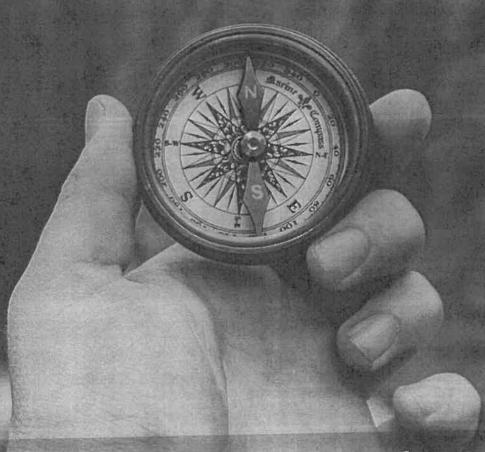
SPRING 18 ADVANCE 18 FIRST BAPTIST MONCTON



Becoming a Revelation Church
where people from all ethnicities,
all generations, and all economic realities
are challenged to be radically
transformed by God!

AGENDA - SPRING ADVANCE MEETING

Sunday April 28, 2024 - After the morning service

1.	Call to Order:
2.	Establishment of Quorum:
3.	Prayer:
4.	Appointment of Parliamentarian and Conduct of Meeting:
5.	Adoption of Agenda:
6.	Adoption of Fall Advance Meeting Minutes:
7.	Acceptance of Annual Reports:
8.	Nominating Committee Motion:
9.	Strategic Initiative Update:
10.	Horner Bequest: Recommendation of Tithing Committee:
11.	Refugee support request:
12.	Acceptance of Financial Statements
13.	Motion for appointment of qualified accountant to conduct a review engagement of the financial statements:
14.	Granting of Authority to Council to Appoint Delegates to Casis and/or other CBAC Business Meetings:
15.	Membership: New Member Vote:
16.	Membership Report:
17.	Update on Ministry Plane
18.	Constitution and Bylaw update:
19.	Adjournment
20.	Closing Prayer

Notice of Motion

The Council of First Moncton United Baptist Church hereby gives Notice of Motion regarding proposed revisions to the Constitution and By-Laws as indicated below.

Rationale

The revisions concerning the deacons was submitted to council by Alison Toczko, with input from the Deacons. These additions to the Constitution and By-laws better describe the role of the Deacons in our church and provide a more detailed explanation of the work they are already doing. As well, the revisions allow for the change in number of deacons from twelve (12) to (10-12). (Constitution – Article IX Deacons, By-Law III. F. Organizational Structure, By-Law VI. I and By-Law VIII.A.D. and I Deacons)

The revision concerning the development of an annual ministry plan (By-Law VII. E. Senior Pastor) corrects the previous omission of this important pastoral responsibility.

The revision concerning nominations to the Board of First Baptist Child Care Center Inc. (By-Law VI. K1. Nominating Committee) is to allow the Nominating Committee the option of considering committee adherents of the church to serve on the Board of the Daycare. The Daycare Board has already amended their By-Laws to allow this.

Proposed Revisions to the Constitution
Spring Advance Meeting
28 April 2024

Addition of the following Article into the Constitution:

Constitution - Article IX. DEACONS

There shall be Deacons who are focused on the spiritual matters of the Church.

Proposed Revisions to the By-Laws Spring Advance Meeting 28 April 2024

By-Law III ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

F. Deacons shall be elected by the membership of the Church. The Deacons shall be responsible for watching over the spiritual health of the church in consultation with the senior pastor, including monitoring Christian orthodoxy as defined by By-Law I, and assisting with the overall spiritual care of the congregation and fulfillment of ministry plans, and other responsibilities as outlined in By-Law VIII.

By-Law VI. NOMINATING COMMITTEE

- I. Nominate three (3) new members to be deacons each year.
- I. Nominate new members to be deacons each year.
- K. Nominate members for the Board of First Baptist Child Care Center Inc. Members must be nineteen (19) years of age or older. These nominees will be presented for vote at the fall business meeting. The board of the First Baptist Child Care Center Inc. will have eleven (11) directors, appointed as follows:
 - Six (6) Church members or adherents.
 - 2. One (1) each from the Church council and the deacons.
 - 3. Three (3) members appointed by the Board of the First Baptist Child Care Center Inc., two (2) of which must be parents of the children attending the First Baptist Child Care Center, Inc., and one (1) other interested person from within or without the Church.

By-Law VII. Senior Pastor

E. Be responsible for the development of an annual ministry plan that will be reviewed by the council.

By-Law VIII. Deacons

There will be deacons elected by the Church membership, The Deacons shall be focused on the spiritual life of the church and shall connect with congregants, identify ministry needs and opportunities within the church, and assist with the overall spiritual care of the congregation and fulfillment of ministry plans. The deacons will:

- A. Consist of ten to twelve (10 12) persons, including men and women, nineteen (19) years of age or older, drawn from the membership of the Church. The Senior Pastor shall be a member of the deacons, and will not have a vote.
- A. Consist of twelve (12) persons, including men and women, nineteen (19) years of age or older, drawn from the membership of the Church. Should fewer than twelve (12) persons be available to serve as deacons, a minimum of ten (10) persons shall be deemed acceptable, provided that efforts are made to achieve the preferred number of twelve (12). The Senior Pastor shall be a member of the deacons and will not have a vote.
- D. Be elected for a four (4) year term with three (3) persons retiring each year. After the completion of a term, a deacon will not be eligible for reselection for a period of one (1) year.
- D. Be elected for a four (4) year term. After the completion of a term, a deacon will not be eligible for re-election for a period of one (1) year.

By-Law VIII. DEACONS

 Serve as a resource for the senior pastor regarding ministry needs, interests and opportunities within the congregation.

MINUTES Fall Advance Meeting November 26, 2023

- Call to order: David Campbell called the meeting to Order at 12:05 PM
- Opening Prayer: Richard Jackson
- Establishment of quorum: Quorum was established by scrutineers Sharon Geldart and Les Dryden.
- Appointment of parliamentarian and conduct of meeting: Bruce Fitch was introduced as Parliamentarian
- Adoption of the agenda: Moved by Paul Ryan, seconded by Sheila Thomas; motion carried.
- Adoption of Minutes Spring Advance Meeting (March 26, 2023): Moved by Rick Thomas, seconded by Jim Styles; motion carried.
 - Question: Wanted to discuss the Advance booklet coming out 3 weeks in advance
 of the meeting, this will be reviewed by council as it may require an amendment to
 the bylaws.
- Membership: New Member Vote: Motion by Marg Dryden to accept Noémie Tembo into membership, seconded by Rick Thomas; motion carried.
- Strategic Initiative Update: Heather Steeves updated the Strategic Initiative Plan. Using the information gathered over the past year plus, the Strategic Initiative Plan was developed and introduced to the congregation for discussion in early summer and again in September 2023. The final document will be ready and available in the near future. It is virtually the same as was presented in the September 2023 meeting. The challenge is what comes next. We are called here to do something, the call that God has put on our hearts. Prayer is needed in the implementation of the plan. We will see a ministry plan that goes out 5 years with strategic targets for the future.
- Financial Update: Linda Smith provided the update to the end of October 2023. Currently we are behind budget by \$140,000.00, double what it was last year at this time. Giving is down 1%, expenses 14% higher than last year. We are on track in the expense budget plan but are down in the giving. We are making improvements to the building, including those for children & youth. Thanks was given to Linda Smith on behalf of the congregation for all the work that she does for us.
- Ministry Plan Update for 2023:

Richard Jackson:

- Provided an updated on the 2023 Ministry Plan to date.
- Thank you given to those who worked on the Strategic Plan document.
- At the Spring Advance Gathering 2024 a document will be provided for a full update for 2023.

- Examples were given of what the staff have been doing that is over and above their job descriptions.
- There are many opportunities for us, we have a new demographic due to the opening of the Avenir Centre. More people are moving in the down town area.
 Apartments are being built; this is now a huge mission field.
- John will be working with the upwardly mobile and the international demographics.
- Our online is a huge opportunity as well we have tech ministries and safety and security ministries.
- Sonia is focusing on our connection ministries, fellowship, small groups, spearheading pastoral care with Deacons and members for our low-income Community.
- 2023: Spiritual growth focus, this is a central focus, the bigger table focus through the messages, the book club and the welcoming. We have embraced new people coming into our congregation from all over the world.

John Ferguson:

- Spoke of organic ministry which starts up and happens because of the people, the gifts that people are utilizing.
- People are belonging to and committing to etrichurch.
- One item this weekend is an international outing which is family oriented. We are very blessed with what we are seeing.
- We would like to see these people bring their differences to our church, become leaders in our church.
- We need to continue to develop this.

Sonia:

- Focusing on Concretional & Community Care.
- The volunteers are wonderful and companionate people.
- Goals: Everyone that walks through our doors feels wanted and cared for.
- In 2024 we will be putting more work into the care ministry, there will be some exciting things going on.
- Excited to continue to serve in this capacity with those in need as this community is growing.

Amanda Wilson:

- Things are going and growing in the children & youth area.
- We are still recruiting volunteers; in the past year we had 21 come forward. We still need more.
- Exciting things coming up: Planning a mission trip for teens and leaders to North Carolina in the summer. We will be working with people there who work in disasters etc.
- The kids want to learn and grow. They don't just want to be entertained.
- Requested prayers from the congregation for the children/youth programs.
- Ministry Plan Update 2024 2028: Richard Jackson spoke:
 - We are putting together a 5-year ministry plan rather that the usual 1-year plan. The focus is around the listening group results and strategic plan. This will be

presented in the Spring advance. It is a daunting piece of work and currently is about 40 pages long.

- Question: Asked about the committees and where one might volunteer. John Ferguson provided a power point of some committees currently in place. Etc. group, men's group, international ministries, care, outreach, connections team, finance team, tellers, fellowship first. And more. (see attached)
- Noted the church directory will be updated 2024, new membership person as of Jan 1, 2024 is Sharon Geldart.
- Horner Bequest Tithing Committee: Motion made by Michael Wilson on behalf of the Horner Bequest Tithing Committee:
 - I move that the church pay out \$66,800 from the tithed amount of the Kay Horner Bequest. The allocation of the funds will be paid to the same organizations in the same amounts as the 2023 Missions Budget. The tithe in total was \$270,000 which was approved by the congregation at the March 2023 congregational meeting. After these payments are made the remaining funds will be \$203,200. Further payments will require approval by the congregation (at a later date). Georgie Lee Taylor seconded; motion carried.
- Budget for 2024: Linda Smith presented the budget for 2024 as printed in the Fall Advance Booklet. Linda Smith moved that the 2024 budget be accepted, seconded by Russel Parker. Before the motion was passed questions were presented and discussion had.
 Question: As the budget is \$39,000.00 higher than last year, should we go
 - Question: As the budget is \$39,000.00 higher than last year, should we go
 ahead and approve as it is higher by 6%, when our cash flow was lower in the
 past year was. It would appear that we have not spent the full budget of years'
 past thus the overage in years past.
 - A poem requested that we review and rework the budget.
 - Comment: 100 regular givers in the church, should figure out what it is going to take to meet this budget. Staff salaries increase, concern over the amounts, 3.7% (4%) overall, with this we do not know who is getting what amount.
 - Chair spoke: budget created after much deliberation of the finance committee and council.
 - Linda Smith has a breakdown on the usage of funds under each section, offered to provide to people if they wish.
 - The question was asked when we'll know about the remaining amount in the Horner Budget. This is under review.
 - Richard Jackson. We make our budget with the best interest of the growth of the church, being fiscally responsibly. Are we able to pay our bills, that is important. We have a surplus from other years that God has provided, Kay Horner has provided us with a gift of 2.7 million dollars. If we cut back because of our budget concerns is this what we want?
 - Vote taken and the 2024 Budget was approved, motion carried.
- Nominating Committee Report: JM de Joya expressed thanks to the nominating committee.
 Separate motions were made by JM de Joya to accept the following nominees to the respective boards:
 - Council: Heather Burke & Kevin Ingham, seconded by Marg Dryden; motion carried

- Deacons: Motion to accept Rick Mullin, Caleb Bansambu and Hannah Bishop; seconded by Sheila Thomas; motion carried
- Nominating Committee: Brenda O'Blenis and Janice Kelly, seconded by Michael Wilson; motion carried
- Miracles At First: Menuka Silva, seconded by Sylvia Williston; motion carried

Chair of the Daycare Committee spoke regarding the daycare motion noting that if a person is a close relative to a paid staff member, they cannot become a member of the board. Therefore, we are removing Josie Jackson from nomination as she is the daughter of Pastor Jackson. The nominating committee will work to replace this position.

