

Working Together, Building on Our Strengths, Creating Hope for the Future 2024 Stewardship Campaign

Welcome. Come Take Your Place. You Belong Here!

These simple words of invitation emerged from the important work done last spring by McDougall Councils' Vision Working Group to review and update our 2015 Mission and Vision statements. They proclaim the kind of

future that McDougall is striving for: a place where everyone feels at home and has a place at the table. This year McDougall leadership is committing to building on our strengths by sometimes doing less but doing it well. Exploring collaborative partnerships with other churches and organizations has also become a focus of our work in all our 4 core ministry areas:

- Worship and Spiritual Development
- Pastoral Care
- Family and Community
- Outreach and Social Justice



The Narrative Budget included in this brochure provides an overview of how your contributions have supported the ministries of



McDougall United Church as well as those of the wider church through your donation to the UCC Mission and Service Fund this year (2023). Please take a moment to read this brochure to learn how funds received have facilitated McDougall ministries. None of our core ministry work would have been

possible without your financial support. Thank you for all your contributions to the work of the church in the past! Generous giving is a meaningful spiritual practice that will help us all grow in faith.



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As we move towards the end of the 2023 budget year, we are asking that you reflect upon how you can contribute to the future sustainability of our progressive and affirming faith community. Please complete the enclosed **2024 Pledge Form** to express your commitment to financially support the work of the McDougall ministries next year. **Please return your completed form to the church office by November 19, 2023.** This will greatly assist the McDougall Leadership Council and staff in drafting the 2024 Budget.



Equally important to the future of the church is your volunteer time, skills, and special talents. Practising generosity of time and talent can make a real difference

in the lives of others as well as your own. Included in this stewardship package, you will find a **Volunteer Opportunities at McDougall** where you can review the many ways to get involved in the life of the church. To help us update our database, please complete this form, indicating your current volunteer involvement as well as any new areas where you would be open to discussing a future volunteer role with one of the team leaders at the church.

You can also renew your McDougall group subscription to *Broadview Magazine* or become a new subscriber in 2024 by filling out the **Broadview Magazine Form** included in this package. If interested, please complete the form along with a separate cheque for \$30 made out to McDougall United Church and return it to the church office.

Using the envelope provided, please return to the McDougall church office your completed 2024 Pledge form, the Volunteer form and, if interested, the Broadview Magazine forms by **November 19, 2023.**

By making your intentions to be generous known to the leadership of the congregation, you are demonstrating that you care about our faith community, and its work in the world now and in the future. We know this is important to you!

During worship on Sunday November 19, we will dedicate and give thanks for all the intentions to be generous that people like you share. It will be a celebration and we hope you will join us!

With heartfelt thanks for your support,
McDougall's 2024 Stewardship Team: Joanne Pritchard, Bruce Munro and Sarah Reuangrith

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McDougall's Income Sources in 2023 and Future Budget Planning

Donations received from generous McDougall supporters like you covered \$340,000 (80%) of the operational expenses projected for the church by the end of 2023. Rental and fundraising income contributed another \$65,000 (15%). As approved by the congregation at the Annual General meeting in February of this year, a

portion of the McDougall surplus funds received through government grants during the COVID pandemic will be used (estimated \$25,000) to help balance our books at the end of the year. The McDougall Foundation was able to provide funding for all the extensive major repairs to the church this year (\$96,000). For this we are truly thankful.

For more information about the McDougall Foundation, read the **McDougall Foundation** insert included in this package

A Message to McDougall's Congregation from Rev. Joanne Anquist

2023 has been a great year for transition. As we came out of the COVID pandemic (well it's still here, but it's no longer an emergency – we're just gonna have to figure out how to live with it!) we were able to evaluate our ministry at McDougall more clearly. There are many things that give us hope, but also some warning signs that we have to address.

As we say each Sunday, nothing happens at McDougall without you. We are a Community of Faith that has the great privilege of being called to heal the world, to be the hands and feet of Christ for all we meet. It's An awesome responsibility and not one to be taken lightly. Neither should it be a burden that leaves us anxious about whether we're doing enough. The great thing about a community is that we are all in this together, we work together for the greater good, both among us and beyond.

We know that demographics are a challenge for us – many of our congregants and donors are aging and this has an impact on giving's as well as volunteer engagement. How do we address this reality? I heard someone say the other day we need to work smart, not hard. Easier said than done! But working smart means understanding our core ministries, leaning into what nurtures us as a community while also expanding our reach to invite others to join us. McDougall does a lot – perhaps more than we should sometimes! I know many of you have been giving and volunteering at McDougall for many years, and you're tired. I hear you. We believe if we focus on what we do well, and build on our strengths, McDougall will

continue to provide a spiritual home for years to come. What are those strengths? Inside this booklet you'll see so many ways McDougall makes an impact, from Sunday morning worship, Outreach and Social justice programs, spiritual nurture opportunities, gathering to build community and pastoral care. These areas are crucial for a vibrant church. It may be that we need to become more selective in how we practice these core strengths, but, with your help, we will continue to create a faith community of care with enough resources to meet people where they're at.

The world is a confusing place. Now, more than ever, humanity needs spiritual awakening and care of the soul. We in The Church are uniquely positioned to speak into the spiritual void that seems to be overtaking so many folks. We've been doing it in one form or other for 2000+ years. Our tactics might need to change, our priorities might shift with need, but the message of Jesus that invites everyone to the Table and encourages each of us to carry each other through the joys and struggles of life is never out of date. It's not a time to throw our hands up in despair. It's time to prayerfully engage with the world with hope as we witness to how God transforms our hearts and minds, our families, our neighbourhoods our world. Hope ripples out as we live in gratitude and embrace all in love. That's the mission of McDougall and it will never change. We need your prayers, your time, your financial assistance to ensure we can be that beacon of hope.

Thank you for all who give to McDougall. Grace and Peace to you as you carefully consider your financial commitment and your abilities to share in the joy of transforming the world!

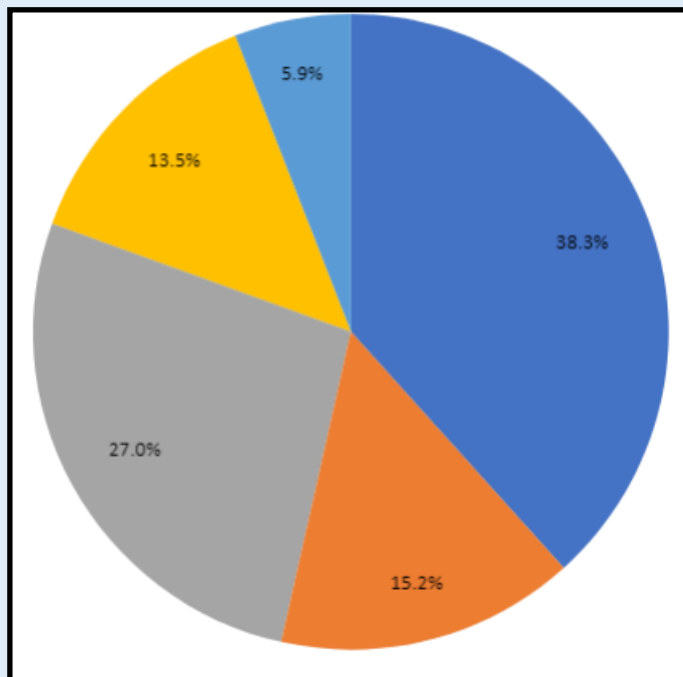
“I am proud to be a member of McDougall. Congregation members volunteer in our refugee support group, support us financially and, as importantly, encourage us in our work. Quite simply we are stronger together - even more so when we work in partnership. With the initiatives being taken to reach out to our local community I feel confident about McDougall's future.”

Marjorie MacRae

Narrative Budget

The spreadsheet and pie graph below show how the funds we received in 2023 supported the work of our ministries and those of the United Church of Canada. The budget line dollar figures and the percentages in the below graphics are based on the 2023 Approved Budget. On the pages that follow, you can read about how your donations have supported this years work and future planning of McDougall's Ministry Teams.

