



Westworth United Church Annual Report 2024

We are the hands and feet of Christ within Westworth and beyond

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Table of Contents

Table of Contents	2
AGENDA	3
73 rd ANNUAL MEETING.....	5
REPORTS	10
Council Chair's Report	10
Minister's Report	13
Affirming Ministry Team Report	15
Archives Team Report	16
Christian Education Team Report	17
Communications Team Report	18
Community Care Team Report	19
Ministry and Personnel Committee Report	21
Outreach Team Report.....	22
Prairie to Pine Regional Representatives Report	25
Prayer Shawl Ministry	26
Property Team Report	27
Senior Choir Report.....	29
Trustees Report	32
United Church Women (UCW) Report	33
Vacation Bible School Report.....	35
Visioning Committee Report	36
W3TA	40
Women's Spirituality Group Report	41
Worship Team Report	42
New or Revised Policies	46
Passages of Congregants	47
Roll Clerk's Report 2024.....	48
Registry Records.....	49
Special Appeals & Children's Fund	51
Westworth Leadership Team & Volunteers.....	52
Finance and Stewardship Committee Report	56
Financial Review	59
Statement of Operations and Change in Fund Balances	61
Statement of Other Funds	62
Statement of Financial Position	64
2025 Projected Salaries & Benefits	65

WESTWORTH UNITED CHURCH
74th ANNUAL MEETING, SUNDAY, MARCH 2, 2025

AGENDA

1. INTRODUCTION
2. OPENING PRAYER
3. MOTION REGARDING VOTING PRIVILEGES
4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE 73rd ANNUAL MEETING MARCH 3, 2024
6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES
7. APPROVAL OF WRITTEN REPORTS

<u>Report:</u>	<u>Page:</u>	<u>Prepared by:</u>
a) Chair	10	Rhea Yates
Minister	13	Tricia Gerhard
Affirming Ministry	15	Heather Robbins
Archives	16	Diane Riordan
Christian Education & CE Staff List	17	Katie Anderson
Communication	18	Brett Loughheed
Community Care	19	Sharon Stanley
Ministry and Personnel	21	Sharon Stanley
Outreach	22	Ruth Wiwchar
Prairie to Pine Regional Council	25	Dorcas Windsor
Prayer Shawl Ministry	26	Barbara Magarrell
Property	27	Paul Chard
Senior Choir	29	Marion McKay
Trustees	32	Kent Magarrell
UCW	33	Nancy Doern-White
Vacation Bible School	35	Tricia Gerhard
Visioning	36	Bruce Tefft
W3TA	40	Dianne Sjoberg
Women's Spirituality Group	41	Kathy Wilson
Worship	42	Teresa Sztaba
New or Revised Policies	46	Rhea Yates
Passages & Memorial Donations	47	Christine Strike
Roll Clerk	48	Christine Strike
Registry Records	49	Christine Strike
b) Special Appeal & Children's Fund	51	Christine Strike
Leadership Team & Volunteers	52	
Finance & Stewardship Report	56	Denise Jones
Financial Review		Lynne McCarthy
Statement of Operations and...		Jenny Jeffers
Statement of Other Funds		Jenny Jeffers
Statement of Financial Position		Jenny Jeffers
2025 Projected Salaries and Benefits		Jenny Jeffers

8. BUSINESS ARISING FROM REPORTS
 - a. motion to accept Senior Choir Executive as a leadership team and to ratify its mandate
 - b. motion to ratify revised Ad Hoc Visioning Committee mandate
9. BUDGET FOR 2025 60 Jenny Jeffers
10. OTHER BUSINESS
 - a. policy updates

- b. motion to update the Mission Statement
- 11. LEADERSHIP TEAM & VOLUNTEERS FOR 2025
 - a. motion to approve teams and committees
- 12. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS
- 13. MOTION TO ADJOURN
- 14. CLOSING WORSHIP WITH DEDICATION OF NEW LEADERSHIP TEAM

WESTWORTH UNITED CHURCH

73rd ANNUAL MEETING SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 2024

ATTENDANCE: David Sjoberg, Brett Lougheed, Denise Jones, Jenny Jeffers, Katie Anderson, Rachael Doerr, Leslie Rodgers, Jennifer Snyder, Carol Wilkie, Diane Riordan, Bettina Nyman, George Nyman, Heather Robbins, Sandra Marles, Neil Arnason, Leith Love, Anne Love, Nancy Williamson, Andrea Firth, Margaret Newbury-Jones, Tanis Hewitt, Sharon Stanley, Janice Neumann, Barbara Clarke, Suzanne Robinson, Christine Strike, Kathy Wilson, Teresa Sztaba, Bruce Tefft, Janet Sealey, Alan Wilson, Frank Wynes, Dan Wiwchar, Barbara Wynes, Marion McKay, Allan McKay, Shirley Watts, Walter Watts, Wendy Moroz, Kirk Windsor, Ruth Wiwchar, Arlene Hintsa, Morag Bergthorson, Peter Sim, Judy Brown, Tricia Gerhard, Jewel Casselman, Heather Crockett, Valdine Anderson, Meagan Dufprat, Petra Thanisch, Rochelle Baker, Allan Baker, Eunice Pratt, Kent Magarrell, Kim O'Grady, Alexander Doerr, Dianne Sjoberg, Alma Acheson

1. **INTRODUCTION:** Dianne Sjoberg opened the meeting at 11:34 am, welcomed those in attendance and spoke about the challenges and successes of the past year (staffing, extension into greater community).
2. **OPENING PRAYER:** Rev. Tricia Gerhard had given a prayer for the meeting at the end of the service in the Sanctuary.

3. MOTION REGARDING VOTING PRIVILEGES:

MOTION:

Moved by: Dan Wiwchar

Seconded by: Anne Love

That all members and adherents in attendance have voting privileges at this AGM for all motions, with the exception of those dealing with Trustees, where only members of Westworth United Church may vote.

CARRIED

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

MOTION:

Moved by: Keith Love

Seconded by: Bruce Tefft

That the agenda be approved as printed, with items at 7B to be dealt with individually.

CARRIED

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE 72nd ANNUAL MEETING, March 18, 2023

MOTION:

Moved by: Alma Acheson

Seconded by: Shirley Watts

That the minutes of the 72nd annual general meeting of Westworth United Church be accepted as printed.

CARRIED

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES: None noted.

7. APPROVAL OF THE REPORTS:

Group A

Report:	Page:	Prepared by:
i. Chair		Dianne Sjoberg
ii. Minister		Tricia Gerhard
iii. Affirming Ministry		Heather Robbins
iv. Archives		Diane Riordan
v. Christian Education and CE Staff List		
vi. Communication		Brett Lougheed
vii. Community Care		Dorothy Reid
viii. Ministry and Personnel		Sharon Stanley
ix. Outreach		Ruth Wiwchar/Allan McKay
x. Prairie to Pine Regional Council		Dorcas Windsor and Kirk Windsor
xi. Prayer Shawl Ministry		Barb Magarrell
xii. Property		Paul Chard
xiii. Trustees		Kent Magarrell
xiv. UCW		Nancy Doern-White
xv. Visioning		Bruce Tefft
xvi. Women's Spirituality Group		Kathy Wilson
xvii. Worship		Teresa Sztaba
xviii. W3Taff		Dianne Sjoberg
xix. Passages and Memorial Donations		
xx. Roll Clerk		
xxi. Registry Records		
xxii. Search Committee		Eunice Pratt

MOTION:

Moved by: Diane Riordan

Seconded by: Heather Robbins

That the leadership team written reports, Group A, be accepted as printed.

CARRIED

Group B

i. Special Appeal and Children's Fund

MOTION:

Moved by: Denise Jones

Seconded by: Allan McKay

That the Special Appeals written report be accepted.

CARRIED

ii. Finance & Stewardship

MOTION:

Moved by: Denise Jones

Seconded by: Walter Watts

That the Finance and Stewardship report be accepted.

CARRIED

iii. Financial Review

MOTION:

Moved by: Allan Baker

Seconded by: Wendy Moroz

That the Financial Review be accepted as circulated.

CARRIED

iv. Projected Salaries and Benefits

MOTION:

Moved by: Sharon Stanley

Seconded by: Denise Jones

That the report containing the projected Salaries and Benefits for 2024 be accepted as circulated.

CARRIED

8. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE REPORTS:

- a) **Visioning:** Chair Bruce Tefft reported that in 2023, the most important accomplishments of the Visioning Committee were as follows.
- First, hiring a part-time program coordinator and initiating healthy living programming for the community under the banner Westworth Centre.
 - Secondly, working with the Property Committee to have a comprehensive building assessment completed. Huge thanks to Paul Chard for leading this endeavor. The final report of the building assessment is nearly complete. It will be sent to the Community of Faith for all to consider. In the coming weeks, we will invite the Community of Faith to attend a series of meetings to ask questions, discuss the findings, and give the Visioning Committee direction regarding renovating and or rebuilding Westworth.

9. BUDGET 2023:

MOTION:

Moved by: Frank Wynes

Seconded by: Brett Lougheed

That the budget for Westworth United Church for 2024 be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

Denise Jones summarized the budget report as presented in the annual report. A deficit budget is predicted but depending on circumstances that may change. Renewed energy and participation from the congregation and outside sources present a hopeful picture for the future.

She reiterated that if anyone has any questions at any time during the year please contact her at treasurer@westworth.ca

10. Other business: none

11. Leadership team, and Volunteers 2024: Presented by Tricia Gerhard

List of volunteers are noted at pages 48 to 51 in your report.

Please note the following changes:

- UNDER CE: Leslie Rodger name should be spelled RODGERS.

- AND since Marilyn Anderson Corkum has taken on both Worthy Theatre and a place on Visioning, she will continue on CE, but not as a Co-Team Lead.
- AND, with regret and sadness we have all noted the death of our loved Bob Johnston. At the time of printing of the AGM, Bob Johnston was still working on digitizing photos for the Archives.

PLEASE NOTE THE PROPOSED LEADERSHIP TEAM AS PRINTED CAN HAVE ADDITIONS.

In that regard, Chair Dianne Sjoberg called for nominations or volunteers from the floor.

The call for nominations was repeated 3 times.

MOTION:

Moved by: Ruth Wiwchar

Seconded by: Teresa Sztaba

That the leadership team for 2024 be accepted, with a spelling correction at CE, Leslie Rodgers with a d, the movement of Marilyn Corkum Anderson to member of CE from Co-team lead, and the removal of Bob Johnston's name from the Archives list.

CARRIED

12. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

- Sharon Stanley spoke on behalf of Ministry and Personnel to thank the staff for the wonderful job they all do.
- Tricia Gerhard thanked the volunteers – she got everyone in the room standing as their work, efforts and participation are what makes this church a community fulfill our mission of being the **hands, feet** and **heart** of the church locally and in the community near and far.
- Dianne Sjoberg again thanked the Leadership team and council for their work, support and participation. Special thanks to M & P for ensuring our church continued to function when there were so many changes to be dealt with. Special thanks to Eunice Pratt for her work on not one, but 2 teams that had critical tasks - Safe Reopening and then Search.
- Chair Dianne Sjoberg wished Rhea Yates all the best for the coming year as she takes over the position of Chair of the Westworth Council.
- Marion McKay personal thanks to Dianne Sjoberg for all her leadership and hard work this past year

13. MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Moved by: Keith Love

The list of the New Leadership Team was circulated.

Covenanting of the New Leadership Team by Tricia Gerhard.

Tricia Gerhard gave a Prayer of Blessing for the new leadership team.

14. CLOSING WORSHIP:

Led by Tricia Gerhard

Hymn VU 559 -Come, O Fount of Every Blessing was sung in closing.

Meeting closed at 12:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Approved by:

Alma Acheson
Pro-tem Secretary

Dianne Sjoberg
Council Chair

REPORTS

Council Chair's Report

When I look back on the year that's been — from March 3, 2024 to March 2, 2025 — what stands out is the many different ways we've been building community. Whether it's the Westworth Community of Faith, or the River Heights or broader Winnipeg community, we have been making connections, listening for the Spirit and seeking ways to transform, through music, liturgy or relationship.