- Bylaw update:
 - Motion to Amend By-Law XI. Church Business Meeting (Dates): (see attached motions)
 - Motion to adopt the wording made by David Campbell, on behalf of the Council, to amend the By-law; seconded by Russel Parker; motion carried.

Motion to Amend By-law VII. Senior Paster and IX. Paid Staff, Temporary Staff, Emergency Staff Appointments: (see attached motions)

- David Campbell on behalf of the Council Motioned to amend the By-law re wording the "Church", seconded by Sheila Thomas, motion carried.
- Adjournment: Russell Parker moved to adjourned.
- Closing prayer: John Ferguson

First Moncton Ministry Leaders 2023

Note: In no way is this a complete list. It was put together to represent the best reflection of who is leading a ministry or is going to be leading a ministry. A complete list of ministries and those leading will be more readily available in 2024.

First Youth	International Ministries
Amanda Wilson	John Ferguson
FirstKids	Care Ministries
Amanda Wilson	Sonia Miller
Young Adults	Outreach (Unhoused)
Brian Vienneau	Sonia Miller
Women's Ministry	Outreach (Greater)
Cynthia Ferguson	John Ferguson
Young Moms	Connections Teams
Hannah Chamberlain	Beverley Robart (Contemporary)
	Sharon Geldart (Traditional)
Men's Ministry	Tellers
TBA	Dawid Williston
Etc.	Fellowship First
Co-op Leadership	Ralph Taylor
Sanctuary Choir	Inside Team
Catherine Bartlett	Les Dryden
	Kaye Lothian
Worship Team	Outside Team
Matt Brouwer	Glenn Murray
Tech Ministries	Security Team
Scott Robinson	John Ferguson
Communications Team	Kitchen
John Ferguson	Marg Dryden

Handbell Choirs	Evelyn Eaton WMS
Peggy Mullin	Elizabeth Storey
Sports Ministry	Traditional Worship Planning Team
David Dytynyshyn	Olive Wade
Conversation Café	Contemporary Worship Planning Team
David Dytynyshyn	John Ferguson
Nancy Dytynyshyn	
Impromptu International Outings	Small Groups
Laura & Gary Selig	Staff



Notice of Motion

The Council of First Baptist Church hereby gives Notice of Motion regarding proposed changes to the By-Laws of First Moncton United Baptist Church as indicated in the Proposed revisions below

Proposed revisions to the By-Laws Fall Advance Meeting 26 November 2023

1. Motion to Amend By-law VII. Senior Pastor & IX. Paid Staff: (Noting By-Law I. CHRISTIAN ORTHODOXY - The First Moncton United Baptist Church hereinafter referred to as "Church"...)

By-Law currently States:

By-Law VII. SENIOR PASTOR:

J. Designate a member of the pastoral staff of First Baptist Moncton, who will be a member of the First Baptist Childcare Center Inc. board, and who will not have a vote

IX. Paid Staff

B. Support Staff:

3. Will comply with all policies, the Constitution, the By-Laws, the Guiding Principles, and other such guiding documents of the First United Baptist Church as directed by the senior pastor,

C. Temporary Staff:

4. Will comply with all policies, the Constitution, the By-Laws, the Guiding Principles, and other such guiding documents of the First United Baptist Church as directed by the senior pastor,

D. Emergency Staff Appointments:

4. Will, in cases of employment, comply with all policies, the Constitution, the By-Laws, the Guiding Principles, and other such guiding documents of the First United Baptist Church as directed by the senior pastor. If engaging an external agency, the Senior Pastor will seek assurances that the values of the church will be respected by employees of the agency.

Motion to Amend To:

By-Law VII. SENIOR PASTOR:

J. Designate a member of the pastoral staff of the Church, who will be a member of the First Baptist Childcare Center Inc. board, and who will not have a vote.

IX. Paid Staff:

B. Support Staff:

3. Will comply with all policies, the Constitution, the By-Laws, the Guiding Principles, and other such guiding documents of the Church as directed by the senior pastor,

C. Temporary Staff:

4. Will comply with all policies, the Constitution, the By-Laws, the Guiding Principles, and other such guiding documents of the Church as directed by the senior pastor,

D. Emergency Staff Appointments

4. Will, in cases of employment, comply with all policies, the Constitution, the By-Laws, the Guiding Principles, and other such guiding documents of the Church as directed by the senior pastor. If engaging an external agency, the Senior Pastor will seek assurances that the values of the church will be respected by employees of the agency.

2. Motion to Amend By-Law XI. Church Business Meeting

By-Law currently state:

- B. The annual meeting will be held in February or March, as determined by the council, which will cause the date and time of said meeting to be published and promoted eight (8) weeks prior. The annual meeting will primarily deal with:
 - 1. The acceptance of annual reports from the preceding year,
 - 2. The acceptance of the Church's financial statements for the preceding year,
 - 3. The approval of any changes to the Church Constitution or Bylaws,
 - 4. Final report on annual plan for ministry from the preceding year,
 - 5. The appointment of a qualified accountant to conduct a review engagement of the financial statements,
 - 6. Other items as requested by the council

Proposed amendment

- B. The annual meeting will be held in March or April, as determined by the council, which will cause the date and time of said meeting to be published and promoted eight (8) weeks prior. The annual meeting will primarily deal with:
 - 1. The acceptance of annual reports from the preceding year,
 - 2. The acceptance of the Church's financial statements for the preceding year,
 - 3. The approval of any changes to the Church Constitution or Bylaws,
 - 4. Final report on annual plan for ministry from the preceding year,
 - 5. The appointment of a qualified accountant to conduct a review engagement of the financial statements,
 - 6. Other items as requested by the council.

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CHURCH COUNCIL

Council members for 2023 were David Campbell, Beverley Robart, Lisa Parker, Bruce Peacock, Sheila Thomas, Joanne Steen, JM DeJoya, Heather Steeves, and Nancy Robb.

The Council was organized as follows:

Executive: Chair - David Campbell, Vice Chair - Beverley Robart, Past Chair - Heather Steeves, and Secretary - Nancy Robb.

The Deacon Representative on Council was Lisa Parker.

During 2023, Council held nine online formal meetings.

Your Council was working hard in 2023 to further the work of the Holy Spirit in our community.

The year was a busy one for Council as it worked on a number of initiatives, the main one being the preparation of a new strategic plan for the Church. Coming out of pandemic there are a number of challenges and opportunities facing us as we seek to do the Lord's will in our community. The Moncton region and the downtown are facing unprecedented population growth, particularly newcomers to Canada, but also many challenges including homelessness, poverty, and a mental health crisis among the young and older alike.

The new strategic plan covering the period 2024-2028 was developed with a multi-stage consultation and feedback process with the church family including an online survey, face-to-face meetings, and roundtable discussions. The plan reaffirms our vision of "becoming a revelation church where people from all ethnicities, all generations, and all economic realities are challenged to be radically transformed by God." It lays out a series of objectives and measurements to guide our progress over the next five years.

Council also had the privilege in 2023 of working with the Church family on the use of the Kay Horner bequest. A sub-committee was struck made up of members of the congregation, Finance Team, Missions Team and a Council representative to make recommendations on how to 'tithe' the bequest and support our partners in missions here and around the world. Other potential uses of the funding to support the strategic plan will be developed further in 2024.

In addition, your Council worked on a number of other important issues including updating bylaws and policies including the Child & Youth Protection Policy. The increasing concerns related to safety led to Council supporting a staff decision to hire a security firm for a trial run in the Fall/Winter to ensure all persons engaging with our church and programs can feel safe.

In addition, discussion and consultation were conducted regarding various time sensitive issues throughout the year. These activities included preparation for both the Spring and Fall Advance Congregational meetings, review of monthly financial results, progress on the Ministry Plan, and the 2024 budget.

Throughout the year, your Council received correspondence and feedback from various members of the Church family and attempted to respond to each on a timely basis.

This is a special time in the life of our church. We are witnessing unprecedented growth in our congregation, in large part because of a thriving newcomer ministry. We have expanded ministries to support newcomers and the vulnerable in our downtown. At the same time there is pressure on the

church finances and our ability to marshal volunteers to support the Lord's work in our community. We must embrace this moment and amplify the work of the Lord here in our little corner of the world.

Your Council seeks the wisdom and support of our long-time members and adherents as we travel this new road together guided by the new strategic plan.

We thank our Senior Pastor, Richard Jackson, for his leadership and redoubled commitment to leading the Church through the implementation of the new strategic plan. We also thank our committed staff of professionals who work hard to serve the church family and our wider community in this region.

I would also like to thank the members of the 2023 Council for all their hard work during the year. Serving on Council is a special commitment, and we all owe them gratitude for stepping up. These members represent a group that lives out their commitment to this Church and our Lord through decisions discerned through corporate and individual prayer. It is an honor and a pleasure to work alongside of them.

One of the key goals of the strategic plan is to develop a skills and attributes matrix for your Council members to ensure we have the right mix of people guiding the Church in the years ahead.

As the term of service for two of our members, Heather Steeves, JM de Joya & Deacon Rep Lisa Parker, ends, I extend sincere appreciation for their service to this ministry and ask God's blessing on their future work in His Church.

I would like to provide a special mention to both Mike Robart (chair of the Finance Team) and Linda Smith (Church Treasurer) for their work in 2023. They continue to play critical roles in the financial stewardship of the Church and in support of the fiduciary duty of Council.

As we look to the future, I welcome Kevin Ingham, Heather Burke and the new Deacon representative, Sheila Horsman, to the Council. Their skills and deep knowledge of our Church and its history will be valuable as we conduct the Lord's work in 2024.

Your Council members for 2024 are David Campbell (Chair), Beverley Robart (Vice-Chair), Nancy Robb (Secretary), Joanne Steen, Bruce Peacock, Sheila Thomas, Kevin Ingham, Heather Burke, and Sheila Horsman (Deacon representative).

David Campbell Chair 2023

DEACONS REPORT

Our Deacon board met several times during the 2023 year using both in person and ZOOM options. Members of the 2023 board were as follows:

Lynn Ritchie - Chair
Grant Steeves - Vice Chair
Kim Robinson - Secretary
Art Lam
Sheila Horsman
Sharon Geldart
Lisa Parker
Marg Dryden
Joy Martel
Hannah Bishop (finishing Barb Tremble's term).

We were sorry to lose Barb Tremble and Divina Garcia due to moves, but were thankful for their service on the board.

The Deacon Board, while being a liaison between the church community and pastors and staff, also serves on four other church boards or committees; Council Rep- Lisa Parker, Daycare Board - Marg Dryden, Benevolent Fund – Sharon Geldart, Nominating Committee – Lynn Ritchie

In March, we held a "Meet Your Deacon Event" in the vestry and were able to connect with many members and friends, new and old. During the year, the Deacons continued in communion prep and cleanup, interviewing potential candidates for membership (by immersion or experience), assisting in baptismal preparation, assisting with funeral receptions, assisting with Scrutineer Duties at Spring/Fall Meetings, and assisting with Worship Services.

With the Bylaw change of Nominating 10-12 Deacons, we are now 10 serving Deacons: six Deacons attending the Traditional Service and four attending the Contemporary Service. Keeping our Care lists updated & active as our community changes and grows, is an ongoing process and challenge.

The Deacon Board voted to present "Volunteer Awards" to Kaye Lothian and Linda Smith for their longtime and ongoing service to First Baptist Church. These were awarded at the Mother's Day Service.

As we ended the year, we said goodbye to Sharon Geldart and Lisa Parker. We thank them for their faithful service on the Board over the past four years. We look forward to the New Year of 2024, when we welcome oncoming Deacons Rick Mullin and Caleb Bansambu.