	2023 Budget	MCDOUGALL MINISTRY TEAMS				
		WORSHIP AND SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT	PASTORAL CARE	FAMILY & COMMUNITY	OUTREACH & SOCIAL JUSTICE	UCC MISSION & SERVICE
EXPENSES						
Personnel -Ministers and Support Staff	\$286,268	\$129,991	\$48,992	\$80,710	\$26,575	\$0
Property -Insurance -Utilities -Repairs -Technology	\$108,200	\$32,460	\$10,820	\$32,460	\$32,460	\$0
Administration -Office Expense -Communications -UCC Assessment and Auditor Fee	\$30,455	\$9,137	\$9,137	\$9,137	\$3,046	\$0
Ministry Team Budgets -Worship and Spritual Development -Pastoral Care -Family and Community -Outreach and Social Justice	\$18,425	\$9,025	\$2,700	\$5,000	\$1,700	\$0
UCC Mission and Service	\$28,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$28,000
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$471,348	\$180,612	\$71,648	\$127,307	\$63,781	\$28,000



2023 Budget Allocation

38% Worship & Spiritual Development

15% Pastoral Care

27% Family & Community

14% Outreach & Social Justice

6% UCC Mission & Service

Your McDougall and UCC M&S Donations at Work in 2023

You may be wondering how were the funds allocated to each of McDougall's core ministry teams have been used this year? And What are the plans for 2024? And, if you donate to the United Church of Canada's Mission and Service Fund, how will that donation be used ?

Read below to learn more about the work this year of each of the McDougall core Ministry Teams as well as the work of the wider United Church of Canada through the Mission and Service M&S) Fund.

“I felt very welcomed into a supportive community [...] I felt I instantly belonged.”

Karina Harris

Worship & Spiritual Development

We seek to provide a worship that is transformative and relevant to inspire our diverse community and encourage personal spiritual growth. In worship, we celebrate God's presence and respond to God's call to service in our world. Our ministers, worship service musicians and members of our Tech Team prepare the weekly worship service. We offer in-person worship on Sundays at 10:30am and special worship services at other times. All services are available online.

Adult spiritual development happens in many different ways, including personal conversations about faith, contemporary Bible study, book studies, and alternative services. In our adult gatherings, we seek to keep present the mystery of God's presence in our lives as we explore, question, and talk together. At special times throughout the year a minister meets with teens or adults who want to become members, parents who want to have their children baptized or people who wish to marry.

Going forward, we hope to create more diverse spaces for engagement. For example, this year, we will produce a podcast called **Prepared to**

Drown: Deep Dives into Evolving Faith. It will be recorded live and take the form of conversation between our ministers and special guests on a wide range of topics. Our goal is to reach people who are wondering how the message of Jesus matters in a contemporary world. This is an evolution of our Churchish and Souls in Sync programs which still have grant funding available.

The budget for the worship and Spiritual Development Ministry at McDougall includes:

- Ministerial leadership for worship, funeral, wedding and baptismal services
- Ministerial leadership and resources for spiritual development initiatives
- Choral and worship band leadership for worship services
- Worship resources: communion supplies, and liturgical adornments for our sanctuary
- Sound, projection and live streaming technology
- Administrative support: preparation of service bulletin, projection PowerPoint, arranging for service volunteers (scripture readers, usher/greeters, communion servers)
- Set-up, cleaning and maintenance of the worship space

Pastoral Care Ministry

Our ministers and volunteer visitors seek to make this church a caring community where each person is able to feel the love of God being shared with one another. This includes:

- Responding to individuals in times of crisis, such as illness or bereavement
- Keeping in touch with members who are unable to attend church.
- Providing monthly services at senior's residences
- Offering Healing Touch and Prayer Shawl ministries and upkeep of a Memorial Garden.
- Providing welcoming space for fellowship groups and coffee time after worship
- Providing wellness initiatives for active

seniors.

- Organizing an annual Seniors' Tea
- As post COVID conditions allow, inviting speakers on topical issues for people who are aging and exploring new opportunities for engagement between seniors and youth.

