

A Message from the Treasurers

As the two congregations move into a new mission under the banner of Broad View United, as treasurers from both congregations we want to bring you up to date on the state of our finances and how we have been responding amidst a changing world with the COVID-19 pandemic

At our respective AGMs, each congregation approved a six-month budget. At that time, none of us could have imagined a pandemic and the storm we were going to have to weather as a result. As we steered through the gale, our concern has been “cash flow,” and to this end, ongoing revenue was our focus. We have sought to address this in a number of ways.

Loss of rental revenue, fundraising revenue (thrift, bazaar, spring break musical) and a reduction in Sunday offerings were all elements we had to find ways to address so that our obligations to staff and to keeping the church going and responsive in a time of increased need could occur. Thankfully the staff and volunteers have been careful stewards and also reduced expenses during this time and this has also helped.

In the midst of this storm, several lifelines were tossed that we have been able to take advantage of...

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT:

The government has made us eligible for the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) grant of up to 75% of staff that are on payroll. Contract staff are not eligible for this amount but we have continued to pay those persons as a part of our faith covenant with them. This federal gift will last until August 29th and we are confident that we will continue to be eligible for this support.

UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA:

To continue the metaphor, the United Church of Canada has been like a ship's anchor; as the storm rages, you can toss out the anchor to help with stability. The UCC has allowed us to delay the monthly assessment payment and has offered a safety net in the form of a \$10,000 loan from the UC Foundation to cover any emergency payments caused by a shortfall in expected revenue should we need it.

More importantly, the United Church financial team has through eleven weekly Zoom meetings guided each treasurer around the shoals of legislative policy interpretation, CRA websites and the ever-changing rules regarding funds available to your congregation. They have also worked tirelessly with the federal government on behalf of all the churches to help us be eligible for the various programs and subsidies. Also, from a financial point-of view, as we navigated our amalgamation, we were granted an understanding ear and prudent United Church wisdom.

REGION:

Like a beam from a light house, the Pacific and Mountain Region staff assisted us with the provincial laws around staffing, guaranteeing that any financial headwinds would be dealt with quickly and with compassion. Their understanding can only be appreciated after all our amalgamation goals have been accomplished.

THE CONGREGATION:

The understanding and trust have been so appreciated. A gracious thank-you to each of you for the support you have shown to both congregations. As the restrictions around COVID-19 have impacted our church families and members we expected that some givers would need to reduce their givings. However while some givers have reduced, others that are able to give more in this time have stepped up and given more during this period of the pandemic. The overall loss of revenue from personal givings is only about 10%. Please continue to consider giving if your financial situation is stable during this turbulent time as this has helped us greatly in bridging the gap.

We still face more squalls in the coming weeks. We will continue to curtail expenses where we can without losing any of the togetherness or momentum we presently have, and I trust our good ship will continue to catch the wind as the pandemic crisis subsides and the other revenues return. It will take time though for these to recover. Cash flow during these months of the pandemic has at times been a challenge, but we expect it to be manageable through to the end of August. In September we may need to make another plan, but what that plan looks like will depend on how the COVID-19 pandemic and the world looks around us. No matter what plan we make, I know that we make it in the presence of God and as our wider community of faith as Broad View United.

In Faith,

Paul Malnarich & Thomas Dennett
Treasurers