



# The Central Communicator

Central United Church March 2022

Called to connect people to Jesus and to each other, to join hearts and voices and resources to witness and perpetuate the vision of a compassionate and just society.

## OFFICERS

Supervising Minister -  
Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa

Chair of Council - Dan Bryant  
Treasurer - John Calhoun  
Sec of Trustees - Henry Eldacher  
P/T Pastor - Charmain Bailey

## Central United Church

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Wed 1:00 - 3:30 pm & Thurs  
9:30 - 12 & 1-3:30

This newsletter is sent out to members and friends of Central United Church by way of snail mail and a postage stamp for those who are not registered as having email and electronically to those who are. It is also posted on our website.

<https://centralunitedchurchwindsor.com/news-letter>

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

INFORMATION SHARING

APRIL 3, 2022

PLEASE ATTEND

## Our History

In 1925, the culmination of Church Union took place and Central Methodist became Central United. During that time, it was decided that since the Billy Sunday Campaigns were so successful in Detroit, it might be a good idea to have an evangelistic tabernacle campaign in Windsor. A temporary Tabernacle that would seat 3,000 people was built. All the churches in the city really worked to make it a success and night after night the place was packed.

After this evangelistic crusade, the attendance at Central broke all records. Special hymn singing was led by a large choir at every service and the church was filled to capacity at every service.

The great stock market crash in 1929 and the beginning of the great depression. Canada's and the World's financial status were about to impact everyone, including the churches, in very drastic ways. In order to secure financing, the following trustees gave their personal bond: S.W. Best, A.D. Bowlby, A.J. Cadman, W.J. Cherney, Ilr.H. Downey, D.M. Eagle, D.J.Graveline, C. Henderson, R. Paddon, P.R. Smith, E.C. Srigley, J. R. Thompson, T.J. Wear, W.A. White, and M.J. Wigle"

The trustees called on the families of the church to see what finances could be pledged and obtained. Finances were very bleak for a number of years.

Central could use a little more funds today.

## **A Special Message from Dan Bryant, the Chair of the Council.**

Central United Church and its predecessor churches have been in Windsor since the early 1800's. Today in 2022 we find ourselves at a major crossroad. Covid has not been our fiend and has accelerated the decline in finances and in the numbers that attend. The Annual Report was presented a few days ago and does not paint a rosy picture for the future of this Congregation.

I ask you all to pray for wisdom as we discern our future.

We are close to having to determine what to do with our **SANCTUARY BUILDING** and what is the best option for us, the members of the **CONGREGATION**.

As we learned at the Annual General Meeting on March 13th , and as depicted later in this newsletter the congregation have choices to make. I suggest that there is little time to dither on what the future of the Sanctuary and the Congregation might be.

Should the Congregation continue to worship in our Sanctuary?  
Should the Congregation continue to worship by Nesting in a different space?  
Should the Congregation consider amalgamation with another United Church?  
Should the Members find a congregation on their own (disband)?

Please pray for wisdom and discernment as you deliberate and seek your answer to these questions.

On April 3rd, 2022, there will be a congregational meeting to discuss our future. It is a discussion. It is important. Be there. More information is best.

If you are able to, we could use a small amount to keep us in the black.  
We can now accept e transfers the email to [central@mnsi.net](mailto:central@mnsi.net)(be sure you put your name in the comments) or by mail 699-30 Tuscarora Avenue Windsor N9A6

In closing, each of you can have a part in the final solution. I encourage each of you to be informed. A Congregational Meeting will follow the April 3 service.

Blessings  
Dan Bryant

**Finances**

Income was up in February, seeing that there was no in-person worship in January. March has seen new monies coming via electronic transfers.

The Treasurer, John Calhoun presented up-to-date figures and Bank Balances for February,

The calendar Year 2022					
Central United Church	Jan-Feb	Budget		Beginning/Ending Bank Balances	
Income all Sources	9,377	35,485		Beginning- Jan 1, 2022,	6,721.00
Expenses all Sources	14,470	39,322		Ending - February 28/22	1,628.00
Gain/Loss	(5,093)	\$ (3,837)		<i>adjustments if any</i>	

During the month the air handler for the building acted up and required \$1,440 to repair. It was not covered under our maintenance contract price. (Honeywell) .

The Council will seek to obtain overdraft protection to cover float and timing concerns.

The church has made a habit of not making appeals for donations. And this is not an appeal, however clearly one can see the need. Prayers are needed at least.

**Annual Report**

A Revised Annual Report was issued March 10, 2022, to include updated reports from Property and the Trustees. No financial information was changed.

**ACM, Annual Congregational Meeting**

The ACM will take place on March 13, 2022. The purpose of the annual meeting is to conduct the official business for the year. Members read minutes, make and receive reports, vote on the budget, elect new officers and/or council members, elect members to committees, elect members to attend the general assembly, and transact any other official business. The agenda is therefore structured like a business meeting.

Members and adherents are encouraged to attend.

**Property**

As stated previously, Central has a long history of putting off repairs as long as we can and we continue to do this. The church is receiving outside pressure to tackle some of these issues, most notably the roof. The lack of repair of a Cencourse drain on our property is damaging our building. Both of these and others will cost more than the amounts available. It has the attention of the Council and the Trustees.

**Electronic Transfer**

Banks allow account holders to pay bills and transfer money via e-Transfer. The Council is happy to report Interac eTransfer is now available with auto-deposit (no fiddly passwords back and forth).