These are but a few examples of the community-building contained in this report:

The Ken Martin Art Sale on May 11 and 12, 2024

Westworth hosted an art sale on May 11 and 12 that shared Ken Martin's art with the wider community. Joanne Martin, daughter of the artist, wrote in a note of thanks that entering the exhibition space at Westworth took her breath away. She noted that lead organizer Christine Strike's experience and vision was invaluable to the success of the exhibition and sale. Once again, dozens of Westworth members and adherents stepped up to support all aspects of this community-wide event. The Martin family generously donated all proceeds from the sale to the Westworth United Church General Fund and thousands of pieces of art work are now being enjoyed in homes rather than locked away in storage.

Compassion Camp from July 22 - 26, 2024

In July, Rev. Tricia Gerhard and Katie Anderson, Coordinator of Children, Youth and Family Ministries, hosted a Compassion Camp for young people focused on What Every Living Thing Needs. Westworth applied for and received a \$2,000 Vision Fund Seed Grant for New Initiatives in Youth and Young Adult Ministry from the United Church of Canada to support this programming.

Food Security Workshop on October 20, 2024

The Outreach team hosted a food security workshop that included learning, discussion and time together at a community supper with keynote speakers from the University of Manitoba and several non-profit organizations. Participants learned about innovative projects such as the Manitoba Food Rescue and Emissions Reduction Project, centred on rescuing surplus food through innovative food storage. Connections made at this meeting continue to be strengthened.

The Timeless Treasures Sale and Tea Room on October 26, 2024

Timeless Treasures is a true community-building event, a chance to meet friends and neighbours over coffee, offer families household goods at much lower costs than retail and save products from being sent to the landfill. Under the leadership of Wendy Moroz and Janet Sealey, dozens of Westworth members and adherents made certain that everyone who stepped through Westworth's doors was greeted and made welcome.

P'Opera: Love Songs, Arias and Choruses on February 9, 2025

This community concert featured guest artist Tracy Dahl and Westworth Choral Scholars Evan Glazier, Dariyan Dubik, Isabelle Buisson and Sloan Smith. The talents of Westworth Music Director Valdine Anderson, Collaborative Pianist Megan Dufrat and the Westworth Choir shone brightly on a community stage. The creativity and collaboration to put on such a high-quality calibre event is truly remarkable.

Westworth Centre older adult programming, offered throughout the year

A grant from the Winnipeg Foundation supported older adult programming under the Westworth Centre banner. This programming is an outstanding effort to make a difference in the neighbourhood. As one program participant stated, "I live alone so it has been very appreciated to be welcomed into a community of others, regardless of who you are, and feel valued."

The progressive Pride flag flying throughout the year

This flag signals to all that Westworth is an Affirming Community of Faith. Westworth strives to be a safe space for people of all gender identities and sexual orientations. At a time when diversity, equity and inclusion is literally being outlawed within United States institutions, public affirmations are especially important. The Affirming team works to ensure Westworth is *publicly, intentionally and explicitly* supporting the Two-Spirit and LGBTQIA+ community.

Let's not forget the ways we build community within these walls.

- The Community Care team led by Shirley Watts released a new Westworth United Church directory, available in PDF format. This resource is a great way to remember people's names and faces, as well as how to connect with them.
- The long-running newcomers' breakfast continues to welcome people in smaller group settings, providing the opportunity to get to know each other outside of worship.
- Leadership team retreats bring us together twice a year for sharing and learning.
- Open houses and gatherings helps us to consider long-term sustainability and resource capacity as a Community of Faith. On April 14 and April 22, 2024, the Visioning Committee and Property Team jointly hosted two informational sessions to update the Community of Faith on the state of Westworth's building and infrastructure.
- In an informal survey, the Community of Faith provided feedback on how to sustain Westworth into the future. Notably, of the 84 surveys received, only 13 indicated their first choice is to begin preparing to leave Westworth due to the cost of building repairs. More than half of respondents selected this as the last option they would choose, indicating that members and adherents feel deeply connected to this space and this community.

Based on the results of this survey of preferences, the ad hoc Visioning Committee continues to explore redevelopment as an option for Westworth. Westworth recently joined a Shared Ground applied research initiative dedicated to developing more affordable housing on social purpose infrastructure in Winnipeg. The Visioning Committee is working closely with Jordy Craddock and 5468796 Architecture to help

navigate the world of federal, provincial and city grants as well as to bring a costed proposal for redevelopment for the Community of Faith to review.

At Westworth, we are blessed to have a Community of Faith made up of staff, members and adherents who bring their creativity, caring and knowledge to all endeavours. I would like to recognize the contributions of some leaders who are moving on after years of service. Special thanks to:

- Brett Lougheed, who completes his term as Communications Team Lead
- Keith Love, who steps down as an inaugural Member-at-Large, a position created when the Westworth Board restructured into a smaller Westworth Council.
- Dianne Sjoberg, who steps off Council after serving as Vice Chair, Chair and Past Chair, including through difficult pandemic years
- Sharon Stanley, who completes her term as Committee Chair at Ministry & Personnel
- Ruth Wiwchar, who is “retiring” after completing 10 years as Outreach Team Lead.

I would also like to thank all members of Council and the Chair of Visioning who diligently attend and prepare for monthly meetings and discussions. Please consider helping to fill any empty leadership positions with a nomination from the floor at the annual general meeting. June 10, 2025 will mark The United Church of Canada's 100th anniversary. In addition December 10th, 2025 marks the 75th anniversary of Westworth United Church. This is an excellent year to get involved!

All Westworth teams and committees meet, plan and act to support the entire community, mostly without any public recognition. This March, we are working to change that. We will be honouring Westworthians who share their gifts, in ways both seen and unseen, with a Gratitude Wall. This will be a space where we can give shoutouts to the people around us who act as disciples, whether it's someone who supports families with food or drink when they attend a loved one's funeral, someone who sends a caring note on behalf of the Westworth community, someone who knits a prayer shawl for someone facing adversity, or someone who rakes leaves, weeds a flower garden or shovels snow after a snowstorm.

I hope that we will run out of wall space to thank all those who make Westworth a community where all are accepted and all are loved. Thank you especially to Rev. Tricia Gerhard who reminds us in each of our one-on-one encounters and in all of her sermons and public messaging that this is so.

Respectfully submitted by Rhea Yates
Council Chair

Minister's Report

For my annual report this year I want to save you from having to wade through paragraphs full of wordy descriptions and get straight to the meaningful points from the past year. Here we go:

- Being part of the Moderator's (Re)Generate Leadership program with 30 clergy in paid accountable ministry across the country. This is the church's long term investment in the health and excellence of their leaders.
- Participation in the Faith Leaders Council hosted and created by Mr. Mike Moroz, MLA for Tuxedo riding. Mr. Moroz wanted to create the opportunity for the faith leaders in and adjacent to his riding to get together to talk about what they are doing and what they are dreaming about. It's been a wonderful way to connect with our siblings in faith in the area.
- Vacation Bible School in July – this was my first year doing this and it was exhausting but fun. Please see my report.
- The kids! Children's time is always an adventure but their sheer curiosity and energy is a blessing and source of joy!
- the feeling of welcome members of the wider community have when they come into our building – be it for church or for a concert. Repeatedly I hear comments about the warmth and welcome felt when people come in. Way to go, Westworth.
- Family Christmas Eve service – over 100 people young and older present to hear the story of Mortimer Mouse and the sacred story of Jesus' birth. It was a holy moment.
- The Choir! Under the direction of Valdine and accompanied by Megan, the choir is soaring. I am endlessly amazed by the time, talent and dedication you share with this amazing ministry. Thank you.
- Premier's Prayer Summit – this fall I was invited to attend this event put on at Government House. The Premier gathered representatives of world faiths and secularists/humanists to have conversation about whether prayer should have a place at the start of Legislative gatherings and if so, what should that prayer look like. It was a rich conversation, and the ideas gathered will be taken back to government for further consideration and planning.
- Invitation to participate in the Affirming Ministry Pie Day Panel in March. This was a livestream event for the national church and I was one of three panelists from across the country. It was nerve wracking but good. I was honoured to be a part of it.
- Participating on the National Church's Apology to the LGBTQIA+ Community task group
- Finding God's presence woven into all the pieces of work that define the church
- Christmas Eve service shared with Westminster United.
- Laughter and Lessons service the Sunday after Christmas – instead of doing the traditional breakfast service we tried something new. And it was a huge success. We laughed, worshiped and enjoyed being together. The service ended with cider and Christmas cookies.

- The incredible compassion and care offered to me and my family during the months of October and November as we navigated the death of a friend, COVID and then the death of my Dad. There are no words to adequately express the gratitude for the love and support we received. Thank you.

These are just a few of the highlights. There are so many more. Every Sunday is a worship highlight as you engage with the message and the scripture. Watching you come together for West Broadway or Rossbrook House. The leadership teams working to support the life of Westworth. The dreaming about the west end of the building and the future of our church. The time and skills and talents shared here in this place. The little and big ways that each of you participate in the life of this church. The dedication to and the love held for this community of faith is such a gift.

YOU are the biggest highlight in my ministry. YOU are the reason this community of faith continues to grow, learn, and do ministry. YOU are the reason that the Annual Report is full of stories about all the things this congregation has done. For without YOU there would be no Westworth. So thank YOU for making my job, my vocation, joyful, challenging, sometimes frustrating, enriching, meaningful and Spirit filled.

We are the hands, feet and heart of Christ in the world. May it be so.
Rev. Tricia Gerhard

Affirming Ministry Team Report

On May 8, 2021, Westworth United Church community of faith became a member of Affirm United/ S'affirmer Ensemble. In preparation, we learned a lot about gender identity, sexuality and sexual orientation, as this was the original focus of Affirm United. Being Affirming is about much more.

A welcoming, affirming church is about intersectionality...that is we welcome and affirm people all races, abilities, identities and physicality, as well as gender and identity. Our work is about justice for all, climate concerns, reconciliation, and all ages and stages of life.

Ban Kim-Moon, former UN secretary General is quoted

“We declare that human rights are for all of us, all the time. Whoever we are, wherever we are from, no matter our class, our opinions, our sexual orientation. “

There were 5 meetings in 2024. We look for consensus when we vote or discuss.

- In January we bought 2 new flags for the north side of the building
- February was Black History month and reviews of books by Black authors were on the weekly eBlast..
- PIE day means being PUBLIC, INTENTIONAL and EXPLICIT in our affirmation of all. There was an evening to show the screening from AU/SE. [A PIE Day Panel - Living out PIE in the Public Place.](#) To help celebrate Pie Day after church we sold Rainbow Pins for \$5 of donation asking folk to wear the pin in public to show their support. The profit was \$338 which went to General Funds of WUC
- Kathy McPhail is the liaison for Affirming Team after the AGM and she joined us for our May meeting
- A colourful and light banner was ordered and arrived just in time for PRIDE on June 2, 2024 with a good turnout from WUC. We joined and walked with other United Churches from the Prairie to Pine Region.
- There were conversations in the fall about having some kind of support group for family/friends of queer folk. We are working on this for the near future. It would be a small informal gathering in the church.
- Affirm United (AUSE) offers a coffee hour on zoom monthly that is open to anyone. The conversation varies as do the attendees. The link is available on their website.
- We were pleased that Rainbow Resource Centre has been included in Westworth's Special Appeals Offering this year.
- Equity and Diversity Committee of the Region offered a zoom meeting in September to share ideas, challenges and learnings about being Affirming. There is another one in February 2025 to talk about PIE Day

We have had interesting and exciting conversations about involving other Affirming Communities of Faith in the Region and other Affirming denominations to meet together for support and conversation. The work on that is ongoing.

Respectfully submitted, Heather Robbins, Chair

Archives Team Report

The mandate of the Archives Team is to maintain the safe storage of materials of historical significance to Westworth. The Archive team met several times throughout the year to organize, record and file the documents submitted to us.

This year we have been concentrating on updating our photo albums, identifying, filing and recording photos. We are also spending time making sure the Council minutes from the past few years are in order.

We would encourage those who take photos documenting the life of the church to pass them along to the Archive team at archives@westworth.ca. It is important that all photos submitted be labelled with the date, the event, identification of the people, as well as who submitted the photos.

It is very important that all team leaders make sure that their team minutes are sent to the church administrator. This ensures that the minutes are deposited in the Archives. This includes Ad Hoc committees.

We are extremely grateful to Christine Strike for lending her creative ability to the displays in the Memorial Cabinet.