Respectively submitted on behalf of the Deacons, and in His Service,

Lynn Ritchie, Deacon Chair 2023

SENIOR PASTOR'S REPORT

As I look back over the past few years, one of the biggest emphases that we've had as a congregation that has shaped who we are today is *The Bigger Table*. The idea of *The Bigger Table* is reminiscent of the great heavenly banquet that Jesus speaks of in Matthew 22. At this banquet, we're told that people "from every nation, tribe, people, and language" (Revelation 7:9a—NIV) will gather to worship God and "the Lamb." This is where history is heading; this is where history will culminate. As a congregation, as we welcome people from countries all over the world, we are preparing ourselves for this end-of-history banquet that will be the greatest celebration the world has ever seen. Through our preaching emphases, *Stretch* book club, ministry priorities, inclusive worship, and simply the welcome we give to first-time guests, *The Bigger Table* has become part of our DNA. Of course, *The Bigger Table* includes more than a diversity of ethnicities. Through our worship and ministries, we have also embraced "all generations" and all "economic realities." Together, these emphases have become, as I said, part of our DNA and have made us unique among the evangelical churches in the Greater Moncton area.

In addition to building a Bigger Table, a large part of 2023 was spent developing a 5-year (2024-2028) ministry plan that is growing out of the Strategic Plan that Council put together. This plan, itself, grew out of the listening groups and online survey that Council initiated with the members of our congregation. In these listening groups and survey, members of our congregation had an opportunity to discuss what they felt should be our most important ministry priorities in the coming years. I agreed with the emphases that came out of these groups and have been excited to put together a ministry plan around these ministry priorities. Of course, I will not be able to accomplish this five-year ministry plan on my own and not even with the support of a dedicated team. It will take all of us working together through the empowering and blessing of the Holy Spirit to realize these goals. It will be wonderful to see our congregation working together to accomplish the goals that we have heard God calling us to move towards.

As I look back on 2023, one of my highlights of the year was the annual Christmas carolling evening that Catherine Bartlett organizes for seniors, shut-ins, and those who have experienced sickness and loss. To witness the joy, the tears, and the appreciation from those we carol is always a moving experience for me.

Contributing to our CBAC convention has always been a priority for me and 2023 was no exception. I continued my second term on the Board of Ministerial Standards and Education. This board is charged with preparing and recommending candidates for ordination within our convention as well as dealing with charges of ministerial impropriety. I've appreciated this opportunity to invest in the next generation of church leaders. Going forward, huge challenges will be facing our convention in that the number of people pursuing calls into the ministry is not keeping pace with the number of churches looking for strong pastoral leadership. There is a need for urgent prayer for God to raise up a new generation of church leaders!

In addition to serving on the Board of Ministerial Standards and Education, I also supervised the youth pastor at Highfield Street Baptist Church, Cody Bolton, as he prepared for ordination. Cody was recommended for ordination in August, and, in the fall, it was my great joy to preach at Cody's ordination service.

In the spring, I was asked to be part of a panel discussion at Crandall University on the topic of Women Leaders in the Church. The sponsoring organization was The Atlantic Society for Biblical Equality, a partner organization to the CBAC. The facilitator of the panel discussion was the Rev. Dr. Harry Gardner, former CBAC Executive Minister and a former president of Acadia Divinity College. I was told that I was

being asked to participate in this discussion because of our church's reputation for supporting and encouraging women leaders. During the panel discussion, our church was again commended for the leadership we've shown in this area.

In addition, we continued to support our partner organizations by giving opportunities for representatives to address our congregation in our Sunday morning services. Guest speakers included Randy Stanton (Atlantic Canada Representative for Canadian Baptist Ministries), Robert Knowles (Vice-President for Advancement of Crandall University), and partners-in-mission, Laura Kelly, Jeff Carter, and Lynda MacGibbon.

Another opportunity for community involvement presented itself in 2023. In our community is an outreach facility connected with *Community of Hope*. Founded in 2018, *Community of Hope* was established to provide resources that can help sexually exploited women and children leave and recover from a life of forced sexual services. At the same time, they are dedicated to providing education and bringing awareness regarding the on-going exploitation of vulnerable persons through human sex trafficking throughout the Maritimes. In order to support this important ministry we are providing office space to their Executive Director, Elaine Jackman. We are also hoping to be a support system for Elaine whose work must, at times, be immensely stressful. Currently, *Community of Hope* is expanding to provide refuge and recovery to survivors of sex trafficking through a healing home.

On a final note, I was ever so grateful to Ralph Taylor, Marg MacQuade, and Kaye Lothian who took on the mammoth task of organizing and relocating our church archives. Every picture, document, and piece of paper in the archives had to be sorted through, organized (or discarded), and then filed. The trio did a great job and I'm so pleased to have this job done prior to our 200th anniversary celebrations.

Allow me to close on a few personal notes. I am grateful to my full-time leadership team—John Ferguson, Sonia Miller, and Randy Leet—for their ministries, their energy, and their humour. They have made a challenging year much easier, and I am grateful to each of them for all they bring to our team and to our congregation.

As well, I am grateful to our worship leadership team—Catherine Bartlett, Matt Brouwer, John Ferguson, Debbie Lam, and James Coghlin. Throughout the year their efforts have enriched our worship and encouraged us in our walk with God. Their commitment to God, boundless energy and enthusiasm, and unfailing humour have made them a joy to work with.

I want to thank our Technical Ministry Team led by Scott Robinson and John Ferguson for their faithful work week after week. Working behind the scenes, they and their team ensure that our weekly inperson and online worship is available to all who wish to join us in the worship of our Lord. Our online ministries, worship, and witness could not take place without the commitment and expertise provided by Scott, John, and their team. Thank you so much!

I'm grateful for the work Amanda Wilson has done with our children and youth. Her love for children and young people comes through in everything she does, and she continues to be a valued member of our leadership team.

I appreciate our assistant custodian, Ed Toczko, for the support he has given to Randy and for the many ways he has gone "above and beyond." As I said last year, if someone could bottle his energy, they'd earn millions!

Vanessa Golding, our *Miracles at First Childcare* Director, continues to lead our childcare ministry with wisdom, energy, and grace. Along with her team and the support of a capable board led by Nancy Fitch, Vanessa's efforts have enabled *Miracles* to not just survive but thrive. Thank you, Vanessa!

Our summer students Chloe Babineau, Justin Jackson, and Josie Jackson brought much energy and excitement to our leadership team. Throughout the summer, they connected with children, youth, and seniors in multiple ways and made a huge impact on our congregation. As well, I am grateful to Sonia Miller who once again provided capable and supportive supervision to our summer student team. Over the course of the summer, it was a joy to see the students grow in their gifts and in their confidence.

As I wrote earlier, it's been great to continue to partner with our Korean congregation and their new pastor, Pastor Ching. I am grateful to Pastor Ching for his spiritual commitment and cooperative spirit as we continue to deepen the relationship between our two congregations.

I want to thank the Council for their strong and consistent leadership. Over the course of another challenging year, never once did I feel alone or isolated. The support and encouragement provided by the Council sustained me throughout the year. Particularly, I want to thank our Council chair, David Campbell, who somehow kept the Council focused and moving forward. In addition, I want to thank Heather Steeves and JM DeJoya who have completed their terms as Council members and will be moving off the board. Over the course of their time on the board, I have appreciated their ministry and leadership.

I want to thank the Board of Deacons and their chair, Lynn Ritchie, for their hard work this year particularly in the area of congregational care. They have praised God with us in our celebrations and prayed and shed tears with us in our griefs and trials, and through it all they have honoured and upheld the name of the Lord. A special thanks to Sharon Geldart and Lisa Parker who are completing their terms. Your ministry has been appreciated!

Of course, a leadership team can do very little without the support and involvement of a committed laity. I want to express my gratitude to each of you who has given so willingly and joyfully of your time, talents, and treasures to the ministries of our church. Your commitment to God and His church is such an encouragement! It is your dedication that has enabled us to move our congregation forward as we have sought to build God's Kingdom in Moncton and beyond.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Jackson Senior Pastor

ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF ENGAGEMENT

John Ferguson

...then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Philippians 2:2

"Togetherness". It really is a wonderful word. It's comforting. It means not being alone. It means not working alone. It means...moving as one. It certainly can mean being physically beside each other, but the Scriptural sense of "togetherness" doesn't necessarily focus on it that way. Philippians 2:2 reminds us that togetherness in God truly means being "like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose."

Without question, that type of "togetherness" doesn't always come easy. It takes work. It takes humility. It takes sacrifice. It takes, well, deeply following God, the true author of unity.

The Apostle Paul wrote those words to the church in Philippi. The first part of verse 2 is an incredible answer as to why being "like-minded, having the same love" and "being one in spirit and purpose" is so important. For Paul, as we can probably be assured that it is with God, those very things made his "joy complete".

Now that's an interesting jumping point to look back at a year in the life of a church and its ministries...as well as looking forward to the year ahead. Did we make God's joy "complete"?

Of course, we did...and...then we didn't. That's just simply the nature of things in a life of faith and in the life of a church. Philippians 2:2 is continually a work in progress - mostly because all of us are individuals who are continually a work in progress.

A key emphasis here is on the word "progress". Did we make "progress" as a church in 2023? Yes, we absolutely did! What metric shows us that we did? The metric of growth. Not just that we have been physically growing in numbers but that we have seen people growing in connection with each other and in connection with God.

Are we growing in all places of ministry? No. Are we growing in some key places of ministry? Yes, we absolutely are doing so.

During 2023 we have seen some amazing and wonderful growth. A large part of that growth has come to us in the form of Moncton's growing international community. We want to "be" an international church in that we want to be a church who represents the ever-changing cultural growth of the city itself.

We are a church who is now made up of believers, seekers, and the curious from almost every continent on the face of this planet. That is exciting! Now, if someone could just invite some penguins from Antarctica, then we would definitely be one step closer to having all continents represented! It's a small ask.

We are so thankful to those of you, wherever you have come from, who have joined our community of First Moncton this past year. You are bringing your hearts, your background, your vision, your love for growing closer to God, and your passions, all of which are helping to invigorate the community, work, and ministry of this church.

The International Ministry Team, and church membership as a whole, has, as always, been amazing in 2023. You have not only played a large role in connecting with newcomers but have also played a large role in inviting newcomers. The International Team, among so many other things, continues to grow areas of support for people who are new to Canada but also continues to provide simple needs such as furniture, clothing, and other essentials as people start their new life here. The simple connections which team members are making with new people are invaluable to helping people adjust and become part of our church community.

The International Team also has a "WhatsApp" contact chain which provides opportunity for connecting with people to take part in impromptu outings and events such as hikes, visiting New Brunswick landmarks, getting to know the area, each other, and simply hanging out together. Thank you to this team as they continue to lead with their ministry and servant hearts and continue to help First Moncton grow to be the international church God means for us to be!

Our monthly Sunday "Stay & Chat" potlucks continue to be a key element in connecting and getting to know each other as a community. Sharing a meal together and watching people connect with each other in a relaxed and informal way is a highlight of the month. Thank you to the Stay & Chat Team as they work each month to make sure this important ministry continues to be an essential part of our community connection and growth. If you haven't stayed for one, well, you have an opportunity to do so every third Sunday of the month.

Under the leadership of David Dytynyshyn and a team of dedicated people, we started a fledgling Sports Ministry in 2023. This past year the ministry focused mainly on ages 8-13. During the summer the team offered a Soccer Camp which ran weekly throughout parts of the summer. In the Fall of 2023, the team started the development of a once-a-month Saturday morning sports time for this age-group. The key goal of the team is not just to offer times of sports but also to develop this time as a ministry which plays a role in connecting kids and youth to God and His church. There is a wonderful developing vision for what this ministry can be as the team continues to develop and provide various opportunities which will, in time, expand into all age groups.

This past year we took a step forward to work on some security needs of the church as the downtown area has changed and certainly forced the need for a focus on security. New outdoor lighting was installed around the entire church to provide much better nighttime security for those coming and going into the building. In October 2023, in cooperation with Miracles at First, we engaged with and hired a security company, Valentini Security Services, to provide morning security for church staff, daycare staff, parents, and children as they enter the building. This was done as a three-month trial and included security arriving at 7am to make sure anyone who was using the church stairs or other areas as a place to sleep were asked to leave. It also included regular nightly checks of the building premises and, again, asking people to leave if they were using the church grounds as a place to sleep.

It has been an unfortunate situation as we both want to care for people and yet provide a safe place for everyone who attends and is a part of our church community. The trial hiring of a security company concluded with the beginning of 2024. As we assess security needs and move forward, we will constantly be seeking to balance out the needs of ministry and security as we continue to be a downtown church.

