



Mission *and* Service 2024



***Transform* lives.
Inspire meaning and purpose.
Build a better world.**



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



100 Amazing Years

Sarah Charters
Executive Officer of Philanthropy

In this, our Centennial year, we are both looking back and looking forward. In this report, I want to touch on the history of Mission and Service and what it has meant for our church.

Mission and Service started this journey in 1925, the same year as church Union, and it was initially called the Maintenance and Extension Fund. From that point onward, Mission and Service has evolved and adapted to many changes within The United Church of Canada as well as in our Canadian and global context. However, through Mission and Service, the people of the United Church have always responded with love, care, and concern to the needs of others. From the “Our Church in Action Around the World” campaign in the 1950s, to the “Horn of Africa Appeal” in the 1990s, to support for partners during the COVID pandemic, we have rallied to help when it was most needed. We continued in 2024 with total donations, which are primarily Mission and Service, so generously shared of just over \$23 million.

This gives me confidence as we look into the future. There will be change and challenges, but your commitment cannot be questioned. You will be there, supporting work through Mission and Service, ensuring that we continue to help transform lives, inspire meaning and purpose, and build a better world.

We invite you to review the information in this Accountability Report to learn more about all the good work your Mission and Service gifts are doing. Thank you for your support and bless you for your commitment to the future.

Blessings,

Scan here to view our
“100 Years of Service” video!



Respite and Reflection at the Pastors Retreat

During the spring and summer of 2024, we shared that a Pastors Retreat was planned for October of 2024. This retreat provided badly needed respite for northern United Church ministers who were, and still are, facing a crisis.

The number of deaths in their northern communities has been immense. The grief of burying community members, especially young people, has been overwhelming. The emotional toll of ministering to a grieving community continues to be enormous.

Your response was profound and powerful. When we shared that leaders were in dire need of rest and renewal, you went into action. Thanks to your generous and outstanding support for Mission and Service, this retreat happened in October of 2024, and was immensely successful.

The retreat provided rest, training in crisis management, and spiritual renewal, and allowed leaders to return with renewed strength to help those in need. Pastors participated in a blend of activities, including learning about vicarious trauma and experiencing relaxation opportunities through art therapy, beading workshops, and sharing circles.

Thank you for your expression of compassion, through Mission and Service, that ensured that this retreat happened. We hope and pray you will offer your support again for the 2025 retreat, scheduled for late September.



Photo: 201360908 © Danhussey5 | Dreamstime.com

Thanks to your generous and outstanding support for Mission and Service, the retreat in October of 2024 was immensely successful, providing rest, training, and spiritual renewal for these leaders.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge that we live, worship, and work on Indigenous lands.

We are committed to Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples and recognize that this includes aligning ourselves with the values of living with respect in creation.

We continue living and praying together on this great land and together we support each other's journey.

Our Work Together in 2024

2024 was another year of challenges. Continuing global conflicts, as well as the impacts of climate change and other natural disasters, were frequently in the news and calling for support. In Canada, the need to feed the hungry and house the homeless continued to grow. We offer thanks that your compassion continued to flow in the form of Mission and Service gifts that provided valuable assistance in the face of these many challenges.

In 2024, Mission and Service provided funding globally to 68 organizations in 23 countries. In Canada, each of our 16 regional councils received \$180,000 to provide grants and program support to ministries in their areas.

Thank you for your generosity.

As we did in 2023, we are reporting the results of the Mission and Service funding in alignment with the Strategic Plan Objectives. The breakout of how your funding was allocated is shown below.

27.7%



**Embolden Justice:
Collaborating to Mend
Church and World**
(2023: 29%)

Make meaningful collective progress on Indigenous justice, racial equity, and Two Spirit or LGBTQIA+ rights both in the church and world, while demonstrably deepening bold effective solidarity on other justice issues, through ecumenical collaboration and denominational networking.

22.0%



**Invigorate
Leadership:
Adapting and Innovating
for Bold Discipleship**
(2023: 25%)

Renew a vision of leadership based on the call of the denomination—deep spirituality, bold discipleship and daring justice—and align discernment, recruitment, training, and support of ordered and lay leadership, to this vision.

23.0%



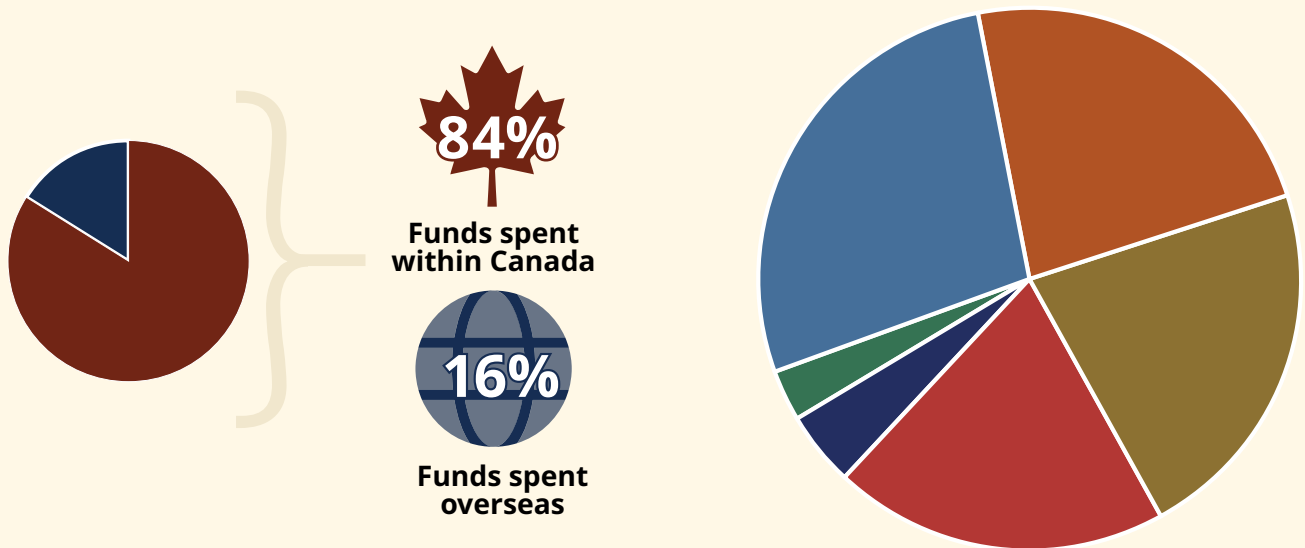
**Journeying
Indigenous
Pathways:
Forging Right Relations**
(2023: 21%)