**What you'll need.**

1. Online banking or a mobile app.
2. An email address or Canadian mobile phone number

There are instructions on our webpage site at <https://centralunitedchurchwindsor.com/donate>.

The Trustees are still looking at cleaning up the registration of our building at 628 Ouellette and what its value might be in an open market situation.

In January 2022 our insurer mandated repairs to the dome, the outdoor lightning protection system, electrical circuit survey, reducing exterior access for illegal activities, and an asbestos survey Other priorities include the drain under the walkway on the south side accessing Cencourse, the adjacent wall damaged by water backups. Stay tuned.

**Downtown Music Initiative**

Musical instruments leftover from the Downtown Music Initiative have now been in storage for several years. The council has decided to deal with some of the instruments (keyboards and guitars) compassionately and gift to students/ or teachers at Bellwood Public School for part of a student's musical education.

There was a break-in at the church on February 13 and some instruments were taken. A new inventory is to be taken. That taken is less in value than any deductible on an insurance policy.

The final decision about the remaining musical instruments is pending. The next meeting is on April 7th.

**United Property Resource Corporation (UPRC)**

UPRC is the United Church's go-to, in-house so to speak, redevelopment arm that helps congregations achieve some of their repurpose goals. Primarily providing affordable housing / mixed businesses added to church properties. The congregation is to come up with ideas and then they see what they can help us with it. It is a chicken and an egg thing. They do not come up with the ideas first. We were encouraged to get the title of our property changed from Central Methodist to Central United. We have a name for the UPRC contact person now.

**Trinity Centres Foundation (TCF)**

TCF is a Canadian foundation that transforms church properties for community impact. They are innovative in their approach and generally preserve the historic nature of historic buildings that would otherwise not be available to a religious institution, ie The United Church of Canada.

**Next Meeting dates on Zoom**

Trustees March 31 at 1 pm  
Council April 7 at 10:00 am

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\* February 10 was corrected to read March 10 on Page 3

**CHERYL-ANN STADELBAUER-SAMPA** the supervising minister for Central United Church spoke and presented a slide show to the congregation on March 13th. The Slide Show takes a look at where we are and some options that the congregation can take. These are presented to initiate discussion of possibilities the congregation may choose. The following is a representation of her slideshow. The formatting may be a little off from the original.

### **1. Responding to this Reality**

Financial

- ▶ Campaign for more donations

Building

- ▶ Capital campaigns
- ▶ Apply for loans/grants

### **2. Stresses on Central**

Financial Strain

- ▶ Have drawn on savings to cover operating expenses
  - No further savings available
  - Income/Expenses: little room to accommodate unplanned expenses
  - Uncertain what ministry can afford when current pastoral relationship ends

### **3. Building Needs**

- ▶ Problems identified by insurer who is requiring repair
  - Vandalism

### **4. Short-Term Management OR Long-Term Planning**

Don't confuse the building with the congregation!

Decisions will need to be made about the building-and they might impact other choices but start with the congregation.

Ask yourselves:

- ▶ Do we have energy for a new initiative?
- Do we have leaders to help make that happen?
- Does it matter to us that we stay together?
- After a lifetime of faithful service, there is no shame in being tired.

### **Option 1: Remain a Separate Congregation**

Membership: members remain with Central

Use of Assets: remains with Central; Central needs a plan re the building (sell, redevelop; options are being explored)

Location: might need to relocate temporarily or permanently (rent space, nest in another congregation, i.e. share their space, potentially share their minister)

Leadership: current leaders remain in place

### **Option 2: Amalgamate**

Membership: All members automatically become members of the newly amalgamated congregation

**Assets:** All assets remain in the community. The property of all parties to the amalgamation is available to the newly amalgamated congregation. Additionally, the newly amalgamated congregation would be eligible to receive any future bequests for Central

**Location:** This would be decided by the amalgamating congregations with the potential for additional property to be sold with interest generated available to the congregation or to be redeveloped providing a permanent income stream

**Leadership:** The governing body and Trustees are drawn from each of the amalgamating congregations

### **Option 3: Disband**

If members are not committed to staying together if they cannot be in this space, then disbanding is an option

Membership: Members receive a certificate of transfer and find their own new church home. Need to assist those members whose age or health will mean they need support to do this.

#### **Leadership:**

Celebrates history of congregation

Supports and encourages members to seek out new church homes

Disburses all assets

### **Disbanding Property**

Assets:

- ▶ Pay all outstanding assessments and debts
- ▶ Pay legal and real estate fees

Divide balance as follows

33% for the congregation to direct to United Church of Canada ministries such as neighbouring congregations, United Church outreach ministries, United Church camps, United Church extension councils, The United Church of Canada Foundation or any of the following:

### **Property Options**

Sell

- ▶ Trustees are seeking opinions as to the fair market value of the property.
- ▶ Fair market value price must be basis for any sale.

- ▶ Redevelop

Connecting with United Property Resource Corporation (UPRC)

Exploring other options

Note: Redevelopment takes time; it is a multi-year commitment

### **Timing**

Continuing as is is not a long-term option

Have this year to make a choice before finances force a decision Want to be making the "right" choices for Central, not "rushed" choices

No one is forcing one option over another on the congregation; the regional council is helping the congregation consider what next

Central knows best what energy and resources it has for the future: all three options take energy, some like redevelopment are long term, some like disbanding are short-term but intense and some like amalgamating take a time to build the new relationship.

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