many times that online spaces offer safe, inclusive and honest communities for people to explore and express their faith both individually and relationally.

In preparation for this event, we shared news of the conference via print media (including the Winnipeg Free Press), church networks, and social media. Data shows that we reached more than 20,000 people through these efforts, and guests tuned in from across the country and beyond for the conference. Our written and podcast resources have also been accessed by many and continue to be available. Feedback from one guest sums up *Babel 2.0* nicely: "Thanks for providing such a timely conference. I have passed along the podcasts to many. The thoughts shared here are very forward-thinking, and helped me with every level of Christian engagement in culture and community."

Finally, it is always a delight to work with the creative community at st. bens! Jennifer, Anna, Mark, Trish, Sharon and Kevin blessed us with their art and stories through their residencies. I was thrilled to get to know them better as shared their stories and work widely via social media and publication within the diocese.

In all of this and more, I have been so grateful to the community that continues to affirm, support and encourage me daily. Thank you!



## *from the* wardens

Despite the challenging start to the last year with a return to exclusively online worship due to the omicron wave, overall this year has been an encouraging one. It was especially delightful to resume in person worship for Good Friday, Easter, and Christmas Eve this year – significant gatherings which were deeply missed over the previous 2 years.

The Kitchen Table has continued to consider how to balance the desire to see some of our previous practices that were paused or changed due to the pandemic return, along with the ongoing public health realities, and our commitment to those who worship with us in the digital commons. Some highlights of this include the return of the reader's lectern to the centre aisle, the reappearance of menus, and gathering together in a circle to receive both bread and wine for communion. We have also seen the enthusiastic return of the 4pm bi-weekly Family-oriented service, as well as the Wednesday noon eucharist service in partnership with All Saint's. We continue to hold off on the resumption of the use of the common cup as well as serving coffee, and greatly appreciate the wisdom of the medical professionals in our congregation who have advised us throughout this season.

There are many people working faithfully behind the scenes to support the ministry of saint benedict's table. As wardens we are particularly grateful for Jim Cornelius who continues to serve with great excellence as our treasurer. 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 *John Berard*



## *from the* arts fund committee

saint benedict's table is a community that values active participation in the arts. From our very beginning in 2004, we have sought to engage with the arts in a variety of ways, including in our weekly worship, special events such as art exhibits and concerts, as well as in the support of an artist residency and of the production of new works of art created by members of our community.

This past year we had a rich array of artists, each of whom received a modest honorarium of \$400 per month. The first residency began as of March 1, 2022, with the final one served in January/February of 2023. From a financial point of view, this meant that 10 months were included in the 2022 statements, with the final two months falling under the 2023 budget.

### 2022-23 residencies

**Sharon Jones-Ryan** – a pottery project that produced a set of 24 small home communion plates and cups, to be distributed to people in our community as needed. So far seven sets have been given to people who need to receive communion at home, and one was given to Bishop Helen Kennedy in the Diocese of Qu' Appelle.

**Trish Vrolijk** - this artist residency helped support Trish's creative goal to professionally record the original song, "Still," based on Psalms 27, 116 and 139.

**Jennifer Wiens** – Jennifer's creative goal for this artistic residency was to work on a draft of her personal memoir, a piece that explores Jennifer's journey and how it has shaped and transformed both her faith and her outlook on life.

**Mark Holmes A'Court** – Mark's creative interest for this residency was to create a piece of music focused on the Passion, which was offered in our Good Friday liturgy. We're hoping to make a recording of Mark's work to share more widely.

**Kevin Grummet** - Kevin created a series of fourteen 20"x30" canvas photographic prints for exhibition at saint benedict's table held in September 2022, with a follow-up show at Artbeat Inc. in October. This exhibition featured images created entirely from his apartment in the West Broadway Commons during 2021 pandemic lockdowns.

**Anna Goertzen Loeppky** - Responding to the pandemic-related need for building community online, Anna's creative goal for her residency was to lead the community in making their own communion cups for taking communion at home. Her two workshops used a simple pinch pot technique, drawing on what Anna describes as the meditative experience of working with clay.



## *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. It represents our ability to grow and learn with experience. This group provides a platform for sharing and operates collectively as a safe and spiritual response to our emotional growth. The group welcomes all emotions without offering hasty problem solving, but rather a community of support. Encouragement is offered in response for individuals to identify and evaluate alternatives for themselves, towards a life of 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 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. 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.