So many good things happened in 2023. Did we accomplish everything we set out to do? No. Did God accomplish things He wanted to see happen at first Moncton? I choose to believe that He did! He does so with us, and, well, sometimes despite us. It's much better when He can accomplish those things with us, together, in unity with Him and each other.

Let's make 2024 the year of being "one in spirit and purpose". Then, well, hold on and watch what God can do with, in, and through all of us!

Respectfully submitted.

Rev. John Ferguson Associate Pastor

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT/DIRECTOR OF CONGREGATIONAL CARE/COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Every year as I look back over the previous year, I am truly amazed at all that has taken place, and 2023 was certainly no different. It was a busy year, and I am so grateful for the countless ways that the Lord worked in and through each aspect of it!

Congregational Care:

- -A team meeting/training time was held with Dr. Rick Thomas in the spring- we had close to 20 people in attendance, and who regularly visit, make phone calls, and send notes out.
- -Our Deacons also provide care to our church family through visits, notes, and prayers.
- -Our teams also continued to meet needs of our greater community, through our Tuesday coffee time, Sunday meal as well as through providing clothing and footwear to countless individuals.
- -In October, small gifts of appreciation were delivered to the schools that our FirstKids and Youth attend. In 2024 plans are underway to continue to grow our care ministry and to build a sustainable ministry that will care for our church family today and in the years to come!

Community Outreach:

- -Involved in our monthly community meal and Tuesday Coffee Time
- -Continue to partner with St. Georges as they provide breakfast to the community each morning, this has included providing muffins and cereal. We also hosted a takeout breakfast for the month of July while St. Georges was having some renovations completed.
- -Continue to serve breakfast one morning a week at St. Georges.
- -Attend monthly ReConnect meetings.
- -Our December community meal, we provided small gifts for our guests, and we continue to look for opportunities to bless our guests with items that are meaningful, such as a nail polish and make up for the ladies.

Connections:

- -In November we held our first (in a very long-time new attenders' lunch) we had a number of individuals attend- in fact we had to move from the Parlour to the Vestry and it was very full!! Praise the Lord!
- -Began sending out emails to our first-time guests thanking them for their visit and inviting them to fill out a brief survey. To date we have had close to 10 returned, all very positive on the worship experience, the preaching, and the friendliness of the church!

-Meaningful connections are being made with our team, new attenders, and staff!

Administrative Assistant:

- -Respond to email/mail/phone calls in a timely manner.
- -Assist those who came into the office with their requests.
- -Continued to send out weekly newsletters.

Summer Students:

- -Had the privilege to work with and oversee our three summer students, Chloe, Josie, and Justin once again.
- -Some of their events included a church family paint night, seniors hymn sing and ice cream social, as well as being part of the VBS team.

Looking ahead to 2024 I am excited about what God is doing in and through our church and know that with his help we will continue to grow our ministries as we meet the needs of our church and community.

A huge thank you to the many people who work tirelessly and give of their time sacrificially to serve! I thank the Lord that we have so many volunteers who capably serve. Thank you, thank you, thank you!!!!

Respectfully submitted,

Sonia Miller

FIRSTKIDS

In 2023, we continued to make improvements to our Children's Ministry Centre (Kidsville). We held regular Sunday morning programming for children from newborn through grade 5. We had regular Friday morning JAM (Jesus and Me) programming for three of the Miracles' daycare classes. We began meeting in the vestry so all the kids could get together with plenty of space for a bible lesson, singing and dancing, and crafts or games. We held a successful "Stellar" VBS program in July, followed by VBS Sunday with a combined service. During 2023, we have had at least 36 rock star volunteers working together to create spaces where kids encounter Jesus. We continue to focus on recruiting new volunteers for this very important ministry. We were blessed to have three summer students from June - August who were a pleasure to be around, worked hard, and made a difference in many kids' lives! We had a great Trunk or Treat in October where we met lots of new people from our community. We also celebrated FirstKids Sunday with cupcakes and visits to Kidsville to learn about what we do there. We're looking forward to what God's going to do in 2024!

FIRSTYOUTH

2023 has been a great year in FirstYouth! We had 19 youth (middle school and high school) in our Friday night program. We had eight wonderful volunteers serving these youth and pointing them to Jesus. Friday nights are a time to worship God together in word and song, dig into Scripture to learn more about who God is and what He's like, explore God's purpose for our lives, play crazy games, and pray for each other. We LOVE our Friday nights, but we have also participated in some great special events and activities. We have pulled weeds, visited seniors, cleaned toilets, and cared for children all in the name of Jesus. We attended the ONE Conference and participated in Tidal Impact - both of which were catalysts for spiritual growth in our teens. We are planning and preparing for a mission to North Carolina this year and can't wait to trust God with big things in new places. Oh...and if you've never snuck into the vestry around 6:30pm on a Friday night just to listen to these youth worshiping their Saviour... you should. You won't leave the same way you came in.

Submitted by Amanda Wilson Interim FirstKids and FirstYouth Ministry Coordinator

JuBELLation

We started out the year a small but mighty group of the most enthusiastic ringers you can find. The choir worked hard to play in a service in early Spring and then to prepare for Bellfest 2023. For most, this was their first gathering of this type and they had no idea what to expect. They did a most amazing job performing in their first community concert and the weekend left them invigorated and ready for more! So much so, they wanted to continue ringing until July!!!! (They are keen!!)

In the fall the choir grew as we welcomed three new members. We were able to make an offering in worship that term due to their hard work and determination to learn new pieces and, for some, a whole new "language".

I am eager to see what 2024 will bring for this hardworking group of musicians who are exited to walk in the door each week.

It's a pleasure to direct these wonderful women.

Peggy Mullin Director

Members:

Menuka Silva Heather Vesey Christi Bisanti Bertha Bisanti Sandra Clouston Jane McKnight Karen Mouris Jessie Breau Thabitha Matha Rebecca Coghlin

ADULT HANDBELL CHOIR

Thankfully, 2023 saw us back to our usual practices and ringing without any restrictions. We played throughout the year in services including Easter, Anniversary, Thanksgiving and Christmas with some other offerings in between.

Our most exciting venture for the year was Bellfest 2023, held in early June. After having to put it off for three years, we were joined by five choirs for a weekend of learning and ringing under the direction John Nelson, Jr. After hours of rehearsals the 60+ ringers performed individual and mass numbers to a most welcomed audience of family, church, and community members. Scott Murray, Angela Mosher Phi, James Coghlin, Debbie Lam, and the First Baptist Church Sanctuary choir added to the evening with their musicianship. We finished out the weekend with three choirs taking part in our Anniversary service. What a wonderful celebration it was. We very much enjoyed having the choirs and I think they just might have enjoyed themselves as well.

My thanks to all those from the choir and church who gave of their time and energy to ensure the weekend went off without issue. We, sincerely, could not have done it without everyone's help.

And so, we ended another year having used the gift of bells to praise God, lift spirits and fill our own souls. What a privilege it is to direct this group. We ring and laugh and hold each other up in prayer. What more could you ask?

Peggy Mullin Director

Members:

Sheila Thomas
Suzanne McGillivary
Debbie Lam
Carol Murray
Heather Burke
Vickie Melanson
Judi Parker
Lynn Armstrong
Karen Mouris
Catherine Bartlett
Alison Toczko
Wendy Sullivan
Chris Burke
Heather Steeves

SANCTUARY CHOIR

Psalm 96:1-2, 6, 8-9, 11, 13

O sing unto the Lord a new song: sing unto the Lord, all the earth. Sing unto the Lord, bless his name; shew forth his salvation from day to day. Honour and majesty are before him: strength and beauty are in his sanctuary. Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name: bring an offering and come into his courts. O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness: fear before him, all the earth. Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea roar, and the fulness. Before the Lord: for he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth: he shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with his truth.

It is a privilege to direct the sanctuary choir and oversee the traditional service at First Baptist Church. Our faithful choir members seek to lead in worship in the traditional service and help prepare people's hearts for praise and worship of our God from September to June. I am grateful for their service and friendship.

I am especially thankful for the individuals within the choir who serve in the particular roles of music librarians, wardrobe/gowns care, hospitality/fellowship and treasurer. In consultation with Olive Wade, Marvin and Linda Smith, Deb Lam, James Coghlin, the pastors, and the worship planning team, we are able to create a beautiful worship experience in the grand sanctuary of First Baptist Church. Guest musicians, soloists and instrumentalists often enhance our worship, as well as the unique art and ministry of the handbell ringing under Peggy Mullin's direction.

The preparations for our special services are filled with expectancy and joy. We mark the church calendar and shape our focus throughout the year as we celebrate Thanksgiving, Advent, Hanging of the Greens, Candlelight, Palm Sunday, Good Friday, Easter Sunday, and Anniversary. We have welcomed new members from other churches and from other countries and cultures which enriches our experience. We welcome any who are interested in this ministry of music to make themselves known to the director.

In gratitude to the rich heritage and the faithful servants that precede us, we have much for which to praise our God, as time goes on.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Bartlett

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP GATHERING PLANNING TEAM

Annual Report 2023

The Team had two Zoom meetings this year in February and September to discuss weekly and special service planning and continued to communicate by phone and email throughout the year.

The team worked this year on returning some of the elements that were removed in the Traditional order of service because of Covid restrictions. It was felt that it was important to bring back the gathering of the Offering but finding someone to coordinate the ushers was not possible. However, by the end of the year a few ushers were found willing to gather the offering on a temporary basis and the hope is that it can be continued into the new year. With the gathering of the offering, we were also able to bring back the Doxology and Offertory once again to the service order. We were also hoping that we could have the Deacons again serving Communion however they have decided that it is not something they are going to do. To date most of the elements have been restored.

All worship services continue to be offered both in person and online alternating every two weeks between the Traditional service and the Contemporary service including our Special services at Easter and Christmas.

As a team we have been listening to the congregation and your concerns and have had good, though perhaps at times difficult, conversations addressing those concerns. We do appreciate your input as we continue to evaluate the weekly and special services to see where improvements can be made.

I want to thank each member of the Team so very much for your commitment and dedication to providing the most meaningful worship experience for the congregation.

We are so very thankful for those who have been faithful in providing special music this past year and to those who have willingly and ably given leadership in the services.

It is our prayer that our efforts will honour God and enhance your worship.

Respectfully Submitted,

Olive Wade
Team Leader
Richard Jackson
John Ferguson
Catherine Bartlett
Debbie Lam
Marvin Smith

WORSHIP TAMBOURINES

Worship Tambourines leads worship songs supported by tambourines dance choreography. This year the ministry was led again by Dahlian De Joya and her assistant coach, Zoe De Joya. It greatly expanded in age range, numbers of participants and number of nationalities represented. The ages included 4 years old to teens. They participated in a combined service in June. New smaller, lighter children's tambourines were purchased. 17 participants joined practices.

Several ladies with experience leading worship tambourines in the Philippines have attended our church. Hoping and praying that new leaders will rise up in this ministry.

Respectfully submitted by,

Dahl DeJoya

TECHNICAL LEAD

The past year has been exciting as we start to welcome new people to the church which also means more opportunities to introduce new people to our team. We are looking forward to beginning some team building and training in various areas of the tech ministry.

This is in addition to the strong team we have in place and allows us to do more cross training and increasing skills as we continue to grow. A large part of this has included and will continue to include training one to two new team LEAD positions for weeks that I am not available.

This spring and summer we plan on doing more training and system optimisation as well as cleaning and organising equipment and workstations. Along with streamlining some of our operations to make it easier to adapt when last minute changes are needed.

As with previous years our equipment continues to age and encounter failures. We are working through those challenges each week to maximise their use and minimise the costs associated with repairs and replacement.

As always it is exciting to see our team grow and learn together.

Scott Robinson Technical Director - First Baptist Moncton

FELLOWSHIP FIRST

Activities were returning to a more normal state in 2023, but group gatherings were still of concern to many people! Thus, we had only one gathering / program for FF in 2023!

On Friday, October 20 we went to Butternut Ridge / Havelock at the Memorial Hall for what is becoming our annual Fall outing there! Our turkey dinner with trimmings... and the delicious home-made pies!

