

2024 Strategic Plan Report

PowerPoint Presentation Talking Points

Slide 1

- Welcome. We are excited to share with you the United Church's 2024 Strategic Plan Report, featuring a snapshot of the progress our General Council Office is making on the six strategic objectives conceived as part of its 2023–2025 Strategic Plan.

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- Please enjoy the following message from United Church Secretary General Rev. Michael Blair on the Strategic Plan and the path towards realizing the church's deep, bold, and daring vision for the future.
- If the embedded video does not play, please use the provided bit.ly link to download the video. You may then play or embed it directly from your local device.

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- The report brings together financial information with narrative reporting on the impacts of initiatives falling under each of the six overarching objectives the church has selected to shape the activities of the General Council Office.
- The work being done spans efforts both domestic and global; from the newest communities of faith to the leaders of the national church, all hands are on deck as we endeavor to boldly embody the Christian story during this time.

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- The activities covered in Strategic Plan Report are funded both by the General Council budget and areas of funding outside of it, referred to as fund centres.
- As this pie chart demonstrates, the church's financial commitments across all six strategic objectives are significant.

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- This infographic demonstrates only the resources channeled from the operating budget to the strategic objectives.

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- Momentum in the second year of the 2023–2025 plan has been inspiring: we’ve reached 78% progress on planned key results overall, with the exception of Indigenous Pathways, which reported its developments in a narrative manner.
- Our objective of Deepening Climate integrity has seen the most advanced progress so far, at 87.75% key results achieved, thanks in part to the continuous success of nation-spanning initiatives like the Faithful Footprints program to green church buildings, among many others.

Slide 7 (optional slide)

- Through our **Embolden Justice** strategic objective, we’re joining Canadian and global partners in the hard work of bringing about 2SLGBTQIA+ rights and racial and Indigenous justice.
- Last August, the United Church of Canada supported a transformative consultation in Maputo, Mozambique on human sexuality and gender diversity in the African church context, hosted by The All Africa Theological Education by Extension Associate.
- Our work continues to support human rights for LGBTQIA+ communities in Africa, many of whom face significant exclusion, discrimination, and violence, often fueled by negative religious rhetoric.

Slide 8 (optional slide)

- Our **Invigorate Leadership** objective is developing new resources, programs, and training to enable our church leadership to meet the challenges of the future, and reflect the diversity of our church and country.
- We’re well underway with Re(Generate), the Moderator’s Leadership program through which 32 ministry leaders from diverse contexts across the church are deepening skills like financial management, allyship, and advocacy at a series of five-day online and in-person residency sessions in 2024 and 2025.

Slide 9 (optional slide)

- We’re **Nurturing the Common Good** by utilizing our resources effectively, efficiently, and accountably as a national organization to benefit communities of faith across the country.
- 300 Bloor Street West, the longtime home of Bloor Street United Church, is being redeveloped to be the new shared home of our General Council Office and archives, as well as those of the Anglican and Presbyterian churches of Canada, and community, commercial, and worship spaces.

Slide 10 (optional slide)

- Through our **Deepen Climate Integrity** objective, we’re offering tools and resources for immediate climate action to help communities and individuals live with respect in creation.

- Our Faithful Footprints program has helped 546 communities towards greening their buildings, with those who have completed their projects reducing emissions equivalent to the annual energy use of 1,242 homes.
- At Transcona Memorial United Church in Winnipeg, a \$30,000 grant from Faithful Footprints levered public funding that supported installing solar panels, heat pumps, and more, cutting energy consumption by an estimated 81.4 percent.

Slide 11 (optional slide)

- Activities under the **Strengthen Invitation** objective include renewing existing United Church communities of faith, creating new churches, and supporting bolder invitation.
- For instance, a bold new collaboration between Sunnybrook United and a site at Red Deer Polytechnic has helped renew both the church and a campus ministry.
- 25 migrant and diasporic communities are already on their way to becoming United Church communities of faith, including a growing group of Swahili-speaking communities in Ontario and Quebec.

Slide 12 (optional slide)

- Our **Journeying Indigenous Pathways** strategic objective prioritizes recognizing and celebrating diverse Indigenous ways of being and knowing, while decolonizing church structures and partnering with a self-determining Indigenous Church.
- At last fall's National Indigenous Spiritual Gathering in Winnipeg, a call was made for the Elders Council to provide leadership on the future of the Indigenous Church. They are setting a path forward for a renewed governance model.

Slide 13 (optional slide)

- Daring action taken by church youth across each strategic objective includes the work of our Youth Climate Motivators and Leadership Animators, an unprecedented gathering of francophone United Church youth, the success of the Indigenous-Racialized Youth Scholars program, and the joyful coming together of over 450 youth and young adults at this year's Rendez-vous 2024: Audacious Hope event.

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- You can find the full 2024 report through the following QR code.
- More information about our Strategic Plan, including the full text of each objective and continuing progress updates are on the Our Call and Vision section of united-church.ca, and the report is also available in French on egliseunie.ca.