

# Affirm United / S'affirmer Ensemble

## ANNUAL REPORT

2021



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## Co-chair Report 2021

Thank you for another amazing year, everyone! As co-chairs, we are beyond proud of all that the organization and our community has accomplished over the last year, and the passion that our organization sees every day. As an organization, we have much to celebrate and uplift from the past year:

- We have seen nationwide support for ministries who have faced hatred and vandalism. We have also seen those same ministries persevere and continue to live into the PIE framework.
- We have seen more ministries than ever celebrate their Affirming status or start the Affirming process.
- We celebrated PIE Day on March 14th, in partnership with Affirming Connections.
- We continue to diversify and serve as a network of people supporting one another in creating affirming spaces for folks of all genders and orientations.
- We have been working with Strong Roots Consulting for visioning and looking into our future as an organization- you will hear from them at the Annual General Meeting.
- We have been helping to facilitate a working group, partnered with the General Council office of The United Church of Canada, to follow up to the Iridesce Project Final Report.

We are inspired by the ways that Affirming Ministries across the country find new and exciting ways to live into being affirming. There are different worships, resources, events, workshops, and so much more popping up all around the country. We are amazed and humbled by all that goes on within our communities, and we encourage you to keep creating.

We want to give thanks to our incredible council who have been working harder than ever to create, facilitate, and network this past year. Our volunteer Affirming Ministry Coordinators, Banner Coordinator, Membership Coordinator, and all of our other volunteers have been working tirelessly to keep things moving and fighting for 2S-LGBTQIA+ justice across the country through their various means.

As we continue forward into the coming years, we are certain that the power of our volunteers and other team members is what makes our organization so successful and our work so meaningful. We are looking forward to another busy and delightful year ahead of us.

Many thanks and blessings to you all,

Julian Munro (they/them) + Brent Alexander (he/him)  
Co-Chairs- Affirm United / S'affirmer Ensemble



# 2021 Affirming Ministry Program Annual Report

As the COVID-19 pandemic which began in March of 2020 continued, ministries adapted to all the restrictions in amazing ways . . . figuring out how to “be church” online in both formal and conversational formats - holding educational sessions, holding meetings, adopting important life-changing policies and even holding celebrations. So the number of new Affirming ministries definitely grew in 2021 and new ministries continued to enter the Affirming Process. This report reflects our people’s ability to adapt in order to carry on this life-saving justice work. A wonderful attribute of our Affirming Ministries! At the end of 2021, restrictions continued to be in place . . . with some opening-up only to be followed by the imposition of restrictions again . . . and so it cycled. We all continued to adapt.

A total of 34 new ministries, listed below, have become Affirming between January 1 and December 31, 2021, 21 more than in 2020 (9) – 1<sup>st</sup> year of COVID pandemic.  
A complete list of Affirming Ministries can be found on the Affirm United/S’affirmer Ensemble website <http://affirmunited.ause.ca/find-a-ministry>

## A breakdown of the new Affirming Ministries into communities of faith and other ministries follows:

<b><i>New Affirming Ministries (Jan 1 to Dec 31, 2021) - 34</i></b>	<b><i>Date of Celebration</i></b>
McKenzie UC in Portage La Prairie MB	Jan 10-21
Knox-Metropolitan UC in Regina SK	Feb 14-21
Steinbach UC in Steinbach MB	Mar 14-21
Shining Waters Regional Council	Mar 14-21
Hinton UC in Hinton AB	Mar 14-21
Toronto East End United Regional Ministry In Toronto ON	April 18-21
Runnymede UC in Toronto ON	April 25-21
Westworth UC in Winnipeg MB	May 9-21
Duncan UC in Duncan BC	May 16-21
Woodcliff UC in Calgary AB	May 16-21
Prairie to Pine Regional Council	May 30-21
Crestview UC in Winnipeg MB	June 6-21
Delta UC in Hamilton ON	June 6-21
Little Britain UC in Lockport MB	June 6-21
Antler River Watershed Regional Council	June 6-21
Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council	June 6-21
Horseshoe Falls Regional Council	June 6-21
Harmony UC in Saint John NB	June 13-21
St. Andrew’s UC in Hamilton ON	June 13-21
Central Saanich UC in Saanichton BC	June 27-21
Westminster UC in Medicine Hat AB	June 27-21
St. Andrew’s UC in North Vancouver BC	June 27-21



Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council	Sept 29-21
East Central Ontario Regional Council	Sep 29-21
Zion-Calvin UC (Pembina Parish PC) in Darlingford MB	Oct 10-21
St. Paul's UC (Pembina Parish PC) in Morden MB	Oct 10-21
Canadian Shield Regional Council	Oct 16-21
St. Paul's UC in Chatham ON	Oct 17-21
Bay of Quinte UCW East Central Ontario Region	Oct 27-21
Lynn Valley UC in North Vancouver BC	Nov 14-21
St. Matthew's UC in Toronto ON	Nov 14-21
Trinity UC in Brandon MB	Nov 21-21
Greenbank UC in Greenbank ON	Nov 21-21
Kanata UC in Ottawa ON	Dec 19-21

The number of 34 new Affirming Ministries in 2021 is an increase of 25 from 9 for the year 2020 (1<sup>st</sup> year of COVID pandemic). The geographic breakdown for new ministries in 2021 is: BC – 3; AB – 3; SK – 1; MB – 9; ON – 15; NB - 2.

**The total number of Affirming Ministries as of December 31, 2021 was 269, including communities of faith, regional councils, a regional UCW, learning centres, one university chaplaincy and one assisted living facility.**

**Types of Ministries:**

Regional Councils 8; Regional UCW 1; Educational Institutions 4; Educational Centres 2; Chapter (Peterborough ON) 1; National Organization 1; University Chaplaincy 1; Assisted Living Facility 1; Communities of Faith 251.