This neurodivergent wellness group meets twice monthly on Tuesday evenings at 7pm. The sessions alternate between zoom and in-person to ensure accessibility for all. We have recently had the opportunity to share a meal once again since Covid-19 and hope that sharing a table of food together can once again become part of our emotional wellness group.

*Jodi Goertzen*





## *from the* human resources committee

The committee was busy this year working on a few big projects and a few smaller ones. One of the biggest projects was to create documents and a process for staff reviews. This was the first time that staff reviews were implemented, which required a lot of work and long hours. The evaluations with the staff have been completed. We are now working on an evaluation system for Jamie. The second big project was to review items from the previous year that had not been completed and send a letter of recommendation to the Bishop.

We revised the Terms of reference, which were then approved by the Kitchen Table. We revised our Key Deliverables in consultation with the Kitchen Table. Jamie created a private drop box folder where all the HR documents can be stored safely and accessible to the whole committee. We reviewed a number of policies.

### **committee members**

Annick Boulet (chair)  
Jamie Howison (incumbent) – ex-officio  
Sharon Jones-Ryan  
Vonda Plett  
Julie Schellenberg  
Robing Shugart (warden)

We greatly appreciate all the hard work done by the staff of saint benedict's table who faithfully serve our community and we look forward to supporting all staff in the coming year.

*Annick Boulet*



## from the mission fund committee

The Mission Fund Committee met on December 1, 2022, to review the potential grants for the year, and to make our recommendations for approval to the Kitchen Table. This fund represents 10% of our offering income, which is really quite lovely. It also makes for one of the most engaging and enjoyable meetings of the year, so we'd say that anyone who might be interested in getting involved should most definitely connect with Jamie Howison to let him know.

A call went out from All Saints early in the summer, notifying us that they were mounting a bit of a fundraiser in support of the Pivniak family, who they were supporting through their transition from Ukraine. We designated up to \$1750 from the Mission Fund for "matching grants" from the congregation. In the end, gifts from individuals from our congregation actually exceeded the \$1750, which was great.

After using that \$1750, the allocations recommended by our Committee totalled \$19,250.

1. **\$3000** to our **saint ben's Refugee Fund**, in preparation for the arrival of the parents of a Syrian Christian man who has now gained his Canadian status. We are working collaboratively with this man to make it possible for his parents to come to Canada.
2. **\$1500 – Bell Tower Community Café** – neighbourhood food bank and community building project run through Westminster United Church
3. **\$1500 – Artbeat Studio** – Organization committed to using art and mentoring in supporting people who have been struggling with mental health and wellness
4. **\$1500 - IVCF Manitoba Campus Ministry** - Financial support for this ministry allows them to seek out students who are in need of community and connection, facilitate spaces of spiritual engagement on campus, and develop and invest in students' character and leadership potential.
5. **\$1500 – 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.
6. **\$1500 – Good Food Club** - 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.
7. **\$1000 – Mennonite Central Committee**, designated for relief work in Ukraine

8. **\$7250 - Hand in Hand with Haiti** - In a critical year in Haiti, we have approved a substantial grant to support the school and meal programs run by El Shaddai Church.
9. **\$500 - Anglican Foundation of Canada** - 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.



## communities of calling

— collegeville institute

We are now well into our fifth and final year of participation in the “Communities of Calling” initiative sponsored by the Collegeville Institute. It was an active year, largely focussed around two major events, and a series of sessions in our longstanding ideaExchange series. Along the way we also bid farewell to Bramwell Ryan, whose leadership in these events has been invaluable over the past couple of years. Bram and Sharon moved to the West Coast in the summer, though Bram remained a very important member of our little Communities of Calling team right through the November 5, 2022 “Babel 2.0” conference.

- **ideaExchange** – three session series entitled The Church in the City, with sessions led by Travis and Stephanie Unger of Many Rooms Church Community, Greg McPherson – the former long-time director of West Broadway Community Organization – and Lynell Bergen of Hope Mennonite Church serving as our speakers.
- **Art + Faith seminar** – A half-day session on April 23, engaging questions related to 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 was the visual artist and author Makoto Fujimura who joined us via video from his home in Princeton. Steve Bell joined us to assist with the debrief on Makoto’s presentation, while Karen Cornelius guided us through an art exercise in preparation for the keynote talk. In preparation for the event, twenty copies of Makoto’s 2021 book *Art + Faith* were made available at a reduced cost for group and personal study.
- **Babel 2.0** – Our major November 5 conference day, exploring questions of whether or not faith can possibly survive online. We welcomed Dr. Katherine Schmidt as our onsite keynote speaker, along with online contributions from Nora Young of CBC radio and the author and journalist Michael Coren. In addition, David Balzar from Canadian Mennonite University served as our co-host and coordinator of the question and answer period following each of the presentations. A conference day of this scale simple would not have been possible without the support of the Collegeville Institute. Podcasts and videos of the presentations are available at <https://www.stbenedictstable.ca/babel-2-0>

Our final year with the Communities of Calling initiative is now underway, with Andrew Colman hired as a part time “digital commons coach.” His primary job will be to expand and

deepen our circle of people involved in hosting and producing our podcasts, which will involve one-to-one coaching as well as some group seminars. The budget includes some funding for two sets portable microphones to be used by our podcast hosts.

Our term with the Communities of Calling will wrap up at the end of June 2023, with our final reports submitted to them by September 1, 2023. We are grateful for having been invited to participate in this program, as it has allowed us to offer quite an array of activities and programs over the five years of the initiative which we'd otherwise not been able to include in our church budget.

*Jamie Howison, on behalf of our working group:*

Sarah Hodges-Kolisnyk, Bramwell Ryan and Andrew Colman



<https://collegevilleinstitute.org>



# financial reports

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## 2022 financial results

### *offerings & other income*

Offerings to support the general ministry of saint benedict’s table increased marginally by 1% in 2022 to \$211,557, \$1,557 more than we had budgeted for. An additional \$214 in interest earnings, \$4,805 in wage subsidy through the Canadian Emergency Wage Subsidy program of the federal government (\$3,915 more than budgeted), and \$2,000 in administrative contribution from the Colledgeville Institute grant was received, for total operating income of \$218,576.

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.

	2022		2021		2020		2019	
Household Offerings	# of Hlds	Total Offerings	# of Hlds	Total Offerings	# of Hlds	Total Offerings	# of Hlds	Total Offerings
>\$4,000	21	\$129,952	18	\$111,653	15	\$104,933	17	\$99,386
≥\$2,000- \$3,999	10	\$25,795	19	\$47,983	15	\$40,952	18	\$48,442
≥\$500- \$1,999	42	\$44,120	32	\$37,660	38	\$43,171	42	\$43,925
<\$500	33	\$4,076	29	\$4,698	46	\$7,725	56	\$9,067
Unidentified		\$7,614		\$7,819		\$14,481		\$7,371
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>\$211,557</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>\$209,813</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>\$211,262</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>\$208,191</b>

This analysis shows that total giving has remained flat over the past four years, the number of households giving more than \$2,000 a year has fallen from 37 in 2021 to 31 in 2022, and we have become more reliant on households given more than \$4,000 a year (61% of total giving in 2022 compared to 53% of giving in 2021). The number of households giving more than \$4,000 a year has increased over the past four years.

### *expenses*

Total operating expenses in 2022 were \$207,155, \$2,195 less than budgeted. We had budgeted for a \$3,700 surplus in 2022, which provided some budget contingency as

developments in 2022 were still uncertain as we emerged from the pandemic. With a small increase in giving over what was budgeted, lower costs than budgeted as activities did not fully resume in 2022, and \$3,915 more in wage subsidy than budgeted, we ended up running a surplus of \$11,421. Our operating fund balance (operating reserve) as of December 31, 2022, increased to \$99,260 from \$87,840 at the end of 2021 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 Collegeville Institute Community of Calling grant.

*Arts Fund* - We received a \$10 in sales income into the Arts Fund and did not incur any expenses from the fund, leaving us with a \$2,801 balance in the fund.

*Refugee Fund* – We received a \$2,900 in donations, a \$3,000 transfer from the mission fund, and \$8,638 contribution from the son of the Syrian refugee father and mother we are sponsoring. In 2022, we disbursed \$2,850 in expenses related to a Ukrainian refugee family, leaving us with a \$15,892 balance in the Refugee Fund. We are expecting that the Syrian refugee family being sponsored will arrive sometime in 2023 drawing down much of these funds in 2023.

*Collegeville Institute Grant* – We have received an additional \$10,312 in grant funds from the Collegeville Institute in 2022. We spent \$23,402 from the grant funding in 2022, leaving \$6,752 in grant funding still available at the end of 2022 for planned activities in 2023. We expect to have fully disbursed these remaining grant funds plus any additional funds received in 2023 by the end of 2023.



## proposed budget 2023

The proposed 2023 budget is presented in the table at the end of this report. Below is a summary of the proposed budget.