This year, our team member, Bob Johnston passed away. Bob worked tirelessly to digitize our audiovisual records. He had been a part of the team since 2011. He will be sorely missed. We are pleased that Allan McKay has agreed to take over this task. Respectfully submitted by: Diane Riordan on behalf of the Archive team

Westworth Archive Team Financial Statement Jan 1 2024-Dec 31, 2024

Balance December 31, 2023	749.90
Income	0.00
Expenses	0.00
Balance December 31, 2024	749.00

Christian Education Team Report

The Christian Education Team (CE) supports the work of the Coordinator for Children, Youth, and Family Ministry (CCFM) in providing Sunday morning programming for our children and youth. CE works primarily with youth group, Church School, and family-based events.

This past year, the C.E Team continued with consistent meetings and events. With Katie Anderson remaining as the Coordinator of Child, Youth, and Family Ministries, Leslie Rodgers continued her role in C.E Team lead.

The C.E Team now consists of Katie Anderson, Leslie Rodgers, Marilyn Anderson Corkum, Cheryl Ennis, Danielle Cadieux, Julia Shayna, Ed White, Brooklyn Linnick, and Rachel Doerr. Meetings are in-person once a month at the Church based on participants' availability.

Church School has seen high numbers of children and youth, with a grand total of 31 attendees over the year. Classes are integrated and are co-taught by Cheryl Ennis, Julia Shayna, and Danielle Cadieux. Children/youth begin upstairs where Rev. Tricia Gerhard provides them with a story before Katie Anderson brings them downstairs.

VBS programming was mid-July and run by Rev. Tricia Gerhard with the financial support of a grant and two LITs.

The C.E Team hosted a Christmas family craft event that resulted in a fantastic turn out. Crafts were led by Julia Shayna and assisted by the rest of the C.E team. Many families of all ages came out to create Christmas themed crafts and enjoy finger food provided by C.E. We also held our annual holiday poinsettia sale.

Children and youth worked tirelessly with the help of Katie Anderson to put together an in-person Christmas pageant titled "A Very Mixed-Up Christmas Pageant". It was premiered the Sunday morning service before Christmas Eve and was accompanied by live music from the children and youth, including a handbell number. A thanks to families, teachers, and sound techs for all their involvement.

Westworth Youth Group has continued to meet monthly over a variety of activities. Led by Katie Anderson, this group meets once a month with an invite extended to grades 6-12. As it evolves further, plans to host Bible Studies and outreach events will begin to unfold. In the Spring of 2024, we held our first Traveling Youth Group since the onboarding of Katie (with the help of Tricia Gerhard), and in December 2024 we held our second!

This report is respectfully submitted by Katie Anderson, on behalf of the C.E Team Leader.

Communications Team Report

The Communications Team, consisting of Brett Lougheed (Chair), Peter Sim, and Ed White, focused their efforts on the maintenance and improvement of the livestream system, revising policies and procedures for inclusion in the Westworth Manual, contributing to a Westworth brochure, and promoting the vibrancy of Church activities online.

The livestream team, led by Peter Sim and including Sara Epp, Walter Watts, Kevin Sim, Dave Gerhard and Jacob Gerhard, dependably continued to record and stream weekly Church services and other events upon request including funerals and the covenanting service for our new minister. Several repairs and upgrades were made to the AV system and new hearing assist devices were purchased to replace several devices that were obsolescent and beyond repair.

As the Westworth Manual was undergoing a systematic review, the Team contributed in several ways. The Team mandate was updated to include its livestream responsibilities and other edits. The policy regarding the usage of the church sign was updated to reflect new procedures. And the photography/video guidelines were updated to reflect new regulations around publishing photos and video online.

The Team also attempted to renew its efforts in more frequently posting content reflecting the various activities occurring in Westworth on the website and on social media. Team members also sought out photographs for inclusion in a developing Westworth brochure. Christine Strike is to be commended for her excellent contributions in these areas as well.

The Communications Team is looking forward to working towards our goals for the coming year. We would welcome interest from any individuals interested in volunteering for the Communications Team and the livestream team. We also encourage members of the Leadership Team to share images of their work for publication online so that we can demonstrate the vitality and dynamism of everything happening in Westworth right now.

Respectfully submitted, Brett Lougheed (Chair)

Community Care Team Report

Team Members:

Sharon Stanley, Lead
Heather Crockett
Arlene Hintsa
Dorothy Reid
Judy Steen
Shirley Watts

Community Care Support Team:

Funeral Coordinator: Wendy Moroz
Greeters: Arlene Hintsa, Al Mapes, Dorothy Reid
Cards to Congregants: Nancy Williamson
One on One Visitors: Nancy Doern-White, Earl Gould, Barb Gwyer, Arlene Hintsa, Carol Hunter, Allan McKay, Marion McKay, Wendy Moroz, Dorothy Reid, Heather Robbins, Shirley Ann Simkulak, Shirley Watts, Carol Wilkie, Nancy Williamson, Kathy Wilson, Dorcas Windsor.

This is a busy team and there appears to be something happening most of the church year; and in fact, sometimes there might be more than one event on the same day. We are fortunate to have many other congregants that willingly offer up much of their precious time to add extra hands and energy. Thank you to the additional volunteers whose valuable support makes each event a successful one.

The Westworth directory was updated last year, and the finished product was circulated via email at the beginning of September. Thank you to Shirley Watts who coordinated the initiative to contact all congregants to provide their updated information along with new photos. Thank you to Christine Strike who pulled all the material together and now maintains that master record.

The newcomers' breakfasts were held in April and November for our newer members, where they have an opportunity to meet others who are newer to our church. The Community Care team members are in attendance too and spend time with each of our guests. It is such a positive event and so lovely to have a quieter time to visit with each other.

An appreciation tea was held in June for congregants who volunteer as one-on-one visitors to several individuals who are either temporarily or permanently unable to attend church in person.

Nancy Williamson is very busy during the year, sending cards to our congregants who are ill, or celebrating special events, and to family members who experienced a family loss. This year, Nancy sent out 63 cards on behalf of Westworth.

There were 12 funerals and 1 celebration of life that were held at Westworth this year. Wendy Moroz, as our Funeral Coordinator, arranged a volunteer host to be responsible for organizing each funeral reception. Wendy was often the host herself.

Each host arranged for volunteers to handle the receptions. Funeral instructions and checklist were updated last year, which is helpful for any new hosts and volunteers.

We continue to serve coffee on communion Sundays so that everyone has another opportunity to share some time with old and new friends.

Lessons & Carols was very successful again this year. The narthex was buzzing, and the seats were full in the sanctuary. We supported the choir by hosting a reception following the service. Thank you to everyone who donated the lovely assortment of Christmas cookies; we have some fabulous bakers at Westworth! The variety of treats made the tables look so special. Our team looks forward to assisting with this event in 2025.

We purchased some luncheon sized plates for use at funerals and various other functions that are held throughout the year. Along with the new plates, we also purchased four new coffee urns, and both purchases have already been put to good use.

We were approved for the purchase of a white board and stand which Christine fills out weekly and identifies the large number of gatherings and events. Many events are Westworth United Church meetings, etc., other events come under the Westworth Centre older adult programs and then we have outside groups who rent space at our church on a regular basis. Guests as well as regular congregants can see how busy the church is all week long. Most impressive.

Currently, the team is working on refreshing the Welcome package for new members, which also includes major input and revisions from Tricia Gerhard.

The Community Care team would like to extend our thanks to Dorothy Reid for her dedication, hard work, laughter and great ideas. Dorothy is stepping down from the Community Care team, however, we are delighted that she will remain on the greeting end as well as other volunteer roles that she can pick and choose to fit her interests and time.

This is a great team, and if you are interested in joining the group, please let one of the team members know. The more the merrier. Watch our team board in the narthex. There is often a sign-up sheet for something that may pique your interest.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of Community Care team, Sharon Stanley

Ministry and Personnel Committee Report

We are delighted to report that we had zero staffing turnover last year. We have an amazing staff complement at Westworth. We often talk about the energy and commitment of our staff, and we continually hear comments about their friendliness, always ready to jump in and assist whenever and wherever possible and generally go the extra mile in everything they do. Thank you so much for everything that you do to support the good work at Westworth. Our shining stars are Melanie Adams, Katie Anderson, Valdine Anderson, Megan Dufprat, Nicholas Firth, Tricia Gerhard, Jenny Jeffers, Ray McClelland and Christine Strike.

Our committee spent time updating job descriptions, creating a couple of new policies, sharing ideas and challenges, finding ways to support the staff and congregation and making ourselves available as often as we were called upon. The Ministry and Personnel committee members this past year were Janice Neumann, Daryl Brooks, Teresa Sztaba and me. They are full of ideas and work hard at regular conversations with the staff. Positive, colourful, supportive, encouraging – a great committee all around. Teresa needed to back away from our committee, not because we were boring or worked too hard, but because it was often difficult for her to juggle the demands of leading another team while still employed. We were disappointed that Teresa left the committee but absolutely understood that her plate was very full. We find time to converse with Teresa as often as possible – you can't walk away from such a colourful individual. We welcomed Judy Steen to our team this year, following Teresa's departure. Judy has an abundance of energy and warmth, and she fits this team perfectly.

The volunteering component at Westworth is such a valuable one. Each one of us has a responsibility to share our talents and time to ensure that we cover all areas and support each team and one another. We do an awesome job of that, so thank you to the staff and congregants for filling that role so well. Celebrating the great work that volunteers do once a year is not enough, but it's a start. So, thank you for being there, always giving of yourselves and ensuring that at the end of the day, week or month, all is right and in its place.

Thank you for allowing me to chair the Ministry and Personnel Committee over the past few years. I learned a lot and can't even put enough words together to say how brilliant the members of Ministry and Personnel are. It has been a pleasure to work side by side with all of them. It was an interesting time working through so many big issues (ie Covid) and sitting on Council allowed me to broaden my knowledge about Westworth. I am not going very far away, as I have a new home on Community Care.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the M&P Committee, Sharon Stanley (Chair)

Outreach Team Report

Westworth Outreach Team, together with the congregation at Westworth, strives to serve the community beyond our walls locally, nationally, and abroad, by identifying and providing opportunities to act out our church's mandate to be "the hands and feet of Christ". The Outreach Team receives incredible support from the Westworth congregation as the Team challenges and engages the community of faith in social and environmental justice issues.

1 JustCity

1 JustCity operates three sites: Pimicikamak Wellness Centre on Balmoral, Oak Table at Augustine United, and West Broadway/West Broadway Community Services. Through Westworth's continuing support of WBCS, we continue to actively support the work and the vision of 1 JustCity.

West Broadway Community Services (WB)

Financial support of WB is crucial to the survival of this ministry. Throughout the last year, Westworth has stepped up donations and has responded most generously to the requests from the West Broadway Team. Groceries were provided once monthly from January to June for the staff at WB to create a meal of meatball sub, fruit and homemade cookies. In December, Westworth donated thick, warm winter socks, underwear, and toques, along with tubs of food and personal hygiene products. The Outreach Team expresses thanks for all this support, as well the hundreds of dollars that we have been able to transfer to WB over the year.

Westworth has a history of having members of the congregation assist in many ways.

Comment from a guest at WB: "I can't read, so I didn't realize what my landlord was trying to get me to agree to. I can't afford food never mind a lawyer type. Coming here, someone read it with me and they didn't look down on me because I couldn't do it myself."

Building and Sustaining Relationships

1. **Assiniboia Residential School Memorial Site** on Academy Road continues to evolve and has become an important meeting place for the community of survivors who attended the school, and for the nearby community of River Heights. A website provides education regarding the school and the Memorial site, and the production of a second book is planned.
2. **Orange Shirt Day** was observed on Sunday, September 29 with special guest speaker, Jordan Bighorn and guest musicians, the Walking Wolf Drummers and Singers. Many members of the Westworth Community of Faith gathered at the Assiniboia Residential School Memorial Site to mark the day of remembrance and to share a feast following the ceremony.
3. **Rossbrook House** has been supported by the Westworth community of faith for decades. This year, prior to the annual Turkey Roast promotion, the Outreach Team invited Patti Mainville, Executive Director of Rossbrook House, to speak on November 26 at a Lunch and Learn. As a child and youth, Patti was a recipient of the services offered at Rossbrook House, and has now come full circle as the ED. She expressed appreciation for monetary donations and in particular, for

the turkey and gravy supplied each Christmas to be enjoyed by the children and youth at the House. This year, an amazing total of 29 turkeys were delivered to Rossbrook, as well as 6 boxes of oranges, 8 dozen cookies from Boston Pizza, knitting from the CE tree and leftover cookies from the Lessons and Carols reception.