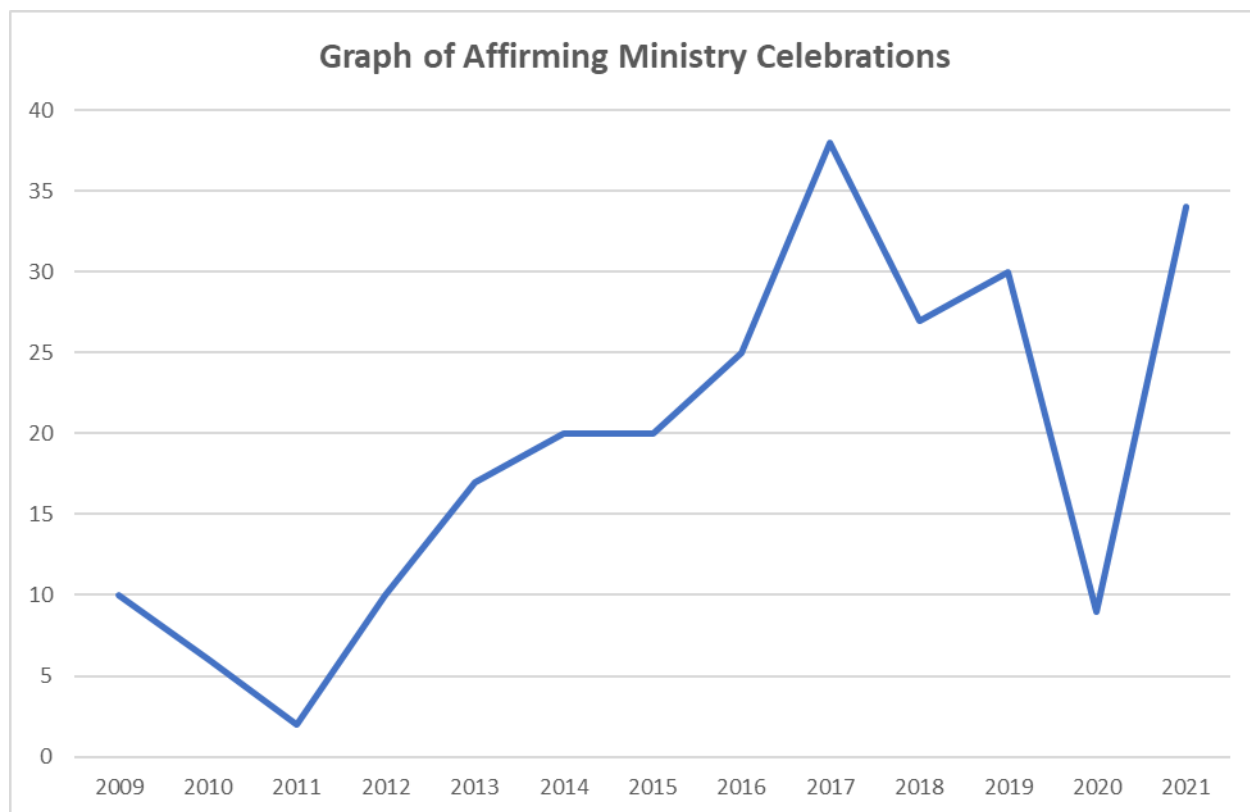
**Geographical location:**

NL 2; PE 1; NS 19; NB 9; QC 9; ON 105; MB 31; SK 12; AB 38; BC 33; NWT 1; Nat. Org. 1; Regional UCW 1; Regional Councils 8.

**The number of ministries in the Affirming Ministry Process was 164 at the end of December 2021.** Ministries proceed at different rates through their process for various reasons – change in pastoral relations in a congregation, need to take more time due to the culture/experience of the ministry, and hesitancy/need for encouragement to proceed, etc.

**Summary of the numbers for  
the last 13 years:**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Celebrations</b>	<b>In Process</b>
2009	10	
2010	6	36
2011	2	50
2012	10	68
2013	17	80
2014	20	91
2015	20	90
2016	25	110
2017	38	120
2018	27	143
2019	30	155
2020	9	180 (COVID 19)
2021	34	164



### Coordinators for the Affirming Ministry Program:

Coordinators for the program have been Liz Carter-Morgan for western Canada (MB and west); Linda Hutchinson for Ontario and Jackie Harper for eastern Canada (QC and east). Linda Hutchinson oversees the program - keeping lists up to date, attending Council meetings, writing reports, preparing details for celebrations, etc.

### Resources used in the Affirming Ministry Program:

- *Open Hearts* found at <http://ause.ca/wp-content/pdf/OpenHearts.pdf> is our main resource in which the Steps for Becoming an Affirming Ministry are found on pages 7-9
- *Celebrating Gender Diversity – Trans and Gender Identity Kit* is a second excellent resource found at <http://www.united-church.ca/sites/default/files/resources/trans-kit.pdf>
- Other very good resources for study and education, exercises, etc. are found on the AU/SE website <http://affirmunited.ause.ca/>

### Although all the work of ministries is noteworthy and heartwarming, activities of special note in 2021 are:

1. **Communities of Faith are to be commended** for their passion for this social justice work! They have worked diligently to adapt to ways of continuing their Affirming education and advocacy in spite of the restrictions of the COVID-19 Pandemic and, in the end, have found ways to have meaningful celebrations without being able to meet in person. We all benefit from the recorded celebrations which are posted for everyone to access on Youtube . . . a continuing blessing from a challenging time!
2. **Communities of Faith are to be commended** for their willingness to take on this new program in the midst of trying and uncertain times, still eager to engage in new expressions of what the gospel means to people who have been marginalized.
3. **Regional Councils** continue to engage with the Affirming Ministry Program – with 8 having achieved official status. They are important role models and support for Affirming work.
4. **An AUSE Webinar “Adding Sparkle to your Rainbow”** aired in February 2021, co-sponsored by Affirm United/S'affirmer Ensemble and Affirming Connections in Calgary, hosted by Michele Petick with support from Pam Rocker, and planned/facilitated by Linda Hutchinson. Content included updates to the Affirming Ministry Process and stories about 'building user covenants', LGBTQ2SAI+ refugees and revitalization by connecting with the community in a meaningful way. This program, focused on encouragement for existing Affirming Ministries, was also attended by many people currently in the Affirming process. Presenters were: Sharon Woodrow, Trinity UC in Cannington ON; Bruce Hutchinson, Sydenham Street UC in Kingston ON; Carol Smiley, Royal York Road UC in Toronto ON; and Christine Dolson, Kamloops UC in Kamloops BC. 127 people registered for the webinar.