### *projected offerings & other income*

For budget purposes, we are projecting offerings to remain at the same level as 2022 (\$212,000). While we have received steady, consistent, and often generous support from congregants throughout the pandemic, total giving has remained flat, and we do not yet see any trend line data to project increased giving. We are hopeful that giving will increase as we recover from the pandemic but are being conservative in our budget projections at this time.

We are also budgeting for \$1,800 in interest earnings from a high interest savings account we have opened at the Assiniboine Credit Union.

We will no longer be receiving any wage subsidy nor any administrative support contribution from the Collegeville Institute grant.

Total projected income for 2023 is \$213,800, \$4,776 less than the total income received in 2022.

### *proposed expenses*

We are proposing an operating expense budget of \$223,312, \$16,158 higher than actual expenses in 2022 and \$13,662 higher than the 2022 budget. This reflects expectations that activities will return to more pre-pandemic levels, an increase in staff salaries, an increase in rent, and an increase in our contribution to the diocese and national church as we move towards our 'fair share' contribution. We continue to budget for 10% of offerings going to the mission fund and base this amount on the 2022 offerings as has been our practice.

In crafting the budget, we have worked to ensure continuity of programming and ministry as the congregation rebounds from the pandemic. We also note that the final year of the Collegeville Institute grant will still allow us to engage in some program activities in 2023 additional to what our operating budget can support.

### *projected deficit*

With projected income of \$213,800 and budgeted expenses of \$223,312, we are budgeting for a deficit of \$9,512. The kitchen table believes that the congregation is still recovering from the disruption caused by the pandemic, and this is not the right time to reduce programming and ministry costs in order to present a balanced budget. It is also hoped that as the congregation rebuilds from the pandemic, income will begin to grow to meet expenses. The congregation has run surpluses the last few years as costs were lower due to the pandemic and we benefited from the wage subsidy. These surpluses provide some room to run limited deficits while the congregation rebuilds and hopefully income increases. To offset the projected deficit, we require an additional 4.5% in offerings. If we do not begin to see an increase in income in the next year or two, then we will need to take steps to right size the budget in future years.

## **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 were 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. As per a resolution passed at the 2022 annual general meeting, the finance committee has conducted an independent internal review of the 2022 financial statements prepared by the treasurer to ensure transactions have been properly recorded and the financial statements presented are free from any material misstatements.

I had planned to develop a financial handbook in 2022 to ensure appropriate financial policies and procedures exist and are documented and the role of the treasurer, finance committee, and corporation (incumbent & wardens) is clearly detailed so that kitchen table and the congregation are assured that proper safeguards and necessary transparency is in place. Unfortunately, this work was not completed. I will do my best to complete this work in 2023.

Jim Cornelius  
Treasurer

**2022 statement of operations & 2023 proposed budget**

	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2023 Budget
<b>Revenue</b>			
Offerings	\$210,000	\$211,557	\$212,000
Interest & Investment Income	160	214	1,800
Wage Subsidy	890	4,805	0
Collegeville Institute Grant	<u>2,000</u>	<u>2,000</u>	<u>0</u>
	213,050	218,576	213,800
<b>Expenses</b>			
Staffing			
Wages & Benefits	127,000	126,426	136,300
Clergy Coverage	300	185	300
Professional Development	1,000	683	1,000
Transportation	<u>500</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>500</u>
	128,800	127,294	138,100
Programs			
Artist-in-Residence	4,000	4,000	4,800
Hospitality – Community	1,000	502	1,200
Hospitality – Pastoral	500	0	500
Program Expenses	750	475	1,000
Worship Supplies	<u>1,000</u>	<u>212</u>	<u>1,000</u>
	7,250	5,189	8,100
Adm, Communication, Facilities			
Donation Fees & Banking	2,000	1,173	1,200
Equipment	500	0	500
Insurance	1,000	1,290	1,150
Office Costs	500	57	300
Photocopying	1,150	1,150	750
Rent	24,000	24,000	25,080
Telephone, Internet, Zoom	1,700	1,608	2,000
Website, Streaming, Podcasts	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,011</u>	<u>1,200</u>
	31,850	30,289	32,180
Diocese, National Church, Mission			
Diocese & National Church	20,000	20,000	22,000
Synods, Conferences, Adm	750	3,382	1,932
Mission Contributions	<u>21,000</u>	<u>21,000</u>	<u>21,000</u>
	41,750	44,382	44,932
Total Expenses	<u>209,650</u>	<u>207,154</u>	<u>223,312</u>
Surplus/Deficit	\$3,400	\$11,422	(\$9,512)

# † saint benedict's table



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