We have a devotional, usually good music, and something special (often of historical nature relating to the local area) for a programme! This time it was different... thinking back to the 1950 – 60's activities at the Memorial Hall! There frequently were Friday night movies (I have learned from Doug Wade that his father brought the movies to Havelock that had come to him in Petitcodiac from a movie distributor in Moncton!)

Then there were the fairly frequent Square Dance evenings at the Hall. So on this visit to Havelock, I arranged for Doug and Bonnie Leaman, popular square dance leaders to lead / assist us with a few, hopefully rather simple square dance routines! As could be seen from time to time, the observers had as much fun watching us dancers as the dancers were having trying to follow the lead! Another time, I will plan to observe... and get more people out on the floor!

We look forward to a planning meeting to establish future programs for fellowship and activities in the next year.

Team Leaders	Advisors
ream Leaders	<u> </u>

Jean Phillips and Carol Wilson Margaret MacQuade

Glen & Arlene Steeves and Michael Wilson Rev. D.& Eloise Bannister

Kaye Lothian & Peggy Lewis Rev. J & Cynthia Ferguson

Heather Veysey & Kevin Ingham – replacing <u>Coordinators</u>

Lynn & Dale Ritchie Ralph & Georgie Taylor

Dave & Sylvia Williston and Ralph & Georgie Taylor

MIRACLES AT FIRST CHILDCARE

Miracles at First Childcare Centre continued to serve our community and provide quality childcare in a loving and safe environment. Our Executive Director, Vanessa Golding, and the staff of Miracles continue to ensure programs are high quality and meet government requirements while enhancing the lives of the children in their care. We are fortunate to have a caring and competent director who works diligently every day to meet the needs of staff, parents, and children!

The Board of Directors began to meet in person beginning in January and alternated with meeting via ZOOM every other month throughout the year. Our Executive as voted on by the members of the board in January were as follows: Nancy Fitch – Chair/Secretary, Mary Jane Haley – Vice Chair, and Heather Burke – Treasurer. A very special thank you to Susan Burke who continues to volunteer her time to do the bookkeeping.

This year Miracles weekly chapel program JAM moved to one weekly meeting combining the classes in the Vestry every Friday morning. The Board of Directors are thankful for the leadership of Amanada Wilson who organizes and delivers the program! During the summer months, the students hired by the church took over leadership of JAM and Miracles staff commented that the children enjoyed their visits. The homeless situation in our downtown and around First Baptist continued to be a concern for the safety of the staff, children, and parents of Miracles. As a result, the Board of Directors approved the cost (shared with the church) of having security people on the property in the mornings when drop off occurs and late afternoons for pick up time on Monday to Friday on a three-month trial basis in the fall. This trial ended in December and the feedback from staff and parents were positive. Going forward, the board will reassess the need after the winter months to determine if security is warranted in the spring. As a result of the homelessness situation in downtown Moncton, garbage collection became an issue with the city cutting off the collection to the church. There were a number of situations where people distributed the garbage throughout the downtown making it "unsafe" for the workers to collect the garbage. Miracles is now covering the cost of having the garbage removed on a weekly basis for both the church and Miracles, as the daycare contributes the bulk of the garbage.

As Chair of the Board for 2023, I want to thank everyone who served for their contributions and the volunteer hours given to this ministry. Special thanks to the church members who are leaving our board: Nancy Fitch, Heather Burke, Marg Dryden (Deacon Rep) and Bruce Peacock (Council Rep). A special thank you to our two parent representatives Jamee Densmore and Liz Fillmore who continue to bring valuable incite and expertise!

As I end my six-year term on the board, I urge other church members to become involved in this ministry which has been and is contributing in a positive way to the life of so many children and parents in our community! Please pray how you can provide leadership to Miracles!

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Fitch Chair

STAY N CHAT

In its second year, the 3rd Sunday of the month holds a potluck and community building event following the service called Stay and Chat. This is attended and served by people from both services. It is a ministry that unites us. Great numbers of new attendees have joined our services from numerous nationalities, countries, and faiths. Faiths include Muslim, Hindu, atheists and the curious. A greater numbers of Crandall University students have attended due to this, free taxi service, interactions with members at the Crandall International Fair, and connections through worship leader, Matt Brouwer. The contemporary service has hit attendance over 100 even with great numbers of long-standing members not attending weekly for various competing demands and needs. What a day it would be if everyone came on the same Sunday. We celebrated in December with a special Canadian turkey dinner/international potluck and enormous dessert table. Stephanie Schaffer contributed three days of baking efforts.

There are many faithful contributors. Great gratitude to the volunteers who:

- bring food
- manage three warming and cooking ovens and the times to cook
- cut bake goods and prepare dessert trays
- kitchen managers of volunteers
- carry the long tables stored under the gym stage
- get the compostable plates, cups and serving utensils, napkins from the storage room
- unfold long tables quickly after service
- carry the food out by hand and on the hot and cold trolleys
- serve individual main meals to make sure the food lasts to the end of the line
- turn every 2nd chair row around to face each other for easier chatting
- set out three sorting garbage cans and a soaking utensil tray
- wash dishes, hot water spray rinse and run everything through the sanitizer machine
- put away air dried dishes
- contact volunteers
- buy supplies and submit receipts
- more

A special big thanks (gros merci, gracias, danke, xièxie, obrigado, salamat, shukraan, spasibo, dhanyavaad, sepās-gozāram, o şeun, khàawp-khun, dyakuyu, gomawo/gamsahabnida) to the important circulating, welcoming, self-introducing and conversation initiating friends.

In the future we hope to be more organized in a schedule of volunteers and double our core leadership of seven.

Respectfully submitted by Cynthia Ferguson with JM and Dahl De Joya, David and Nancy Dytynyshyn, and Gary and Laura Selig

FTC

ETC is a fun connecting ministry for those whose ages fall "more in the middle". This gathering group had a co-op leadership with no one leader. In 2023 all three events were joyfully attended and well enjoyed.

The events included:

- bowling organized by Beverley Robart, followed by a dessert and idea sharing night hosted by Janice and Ron Kelly,
- joining the rest of the church family at the dessert auction to support Laura Kelly and Petra Church, and
- a supper at Five Bridges Restaurant organized by Cynthia Ferguson.

There were great turnouts for all three events.

Anyone in the age group is welcomed to organize an event in 2024. To have a more frequent events, this ministry would benefit from a leader or a monthly host recruiter.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of our community ages "more in the middle ",

Cynthia Ferguson

CONNECTIONS TEAM

We firmly believe this is one of the most exciting and important ministries in our church!

There are varying estimates of how quickly a first-time visitor decides whether he or she will return to a church. Some sources say visitors decide within the first 90 seconds! Others believe it takes a full three minutes, while still others say we have up to 15 minutes to make a good first impression. Regardless, all agree that most people have decided if they'll be back long before the pastor steps up to speak.

That's why the Connections team is so important: those who joyfully serve in this ministry provide a welcoming smile, friendly introductions, and directions in a facility that can be confusing! They remember names (sometimes!) and, when they don't, ask again because they're truly interested in people.

We are extremely thankful for all those who serve in this way and the ministry they provide; between the 2 services there are more than 30 volunteers involved. And, like every ministry, we can always use even more!

Sharon Geldart (traditional service) and Beverley Robart (contemporary service), **Connections Team Coordinators**

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

Highlights of Women's Ministries in 2023 were the Beth Moore Simulcast and Christmas themed event. Ladies attending the Women's Day of Prayer were able to attend the second half of the Simulcast's worship and teaching. The theme was "Jesus is Our Safe Harbour in Dangerous Days" Psalm 71:3. The Christmas themed day started at craft fair and ended with a Christmas roast dinner and Kellen Gomes teaching how to make Brazilian desserts.

I Thes 5:11 - Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Ferguson

EVELYN EATON WMS

The Evelyn Eaton Missionary Group met the third Wednesday of the month commencing in March (but met March 22nd due to a snowstorm), April, May, June, September, October, and November. An Average of 9 to 12 members and a few guests attended at 2:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. Programs covered topics: Praying through your House and a Prayer Walk in the church, Baptist Hospital Chaplaincy, two programs about Indigenous peoples - how they view us and how we view them, plus, the study of Truth and Reconciliation. Cindy MacDonald, editor and graphic layout of Tidings Magazine was a guest speaker and discussed various topics related to the magazine and Amanda Wilson led us in the 2023 Great Canadian Bible study with Deborah and Jael based on Judges. Donations (related to the latter) were given to Eagles Wings Fund to support vulnerable women and their families in Bolivia.

Several members attended Intermission in late May with donations for the ABW (Atlantic Baptist Women) Walk-a-thon.

Executive for 2023: President: Elizabeth Chute, ABW Reads: Pat DuBois and email communications: Sylvia Williston.

The year's total offerings (which are sent to ABW) was \$7,493.10.

The group hosted a 2023 Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer Service on Saturday, November 4th and invited eight other churches in the Moncton and Riverview area and other ladies from our church. We had a wonderful morning of food, music, Bible study, stories, prayers, offerings, and fellowship. Prayer is a vehicle for making changes in the world and the world needs our prayers. Thanks to all who made this event so meaningful.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Storey President of the Evelyn Eaton Missionary Group

GLOBAL MISSIONS TEAM

The regular missions committee was involved with several mission related activities during 2023.

Both Randy Stanton, the CBM representative for Atlantic Canada, and Jeff Carter, with the Baptist World Alliance, spoke at morning church services, with small receptions following.

In June, the committee assisted with an evening fund raiser for Laura Kelly, who is a missionary with Emmanuel International, serving the Lord in Tanzania, Africa.

Following the Kay Homer bequest to First Baptist Church, the regular missions committee joined a larger committee tasked with allocating funds from the Homer "tithe", first to our own mission budget, and then to other qualifying mission/outreach groups.

The missions committee is small in number and is in need of more members. We are looking for new people to join us and to help promote missions. If you feel that you would like to be involved, please contact us.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Wilson

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

The Financial Secretary is responsible for maintaining a record of all donations to First Baptist Church and issuing tax receipts for those donations. This information is kept strictly confidential.

There are several ways donations can be made. Numbered, dated envelopes; Automatic bank withdrawals; online with Tithely or E-transfers; or your own envelope. Provided I have names and addresses, receipts are issued for all methods. E-transfer has become the most popular method and is replacing offering envelopes for many donors. This results in fewer envelopes ordered each year and thus causes your number to change more frequently than you (and I) might prefer...it's a lot of work to change all those numbers!

Please send me your mailing address if you are a new donor. The lack of addresses is an ongoing problem. The government wants your address on your receipt.

After a couple of years without the Sunday Tellers, they were back counting the envelope giving. I was very happy that Dawna Steeves volunteered to assist again in the fall after taking a break in the spring. She does a great job filling in for me when I'm away. Thank you, Dawna.

There were several donations made as memorials and remembrances during 2023. Alfred Dryden, Harold Crawford, Eva Griffin, Fred Steeves, Geraldine Dedrick, Blanche Vincent, John Emmerson, Bill Glendinning.

Susan Burke Financial Secretary

TELLERS COMMITTEE

Thank you to all the tellers for your service in 2023. You have made a valuable contribution to the church's operation in ensuring that God's monetary gifts are handled in a responsible and effective manner.

David Williston

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Membership as of December 31, 2022 - 541 Membership as of December 31, 2023 - 536

Resident Membership - 422 Non-Resident Membership - 114

Received by Transfer - 0

Deceased - 5

Received by Baptism - 2

Transfer - 8

Received by experience - 6

Total: 8

Removed - 0

Received by Baptism: Jeanette Frigault

Menuka Silva

Transferred:

Jeff Land

Nancy Land

Alice Land

Divina Garcia

Maize McInnis Faye Lutes

Deceased Members and Adherents:

Georges LeRoc Gugi LeRoc

Received by Experience:

Hannah Bishop **Daniel Asante** Frantz Ady Caleb Bansambu

Mateus Paixao Noemi Tembo

John Emmerson Eva Griffin

Bill Glendinning

Fred Steeves

Ross Macneil **Balance Vincent**

Angelina Tercero-Vasquez

FACILITIES

I want to thank my fellow committee members Glen Murray and Kay Lothian and our always willing to help custodian Randy Leet and our relief custodian Ed Toczko, for their help and jobs well done.

Thanks to her husband Darrel, Amanda's office was renovated with new flooring and fresh paint.