**Webinar Link:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JuuxvEYHe1I>



5. Eastern Canada Coordinator Jackie Harper was invited to speak about the Affirming Ministry Program to **a class of Master of Divinity students at Atlantic School of Theology.**
6. [Coordinators became adept at recording certificate presentations for recorded celebrations and also making presentations “in-person” at Zoom Celebrations.](#)

### Gratitude:

We are very grateful for:

- the support given to this program by **Michele Petick, Communications and Marketing Coordinator** from spring of 2020 to June of 2021 and wished her well as she departed for full-time work with a another national organization.
- the support given to this program by **M Chorney, Communications and Marketing Coordinator**, who joined AUSE in the September of 2021, offering us expertise in all ways of communications . . . website, social media, etc . . . managing, posting, trouble shooting and so much more with speed, expertise, good humour and caring. Thank you, M!
- the support of our **AUSE Treasurer, Anne Wood, and Membership Convenor, John Calhoun**, who kept us “on track”. We said “goodbye” to Anne in the fall of 2021 . . . and welcomed **Peter Kelsch to position of Treasurer.**  
Thank you, Anne, John and Peter!
- the support of **volunteer Judy Amsbury** who ensures that one of our AUSE pull-up banners is available to newly Affirming Ministries for they celebrations across Canada. Thank you, Judy!
- the support given to this program by **Ren Ito, General Council staff person** and our liaison with The United Church of Canada (UCC) . . . offering ideas and possibilities for our partnership with the UCC. Thank you, Ren!
- the support to this program by **Susan Fortner, of the General Council Office of the Moderator, and the Moderator**, who sends a letter of congratulations from The United Church of Canada to each new Affirming Ministry, to be presented at their Service of Celebration.
- the support and encouragement of the **Affirm United/S'affirmer Ensemble Council**
- the **Regional Council “Affirm Groups/Networks/Forums” and Affirming Ministries** across the country who promote our program, offer workshops, speak to and coach local ministries through the process. We are grateful also to **individuals** who speak, coach and support the program.
- **all those ministries in The United Church of Canada who are willing to take on the challenge of offering radical hospitality for all of God’s people and to do so publically, intentionally and explicitly . . . P.I.E.**





From phone conversation with Doug Watson Chair of Affirm Group, Greenbank UC in Greenbank ON . . . . permission to share given November 5, 2021

***“ . . . an amazing journey, enjoyable . . . everyone has grown . . . shared a lot of information . . . addressed fees and concerns coming out in agreement . . . vote was 100% in approval.”***

Report respectfully submitted by Linda Hutchinson  
for Liz Carter-Morgan and Jackie Harper, Coordinators in 2021,  
on behalf of the Affirming Ministry Program.  
July 2022

Interim Report (Jan 1 to June 30, 2022) from  
Affirming Ministry Program

To: AU/SE Council and Annual Meeting

From: Affirming Ministry Program Coordinators – Liz Carter-Morgan, Kim Curlett and Linda Hutchinson  
(Written by Linda Hutchinson)

Date: July 4, 2022

***New Affirming Ministries (January 1 to June 30, 2021) - 17 Date of Celebration***

First UC in Fort Saskatchewan, Fort Saskatchewan AB	Jan 9-22
First UC in Swift Current SK	Feb 6-22
Spirit of Hope UC in Edmonton AB	Feb 13-22
First Metropolitan UC in Victoria BC	Mar 13-22
St. James UC in St. John's NL	Mar 13-22
Lawrence Park Community Church in North York ON	May 1-22
Southminster UC in Ottawa ON	May 1-22
Barrhaven UC in Ottawa ON	May 15-22
Orchard Valley in New Minas NS	June 5-22
Pacific Mountain Regional Council	June 11-22
Quispamsis UC in Quispamsis NB	June 12-22
St Andrew's UC in Toronto ON	June 12-22
Humbercrest UC in Toronto ON	June 12-22
Westminster UC in The Pas MB	June 19-22
Kingsview UC in Oshawa ON	June 19-22
Enniskillen Tyrone UC in Bowmanville ON	June 26-22
North Bramalea UC in Brampton ON	June 26-22

Total number of **new** Affirming Ministries in 2022 (Jan 1 to June 30) is 17 compared with 20 in this period in 2021 (catch-up year for COVID 2020).