4. On behalf of the Westworth Community of Faith, the Outreach Team signed a letter from **Make Poverty History**, addressed to Winnipeg City Council, urging that council revise its 2024-2025 budget to deliver the services necessary to meet both the social and the economic needs of its citizens, specifically focussing on poverty reduction initiatives.
5. Conversations on how to respond to the **Israel/Gaza War** resulted in an afternoon in March spent with Dr. Ruth Ashrafi, Manitoba Director of B'nai Brith, who shared with us her opinions on the situation. In the fall, the Team was asked to support two Winnipeg groups who are actively working to promote peace in the Middle East. Woman Waging Peace is a group of Israeli, Muslim, and Christian women working to find common ground. The other is Friends Standing Together, committed to working toward a peaceful, secure and just co-existence of Israelis and Palestinians.
6. Members of the Team attended the **Multifaith Breakfast on April 11**. Guest Speaker that morning was Premier Wab Kinew who shared with us his work to reinvent the prayer offered prior to each daily legislative session. He has gathered a multifaith committee to explore ideas.
7. Westworth supported **Canadian Foodgrains Bank's** Advent season petition by sending 124 postcards to the Prime Minister asking that Canada invest in resilient agrifood systems both in Canada and worldwide.
8. Four members of the team attended the **Canadian Foodgrains** annual dinner for volunteers.
9. **Eyeglasses, Aluminum Pull-Tabs** are collected and delivered. Jan McIlroy delivers them to her optometrist who sends them on to Lenscrafters, where the technicians refurbish the glasses and give them to those in need. The tabs go to Carpathia School, where children and staff add them to their own collection of tabs that eventually buy wheelchairs!
10. **Christmas Cheer Knitting** was delivered this year, and new knitters are always welcome.

Supporting Ecological and Environmental Issues

1. The Outreach Team is committed to providing educational opportunities on many topics and is offering a focused approach to **education on environmental topics**. Barbara and Frank Wynes led the Team again this year in informing and educating the congregation. Monthly articles on the use of plastics were written and distributed through the congregational email, and present on the last Sunday of the month during Announcements.
2. **Earth Day** was observed with a Lunch and Learn opportunity, "Planet vs Plastics" featuring Sarah Warrack, a researcher with the IISD Experimental Lakes Area.

3. **Blessing of the Wheels** was held on Christian Family Sunday May 12, with several families biking, strolling and skateboarding to Westworth that morning.
4. **Interfaith Support for Community Energy Investment Roadmap (CEIR)** is a coalition of members from many faiths who gather to share information and to lobby the City of Winnipeg on environmental matters. Several in-person petitions to Council were brought forward by CEIR. There is mixed support for initiatives such as city-wide composting. However, the group continues to meet individually with councillors to promote concerns.
5. The Outreach Team initiated a **Carbon Challenge** for one month, encouraging folks to consider carpooling to services and to mid-week meetings.
6. A Petition signed by close to 100 members of Westworth re Climate Change was sent to the Prime Minister's Office.
7. A **Food Security Workshop** was held October 20 with four speakers offering different aspects of working toward food security. Dr. Natalie Riediger from the University of Manitoba led the workshop with the keynote speech. A simple supper of soup and bread was served mid-workshop.

Cuba Connections

Westworth continues to be in relationship with Luyano Presbyterian Church (La Iglesia Presbiteriana Reformada). The community in Cuba is struggling more than ever before, and many find it nearly impossible to feed and house their families adequately. Many have given up, and have relocated, most often in Spain or the US.

Thank You!

The members of the Outreach Team are grateful to and sincerely thank the Westworth Community for its support of the work of the Team in the past year. Working together, we look forward to another exciting and rewarding year of service and education!

Amanda Younka
Jan McIlroy (ad hoc)
Allan McKay
Marion McKay
Kathy McPhail
Christine Strike
Barbara Wynes
Frank Wynes
Tricia Gerhard (ex-officio)

Ruth Wiwchar, Chair

Respectfully Submitted, Ruth Wiwchar

Prairie to Pine Regional Representatives Report

The representatives to the Prairie to Pine Region this year were Dorcas and Kirk Windsor.

Throughout 2024, the Prairie to Pine Council sent weekly newsletters to the representatives by email containing information about regional events, wider church events, educational opportunities, committee/team training, prayer concerns, and items relating to ministry personnel.

The Annual Celebration of New Retirees was held on May 15, 2024, at Crestview United Church in Winnipeg. A banquet and program paid tribute to retirees Elizabeth Brown, Kathy Platt, Lori Stewart and Deborah Vitt.

A Celebration of Ministry Service was held at First United Church in Dauphin on Sunday, June 23, 2024. During the service, Ilene Dowd was ordained and Maureen McCartney was commissioned to Diaconal Ministry.

In the past year, Sparling United and Korean United disbanded as congregations. Sixteen Communities of Faith throughout the Region entered into new collaborative ministry agreements. In Winnipeg, Grey Street United and Gordon King Memorial are now in a collaborative ministry with Rev. Patrick Woodbeck as their ministry personnel; Rev. Marc Whitehead serves Harrow United and Crescent Fort Rouge United.

Meeting yearly in person for an Annual Meeting as was done in the pre-Covid era is no longer feasible due to increased costs and limits on staff time. The Regional Annual General Meeting was held on October 10th and 17th on Zoom. The two Co-Chairs of the Regional Council, Lynne Sanderson and Dawn Rolke, presided over the two-day virtual meeting. Reports and presentations were made, and there were greetings from our Moderator, the Right Reverend Dr. Carmen Lansdowne. The closing worship included the commissioning of the fourteen newly elected Commissioners and four alternates to General Council 45 in Calgary in August of 2025, including our own Tricia Gerhard who was elected as a Commissioner.

We are pleased to serve in the role of representing Westworth at this level of governance of the United Church of Canada.

Respectfully submitted,
Dorcas Windsor

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry group continues to offer comfort to our congregants and others in need. Their efforts have allowed the congregation to reach out to 15 people in 2024. Our shawls were shared with congregants and friends and family. Donations in support of this ministry are welcome.

The Prayer Squares continue to be available for everyone to pick up and share in the Narthex. They have allowed us to reach many more people.

Respectfully submitted by,
Barb Magarrell

Property Team Report

Near the beginning of 2024, the Property Team received the Building Condition Assessment Report from MMP Architects. In many ways, this report has guided our work since that time.

After receiving the report, the property team performed an analysis of the short-term work required and selected a small number of jobs that could potentially be completed during 2024. The highest priority was placed on the roof replacement work that was recommended on the east end of the building (over the east portion of the narthex, the sanctuary, the parlour, the chapel and the music offices and choir room). While the MMP report recommended this entire roof be replaced (excluding the peaked A-frame roof which was re-done a few years ago) at a projected cost of \$314,900, the team identified that this roof was actually divided into four sections. We therefore requested an assessment of and quotes for the various roof sections individually.

Our roofing contractor assessed these sections of roof and felt that with the exception of one roof segment, the east end roof could be monitored and did not require immediate replacement. Further, they determined that the north segment (closest to Grosvenor Ave) could be upgraded with additional insulation and recovered with a new membrane instead of requiring a full roof replacement. As a result, Council approved proceeding with this project and the work was completed over the summer at a cost of just over \$30,000. The roofing contractor has recommended that we continually evaluate the remainder of the roof every two years. By doing so, we should be able to follow a similar pattern with these other roof segments and be able to reduce the cost by upgrading, instead of replacing these roof segments.

The news on the West roof (over the gym, the upstairs offices and upper classroom) was not as positive. This roof will need to be fully replaced. MMP estimated replacing this roof would cost \$350,000. This work is being deferred until larger decisions are made about redeveloping or renovating this section of the building are made. Until that time, we are likely going to face ongoing leaks in this roof.

The other major concern for the Property Team this year has been the condition and operation of the boiler. It seems that each year, the boiler requires more repairs and more expensive repairs than the year before. This was certainly the case in 2024. The MMP report estimated the cost of replacing the boiler and upgrading the heating system at \$250,000. The Property Team's initial assessment of this expense was that it should be deferred until decisions about renovation or redevelopment are made. The team is now beginning to try to understand what sort of costs might be involved in keeping the existing system running for another 5 years, as well as the ultimate cost of replacing the boiler if there is no larger renovation project.

While the items listed above consumed much time and effort in 2024, the Team was also focused on our core mandate of caring for the building and grounds so that all who come to Westworth find a welcoming, clean, and safe place to visit, work and

worship. Fortunately the team is able to rely on our Custodian, Melanie Adams, to keep the church looking as good as it does from day to day. Christine Strike also provides invaluable support in managing rentals and contacting and coordinating service providers who we use to take on larger jobs from time to time.

I'd like to extend my thanks to the members of the property team who give generously of their time and wisdom in service of the mandate of the property team. In 2024 the team consisted of Paul Chard, Al Mapes, Ray McClelland, Allan McKay and Frank Wynes.

Finally, I'd like to thank the Westworth volunteers beyond the Property Team who lend their time and skills in various ways in the gardens and assisting with special clean-ups and sets-ups and take-downs for various events. The Property Team is always welcoming more help. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact any of the team's members.

Submitted by Paul Chard, Property Team Leader.

Senior Choir Report

The Senior Choir has continued to thrive under the leadership of Valdine Anderson, Director of Music, and Megan Dufprat, Collaborative Pianist. As of December 2024, we have 37 members. Alice McGregor (soprano), Evan Glazier (tenor), and Dariyan Dubik (bass) continued with us as choral scholars until June 2024. At that time, we said goodbye to Alice and wished her well as she moved to Toronto to continue her music studies. Evan and Dariyan rejoined us in the fall. Sloan Smith (soprano) and Isabelle Buisson (alto) joined us as new choral scholars. We appreciate all the fine work that our scholars do in support of Westworth's music ministry.

A very well attended Lessons and Carols Service was held on the evening of December 15, 2024. Our guest choir was Winnipeg Sonora Voices. The Westworth Winds played a selection of Christmas music prior to the service. On December 24, the choirs of Westworth and Westminster United participated in a joint Christmas Even service at Westworth. It was a wonderful experience to collaborate with another choir on such a special occasion.

A very successful Sobey's gift card fundraiser was held in the early winter. All proceeds were deposited in the Music Enhancement Fund. The Senior Choir Executive has found that two or three fundraisers are necessary each year to ensure that the Music Enhancement Fund contains sufficient funds to support the Choral Scholars Program. We are proud of the fact that the choir has maintained this fund to the necessary level to support the Program without recourse to Council for financial support.

In December 2024, Council voted to recognize the Senior Choir as a team reporting to Council. (Mandate and responsibilities on following pages) It is our hope that being an integral part of Westworth's organizational structure will improve communication between the choir and other teams with which we work closely. We look forward to our new role within the congregation as members of Council.

Respectfully submitted,
Marion McKay
Choir Executive President

Senior Choir Executive Team

Under the leadership of the Director of Music, the Senior Choir supports the music ministry of the Community of Faith. The Senior Choir Executive ensures that choir members are provided with the administrative, logistical, and social supports necessary to achieve and sustain their full potential as choral musicians, and to grow in the Christian faith.

The Ministry of this Team:

- is to be accomplished respecting Westworth's mission, core values and policies
- is to meet annual goals within approved annual budget
- is to be done in consultation with other Ministry Teams that may be affected by the Team's decisions, as necessary.

Responsibilities

1. In partnership with our Minister and Worship Team, provide leadership in Westworth's ministry of music through:
 - a. Support of congregational singing during worship services.
 - b. Singing anthems and additional service music as requested during worship services.
 - c. Participation in additional congregational worship services, such as funerals and weddings, as requested.
2. Support the development of a strong congregational life through the provision of ministry and fellowship to choir members and their families.
3. Maintain documents to support choir members, including:
 - a. The choir handbook
 - b. A master list of choir members, including contact information, music number, and gown number.
4. Monitor the Music Enhancement Fund, including:
 - a. Initiation of fund-raising activities to support the Fund.
 - b. Liaison with the Finance Team to review the Fund's Terms of Reference and updating these as needed.
 - c. Provision of regular updates re: the status of the Fund to choir members, Finance Team, Council, and the congregation, with a particular focus on the ongoing capacity of the Fund to employ Choral Scholars.
5. Provide the choir with regular updates of the status of the Music Enhancement Fund and the Choir Operating Fund.
6. In collaboration with the Director of Music, appoint Choral Scholars to augment and enhance the choir's capacity to fulfil its responsibility to provide leadership in Westworth's Ministry of Music.
 - a. Administer the contracts offered to and signed by Choral Scholars.
 - b. Ensure that the original copies of said contracts rest with Ministry and Personnel.
 - c. Discuss with and refer to the Director of Music any matters related to the Choral Scholars' performance of their duties.

7. Establish proper policies and procedures for the maintenance of the music library, including:
 - a. Maintenance of a complete and accurate catalogue of the music library holdings
 - b. Maintenance of proper storage facilities for the music library.
 - c. Establishment of policies and procedures for the addition of anthems to the music library and the deletion of anthems from the music library
8. Establishment of proper processes for the care and maintenance of other choir-related assets, including choir gowns, music folders, and hymn books.
9. Support Community of Faith outreach through:
 - a. Participation in worship in personal care homes and other settings as requested by the minister.
 - b. Participation in community-based events such as carol singing and concerts.

Accountability: to the Westworth Community of Faith and Council

- communicate regularly with Council, through their liaison, to report on activities, actions taken, policy recommendations, requests to meet with Council, approval for anything outside of their mandate and anything impacting other Ministry teams
- provide proposed annual budget to Council, as requested by Finance Team
- provide a written report of the Ministry Team's work for inclusion in the Annual Report.

Term & Membership

Two-year term, renewable for up to 6 years. Continuation after that time is at the pleasure of the choir.

Chair

Secretary

Treasurer

Social Convenor

Choir Librarian – appointed by choir executive

Gown-care Person – appointed by choir executive

Director of Music: Ex-officio

Collaborative Pianist: Ex-officio

Minister: Ex-Officio

Meetings: as required to carry out this Ministry effectively

Trustees Report

Congregational property is held by the Trustees. They hold the title and are responsible for the physical property of the church on behalf of the United Church of Canada. Included in this responsibility is ensuring adequate property and liability insurance is in place and this is usually done in consultation with the Property Committee. Trustees must give the same care and attention to congregational property as a reasonable person would give to their own property.

The Trustees met twice in 2024. The Trustees reviewed the financial statements of Westworth and are comfortable there is reasonable financial stability.

Westworth continues to participate in the UCC Protect Master Policy that covers almost 1,000 participants in a national contract. To control escalating costs, the United Church created a self-insurance subsidiary in 2022 (Kindred Insurance). To date, this change has been beneficial with our 2024–2025 premium lower than it was in 2021-2022. Trustees and Property also met in April to update the list of contents along with values and this updated list is in our file at the insurer.

The National Church's decisive move to create its own insurance company should allow more flexibility. User friendly enhancements are currently being developed including, notably, the ability to opt for a cash settlement value instead of building replacement; this option should be evaluated following completion of the Westworth's facility use review.

Respectfully submitted,

The Trustees

Kent Magarrell (Chair), Anne Love, Dan Wiwchar, Tricia Gerhard

United Church Women (UCW) Report

At Westworth, approximately 60 women are affiliated with 3 active groups.

Unit 77 (contact person – Dorcas Windsor) met via Zoom and in person on the third Wednesday afternoon of each month. This year they read and discussed “The Women of Chateau Lafayette”, *Stephanie Day*, “Joan is Okay” *Weike Wang*, “Permanent Astonishment” *Thomson Highway*, “Hello Beautiful” *Ann Napolitano*, “All the Colour in the World” *C. S. Richardson*, “The Women” *Kristin Hannah*, “Valley of the Birdtail” *Andrew Stobo Sniderman and Douglas Sanderson* and “Remarkably Bright Creatures” *Shelby Van Plett*.

Unit 94 (contacts – Heather Crockett and Dorcas Windsor) met on the third Tuesday evening of each month in the Parlour. They learned from a variety of speakers: Elder Mae Louise Campbell and Val Monk regarding the Clan Mother’s Healing Village, John Erskine and Robert Butler regarding the development of “The Reindeer King” musical, Dr. David Gerhardt regarding Artificial Intelligence and international athletics official Jane Edstrom speaking about “the Paris Olympics Experience”. The group also enjoyed a January pot-luck breakfast and a May pot-luck evening. The group assembled 16 layette gift bags for the West Broadway Well Baby Program, which included knitted blankets and hats from Morag Bergthorson and sewn items from Dorothy Reid and Nancy Doern-White.

In January 2024, an exploratory meeting was held to see if there was interest in developing a new women’s group. The **Women’s Klatch** (contact Christine Strike) was formed and they have enjoyed lunches, a paint night, a trip to The Leaf and attending a musical concert at St. Andrews River Heights UC.

After a 5-year hiatus, our **UCW Thankoffering Service and Dessert Party** was held on June 3. Over 50 people (from WW, Harrow and St. Andrews) attended the worship service and listened to Patty Mainville, the Executive Director of **Rossbrook House** discuss her history with Rossbrook House and the current programming offered. Many in attendance made a thankoffering to the **United Church Mission and Service Fund**, and over \$800.00 was raised. Afterwards, everyone enjoyed delicious fruit and desserts while visiting in the gym.

The Timeless Treasures Sale, with Preserves and Bake Table, and Tea Room with Scones took place on October 26. This community building event was co-chaired by Wendy Moroz and Janet Sealey. We attracted over 500 visitors and raised over \$15,200. Ken Martin’s artwork was also available for sale. Many thanks to the volunteers who spent countless hours preparing items to be sold, setting up, pricing items, advertising, organizing shifts for volunteers, serving, washing dishes, packing items, counting money and cleaning up. Thanks also the Westworth Walkers for delivering advertising flyers for this event to homes in the neighbourhood. Having the use of the “Dungeon” for year-round storage of donated items has been very helpful.

In December, **shortbread** was prepared by several UCW members and trays were again assembled by Jennifer Snyder. These trays were delivered by volunteers who do one-on-one visiting on behalf of the Westworth **Community Care Team**.

Donations were made in 2024 to the **Memorial Fund** in memory of Doris Woodward, Sheila Davis and Betty Aitchison.

The UCW supported the **Special Appeals Fund** with a donation of \$500.

Nancy Doern-White, UCW Coordinator

Scenes from Timeless Treasures



Vacation Bible School Report

This July, Rev Tricia along with Evan Demeduk and Chuck Rodgers planned and ran a weeklong Vacation Bible School with the theme: What Every Living Thing Needs. The camp ran for five days and had 10 participants. We explored the theme of what living things need to live – shelter, food, water, air and community – and how we can have compassion for the earth, especially the local ecosystems. The focal text for the week was Psalm 104 and we looked at things like gratitude, wonderment, kinship through art, yoga, storytelling, poetry, play, community building and outside time.

We tie-dyed t-shirts, built animal shelters out of clay and found materials, went to the wading pool, did yoga outside (it was really hot!), had snacks, watched Magic School bus, learnt about the water cycle, had singing time with Judy Brown, painted trees with Christine Strike, read story books, tried our hands at writing and reading poetry. It was a busy five days and it seemed like the kids really enjoyed their time. They were asking if we were going to do it again next year! Very thankful for the volunteers – Kevin Sim and Jacob Gerhard – who were able to offer a helping hand whenever needed.

Evan and Chuck were paid staff who helped to plan and facilitate the week alongside Rev. Tricia. The money for their pay came from a Vision Fund grant with the intention of giving them the opportunity to learn leadership skills.

Respectfully Submitted
Tricia Gerhard

Visioning Committee Report

In 2024, the Visioning Committee consisted of Keith Love, Dianne Sjoberg, Sharon Stanley, Janet Sealey, Arlene Hintsa, Tricia Gerhard, Marilyn Anderson Corkum, and Helen Halliday. We met roughly biweekly and often did considerable additional work between meetings. I wish to thank each one of the Committee members for their hard work, constructive input, collaborative spirit, and unwavering dedication to a positive future for Westworth United Church.

Bruce Tefft, Chair

Community of Faith Preferences in Light of the Building Assessment

In April 2024, the joint Visioning Committee and Property Team held two public meetings with the Community of Faith to summarize the results of the comprehensive building assessment completed in late 2023 and to answer questions. In June, the C of F was asked to consider four options:

- 1) Proceed with needed repairs as funds permit (i.e., business as usual).
- 2) Demolish and rebuild the west end to accommodate new church space, healthy living activities for older adults, and a daycare.
- 3) Demolish and rebuild the west end to accommodate new church space, healthy living activities for older adults, a daycare, and affordable housing.
- 4) Begin planning to move WUC to a new building, likely within 5 years.

C of F members were asked to rank these options on a continuum from 1 to 4, with 1 being “the option you are most likely to support with your volunteer time, expertise, enthusiasm, and/or money”, and 4 being “the option you are least likely to support.” Roughly one-third of the votes supported Option 1, whereas roughly two-thirds supported Option 3 and/or Option 4. The Visioning Committee, with the concurrence of the Westworth United Church Council, interpreted the vote to mean that the Committee should pursue Option 3 and/or Option 4, as these were both consistent with our long-standing intention to become a community hub serving River Heights and the surrounding area.

Visioning Committee Mandate

Near the end of 2024, the Visioning Committee and Council agreed that the mandate approved for the Committee in 2023 (literally to envision the best path forward for WUC) had been fulfilled. Therefore, a new mandate was deemed necessary. Below is that mandate, approved by Council:

To explore all aspects of redeveloping Westworth as a community hub, which may include new church space, a daycare, affordable housing, a community nurse, healthy living activities for older adults, etc. The Committee's exploration will include but is not limited to feasibility, necessary steps, timelines, costs, sources of funding, and governance. This detailed information will be conveyed to Council as it becomes available, which will then decide how best to proceed. Ultimately, the Community of Faith and the United Church of Canada will have the final say in how we go forward.

Below are more specific steps toward achieving the overarching goal:

- 1) Develop detailed floor plans for the area west of the sanctuary that would represent the best use of space for Westworth to become a community hub incorporating WUC, a daycare, and affordable housing.
- 2) Work with 546 Architects to determine if our vision of Westworth as a community hub is feasible from the perspective of architecture, engineering, building, costs, etc.
- 3) Apply for grants and/or other financial resources to fund the above work.
- 4) If our vision is feasible, present this to the Council and Community of Faith for their consideration and approval.
- 5) Apply for grants and/or other financial resources to keep Westworth Centre active and vibrant.
- 6) Recruit an experienced housing provider to partner with us regarding the housing component of Westworth as a community hub.
- 7) Apply for rezoning Westworth at such time that it becomes necessary.
- 8) Continue to work with MLA Mike Moroz and other faith groups to create a shared community nurse position.
- 9) Collaborate with the Council to initiate a Capital Funding Campaign regarding repairing and/or rebuilding Westworth.

Accountability/Reporting:

The Visioning Committee is responsible to the Council and Community of Faith. It will:

- Take notes or minutes at each of its meetings and distribute them to the Leadership Team and Archives.
- Provide a written or oral report at monthly Council meetings and take direction from Council.
- Consult with Ministry Team Leaders and Committee Chairs as necessary for advice and to engage the whole Leadership Team as appropriate in Visioning activities.
- Keep the Community of Faith informed regarding its work.

Membership:

A minimum of five members, with the autonomy to add members with necessary skills and expertise as the need arises.

Term:

2-year term, renewable as needed.

Funding the Required Professional Work to Determine the Feasibility of Becoming a Community Hub

To determine the feasibility of Westworth United Church transitioning into a community hub, considerable detailed architectural, engineering, mechanical, and other professional work is necessary, as would be applying for rezoning. The cost involved is estimated to be in the range of \$325,000.

In 2024, the Visioning Committee submitted a grant application for \$320,000 to the Winnipeg Foundation capital grants program to help pay the above expenses. Although our intention was very well-received by WF, they prefer to fund projects that are much closer to being “shovel ready” than ours. We were encouraged by WF to reapply in 2025.

We also submitted an application for \$100,000 to a new provincial funding program focused on community development, called From The Ground Up. Again, the program was hugely over-subscribed, and we were unsuccessful.

More positively, Jordy Craddock of 546 Architecture, with whom we had been meeting since late 2023, received a federal grant to explore ways in which non-profits like us can be encouraged to provide affordable housing. With the blessing of Council, we enthusiastically agreed to become one of his research sites. At no cost to us, Mr. Craddock and his colleagues will be able to do some of the detailed professional work referred to above. In addition, they will enable us to be aware of, and apply to, granting bodies that we would not otherwise know about.

Westworth Centre Programming

The Westworth United Church Council authorized Westworth Centre (a subcommittee of Visioning) to operate as a demonstration project of the church as part of the ongoing effort to transition into a community hub. WC programming was to be nondenominational and aimed at the community at large, rather than religiously oriented and aimed at the WUC community of faith.

A community assessment in 2021-2022 had indicated the need for such programming, offered free or at low cost. Older adults living in the community surrounding Westworth were judged to be disproportionately socially isolated, physically inactive, and lonely. These circumstances are known to contribute significantly to poor physical and mental health. Goals of supporting older adults socially and in healthy living endeavors were set.

Beginning November 2023, a program coordinator was hired using existing Visioning Committee grant funds. She initiated such activities as Bridge, Community Chat mornings, Line Dancing, Chair Yoga, Tai Chi, Guitar Lessons, and a speaker series. The speaker series has offered such topics as Nutrition, Mediterranean Diet, Senior Safety, Scam Awareness, Travelogues etc.

Program participation grew steadily and had a core group of approximately 60+ older adults by the end of the year. Plans are being made to add a Cornhole League and a Bridge Lesson Series, beginning early in 2025.

Unfortunately, the grant funds that allowed 2024 to be so successful have now been depleted. Moreover, money for continued Westworth Centre programming is meager and very difficult to come by. Despite applying to several sources, we have not been able to secure adequate resources for 2025. Although we will continue to apply for external funds, a budget request has been submitted to the Finance Committee that would allow for continuity of programming.

Involvement of United Church Property Commission and Prairie to Pine Region

In 2019, The United Church of Canada established UPRC to assist communities of faith, regional councils, and other United Church entities in making faithful and prudent property decisions. UPRC is the first point of contact for all property matters and helps all levels of the church to navigate property decisions. Working across the denomination, UPRC provides advisory services to create a sustainable ecosystem that continues to serve the common good. The Rev. Miriam Bowlby is their Director of Church Engagement. In 2024, the Visioning Committee met with her both in-person

and virtually. Rev. Bowlby has offered to provide expert consultation to us regarding financial, legal, governance, and administrative issues.

In September 2024, Dwight Rutherford, Property Commission advisor to Prairie to Pine Region (P2P), graciously shared his knowledge of similar projects, along with our requirements re: communication with the Region on plans:

a. Guidelines for working with the region on changes to building and governance structures.

i. The UC Regional structure now gives much leeway to pastoral charges/CsOF in decision-making regarding buildings and future directions

ii. The Visioning Committee should present the proposal from 546 Architecture to Council for approval, which can then be sent to Prairie to Pine Region.

iii. When P2P has given the go ahead to proceed, any funding/loans/mortgages need to be approved by P2P, which applies similar expectations as would a lending institution.

iv. P2P would not see hiring a project manager as a structural change, so if Council deemed it necessary to hire a professional to guide us through the process, it would not have to be vetted through P2P.

Initiative to Host a Community Nurse At Westworth Centre

Encouraged by Amanda Yonka (Public Health, WRHA) and the new River Heights MLA, Mike Moroz, we collaborated with several other faith communities regarding developing a shared community nursing position. Mr. Moroz has committed to recommending to the provincial Minister of Health that he fund a three-year demonstration grant to employ such a nurse. Information about nursing needs in the area has been gathered to support such an application (special thanks to Arlene Hintsa). Mr. Moroz is very enthusiastic about grassroots, collaborative community development and has been a strong advocate for us.

W3TA

With an email list of thirty people and a weekly group of between 6 and 16, W3TA continues to serve a need for an hour's worth of free-wheeling conversation mixed with a bit of exercise. This group meets each Tuesday at 1:00 PM year-round to walk together in a variety of locations. A few firsts in 2024 were: a tour of Kildonan Cemetery, where we found the names of several well-known United Church folk, a walk along the Bois-des-Esprit trail, the addition of a few people from St Andrews' River Heights who have joined some of our jaunts, and a walk in a mall!! The weather outside was frightful, but the outlet mall welcomed us with warm arms. We're a very flexible group as far as location is concerned. We especially want to thank Christine Strike for allowing us to invade her space on a few weather-related occasions when we walked the church halls.

For those of you who missed the explanation of our name, this group was originally planned for Wednesdays, so was known as **Westworth Wednesday Walkers (W cubed)**, but we had to shift days of the week, and became a **Tuesday Afternoon** version - hence and thus the **W3TA** moniker, and we welcome anyone who would like to stroll with some pretty friendly people.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dianne Sjoberg

Women's Spirituality Group Report

The Women's Spirituality Group met January to June and September to December 2024 usually the second Saturday of the month. Our meetings were held in the Church Parlour except January-March when we met on Zoom. For our June meeting we gathered in Teresa Szabata's backyard for a social time. We are an inclusive group and welcome any person who identifies as a woman. As well, non Westworth members are welcome to participate. The Group provides a supportive and non judgmental atmosphere for women to explore their spiritual journeys.

Our format continues to be the same; Opening prayer, Personal Sharing, and discussion about a topic chosen by the group. Members take turns facilitating the discussion. As always our topics were wide ranging and included: "Finding Light during Epiphany and throughout the Year"; "What to Do When We Need Plan B or even C?"; "How is Technology Affecting our Mental and Spiritual Health?"; "Spirituality of Walking"; "Something We Cherish and would Never Leave Behind?"; "Grief/Hospice Experience"; and "Angels".

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Wilson

Worship Team Report

The mandate of the Worship Team is to “provide leadership in the assessment of the needs of the congregation for worship and in the development and delivery of worship that sustains and enriches our faith journey. This is to include offering a variety of music” and “to develop meaningful in-person and online worship for the congregations...in partnership with our Minister.” In addition to various administrative tasks, the Worship Team organizes ushering, scripture reading, and administration of the sacraments; our duties also include supporting and encouraging the minister and other church leaders, church choirs, the pianist/organist and lay readers.

This past year was not nearly as eventful as was 2023, with its many comings and goings, celebrations and special services. As such, the Worship Team had an opportunity to focus more on various aspects of regular services and to develop our working relationship with our great team of Worship leaders, Rev. Tricia Gerhard, Valdine Anderson and Megan Dufurat.

At each meeting, we review past services and discuss upcoming services. Additional issues and projects this year included:

- use of the offertory plate (re-incorporated into the service after a hiatus during COVID)
- earlier placement of Communion during the service so that youth can participate before going to Sunday School
- ordination anniversaries celebration (Earl Goulds' 50th and Tricia Gerhard's 20th)
- discussion of feedback about the AV system and assistive listening devices
- purchase of a piano humidifier (which Council agreed to fund through the Memorial Fund)
- adding sign language for portions of services (thanks to Margaret Newberry Jones)
- Pride Day (decision about whether or not to cancel the service – we decided not to this year)
- the outdoor service at Assiniboine Park
- how often to do the land acknowledgement (once per month verbally and weekly in the order of service)
- request from the UCC for events for the 100th anniversary
- length of announcements
- feedback from the congregation about hymns
- piano rental and servicing by the Manitoba Chamber Orchestra
- organ maintenance
- whether or not to have the breakfast service after Christmas

Our Worship leaders, Tricia, Valdine and Megan, now with over a year of experience at Westworth, are doing a superb job of creating and facilitating meaningful and beautiful services – and they are a pleasure to work with!

Our team has been happy to note that attendance numbers remained relatively steady in the early part of the year and appeared to grow during the last three to four months. Several new congregants decided to continue attending after sampling our welcoming and often innovative services and great music. We also have seen a delightful increase in youth attendance and participation.

Notable and/or new this year were a moving and engaging Orange Shirt Sunday with Jordan Bighorn and Walking Wolf Drummer; Holy Humour Sunday; and the youth Christmas pageant.

Our year concluded with the joyous Lessons and Carols service and wonderful Christmas services. We were delighted to welcome Westminster United Church to join our congregation and choir for the late Christmas service. Our reputation for musical excellence continues.

Along with our staff Worship leaders, there are many others who contribute to our Worship ministry, and all are much appreciated:

- Eunice Pratt for organizing ushers
- Bettina Nyman for organizing communion servers
- Dorothy Reid, Arlene Hintsa and the team of greeters for warmly welcoming those attending services
- Christine Strike for arranging for our meeting space, supplying budget figures and providing online and in-person attendance numbers
- Retired ministers in our congregation who offered pulpit supply and pastoral care when Tricia was away: Rev. Marilyn Anderson Corkum, Rev. Ray Cuthbert, Rev. Earl Gould, Rev. Larry McPhail, Rev. Barbara Roberts, Rev. Heather Robbins, and Rev. Mac Watts.
- Petra Thanisch and Eunice Pratt for preparing the communion elements
- Rev. Marilyn Anderson Corkum for arranging and directing Worthy Players theatrical presentations
- Marion McKay, for her gorgeous, detailed new quilted communion runner and banner
- Members of the Senior Choir, for their many hours of practice, dedication to sharing their harmonious voices, and integral contribution to our services
- Our enthusiastic and skilled scripture readers (who make my job of organizing scripture readers a joy)
- Ray McClelland for his gracious donation of many hours of work organizing and leading The Westworth Winds and for its stirring contributions to several special services throughout the church year
- Peter Sim and the Tech Team for constantly working to provide and improve amplification of our services and for facilitating the still popular livestreamed services
- Petra Thanisch for decorating the church according to the church year and leading a small group of enthusiastic assistants in Christmas decorating
- Alan Wilson for baking delicious bread for communion and Nancy Williamson for providing gluten-free bread
- Katie Anderson, the Christian Education team and Sunday school youth for their contributions to the services, particularly the Christmas pageant.

A special mention is merited for Glenn Aitchison, our cherished Sacristan and Worship Team member. We were deeply saddened by Glenn's passing early in January. Glenn considered it an honour to serve as Sacristan and he served with humility, dedication, conscientiousness and self-initiative. No detail was too small for his attention: Many did not know that, each Sunday, he would open the bible on the offertory table, in consultation with Tricia, to an appropriate reading. Glenn was a

longstanding member of our congregation, and he felt sustained and nurtured by us; we, too, were nourished by his kindness and devotion. He will be dearly missed. I personally would like to thank our hardworking and dedicated Worship Team (in alphabetical order): Valdine Anderson, Cathy Beynon, Megan Dufurat, Tricia Gerhard, Bettina Nyman, George Nyman, Eunice Pratt and Petra Thanisch. Thank you also to our Council Liaison, Dianne Sjoberg, for her enthusiasm and attention to our needs. One of the intentions that was set by the Worship Team for 2024 was to increase our accessibility, and our interactions between the congregation and our team. We also aimed to “provide continuity in the traditions of Westworth worship while supporting the unique contribution of the new Ministry team.” We hope that we have been able to realize these intentions. Please let us know whether we have succeeded and if there is anything that we can do better. We welcome feedback.