We did more small projects this year to keep the Church building and systems in good repair including two more security cameras installed around the daycare playground area. The Church St entrance doors and concrete steps were repaired and painted, and a steel garbage can was installed at the Church St. entrance for the homeless to put their garbage in [which they are doing].

New outdoor lighting has been installed where needed around the exterior of the building.

We continue to battle a rodent population that wants to take up residence in the church. Our pest control company is now coming twice monthly and everything edible is being stored in containers.

This summer we should upgrade the heating system and the alarm panel, and both of these quite costly projects are to be discussed at a later date.

It has been a pleasure to serve my Church as Facilities Director.

Les Dryden

Child and Youth Protection Policy First Moncton Baptist Church

Our Protection Policy is intended to make First Moncton a safe place for children and youth. In addition to their safety, which is our first concern. Our Protection Policy is intended to provide protective boundaries for individuals on our Ministry Teams. Our Protection Plan has seven main components: Definitions, Screening, Supervision, Reporting Allegations, Training for Ministry Teams, and Further Health and Safety Restrictions and Guidelines.

Definitions:

For the purposes of this policy, please note the following:

- Parent/Guardian: refers to parent or guardian or temporary care giver who is accepting the guardianship responsibilities.
- Infants, toddlers, preschoolers: Children from birth to four years of age.
- Children: Children from 5-11 years of age or grades K-5.
- Youth 1: from age 12 14 years of age or grade 6-8
- Youth 2: from age 15-18 years of age or grade 9-12
- Adults: (18+)
- Pastoral staff: refers to any pastor or any staff member hired by First Moncton
- First Kids: refers to FirstKids and FirstYouth

Screening:

All persons working with children/youth must:

- 1. Be as defined below:
 - Children/Youth Ministry Team Members (Gr. 9 to adult): They have a responsibility for delivery of a program.
 - Children's Ministry Team Helpers: Youth (Gr 6-8) They have a responsibility to help deliver a program under the direct supervision of an adult ministry team member.
- 2. Attend First Moncton for at least six months before joining a Ministry Team that works with children and/or youth. In lieu of waiting the six months, they may participate sooner but only with supervision for the first six months, and only if they qualify with a good reference from a home church member who has known them for at least six months.
- 3. Be interviewed by Pastoral Staff or Ministry Team Leaders.
- 4. Complete a Ministry Team Application Form.
- 5. Submit a current (every five years) police Criminal Check ("Vulnerable Sector Check") for age 18+. A record involving any abuse of children/youth will disqualify the individual from working with children or youth. A record involving other crimes will be carefully reviewed and considered by Pastoral Staff to determine if the applicant is qualified for a ministry position.
- 6. Participate in a Protection Policy Orientation Session.
- 7. Agree to adhere to our Protection Policy by signing a copy of this document.

Supervision:

All persons working with children/youth must:

- Never be alone with a child/youth unless visible to another volunteer/leader. At least two
 ministry team members should be present, for the following reasons:
 - a. Members must be objective witnesses for one another.
 - b. Make all ministry activity highly visible. Avoid isolated spaces. Keep opaque doors open and bar the threshold to the room with baby gates or half doors. Keep windows in doors uncovered so everything that is happening in the room can be easily seen from the corridor.
 - c. Move to a quiet spot within the room for a private conversation with a minor but do not leave the room.
 - d. Ministry Team Members must call parents for diaper changes unless we have written permission from the parent to do diaper changes.
 - e. If a Ministry Team Member is required to change a diaper, they must stand behind the change table, and make sure the child being changed is always visible to others in the room.
 - f. At no time will children or youth be left in an individual's care behind closed windowless doors.
 - g. Serious behaviour issues, bathroom visits or other unforeseen circumstances may necessitate a leader keeping an eye on two spaces for a short time.
- 2. Only touch a child appropriately; specifically on the hand, arm, or shoulder. Direct children who want to sit on your lap to sit beside you. Give sideways hugs, A-frame hugs. (A-Frame Hug: This is where the two people sharing the embrace stand about a foot apart from each other and bend at the waist. Only the shoulders come into contact as the two people embrace.)
- 3. When a child becomes physically aggressive or makes violent threats, FirstKids Ministry Team Members are to remove the other children from the room for their safety. They can be brought to another FirstKids class and remain with that class's Ministry Team Members until the situation is resolved. If the child is damaging property, volunteers should not physically touch the child. If the child is actively harming themself or others (and not responding to verbal de-escalation tactics), volunteers should gently but firmly hold the child's arms to their chest (approach from behind and hug gently but firmly) until they have calmed enough to stop injuring themself.
 - a. Before the child is permitted to return to FirstKids programming, the parent(s) must meet with the FirstKids Coordinator to discuss the situation and investigate how we might be able to help the child/family. The parent(s) must also sign a document, acknowledging the issue, the meeting, and the plan moving forward. If the aggression happens again, the same steps must be taken but the child will not be permitted to return to program for 4 weeks. If the aggression happens again after that, the same steps must be taken but the child will not be permitted to return to program for a year.
 - b. While we want to love and support each child/family, we have limited time and resources available in a church setting. We must do what we can to ensure a positive learning environment for all the children in our care.

- 4. If a child/youth is accused of inappropriate touching of either a leader or another child/youth, the situation should be reported to the FirstKids Coordinator (or designate) as soon as possible. An incident report is to be completed. The situation will then be discussed and investigated. The FirstKids Coordinator is to contact both sets of parents to explain the situation and the actions that will/have been taken.
 - Before the offending party is permitted to return to FirstKids programming, the parent(s) must meet with the FirstKids Coordinator, sign a document to acknowledge the issue, the meeting, and the plan moving forward. The child/youth responsible may be suspended from returning to the group, the time frame will be dependent on the seriousness of the issue. The FirstKids Coordinator in consultation with pastoral staff will determine the steps taken.
- 5. Insist that children ask permission before leaving the group to use the washroom. (Age 11 and under). All children up to grade 2 who must use the washroom must be accompanied by a Ministry Team Member who must first ensure that there is no one else in the washroom and then send the child in alone. The Ministry Team Member must stand outside the door, guiding the child with their voice if needed. If the child needs help, the Ministry Team Member asks someone else to enter the washroom or cubical with them and/or sends someone for the child's parents. (The corridor door to a multi washroom with stalls is to remain open and the leader is to stand in the corridor, the cubical door is to be closed. The door to a single washroom is to be closed, the leader is to stand outside the closed door.) No other person is allowed to enter a single or multi washroom (unless for assistance as indicated above) until the child has exited the washroom (or children if the leader is bringing more than on child at a time).
- 6. Ensure that all children up to and including Grade 12 are registered. Registration forms must be signed by the child's/youth's parent/guardian. Youth 16+ who live independently may sign for themselves.
- 7. Ensure that all children up to and including Grade 5 must be signed in/out of Sunday morning and weekday children's ministries by the adult who brings them.
- 8. Be responsible for the safety of every child until the adult responsible for the child arrives at the ministry space to pick them up. Parents, grandparents, or the adult who brings the child must arrive immediately after worship, or other adult event, to reassume responsibility for their child.

Transportation:

- Transportation of the child/youth to and from the program/event is the sole responsibility of the parent/guardian, regardless of whether they drive them, a ministry team member drives them or they arrange to have someone else to drive them. Parents are responsible even if First Moncton pays for the taxi.
- 2. If during the program/event the child/youth is transported away from church property, Ministry Team Members must ensure children/youth being transported in either a private vehicle, taxi or bus are accompanied by at least two responsible adults. A child/youth may travel in a car with only one adult only if the parent/guardian has given written permission and only if there are other children/youth in the vehicle as well.

- 3. If a church bus is used for transportation of children, there must be 1 adult plus the driver on the bus supervising children. Children must have parent/guardian permission to go on the bus.
- 4. When Ministry Team members are transporting kids or youth in either their personal vehicle or a church-owned vehicle, a safety check must be performed inside the vehicle to ensure there are no hazards present that could threaten the health or wellbeing of the passengers.

Reporting Allegations:

Any Leader who has reasonable grounds to believe that a child or youth has been subjected to abusive behaviour will:

- 1. Listen carefully to what a child/youth says without asking questions or making notes. You may make notes immediately afterwards but not in the minor's presence.
- 2. Never promise not to tell anyone. Assure the child that you will only tell someone if the child or someone else needs help.
- 3. Report what the child/youth says and/or any other concerns or observations of possible abuse to:
 - 1st Department of Social Development
 - 2nd one of the Pastors

If the accusation is against one of the Pastors, the Lead Pastor must contact the Office of Canadian Baptists of Atlantic Canada. If the accusation is against the Lead Pastor, the report must first be made to:

- 1st Department of Social Development
- 2nd chair of the Council who will contact the office of Canadian Baptists of Atlantic Canada.
- 4. A written copy of every report, including dates, times and the content of all pertinent conversations, will be kept in a locked confidential file in a church office. These reports must be kept indefinitely regardless of the outcome of any subsequent investigation.
- 5. If it is proven that child abuse by a member of the church has taken place, he/she will be required to step down from all leadership positions.
- 6. First Moncton is responsible to make a report for any allegations of abuse. First Moncton takes all allegations seriously.

Training Ministry Teams:

1. All new Ministry Team Members must complete a Child Protection Orientation Session with a Pastor or Ministry Team Leader before they join a Ministry Team that works with minors. The content of this Orientation Session will include reasons why a Child Protection Plan is important, a review of our written Protection Policy, and discussion about the importance and implication of each aspect of the Policy.

This Child Protection Plan will be reviewed and updated annually by Council/Kids & Youth
Ministry Coordinator. Updated copies of the document will be posted on the website. Annual
reviews should be recorded even if no change has been made. If a change is to be made or if any
updates are suggested, these must be submitted to Council for review/approval.

Further Health and Safety Restrictions and Guidelines:

- 1. If a child is not well, they should be kept home. IF he/she become ill at program, the parent/guardian will be asked to take them home.
- 2. Ministry Team Leaders will not give children medication. Exceptions will be reviewed on an emergency case by case basis.
- 3. Ministry Teams will be advised, at least annually, as to the location of First Aid Kits.
 - Large First Aid Kits are attached to the wall:
 - i. in the custodial closet in the Queen Street entrance foyer opposite the chapel on the main level
 - ii. across from the gym near the kitchen.
 - These First Aid Kits are to be maintained by a group/person designated by the church staff.
 - Smaller portable First Aid Kits will be stored
 - i. on a high shelf in the photocopier room
 - ii. on a high shelf in the bathroom at the top of the back stairway in the children's ministry centre (3rd floor),
 - iii. in the youth room.
- 4. A written incident report must be completed by the witnessing Ministry Team Member and filed with the Council/Kids & Youth Ministry Coordinator. Incident reporting forms are available in the photocopier room. Incidents include any kind of accident or physical mishap regardless of cause or a child running away from a Ministry Team Member. A written copy of every report, including dates, times and the content of all pertinent conversations, will be kept in a locked confidential file in a church office. These reports must be kept indefinitely regardless of the outcome of any subsequent investigation.
- 5. Fire evacuation plans and lockdown procedures will be reviewed at least annually in Ministry Team Training. Specific evacuation directions will be posted in each room.
- 6. Ensure that pictures and names of children are not published without parental permission. The location of overnight events will not be made public.
- 7. Keep a record of all online communication with youth.

I have read this Policy and agree with it:		
Name (print)		
Signature	Date	

			¥	

TREASURER

These financial statements reflect the financial activities of First Moncton United Baptist Church for the year 2023. All monies received and expenses incurred have been recorded and all debts received have been paid. TC Jones has completed a Review Engagement.

For the first time in many years, the year ended with a net loss of \$116,907 mainly because donations were down. This is very concerning and not sustainable. We need to work together to turn this around and get back to a stable financial position.

For 2023, revenue was \$104,960 below budget and expenses were \$11,947 over budget. Investment income was \$34,897 lower than 2022. Staffing changes meant the pastoral salaries came in on budget and were \$24,305 higher than 2022 and employee benefits were \$7,542 higher than budget. Security costs were not budgeted and totaled \$7,404. Heating system repairs were \$4,835. Summer program expenses were \$4,002 higher than 2022.

The Sanctuary building roof was replaced in 2019 at a total cost of \$156,358. It was paid for by a Promissory Note (at the Baptist Foundation) and some reserve funds. The Promissory Note was paid off in 2023 using some of the Horner Trust and a reserve fund.