***Affirming Ministry Closure***

Trinity UC in Peterborough ON (Affirming on Apr 10, 2016)

***Date of Closure***

Jun 30-22

**Total number of Affirming Ministries, as of June 30, 2022 is 284, as follows:**

NL 3; PE 1; NB 10; NS 20; PQ 9; ON 112; MB 32; SK 13; AB 40; BC 32;  
NWT 1; National 1 (Diakonia of UCC); Regional UCW 1; Regional Councils 9

**Type of Ministry Breakdown of 284 ministries is:**

Educational Institutions 4; Educational Centres 2; Chapter 1; National Organization 1; Residential Living Facility 1; University Chaplaincy 1; Regional Councils 9; Communities of Faith 265.



**Celebrations Pending: 12****Date of Celebration**

Penninsula UC in Surrey BC	Aug 7-22
St. George & St. Andrew UC in Annapolis Royal NS	Sep 11-22
Dublin Street UC in Guelph ON	Sep 25-22
Georgian Shores in Owen Sound ON	Sep 25-22
Wesley UC in St. Andrew's NB	Sep 25-22
Northminster UC in Peterborough ON	Oct 2-22
Beacon UC in Yarmouth NS	Fall 2022
Thornhill UC in Thornhill ON	Fall 2022
Margaretsville UC in Margaretsville NS	TBA
Claremont UC in Claremont ON	TBA
Trinity UC in Prince George BC	TBA
Trinity UC in Bobcageon ON	BA

**Total number of ministries in the *Affirming Process* as of Jun 30, 2022 is 176.**

**Coordinators of the Affirming Ministry Program:**

Unfortunately in early 2022, Jackie Harper had to step down, for health reasons, as Coordinator of Eastern Canada. Jackie has been a valued member of our team for 3 years. We have appreciated her people skills, deep knowledge of the United Church and her commitment to this justice work. Thank you, Jackie! We will miss you.

We have been blessed as Kim Curlett of Halifax NS has joined our team . . . so good to have a Coordinator for Eastern Canada living in that region. Welcome and thank you for the work you have and will do in the Affirming Ministry Program, Kim!

Liz Carter-Morgan continues to work with ministries in the Affirming Program in Western Canada. Thanks, Liz, for your wisdom and commitment over many years to this program!

Linda Hutchinson works with ministries in Ontario and oversees the program.

**Total Numbers of Affirming Ministries:**

Given our total of 284 Affirming Ministries on June 30, 2022 . . . and the 12 pending celebrations that we know about, we predict that we will reach 300 by the end of 2022.

We are, however, starting to see the changes taking place in The United Church of Canada reflected in our total numbers. Even though new ministries are continuing to join the Affirming Ministry Program, some established Affirming Ministries have sadly had to close their doors while others have found ways to join other communities of faith through shared ministry or amalgamation. Hence the total number of Affirming Ministries is continually changing for various reasons.

*We are grateful to the commitment of all Affirming Ministries  
and trust that the people of the ministries which close will take the Affirming culture  
with them wherever they go in the church and society.*

*We are grateful for the spread of the Affirming culture . . . and continue to encourage others to take  
the time to explore this important justice work . . .  
a deeply spiritual journey as well as a journey seeking justice!*



**Affirm United / S'affirmer Ensemble**  
**Membership Statistics – As of February 22, 2022**

Most Recent Membership	Individuals	Affirming Ministries	Other Org's
2022	18	2	0
2021	119	223*	10
Total of above	137	225	10
<i>Year ago total</i>	<i>168</i>	<i>230</i>	<i>7</i>
2020	51	32	1
2019	23	1	1
Total this group	74	33	2
Total of all above	211	263	9
<i>Year ago total</i>	<i>209</i>	<i>247</i>	<i>9</i>
2018 & before	344	2	46
<i>Year ago</i>	<i>324</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>45</i>
Grand total	555	249	55
<i>Year ago total</i>	<i>533</i>	<i>247</i>	<i>54</i>