The budget for providing the Pastoral Care Ministry includes:

- Ministerial time, property costs and
- Administrative support (Office Administrator and Communications Coordinator): Scheduling meetings, booking space, finding volunteers and creating and distributing a monthly newsletter for those without internet access

“One of the best parts about being a member of McDougall is the sense of community. Everyone cares for each other. Recently my husband ended up in hospital while we were in Vancouver. I was originally feeling so alone waiting in the hospital but when McDougall found out I was surrounded by offers of rides, prayers and help I felt less alone. This is what community really is – reaching out when someone needs you.”

Valerie MacLeod

Family & Community Ministry

Rev. Danah Cox has been busy working on building collaborations within the community so that he can not only share resources (time and administrative) but bring in new people to the church.

Many individuals initially connect with the church through these community programs and then gradually become engaged in other church activities. Nevertheless, the non-profit sector currently faces financial challenges, resulting in a few partnerships falling through due to their loss of funding. This underscores the pressing need for McDougall to strive towards program self-

sustainability, a goal we've held since day one. It also underscores our ongoing reliance on the financial support of our congregation.

Notable programs under the purview of the Family & Community Ministry

- Open Table: events for families of all ages
- Taste & Try: seniors learn to cook and then eat together.
- Youth Events
- Intergenerational Club for youth and seniors
- Christmas and/or Spring musical production
- Intergenerational Visual Arts or Culinary Programs
- Opera Buddies
- Shrove Tuesday, Stampede Breakfast
- Camp Kasota Family Weekend

Outreach and Social Justice Ministry and our Affirming Ministry

As people of God, we are called to seek justice and equality for others. McDougall is an affirming church which means that we have made a commitment to Affirm United to actively live out our affirming values in our community of faith through all our church programs and ministries.

We seek out partnerships with other churches and groups who have similar values and goals related to community outreach and social justice.

McDougall United Church has a strong ministry of

outreach in our community. Throughout the year, we fundraise to support special projects organized by volunteer outreach teams from our community of faith. These projects may be in our local community or farther afield. This area of ministry includes:

- Refugee Support
- Right Relations/Reconciliation Projects
- Feed the Hungry Dinner
- Acadia Food Pantry
- Christmas Hamper Program

Donations to these McDougall Outreach Projects are welcome throughout the year.

“McDougall continues to be a forward thinking church. The concept of being part of a Church Hub excites me. ... I am encouraged that this Hub concept may keep more churches alive and that we may grow and learn from each other. “

Peggy Jorgensen

The United Church MISSION AND SERVICE Fund



Your concern for the work of the wider church takes shape in the **Mission & Service Fund of the United Church of Canada (M&S)** through their partner connections around the world. The UCC partnership with **The Act Alliance** has 144 member churches, including the United Church of Canada, that support cutting edge initiatives including Humanitarian Food Support, Gender

Justice, Migration and Displacement, Advocacy, and Climate Justice in over 127 countries.

Your **Mission & Service** gifts also support the work of the UCC General Council Commissioners who provide support and resources for the Indigenous Church within the United Church of Canada, the UCC anti-racism campaign, youth work and camps, chaplaincy, refugee projects, and theological training for ministry.

When you complete your pledge for 2024 to McDougall United Church through our annual stewardship campaign, you will have the opportunity to include a pledge to the UCC Mission and Service Fund. McDougall forwards funds designated for M&S to the United Church of Canada on a monthly basis.

Your Mission & Service gifts make a difference! You are invited to become an M&S enthusiast this year.



“I joined the Foundation as a Director in 2009 and have been President since 2016. I was particularly interested in being on the Board of Directors since I realized how important it had been for the Foundation to provide a convenient and tax saving means for congregants to financially support the building of the new sanctuary and I wanted to help ensure that the same means would be available to pay off the mortgage in a timely fashion (it was paid off in 2015).”

Phil Edwards

Giving to McDougall is Easy...

- Donate online through our website: <https://www.mcdunited.com/donate>
- Fill in the enclosed pledge form

Your Stewardship Pledge makes it possible for us to continue and grow.

Please prayerfully consider how you can respond when you make your pledge for 2024.

Please complete your Pledge Form and return it to McDougall United before November 19, 2023.