Deepen Indigenization and healing in The United Church of Canada towards self-determination and the possibility of reconciliation.

In 2024 We Committed....

Just over \$23 million to the work of the church, supporting those in need in Canada and around the world.

84 percent of funds were spent in Canada, and 16 percent spent globally. Much of the increase in the amount spent in Canada is due to a grant of \$474,000 given to "[Bringing the Children Home](#)".



19.8%



**Strengthen Invitation (Growth):
Humility and Confidence
in Sharing Faith (2023: 18%)**

Develop and implement effective and connected regional and national strategies that result in growth within existing ministries, and by seeding and sustaining new expressions of communities of faith.

4.6%



**Nurture the Common Good:
Equity and
Sustainability in Resources
(2023: 4%)**

Significantly increase denominational capacity and will to make decisions on properties and resources focused on the ministry of the whole church, enhancing equity, sustainability, right relations, and administrative efficiency and effectiveness.

2.9%



**Deepen Climate Integrity: Living
Climate Commitments
(2023: 3%)**

Amplify and integrate current initiatives in a bold, hopeful denominational climate strategy that accelerates reductions towards the goal of an 80% decrease in emissions by 2030.

Thank you for helping build a better world.

Supporting Community Resilience in Zimbabwe



Credit: Zimbabwe Council of Churches

In Zimbabwe, severe drought and food shortages continue to take a toll on communities, but the Zimbabwe Council of Churches is leading efforts to provide support. In partnership with Mission and Service and the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, the Scaling Up Resilience Project focuses on practical, long-term solutions. By emphasizing climate-smart farming, gender equality, and community-driven initiatives, the project is helping families strengthen their resilience and work towards a more secure future.

The challenges facing Zimbabwe are immense, with frequent droughts, unpredictable rains, tropical cyclones, economic instability, and outbreaks of diseases like cholera all contributing to severe food insecurity. In the Bikita and Gutu districts, up to 60 percent of people are affected, with many families struggling to put food on the table and send their children to school, while also living at risk of gender-based violence. Crop failures, especially due to El Niño, have worsened conditions, leaving communities in urgent need of solutions.

The Scaling Up Resilience Program addresses these issues by building on the success of previous humanitarian efforts. It provides training in gender-sensitive, climate-smart agriculture, strengthens disaster risk management systems, and revives essential community assets, such as water conservation works and irrigation schemes. By promoting gender equality, supporting financial resilience through savings and loans programs, and ensuring that all community members, including the elderly and those with disabilities, are included, the project is creating a brighter future for thousands of people.

Your gifts through [Mission and Service](#) have provided crucial support to partners like the Zimbabwe Council of Churches as they work toward a secure and sustainable future. Your continued support is deeply appreciated.

The Scaling Up Resilience Project focuses on practical, long-term solutions, helping families strengthen their resilience and work towards a more secure future.

Your Generosity Reached Out to Those Impacted by War



2024 saw continuations of ongoing conflicts like the war in Ukraine and the one in Israel and Palestine. **Your support has enabled our partners to continue to support those most affected by war and displaced as refugees.**

In 2024 approximately \$416,000 was sent to support the work of our partners and bring aid to those affected. Families and children who are fleeing war are provided with food, clothing, shelter, medical supplies, and safe housing. **Your Christian compassion is making this possible.**



Photos: Act Alliance

Supporting Young Adults Through the Most Transformative Years of Their Lives

Thanks to support from United Church Mission and Service, the Ecumenical Campus Ministry at the University of Guelph has been able to support the campus community and accompany young adults during some of the most transformative years of their lives.

The ECM has been a partnership of the Anglican, Presbyterian, and United Churches at the University of Guelph since 1968. The chaplaincy is fully supported by alumni, parents, and grants from partner churches—the university does not fund faith programming.

Over the 2023–24 academic year, ECM was able to serve 25 free meals to university students, provide weekly worship services right on campus, conduct field trips to 10 local churches, hold three public presentations on issues of faith and inclusivity, mentor five student leaders, host two weekend retreats, and coordinate the Queer Christian Community for 2SLGBTQIA+ students. This just scratches the surface!

This kind of ministry presence is made possible because of ECM's vision of having a full-time chaplain, something that would be unthinkable without support from United Church Mission and Service.

So from all the students at the University of Guelph, thank you for your gifts to United Church Mission and Service! Your support is making a difference in the lives of young adults on campus.




Credit: University of Guelph Ecumenical Campus Ministry

Thank you for helping build a better world.

Three ways to make a gift!

 [Donate today at united-church.ca/donate](https://united-church.ca/donate)

 **Call 1-800-465-3771**

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Questions? Feedback? Let's talk.

Give us a call or drop us a line at
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