Notes:

- “Most Recent Membership” is the most recent year paid or a waiver granted.
- Individuals have been sent tax receipts since charitable status was achieved. Most tax receipts for 2021 were sent by email in late February 2022.
- Affirming Ministries were sent invoices for their memberships in May 2021. \*In addition there were two new Affirming Ministries in 2021 that were unpaid.
- Some “Other Organizations” with paid memberships are ministries on the journey to Affirming; they are not invoiced but are asked for membership renewals. Some have been Affirming but are renewing the process during reorganization.
- “Year ago” numbers reflect the same number of years as the current, and were reported in the 2021 Annual Report. For example, the first “Year ago” numbers are for 2021 and 2020.
- The 2018 and before listings remain on the database but are not used for postal mailing.
- Receipts, invoices and most other membership correspondence were bilingual.
- Memberships received since the report date are not included.

John R. Calhoun



## Treasurer's Report, Year Ending December 31, 2021

Annual General Meeting – July 16, 2022

Good afternoon friends, my name is Peter Kelsch and I am your new AUSE Treasurer. I was appointed by your board of directors in October/2021 to replace your past Treasurer, Anne Wood, who stayed to cover the role after her natural term on the Board had ended. I am, and I am sure we all are grateful to Anne for her dedication to the Affirm United S'affirmer Ensemble mission.

I hail from Calgary, Alberta and some of you may remember me at the last in-person AGM at Hillhurst United Church in July/2019. I was the bystander at that AGM, a member of the staff at Hillhurst, who was suggesting that a new Affirming Ministry fee structure of 1/20 of 1% of each Pastoral Charges net revenue, as provided by the United Church of Canada to AUSE, would be an appropriate sum for each congregation to pay in Annual Fees. Well, being the “guy with the weird ideas” has come back to bite me, and now I am your NEW Treasurer for 3 years. Even though I came on board last October, I was still quite busy with my duties at Hillhurst United as their Financial Administrator until my retirement at the end of April and was unable to spend lots of time getting things into “Peter-Shape”. I have been very active working on the affairs of Affirm United since May and I am enjoying this work in my retirement.

Anne and the new accounting consultant (Mario), had taken the QuickBooks data base from the QB Desktop Platform into a QuickBooks OnLine portal. I have been a QuickBooks Desktop Expert since 2004 and was uncomfortable trying to bring the QB-OnLine data base into the 21st century, therefore I reverted back to the backup Anne/Mario had prepared as at June 30/2021 and started my journey from there. This means that a consultant will not have access to the QB Desktop data file and will not be required at the moment. I am prepared to do the bookkeeping and accounting until I feel the data base is in shipshape condition, by the end of my first term as Treasurer or earlier.

I did find that the Accounts Receivable total as at December 31, 2020 had various amounts that were uncollectable as some entries were duplicates, some were payments applied incorrectly and then some congregations no longer existed so collection was not possible. There were also some Accounts Payable straggler entries which need to be eliminated as well. In the 2021 financial statements there were 26 adjustments for a total of \$1,452 going back as far as 2012. Some additional duplicate entries were found in 2022 and they totaled \$772 (5 entries). Accountants look at the amounts which makeup the total in Accounts Receivable at year end. They take a look at which items are overdue and make a judgment as to the collectability of those amount by doing an “ALLOWANCE for doubtful accounts” so that revenues and the related expense (bad debt) are matched in the same year. This creates a Bad Debt Expense in the Statement of Operations and an Allowance for Doubtful Account on the Statement of Financial Position. THIS DOES NOT MEAN THE AMOUNTS ARE WRITTEN OFF without an attempt at collection. When the 2022 Affirming Ministry Fee invoices were sent out this year, those pastoral charges in arrears were also given a collection letter for outstanding amounts from prior years, asking that the overdue amounts be paid with the current invoice. We will see what that corrective action brings forth into reality. