

Mission & Service 2022

*Helping transform lives.
Inspiring meaning and purpose.
Building a better world.*

Together.



The United Church of Canada / L'Église Unie du Canada



Working Together

Sarah Charters
Executive Officer of Philanthropy

As I look back on 2022, I am struck by how it was a year of upheaval. The COVID-19 pandemic continued, although vaccinations allowed us to look forward to some return to normalcy. The war in Ukraine, which shocked us all, lasted through much of the year and continues to cost thousands of lives. Economically, inflation has affected us all, and as you read the news, the list goes on.

This list of worldwide and local problems can seem overwhelming to us as individuals and make us wonder if we can make a difference. Thankfully, we know that as people of God, we can work together and take action. This is what we are called to do, and this is what we did together throughout 2022, even in the darkest of times.

You came together, and through your Mission & Service givings, responses to emergency appeals, as well as other gifts, you provided close to \$25 million to support those in need. Where people were struggling with disease, war, and the impacts of climate change that cause hunger and poverty, your response brought help and comfort. You brought both aid and hope.

Even in the darkest times, there are many stories of hope and renewal. We seek to share these with you throughout the year and can highlight only a few in this report. You have our deepest thanks for your decision to transform and save lives through your gifts. We are called as followers of Christ to build a better world, and I feel privileged to work alongside you as we do it together.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sarah".

Arwa's Story:

Refugee from Palestine Helped by Montreal City Mission



Photo: Arwa Nofal

In 2017, Arwa was a Palestinian refugee who had just arrived in Montreal, travelling from Saudi Arabia through New York City with three children in tow. “It wasn’t easy for me. I was a single mom in a new country with new people. I was struggling for housing and looking for a job,” she says.

Arwa sought help at Montreal City Mission, an outreach ministry your Mission & Service gifts support. It wasn’t long before Arwa gathered a group of women to form a catering cooperative. The group was going strong and the women were becoming more financially secure when COVID-19 struck.

No stranger to hardship, Arwa initiated a sewing circle to make cloth masks—over 2,000 of them for unhoused people and people with low incomes in their community. Arwa’s extraordinary leadership skills landed her a full-time job at Montreal City Mission.

“I consider myself a lucky person that I got to know this organization. It has become not only my full-time job, not only my provider. It has become my home. I hope to see more and more women getting the same chance to have this better life for their families,” she says.

Your Mission & Service gifts support people’s dreams for a better life—amazing people who make their communities and our country stronger.

“I consider myself a lucky person that I got to know this organization. It has become not only my full-time job, not only my provider. It has become my home.” —Arwa

Our Work Together in 2022



Thank you for your amazing generosity and caring.

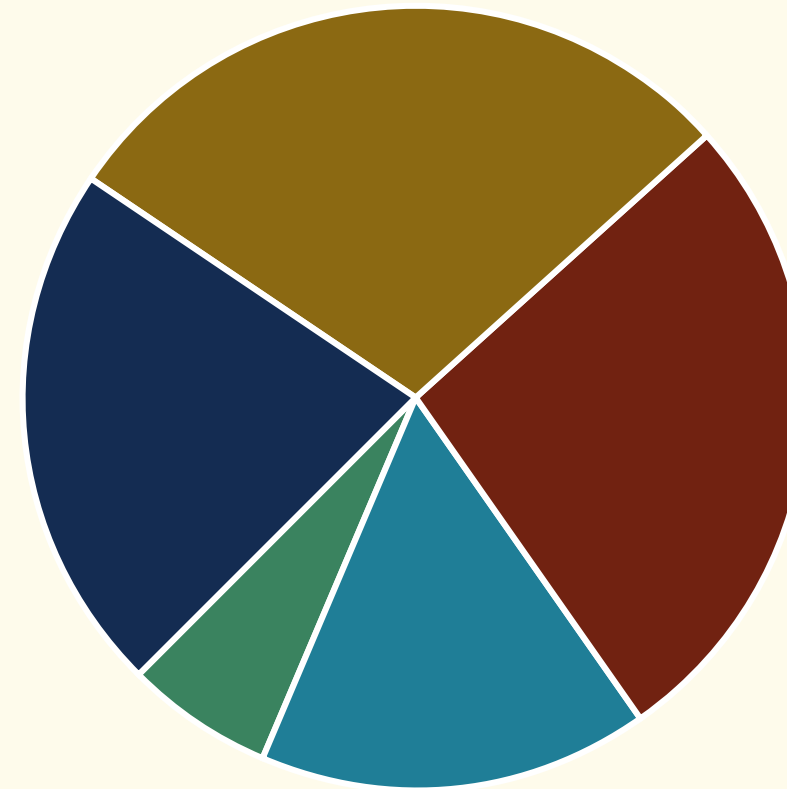
In 2022, total Mission & Service gifts—including congregational and emergency giving, will and life insurance gifts, special gifts, and support from the United Church Women—amounted to **\$24.5 million.**

In a year of continuing pandemic, unexpected war, rising inflation, and local emergencies, communities of faith continued to support those in need in Canada and around the world.



This Past Year We Committed...

\$24.5 million to support those in need in Canada and around the world.



69%
Funds spent within Canada

31%
Funds spent overseas

22%

Support Dignity for All in Canada and Around the World

We work in partnership to support life-changing access to food, water, shelter, health, education, employment training, counselling, and human rights advocacy, in Canada and around the world.

29%

Live into Right Relations

Your gifts through Mission & Service support the work of the Indigenous Church. This includes The Healing Fund, which addresses the ongoing impacts of residential schools and colonization, as well as the Justice and Reconciliation Fund, which supports reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. As a church, we are committed to working toward right relations.

27%

Strengthen Communities of Faith

Your support helps congregations in transition, supports churches located in remote communities, and inspires vital innovation through the Embracing the Spirit learning network and innovation fund.

16%

Deepen Faith

Your generosity through Mission & Service develops inspiring programs to deepen the faith of lay leaders, youth and young adults, including United Church camps, youth groups, and UCW gatherings.

6%

Support Leaders

From recruiting new ministers and providing student education bursaries to funding theological schools and education centres, your support means that our United Church benefits from strong ministry leadership.

Thank you for helping build a better world.



Grandmothers in Kenya: Fighting Discrimination through Education

In the Rift Valley of Kenya, nearly 900,000 of the people who live there are HIV positive—and many will not survive. Grandmothers whose children have died of AIDS are often left to care for their grandchildren. Condemned by church communities taught that faithful Christians cannot contract the disease, they are left without support.

“The pastors had little information about HIV and AIDS... [They believed] HIV was a result of sexual sin and was a judgement from God,” writes Esther Mombo of the World Council of Churches.

In partnership with the United Church, Mombo and Pauline Wanjuru of St. Paul’s University in Limuru, Kenya, led a series of workshops, inviting grandmothers and pastors to connect and learn.

One grandmother bravely shared her story. She had lost two children to AIDS and was raising three grandchildren on her own. Her neighbours refused to visit her. Her pastor wouldn’t attend her children’s funerals. When she went to church, the pastor preached about the punishment for sexual immorality. She shared how it felt to be shamed for loving her children and grandchildren.

The pastors listened, and made a commitment to extend compassion and offer pastoral care to the grandmothers.

Your Mission & Service gifts gave these grandmothers the opportunity to help their pastors learn to do better by connecting their love for their grandchildren to God’s love for all. Thank you.

One grandmother shared how it felt to be shamed for loving her children and grandchildren... another spoke of God’s love for everyone.

Your Generosity in the Face of War



In 2022 the people of Ukraine faced an attack by Russia. While many felt the war would be short lived, over one year later the war continues and Ukraine is still paying the cost. Many thousands have been killed and millions have been displaced.

Your generosity has meant that \$1.5 million in emergency relief has been sent to help refugees.

Families who are fleeing war are given food, clothing, shelter, medical supplies, and a place to be safe.



Thank you for your generosity!

Photo: ACT Alliance/HIA



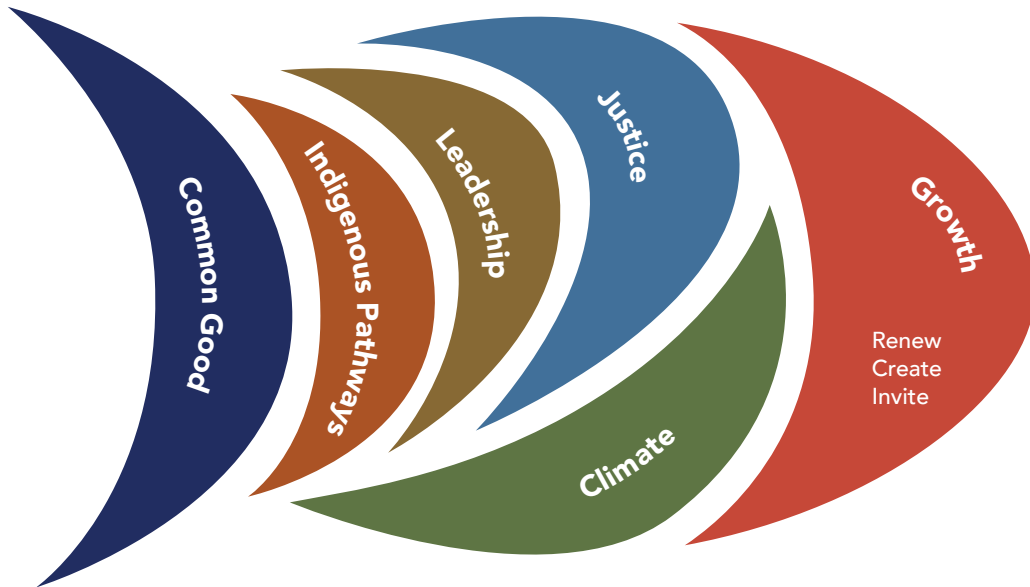
Credit: Pwabe, pedro_wroclaw

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Looking Toward the Future

In 2024, we will report 2023 results that align with the Strategic Plan Objectives shown below. These are the ways your United Church of Canada will move forward into the future.



Growth—Strengthen Invitation:
Humility and Confidence
in Sharing Faith

Embolden Justice:
Collaborating to Mend
Church and World

Invigorate Leadership:
Adapting and Innovating for
Bold Discipleship

Nurture the Common Good:
Equity and Sustainability in
Resources

Deepen Climate Integrity:
Living Climate Commitments

**Journeying Indigenous
Pathways:** Forging Right Relations

Three ways to make a gift!

📞 Call 1-800-268-3781, ext. 2738

💻 Donate today at united-church.ca/donate

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Questions? Feedback? Let's talk.

Give us a call or drop us a line at
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📘 facebook.com/MissionandService

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