The church received a large bequest in 2022 and this money was placed in a trust fund at the Baptist Foundation. In 2023, \$2,000,000 of this trust fund was moved into Guaranteed Investment Certificates with Bank of Montreal. Interest earned on the Horner trust fund goes back into the trust account. It is not brought into income.

The present deposit at the Baptist Foundation stands at \$836,821 of which \$7,160 is the Florence Gardiner Estate to be used for upgrades to the Youth Room, the Ruth Falconer Estate of \$4,131 to be used for a yearly \$1,000 bursary, the Marlene Bishop Estate of \$4,000 to be used in a yearly \$1,000 bursary and the remainder in trusts that have specific instructions attached to them.

The 2023 budget has been set as \$38,928 higher than 2023. Some categories were increased while others were decreased to reflect the anticipated changes in ministries and programs within the church for the upcoming year. The largest increase is in Church Property (mainly Security and Electricity) and Pastoral Ministries. After much discussion at the Fall Advance Meeting, the 2024 Budget was approved.

I would like to thank the Mike Robart, Heather Burke and the Finance Committee for their continued support throughout the year.

Linda Smith

Treasurer

FIRST MONCTON UNITED BAPTIST CHURCH

Financial Statements

Year Ended December 31, 2023

FIRST MONCTON UNITED BAPTIST CHURCH Index to Financial Statements December 31, 2023

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INDEPENDENT PRACTITIONER'S REVIEW ENGAGEMENT REPORT

To the Members of First Moncton United Baptist Church

We have reviewed the accompanying financial statements of First Moncton United Baptist Church (the Church) that comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2023, and the statements of revenues and expenditures, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations (ASNPO), and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Practitioner's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express a conclusion on the accompanying financial statements based on our review. We conducted our review in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements, which require us to comply with relevant ethical requirements.

A review of financial statements in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements is a limited assurance engagement. The practitioner performs procedures, primarily consisting of making inquiries of management and others within the entity, as appropriate, and applying analytical procedures, and evaluates the evidence obtained.

The procedures performed in a review are substantially less in extent than, and vary in nature from, those performed in an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion on these financial statements.

Basis for Qualified Conclusion

As is common with many not-for-profit organizations, the Church derives revenue from fundraising activities, the completeness of which is not susceptible to us obtaining evidence we considered necessary for the purpose of the review. Accordingly, the evidence obtained of these revenues was limited to the amounts recorded in the records of the Church. Therefore, we were not able to determine whether any adjustments might be necessary to fundraising revenue, excess of revenues over expenses, and cash flows from operations for the year ended December 31, 2023, current assets and net assets as at December 31, 2023.

(continues)

Independent Practitioner's Review Engagement Report to the Members of First Moncton United Baptist Church (continued)

Qualified Conclusion

Based on our review, except for the possible effects of the matter described in the *Basis for Qualified Conclusion* paragraph, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial statements do not present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of First Moncton United Baptist Church as at December 31, 2023, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations (ASNPO).

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TCJones Chartered Professional Accountants Coldbrook, Nova Scotia March 19, 2024

First Moncton United Baptist Church		
Balance Sheet		
Current Operating Fund		
December 31, 2023	2023	2022
(Unaudited)	2023	
Assets		
	\$ 99,675	\$ 282,384
Cash	73,691	10,530
Receivables	10,815	10,223
Prepaids	2,836,821	2,765,036
Investments (Note 3)		
	\$ 3,021,002	\$ 3,068,173
Liabilities, Bequests, and Trust Funds		
	\$ 52,536	\$ 38,101
Payables	30,300	20,300
Missions payable		
Payable to Capital Fund	2,890,294	144,985
Trust funds		
Bequests: Boyer Estate	1,050	1,050
Dora Duffy Mitton Estate	10,000	10,000
Thordis Duffy Estate	1,000	1,000
Winnifred Davis Estate	10,000	10,000
Florence Gardiner Estate	7,160	6,936
Ruth Falconer Estate	4,131	4,001
Marlene Bishop Estate	4,000_	6,000
Mariene Dishop Estate	3,010,471	242,373
Surplus		
Current Operating Fund surplus	10,531	2,825,800
Culteric Operating Fairs output	\$ 3,021,002	\$ 3,068,173
On behalf of the Congregation:	\$ 3,021,002	<u>φ 3,000,170</u>

First Moncton United Baptist Church Statement of Revenue and Expenditures Current Operating Fund

December 31, 2023	2023	2023	2022
(Unaudited)	Budget	Actual	Actual
Revenue Envelopes Special Offerings Memorials Bequests Investment income Recovery Miracles at First Daycare Other	\$ 618,730	\$ 520,747	\$ 637,245
	20,000	11,826	12,005
	4,000	2,410	2,550
	-	-	2,652,171
	2,000	4,025	38,922
	15,000	17,520	18,720
	2,000	241	175
Total revenue	661,730	556,769	3,361,788_
Expenditures			
Pastoral ministries Salaries Employee benefits Annuities Allowances Ministry and Service	308,700	307,461	283,156
	39,000	46,542	40,684
	8,500	5,212	4,453
	5,960	6,118	3,543
	1,350	3,984	4,602
	363,510	369,317	336,438
Worship Worship Technical Support/Equipment	7,000	7,458	4,953
	5,500	5,504	4,693
	12,500	12,962	9,646
Discipleship and Fellowship Transportation Adult Ministries International Ministries Welcoming	2,000	2,186	97
	8,000	406	1,213
	1,000	111	-
	500	2,782	362
	11,500	5,485	1,672
Children, Youth and Young Adults	25,600	20,877	11,248_

First Moncton United Baptist Church Statement of Revenue and Expenditures (Con't) Current Operating Fund December 31, 2023

Current Operating Fund December 31, 2023 (Unaudited)	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	2022 Actual
Evangelism and Mission			
Missions	66,800	66,800	66,800
Investment in local community outreach and engagement	7,200	2,617	2,295
Media	6,500	587	1,802
Wedta	80,500	70,004	70,89
Financial and Administrative	4.000	10,605	8,410
Computer equipment	4,000 20,500	22,643	19,64
Insurance	10,500	19,022	16,07
Office supplies	4,500	3,669	3,91
Telephone	800	479	67
Offering envelopes	4,000	3,970	5,16
	1,000	1,880	1,12
Bank charges Miscellaneous	45,300	62,268	55,02
Church Property			00.00
Capital and general repair	19,000	19,920	26,82
Cleaning and maintenance	18,000	20,676	19,83 11,64
Electricity	12,000	14,752	4,37
Water and Sewer	4,500	4,412	4,57 8,65
Snow Clearing	6,000	8,967 52,008	46,47
Heating & System Repairs	50,000	494	
Miscellaneous	-	7,404	-
Security	109,500	128,633	117,80
Interest and payments on promissory note	13,320	4,130	12,976
	661,730	673,676	615,700
Total Expenditures		2	2
Excess of Revenue over Expenditures (expenditures over revenue)	\$ -	\$ (116,907)	\$2,746,08

First Moncton United Baptist Church Statement of Surplus Current Operating Fund

Current Operating Fund			
December 31, 2023 (Unaudited)	2023	2022	
Surplus, beginning of year	\$ 2,825,800	\$ 79,719	
Allocation of prior year surplus (Note 7)	(10,000)	-	
Allocation to Kathryn Horner Trust (Note 7)	(2,688,363)		
Excess of revenue over expenditures	(116,907)	2,746,082	
Surplus, end of year	\$ 10,531	\$ 2,825,800	

First Moncton United Baptist Churc	h
Balance Sheet and Statement of Su	rplus
Capital Fund	,

(Unaudited)	2023	2022
Assets		
Capital assets (Note 4)	\$ 1,105,074	\$ 1,147,388
	\$ 1,105,074	\$ 1,147,388
Liabilities		
Current Portion of Promissory Note (Note 5)	\$ -	\$ 10,074
Promissory Note (Note 5)	-	47,375
		57,449
Capital Surplus		4 400 504
Balance, beginning of year	1,089,939	1,126,504
Excess of expenditures over revenues	(42,314)	(46,337)
Repayment of debt through the operating fund	57,449	9,772
Balance, end of year	1,105,074	1,089,939
	\$ 1,105,074	\$ 1,147,388
On behalf of the Congregation:		

First Moncton United Baptist Church Statement of Revenue and Expenditures Capital Fund

December 31, 2023 (Unaudited)	2023 Actual	2022 Actual
Revenue Donations	\$ -	_ \$
Total revenue	-	
Expenditures Amortization of capital assets	42,314_	46,337
Total expenditures	42,314_	46,337
Excess of expenditures over revenues	\$ (42,314)	\$ (46,337)

First Moncton United Baptist Church Statement of Cash Flows December 31, 2023

December 31, 2023 (Unaudited)	0000	2022
(Villadation)	2023	2022
Increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		
Operating activities Cash received from donations Cash paid to suppliers Cash paid to employees Interest paid	\$ 624,268 (385,276) (348,591) (1,220) (110,819)	\$ 3,358,200 (304,425) (319,387) (2,960) 2,731,428
Investing activities Investment income	4,025	38,922 38,922
Financing activities Principal payment on promissory note	(4,130) (4,130)	(9,772)
Increase in cash and cash equivalents	(110,924)	2,760,578
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning	3,047,420	286,842
Cash and cash equivalents, ending	\$ 2,936,496	\$ 3,047,420
Cash and cash equivalents Cash	\$ 99,675	\$ 282,384
Term deposits (Note 3)	2,836,821 \$ 2,936,496	2,765,036 \$ 3,047,420

First Moncton United Baptist Church Denominational and Mission Funds December 31, 2023			
(Unaudited)	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	2022 Actual
Expenditures			
CBAC Fund	\$ 46,500	\$ 46,500	\$ 46,500
Westmorland Kent Association	500	500	500
Association support	500	500	500
Camp Wildwood	1,500	1,500	1,500 2,000
	2,000	2,000	
Canadian Baptist Ministries	1.500	1,500	1,500
Relief & Development (Sharing Way)	1,500 2,000	2,000	2,000
Special Partner in Mission	3,500	3,500	3,500
Educational Institutions			
ADC Operating Fund	3,000	3,000	3,000
Crandall University Operating Fund	3,000	3,000	3,000
Special Partner in Mission	2,000	2,000	2,000
	8,000	8,000	8,000
Para-Church Organizations			
Pregnancy & Wellness Center of Moncton	750	750	750
Emmanuel International Canada	2,000	2,000	2,000 750
Inter Varsity Christian Fellowship	750	750 750	750
Ratio Christi	3,500	4,250	3,500
Scholarships W. Davis Memorial Scholarship	300	300	300
Dr. Hinson West Memorial Scholarship	100	100	100
Glendinning Memorial Scholarship	100	100	100
D.D. Mitton Memorial Scholarship	600	600	600
Flora Clarke Memorial Scholarship	150	150	150
W. Davis Memorial Scholarship	300_	300	300
·	1,550	1,550	1,550
Other	1,750_	1,000	1,750
	\$ 66,800	\$ 66,800	\$ 66,800

First Moncton	United	Baptist	Church
Trust Funds			

December 31, 2023 (Unaudited)	2022 Balance	2023 Revenue	2023 Expenditures	2023 Balance
Communion Benevolent Fund	\$ 6,502	\$ 9,843	\$ 14,343	\$ 2,002 2,003
Retired Ministers Fund	832	2,003	832 15,175	4,005
Balance Communion Fund	7,334	11,846	15,175	4,000
THE CONTRACT OF THE CONTRACT O	220	8,058	7,838	440
ABW (UBWMU)	10,158	-	961	9,197
Choir Memorial Trust	1,000	_	-	1,000
Fash Trust	1,636	503	518	1,621
Fellowship First Trust	9,776	2,373	300	11,849
Fitch Trust	17,047		_	17,047
General Reserve Fund	17,047	_	-	12
Goat Project	9,806	4,347	5,735	8,418
Handbell Choir	13,000	-,017	-	13,000
Healy Trust	13,000	2,794,306	42,875	2,751,431
Kathryn Horner Trust	200	2,704,000		200
Music Trust		_	_	10,000
Music Committee Trust	10,000	2,000	2,322	25,844
Organ Fund	26,166	2,000	_,	400
Parish Nursing Trust	400	5,120	_	10,300
Renovation Trust	5,180	5, 120	293	1,707
Reserve for Musical Instruments	2,000	-	200	9,867
Reserve for Repairs & Maintenance	9,867	2.250	11,334	1,406
Roof Repair Fund	10,490	2,250	11,007	378
Social Action Committee	378	-	_	98
Soul Food Mission	98	-	_	3,319
Sunday School	3,319	-	98	2,405
√estry	2,405	98	50	100
Wedding Deposits	-	100	-	180
World Vision Children	-	180	1,936	6,070
Youth/Family Mission Tour	4,493	3,513_		
	\$ 144,985_	\$2,834,694_	\$ 89,385	\$ 2,890,294

First Moncton United Baptist Church Supplementary Schedules to the Financial Statements Children, Youth and Young Adults

December 31, 2023

(Unaudited)	2023 Budget	2023	2022
Mission Trip FirstYouth Ministries First Kids and Families Ministries Summer Program Christian Camp Sponsorship Sunday Morning Program Special Events Bible Presentations Leadership Development Miscellaneous	\$ 4,000 7,000 7,200 2,500 400 - 2,000 - 2,500 \$ 25,600	\$ 431 4,013 - 5,256 - 3,278 3,610 114 4,084 91 \$ 20,877	\$ - 1,374 - 1,254 - 5,307 1,705 - 1,352 256 \$ 11,248

First Moncton United Baptist Church **Current Operating and Capital Funds** Notes to the Financial Statements

December 31, 2023 (Unaudited)

Nature of operations

The organization operates a Church in Moncton, New Brunswick. The Church is a registered charity and is not subject to income taxes.

Significant accounting policies

(a) Fund accounting

The Church follows the restricted fund method of accounting for contributions.

The Current Operating Fund accounts for the Church's program delivery and administrative activities.

The Capital Fund reports the assets, liabilities revenues and expenses related to the Church's capital assets.

(b) Revenue recognition

Contributions designated for current operating activities are recognized as revenue of the Current Operating Fund in the year received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

(c) Capital assets

Fixed assets purchased in any given year are charged directly to the current operating fund expenditures if purchased with operating funds. Capital assets purchased with capital funds are recorded in the Capital Fund in the year the are incurred.

Capital assets are recorded at cost.

(d) Use of estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and accompanying notes. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

(e) Investments

The Church's investments are initially recognized at cost and subsequently measured at fair value without adjustments for transaction costs that would be incurred on disposal. Changes in fair value are in income in the period of change. Transaction costs associated with acquisition of these investments are recognized in net income in the period incurred.

3. Investments

	<u>2023</u>		<u>2022</u>
	836,821		2,765,036
8-	2,000,000		-
\$	2,836,821	\$	2,765,036
	\$	836,821 2,000,000	836,821

First Moncton United Baptist Church Current Operating and Capital Funds Notes to the Financial Statements

December 31, 2023 (Unaudited)

Land				<u>NBV</u>	<u>NBV</u>
Buildings Equipment	4%-5% 20%	229,248 2,408,124 963,879	1,574,453 921,724	229,248 833,671 42,155	229,248 865,446 52,694
	9	3,601,251	2,496,177	 1,105,074	 1,147,388
5. Promissory Note				2023	2022
Atlantic Baptist Foundation promissory no	ote, repaid d	uring the year		\$ -	\$ 57,449
Less: current portion				-	(10,074)
				\$ -	\$ 47,375

6. Financial Instruments

The financial instruments of the Church and the nature of the risks to which it may be subject are as follows:

Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk is the potential for loss arising from changes in interest rates. Financial instruments that potentially subject the Church to interest rate risk is the promissory note.

Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Church cannot repay its obligations when they become due to its creditors. The Church's level of exposure to liquidity risk is dependant on receipt of donations from the Church congregation, fund raising activities and other sources.

First Moncton United Baptist Church Current Operating and Capital Funds Notes to the Financial Statements

December 31, 2023 (Unaudited)

7. Allocations to Missions Payable & to Kathryn Horner Trust

At the annual meeting on March 26, 2023, the Church approved the allocation of funds in the amount of \$10,000 from the accumulated operating surplus of 2022, to be used by the Missions Committee in 2023. As of December 31, 2023, the funds have not been used and thus, a payable was set up.

At the annual meeting on March 26, 2023, the Church approved the allocation of funds in the amount of \$2,688,363 from the Kathryn Horner bequest be placed in a trust fund. As of December 31, 2023, the funds have been placed in a trust fund.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Council

The Council will consist of nine (9) elected persons both male and female, nineteen (19) years or older drawn from the membership of the Church. One of the elected members must be nominated from the Deacons.

2024:

024:			
Members	Year of Service	Term	Name
*1	1 st year	Jan. 1, 2024 – Dec. 31, 2027	Heather Burke
*2	1 st year	Jan. 1, 2024 – Dec. 31, 2027	Kevin Ingham
3	2 nd year	Jan. 1, 2023 – Dec. 31, 2026	Sheila Thomas
4	2 nd year	Jan. 1, 2023 – Dec. 31, 2026	Joanne Steen
5	3 rd year	Jan. 1, 2022 – Dec. 31, 2025	Bruce Peacock
6	3 rd year	Jan. 1, 2022 – Dec. 31, 2025	David Campbell
7.	4 th year	Jan. 1, 2021 – Dec. 31, 2024	Bevereley Robart
8	4 th year	Jan. 1, 2021 – Dec. 31, 2024	Nancy Robb
9	Deacon	Jan. 1, 2024 – Dec. 31, 2024	Sheila Horsman

^{*}To be voted in

^{**} Deacon to be nominated by the Deacons will serve one year terms. Each term is renewable by Church vote as long as he or she serves as a Deacon.

DEACONS

The Deacons will consist of ten (10) to twelve (12) persons, both male and female, nineteen (19) years of age or older, drawn from the membership of the Church.

Deacons Emeriti: Ralph Taylor, Ellard Griffin, Marg Ryan

2024:

Members	Year of Service	Term	Name
*1	1 st year	Jan 1, 2024– Dec 31, 2027	Rick Mullin
*2	1 st year	Jan 1, 2024 – Dec 31, 2027	Caleb Bansambu
*3	1 st year	Jan 1, 2024 – Dec 31, 2027	
4	2 nd year	Jan 1, 2023– Dec 31, 2026	
5	2 nd year	Jan 1, 2023 – Dec 31, 2026	Kim Robinson
6	2 nd year	Jan 1, 2023 – Dec 31, 2026	Margaret Dryden
7	3 rd year	Jan 1, 2022– Dec 31, 2025	Joy Martel
8	3 rd year	Jan 1, 2022 – Dec 31, 2025	Grant Steeves
9	3 rd year	Jan 1, 2022 – Dec 31, 2025	Lynn Ritchie
*10	4 th year	Jan 1, 2021 – Dec 31, 2024	Hannah Bishop
11	4 th year	Jan 1, 2021 – Dec 31, 2024	Art Lam
12	4 th year	Jan 1, 2021 – Dec 31, 2024	Sheila Horsman

^{*} To be voted in

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee will consist of eight (8) elected members of the Church, as well as one (1) member of the board, who will serve as chair, and one (1) deacon.

2024 Committee:

Members	Year of Service	Term	Name
*1	1 st year	Jan 1, 2024 – Dec 31, 2027	TBA
*2	1 st year	Jan 1, 2024 – Dec 31, 2027	TBA
*3	2 nd year	Jan 1, 2023 – Dec 31, 2026	TBA
4	2 nd year	Jan 1, 2023 – Dec 31, 2026	Cathy Burke
5	3 rd year	Jan 1, 2022 – Dec 31, 2025	Gordon Locke
*6	3 rd year	Jan 1, 2022 – Dec 31, 2025	Janice Kelly (replacing Elizabeth Chute)
7	4 th year	Jan 1, 2021 – Dec 31, 2024	Bruce Peacock
8	4 th year	Jan 1, 2021 – Dec 31, 2024	Laura Parker
9	Council member**	Beginning Jan 1, 2024	Beverley Robart
10	Deacon***	Beginning Jan 1, 2024.	Hannah Bishop

^{*} To be voted in

^{**} Board member to be nominated by the Board will serve one year terms. Each term is renewable by Church vote as long as he or she serves as a Board member.

^{***} Deacon to be nominated by the Deacons will serve one year terms. Each term is renewable by Church vote as long as he or she serves as a Deacon.

MIRACLES AT FIRST CHILD CARE CENTRE BOARD

Members must be nineteen (19) years of age or older. The board of the First Moncton United Baptist Child Care Centre Inc. will have eleven (11) directors, appointed as follows:

- Six (6) Church members.
- One (1) each from the Church board and the deacons.
- Three (3) members appointed by the Board of the First Baptist Childcare Center Inc., two (2) of which must be parents of the children, and one (1) other interested person from within or without the Church.

2024 Board:

Church Members	Term and Year of Service		Two Terms	Names
*1	First Term	1st year	Jan 1, 2024 – Dec 31, 2028	
2	E L	2nd year	Jan 1, 2023 – Dec 31, 2025	Mary Jane Haley
3		2nd year	Jan 1, 2023 – Dec 31, 2027	Julia Steeves
*4	puo	1st year	Jan 1, 2024 – Dec 31, 2026	Menuka Silva
5	Second	2nd year	Jan 1, 2023 – Dec 31, 2025	Pat Leblanc
6		3rd year	Jan 1, 2022 – Dec 31, 2027	Dawna Steeves/*Juliette Cormier
7	Council member**		Beginning Jan 1, 2024	Bruce Peacock
8	Dea	con***	Beginning Jan 1, 2024	Margaret Dryden

^{*} To be voted in

^{**} Board member to be nominated by the Board will serve one year terms. Each term is renewable by Church vote as long as he or she serves as a Board member.

^{***} Deacon to be nominated by the Deacons will serve one year terms. Each term is renewable by Church vote as long as he or she serves as a Deacon.

MIRACLES AT FIRST CHILD CARE CENTRE BOARD (Continued)

(Provided for information purposes only not to be voted on by the church body)

2024 Board:

024 Board.					
Board Appointees	Term and Year of Service		Two Terms	Names	
	First Term	1st year	Jan 1, 2024 – Dec 31, 2029		
	H. T.	2nd year	Jan 1, 2022 – Dec 31, 2027		
1		3rd year	Jan 1, 2022 – Dec 31, 2027	Liz Fillmore (parent)	
2	nd m	1st year	Jan 1, 2021 – Dec 31, 2026		
	Second	2nd year	Jan 1, 2020 – Dec 31, 2025	Jamee Densmore (parent)*	
3		3rd year	Jan 1, 2019 – Dec 31, 2024		

^{*} Parent

Other Board Members by virtue of position (without vote)

-Vanessa Golding (Executive Director)

^{**} Interested person

The team established by the congregation to recommend to the congregation how to distribute the tithe from the Kay Horner Bequest recommends the following allocation of the remaining funds. The original Tithe amount was \$270,000. \$66,800 was approved to be distributed at the November 2023 congregational meeting. The team recommends the remaining \$203,200 be paid out as follows:

First Moncton Trust Fund for Newcomers and Refugees Harvest House Atlantic	\$20,000 \$20,000
Petra Church Salvus Clinic	\$20,000 \$20,000
Camp Wildwood First Moncton Mission Trip Funding	\$15,000 \$15,000
ShekinahGO	\$15,000
Canadian Baptists of Atlantic Canada Community of Hope Horizons	\$7,500 \$7,500 \$7,500
Northern Canada Evangelical Mission Project Acadie ReConnect	\$7,500 \$7,500 \$7,500
Unite Church of Christ in the Philippines	\$7,500
Crandall University (general fund)	\$3,700
Acadia Divinity College (general fund)	\$2,000
Acadia Divinity College Chair (Oliver Chair)	\$2,000
Bee Me Kidz	\$2,000
Bridge Church (formerly Marysville Baptist Church)	\$2,000
Christian Action Federation of New Brunswick	\$2,000
Canadian Baptist Ministries	\$2,000
The Crandall Auxiliary	\$2,000 \$2,000
Harvesters for Christ	\$2,000
IVCF	\$2,000
Multicultural Associations Pregnancy and Wellness Centre	\$2,000

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