Respectfully submitted
 Teresa Sztaba, Worship Team Lead

Worship Year in Review:

Milestones:

- Earl Gould's 50th anniversary of ordination
- Tricia Gerhard's 20th anniversary of ordination

Special services and membership:

- 12 Funerals
- 0 Baptisms
- 0 Confirmations
- 0 Transfers of membership in
- 2 Transfers of membership out
- 0 Removals of membership

Attendance:

	<u>In-Person Attendance</u>	<u>Online Views</u>
Jan. 7: At St. Andrew's		
Jan. 14: Star	95	60
Jan. 21	85	54
Jan. 28	100	51
Feb. 4: Communion	88	61
Feb. 11	80	72
Feb. 18	80	83
	<u>In-Person Attendance</u>	
<u>Online Views</u>		
Feb. 25	90	73
Mar. 3	75	65
Mar. 10, 17, 24 (figures not provided)		
Mar. 28: Maundy Thursday at St. Andrew's		
Mar 29: Good Friday, St. Andrew's choir at Westworth	110	66
Mar. 31: Easter Sunday (with Hallelujah Chorus)	175	99
Apr. 7: Holy Humour Sunday and communion	100	46
Apr. 14: Volunteer Appreciation	120	52

Apr. 21: Earth Sunday	110	41
Apr. 28	100	51
May 5: Communion	85	39
May 12: Family Sunday, blessing of wheels (inc. in ASL)	90	34
May 19: First day of Pentecost	85	80
May 26; Tricia away	85	57
June 2: Tricia at Pride Day Parade, Ray Cuthbert preached	85	51
June 9: Communion	65	51
June 16: Parable of the mustard seed	65	
June 23: Indigenous day of prayer	55	66
June 30: St. Andrew's at Westworth	50	
July 7: St. Andrew's at Westworth	55	
July 14: St. Andrew's at Westworth	45	
July 21: St. Andrew's at Westworth	40	
Sept. 8: Communion, Creation 1	60	43
Sept. 15: Outdoor service at Assiniboine Park, Creation 2	60	
Sept. 22: Creation 3	85	43
Sept. 29: Orange Shirt Sunday with Jordan Bighorn and Walking Wolf Drummers	80	44
Oct. 6: World Communion, Heather Robbins and Barbara Roberts preaching	75	39

	<u>In-Person Attendance</u>	<u>Online Views</u>
Oct. 13: Thanksgiving, Earl Gould preaching	70	50
Oct. 20: World Food Sunday	90	45
Oct. 27: Proper 25	95	50
Nov. 3: Communion, All Saints		
Nov. 10: Remembrance Sunday, Westworth Winds	140	126
Nov. 17: Children's Sunday (intergenerational service)	100	57
Nov. 24: Reign of Christ Sunday	90	72
Dec. 1: Advent 1 and Communion	120	76
Dec. 8: Advent 2	100	46
Dec. 15: Advent 3	108	59
Dec. 15: Lessons and Carols	300	140
Dec. 20: Blue Christmas	20-25	
Dec. 22: Christmas pageant	125	50
Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Family Service 4:00 p.m.		
December 24: Christmas Eve late service 9:00 p.m. with Westminster United congregation and choir at Westworth	125	
Dec. 29: Song, laughter and lessons (joined by St. Andrew's); with cookies and cider		

New or Revised Policies

Auditor(s) Appointment Policy, revised February 27, 2024*
Child Abuse Registry Checks Policy, February 27, 2024*
Criminal Record Checks for Staff, June 22, 2004
Deletion of Titles from the Westworth Music Library Policy, January 28, 2025
Fundraising Policy, January 30, 2023*
Grant Funding Policy, January 30, 2023*
Photography and Videos Policy, January 30, 2024*
Safe Work/Working Alone or in Isolation, February 27, 2024*
Salary Adjustments Policy, September 24, 2024
Sign Guidelines Policy, November 28, 2023*
Support for Winnipeg Free Press Faith Page, revised April 30, 2024

**indicates policy was passed in 2023-2024 year*

Passages of Congregants

In Memoriam and In Honour Donations

Memorial Donations in memory of:

Doris Woodward

Betty Aitchison

Sheila Davis

Douglas MacEwan

Bequests:

Roll Clerk's Report 2024

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP, DECEMBER 31, 2023 283

ADDED TO ROLL:

By Transfer	0
By Profession of Faith	0
By Confirmation	<u>0</u>

REMOVED FROM ROLL:

By Death	5
By Transfer	2
Removed by Worship Team	0
Asked to be Removed	0

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP, DECEMBER 31, 2024 276

TOTAL ADHERENTS, DECEMBER 31, 2024 (including children) 267

TOTAL CLERGY in Covenant with Westworth (excluding minister) 9

NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS (including members, adherents & clergy) 240

Registry Records

Baptisms

Confirmations

Funerals/Graveside Services

Will Firth
Armelle Evoy
Katherine Wiebe
Denis Cadieux
Betty Aitchison
Brian Fawkes
Cam Stacey
Douglas MacEwan
Ian McCorrister
Sheila Davis
Richard Jones

Marriages

Monica Zirk & Grant Labossiere

Transfer out

Tim & Pat Stephenson

Transfer In

Special Appeals & Children's Fund

Theological Education

All 4 organizations listed remain active. Will continue to support them.
Noted that Sandy Saulteaux Centre is offering reconciliation youth programming.

Local Social Justice

All 6 programs will to continue to receive our donation.
1 JustCity – will designate that the money is to go to the West Broadway site Jubilee Fund - Noted this provides support to small high risk local businesses.

Youth Support

Days for Girls to remain.
Rock Lake Camp is hiring again this year so we will add them back to our list.
Will also add the Rainbow Resource Centre (new for this committee)
Amount will remain at \$250.00 for each program.

2024 Special Appeals Fund disbursement:

Theological education	Prairie to Pine Regional Council Bursary Fund	250.
	St. Andrews College	250.
	Sandy Saulteaux Spiritual Centre	250.
	Centre for Christian Studies	250.
Local social justice	Willow Place	250.
	1 Just City – for West Broadway site	250.
	L.I.T.E. (local investment towards employment)	250.
	Rossbrook House	250.
	Jubilee Fund	250.
	St. Boniface Street Links	250.
Youth support	Days for Girls, Winnipeg Chapter	250.
	Rock Lake Camp	250.
	Rainbow Resource Centre	250.
	Total	3250.

Westworth Leadership Team & Volunteers

March 2025 – February 2026

Names in bold are on the Leadership Team
* indicates new to position since previous AGM

Council Members

Responsible for the overall vision and day to day ministries of the congregation

Chair: **Rhea Yates** (1 year remaining)
Vice Chair: Position not filled
Secretary: **Jan McIlroy** (renewing for 3rd year)
Member at Large: **Kathy McPhail** (renewing for 2nd year)
Member at Large: **Nancy Williamson***
Treasurer: **Denise Jones** (renewing for 3rd year)
M & P Chair: Position not filled
Minister: **Tricia Gerhard**

Finance and Stewardship Committee

Responsible for financial activities within the church, stewardship, and on-going financial reporting

Chair and Treasurer: **Denise Jones**
Sam Andrew
Jenny Jeffers (Church Accountant)
Wendy Moroz
Walter Watts
Allan Baker
Paul Edwards
Ron Bailey

Ministry and Personnel Committee

Provides leadership in the area of Human Resources allowing staff to successfully carry out their responsibilities

Chair: Position not filled
Janice Neumann
Daryl Brooks
Judy Steen
Tannis Hewitt*

Visioning Committee

Explores redevelopment options for the church and potential community partners

Chair: **Bruce Tefft** (renewing for 3rd year)
Arlene Hints
Keith Love
Al Mapes
Dianne Sjoberg
Sharon Stanley
Marilyn Anderson Corkum
Tricia Gerhard

Affirming Ministry Team

Helps the teams, committees and congregation become more attentive to diverse identities

Chair: **Heather Robbins** (renewing for 3rd year)
Andrea Firth
Kim O'Grady*

Glenda Oldham*
Petra Thanisch
Dorcas Windsor

Archives Team

Organizes and maintains the safe storage of materials of historical significance to Westworth

Team Leader: **Diane Riordan** (renewing for 14th year; 7 years over maximum)
Karla Farstad
Mary Fultz
Sandy Marles
Allan McKay*
Marion McKay
Diane Riordan
Kathy Wilson

Christian Education Team

Initiates and coordinates faith development opportunities for children, youth and young families

Team Leader: **Leslie Rodgers** (renewing for 3rd year)
Danielle Cadieux
Cheryl Ennis
Julia Shayna
Brooklyn Linnick
Ed White
Rachel Doerr
Katie Anderson, Coordinator for Children, Youth and Family Ministries (ex-officio)
Library: Kathy Wilson
Lorraine Moore

Communication Team

Distributes information about the church and its activities to current and prospective members using all forms of media

Team Leader: Position not filled
Peter Sim (AV)
Ed White (social media)

Community Care Team

Facilitates connecting with and caring for each other and welcoming newcomers

Team Leader: **Sharon Stanley*** (renewing for 2nd year)
Heather Crockett
Arlene Hints
Judy Steen
Shirley Watts

Community Care Support Team:

Funeral Coordinator: Wendy Moroz
Greeters: Arlene Hints, Al Mapes, Dorothy Reid
Cards to Congregants: Nancy Williamson

One on One Visitors: Nancy Doern-White, Earl Gould, Barb Gwyer, Arlene Hints, Carol Hunter, Allan McKay, Marion McKay, Wendy Moroz, Dorothy Reid, Heather Robbins, Shirley Ann Simkulak, Shirley Watts, Carol Wilkie, Nancy Williamson, Kathy Wilson, Dorcas Windsor.

Outreach Team

Raises awareness and understanding of issues related to social justice and environmental stewardship from a faith perspective

Team Leader: **Christine Strike*** (renewable to 6 years in two year terms)

Jan McIlroy

Allan McKay

Marion McKay

Kathy McPhail

Ruth Wiwchar

Barbara Wynes

Frank Wynes

Rev. Tricia Gerhard – minister (ex-officio)

and the Community of Faith of WUC

Property Team

Oversees the maintenance of the building and grounds; arranges for custodial assistance and manages rentals

Team Leader: **Paul Chard** (renewing for 4th year)

Frank Wynes

Ray McClelland

Allan McKay

Al Mapes

Kyle Mitchell

Senior Choir Executive

Under the leadership of the Director of Music, the Senior Choir supports the music ministry of the Community of Faith. The Senior Choir Executive ensures that choir members are provided with the administrative, logistical, and social supports necessary to achieve and sustain their full potential as choral musicians, and to grow in the Christian faith.

Team Leader: **Marion McKay** (renewable to 6 years in two year terms)

Judy Brown (secretary)

Neil Arnason (treasurer)

Carol Wilkie (music librarian)

Nancy Williamson (gowns)

Colleen Armstrong (social convenor)

Megan Dufrot - Collaborative pianist (ex-officio)

Valdine Anderson - Director of Music (ex-officio)

Rev. Tricia Gerhard - Minister (ex-officio)

Worship Team

Assists in the development and delivery of sustaining and enriching worship including music in collaboration with the Minister, Director of Music, and Collaborative Pianist

Team Leader: **Teresa Sztaba** (renewing for 3rd year); organizes scripture readers

Bettina Nyman: finds communion servers; Co-Secretary

Eunice Pratt: communion prep; Co-Secretary

Petra Thanisch: decorations & banners; communion prep

Cathy Beynon
George Nyman
Rev. Tricia Gerhard – Minister (ex-officio)
Valdine Anderson – Director of Music (ex-officio)
Megan Dufprat - Collaborative Pianist/Organist (ex-officio)

Support People: Alan Wilson – bakes the communion bread
Position not filled - Sacristan

Trustees

Provides leadership and direction in reference to Westworth's property, funds and risk management

Chair: **Kent Magarrell** (renewing for 15th year)
Anne Love
Dan Wiwchar
Tricia Gerhard

UCW

Through various units, builds spirit-filled relationships among women, our congregation, and beyond Westworth

Coordinator: **Nancy Doern-White** (renewing for 12th year)
Unit Convenors: Dorcas Windsor (Unit 77)
Heather Crockett and Dorcas Windsor (Unit 94)
New Women's Group (as of Jan 2024) –contact – Christine Strike

Prairie to Pine Region Representatives

Liases between Westworth and the wider United Church

Kirk Windsor (renewing 3rd year)
Dorcas Windsor (renewing 3rd year)

Building our church community-

Volunteers are needed in all areas of the church community. We are so happy and thankful for all of our volunteers. If you are able to volunteer please speak to one of the Team Leaders or Committee Chairs, or call the church office for contact information. Let us help find the right place for you.

If you are interested in learning about the roles and responsibilities of each team or committee please see the Manual on the Westworth website under Home/Documents.

Finance and Stewardship Committee Report

Thank you

A heartfelt thanks to you and the hundreds of others that financially supported Westworth in 2024. While money is not an easy topic, it is a necessary one. We are grateful to be part of a Community of Faith that asks questions about our finances and engages with us when they have concerns. It is a gratifying part of actioning our goal to be accountable and transparent in this ministry.

Our 2024 committee membership stayed the same – Walter Watts, Wendy Moroz, Sam Andrew, Paul Edwards, Allan Baker, and Ron Bailey – and I am grateful for their gifts of time, patience, expertise, and friendship throughout the year. Together, we thank staff members Jenny Jeffers (Church Accountant) and Christine Strike (Church Administrator) for their thoughtful and consistent support of our volunteer efforts and for carrying out the day-to-day finance work.

What kept us busy

2024 gave us another fascinating behind the scenes view of Westworth operations. We reviewed the monthly financial reports and managed Westworth's funds and GIC investments. We supported Ministry Team work by reviewing fundraising and grant proposals for their financial obligations and implications. We planned and carried out the annual stewardship campaign. We fielded questions from the Community of Faith, Donors, and Ministry Teams, and the treasurer attended the monthly Council meetings to advise on financial matters. Finally, we worked with the Church accountant to draft the budget and presented it to Council. Each year, we follow the same path to bring the budget to you:

1. In the fall, we ask and encourage you to pledge your intended donation to Westworth for the coming year during the Stewardship Campaign.
2. In November, we solicit budget requests from Ministry Teams for their coming year's work.
3. In December, we review past year reports, compile information on pledges, budget requests, projected bills, and expected revenues to create a draft budget for the General Fund. We follow 'zero-based budgeting' for the General Fund budget which:
 - a. aligns with our annual Stewardship donation pledge cycle,
 - b. helps avoid incremental inflation common to traditional budgeting, and
 - c. helps us eliminate worry that Ministry Team budgets will be decreased next year if they don't spend the entire amount allotted this year.
4. In January, the Treasurer presents the draft budget to Council. They review and vote on whether it should be circulated to the Community of Faith for a vote at the Annual General Meeting.

2024 Financial Highlights

The fund for Westworth's regular expenses and income is the General Fund. While the 2024 General Fund budget projected a deficit, we ended the year with a surplus. What made the difference? Higher than anticipated income and lower than expected energy costs.

- Of note were higher income lines for donations, UCW, building rental, weddings

and funerals, and interest.

- On the expense side, the heating bill line was nearly half what was anticipated due to oil and gas rates being low and milder temperatures.

Since we have not needed to dip into our savings and investments, they remain strong. This helps safeguard our operations for the short term if the year ends in deficit.

2025 Budget Overview

General Fund

The number of pledges we received during the Stewardship Campaign was on par with last year and 82% of them increased by at least 3%, as we requested. However, the pledged donations and other estimated income do not cover our anticipated 2025 expenses, so we are projecting a deficit of just over \$27,000.

Our recent trend has been *projected but, in the end, not realized* deficits for the General Fund. Thankfully, by year end, donation and income lines exceed what was pledged and estimated. As expected, the biggest expenses anticipated for 2025 are salaries and building related:

- Salaries are up 3% as required by the United Church of Canada for ministerial staff and as recommended by the Ministry and Personnel Committee and Council for non-ministerial staff.
- The Property Team expense line is up \$10,000 from last year to cover upcoming boiler repairs.

Special note on Visioning

At budget preparation time, the ad hoc Visioning Committee advised that they may have additional expenses related to a building proposal in 2025. Since the costs are largely unknown at this time and the decisions around the proposal have long-term financial implications, we recommended that Council not incorporate them into the 2025 General Fund budget. Rather, once the proposal is ready with fulsome cost estimates, the Community of Faith will be engaged for a vote.

Building Reserve Fund

The Property Team plans to spend approximately \$20,000 on proposed upgrade projects that were identified as critical in the 2023 Building Condition Assessment. Property will manage the expenses for these projects within the limits of their spending authority per the Building Reserve Fund Policy. Finance transferred \$15,000 from the General Fund surplus to the Building Reserve Fund to help bolster it after roof repair costs were incurred in 2024 and passed a motion allocating all donations received (around \$28,000 to date) from the Ken Martin Art Sale to the Building Reserve Fund to ensure those funds can be put to critical projects that will benefit the Community of Faith.

Music Enhancement Fund

The Senior Choir Team is projecting a modest net surplus for 2025 if their fundraising efforts go as planned. Their expenses are stable and, as is the health of the fund overall due to the Senior Choir Team's diligent management, oversight, and fundraising endeavours.

Small Funds

The Archives Ministry Team plans to use \$200 for archival supplies from their portion of the 'Small Funds' tracked by Finance. This is in line with previous years and is often offset by donations designated for use by the Archive team.

Questions?

Contact me before the AGM if you have finance questions and I will share summaries of responses with everyone leading up to the AGM.

Respectfully submitted by Denise Jones, treasurer@westworth.ca
Treasurer & Finance and Stewardship Committee Chair

Financial Review

I have reviewed and evaluated the financial report, records and internal controls of Westworth for the year 2024. This review included examination of the records of deposits, recording, filing and payment of invoices, all matters related to the payroll and bank reconciliations.

The review also included an assessment of the separation of duties for all individuals who deal with monies. The handling of financial records was also evaluated with respect to privacy and security.

Based on this review it is my opinion that the financial records of Westworth United Church are handled in an appropriate manner and in accordance with the guidelines of the United Church of Canada (Section G.4.4, The Manual). In addition, it is my opinion that the financial statements adequately reflect the financial activity of Westworth for the past year.

Lynne McCarthy CFA, MBA

Statement of Operations and Change in Fund Balances

Westworth United Church

Statement of Operations and Changes in Fund Balances

December 31							2024	2023
	General Fund			Westworth	Building	Other	Total	Total
	2025	2024	2024	Fund	Reserve Fund	Funds		
	Budget	Actual	Budget					
Receipts								
Donations	275,195	274,830	254,950	93		14,444	289,366	284,646
M&S	34,366	32,056	34,649				32,056	35,314
Open Plate	2,000	2,735	3,000				2,735	1,850
Fund Raising	5,000	4,257	10,000			3,131	7,388	7,967
Outreach Projects		4,241					4,241	6,693
UCW	12,000	16,868	10,000			575	17,443	17,987
SBBS-VBS	400	2,400	600				2,400	150
Christian Education	200	797	150				797	613
Building Rental	40,000	48,126	30,000				48,126	39,434
Worship Music		150					150	-
Weddings and Funerals	5,000	11,666	4,000				11,666	4,462
Programs						4,206	4,206	
Grants						2,312	2,312	-
Miscellaneous		1,025					1,025	454
Interest	10,000	11,556	4,500	9,068	3,050	267	23,941	16,824
Total Receipts	384,161	410,707	351,849	9,161	3,050	24,934	447,852	416,396
Disbursements								
Operations								
Bank Charges	2,300	2,277	1,950	4		41	2,322	2,382
Caretaking	2,000	2,009	1,000				2,009	2,185
Heating	15,000	11,924	20,000				11,924	16,463
Electricity	10,000	9,059	9,500				9,059	9,122
Water	2,000	1,075	1,800				1,075	1,804
Insurance	7,469	6,428	6,770				6,428	7,101
Office Expenses	10,435	12,174	10,650				12,174	11,606
Publications	500	(346)	150				-346	62
Property Taxes	2,208	2,205	2,208				2,205	2,208
Telephone	4,000	2,802	4,000				2,802	3,196
Miscellaneous		1,888					1,888	662
Total	55,912	51,495	58,028	4	-	41	51,541	56,793
Leadership Team Expenses								
Council & Trustees	150	124	1,150				124	-
Programming	2,000	0				17,059	17,059	3,778
Search Committee							0	2,121
Affirming Ministry	2,650	549	2,200				549	1,198
Christian Education	2,635	1,743	2,518				1,743	1,779
SBBS-VBS	1,300	2,105	1,300				2,105	1,801
Library	150	0	150				0	21
Outreach	1,550	1,185	1,550			2,029	3,214	12
Choral Scholarships						5,400	5,400	3,400
Communication	2,050	936	1,550			2,700	3,636	1,842
Community Care	800	816	500				816	438
M & P	500	186	500				186	400
Property	38,600	25,084	28,390				25,084	28,644
UCW	2,400	2,465	2,400				2,465	2,706
Conference Registration	400	0	600				0	600
Worship	5,550	2,593	3,945				2,593	2,976
Worship Music	2,500	2,499	2,000			-	2,499	2,248
Finance and Stewardship	800	516	800				516	500
Total	64,035	40,799	49,553	-	-	27,188	67,987	54,463

Westworth United Church

Statement of Operations and Changes in Fund Balances

December 31							2024	2023
	General Fund							
	2025 Budget	2023 Actual	2024 Budget	Westworth Fund	Building Reserve Fund	Other Funds	Total	Total
Salaries & Allowances								
Salaries	196,037	190,916	190,548				190,916	182,389
Weddings & Funerals		5,430					5,430	3,479
Pulpit Supply	1,016	1,235	988				1,235	1,160
Phone Allowances	483	420	483				420	452
Travel Allowances	500	262	600				262	368
Group Insurance	14,172	12,967	11,024				12,967	11,792
Pension & CPP	23,111	22,189	22,457				22,189	19,845
EI & Workers Compensation	3,644	3,748	3,695				3,748	3,697
Continuing Education	2,689	1,500	2,640				1,500	1,500
Total	241,652	238,687	232,435	-	-	-	238,687	224,681
Beyond Westworth								
Regional Council	15,589	15,589	12,781				15,589	12,781
Mission & Service	34,366	32,058	34,649				32,058	35,314
Outreach Projects		3,025					3,025	5,442
Special Appeals						3,250	3,250	7,750
Disbursements from Funds								
Total	49,955	50,670	47,430	-	-	3,250	53,920	61,287
Total Disbursements	411,554	381,651	387,446	4	-	30,479	412,135	397,224
Extra Ordinary Receipts & Disbursements								
Bequests							0	15,000
Professional Fees Note 1				(20,228)			(20,228)	(23,513)
Transfer to Other Funds		(15,000)			15,000		0	
Ken Martin Family Donation Note 2					23,573		23,573	
Roof Note 3					(30,979)		(30,979)	
Excess of Receipts over disbursements for year	(27,393)	14,056	(35,597)	(11,071)	10,644	(5,545)	8,083	10,658
Fund Transfers							0	
Fund Balances, beginning of year		199,510		236,336	71,001	49,657	558,506	544,433
Fund Balances, end of year		213,566		227,267	81,645	44,112	566,589	555,091

Statement of Other Funds

Westworth United Church

Statement of Other Funds

December 31						2024	2023
	Memorial Fund	*Small Funds	Special Appeals	Music Enhancement Fund	Visioning Fund	Total	Total
Receipts							
Donations	5,946	2,029	2,900	3,566	3	14,444	12,051
Fundraising				3,131		3,131	0
UCW	75		500			575	550
Programs					4,206	4,206	0
Grants					2,312	2,312	0
Interest				267		267	256
	<u>6,021</u>	<u>2,029</u>	<u>3,400</u>	<u>6,964</u>	<u>6,521</u>	<u>24,934</u>	<u>12,857</u>
Disbursements							
Bank Charges	2			39		41	45
Professional Fees						0	2,305
Programming					17,059	17,059	3,778
Special Appeals			3,250			3,250	7,750
Choral Scholarships				5,400		5,400	3,400
Outreach		2,029				2,029	0
Communication	2,700					2,700	0
	<u>2,702</u>	<u>2,029</u>	<u>3,250</u>	<u>5,439</u>	<u>17,059</u>	<u>30,479</u>	<u>17,278</u>
Excess of Receipts over disbursements for year	3,319	-	150	1,525	(10,539)	(5,545)	(4,421)
Fund Transfers							(19)
Fund Balances , beginning of year	18,098	3,416	18	11,925	16,200	49,657	50,681
Balance, end of year	21,417	3,416	168	13,450	5,661	44,112	46,241

* Small Funds - consists of the Care Account, Interfaith Dialogue and Archives

Statement of Financial Position

Westworth United Church
Statement of Financial Position
For the year Ended December 31

December 31					2024	2023
	General Fund	Westworth Fund	Building Reserve Fund	Other Funds	Total	Total
Assets						
Current Assets						
Cash & equivalent	227,886	227,267	81,645	44,112	580,909	578,892
GST Receivable	2,880				2,880	1,921
	230,766	227,267	81,645	44,112	583,789	580,813
Liabilities and Fund Balances						
Current Liabilities						
Funds Held In Trust	11,338				11,338	18,182
Grant - unused portion	3,793				3,793	3,793
Accounts Payable	495				495	1,619
Credit Card Payable	1,574				1,574	2,128
	17,200				17,200	25,722
Fund Balances	213,566	227,267	81,645	44,112	566,589	555,091
	230,766	227,267	81,645	44,112	583,789	580,813

Notes to Financial Statements

Note 1 Professional fees consisted of legal and architectural costs related to building assessment (final)

Note 2 The monetary donation received from the Martin family was made possible by the sale of the late Ken Martin's artwork

Note 3 Repairs were made on the north east section of the roof

2025 Projected Salaries & Benefits

2025 Projected Salaries & Benefits

Position	Salary	Benefits	Continuing Ed
Minister	\$ 77,646	\$ 20,604	\$ 1,689
Lay Personnel	\$ 118,391	\$ 20,706	\$ 1,000
Total	\$ 196,037	\$ 41,310	\$ 2,689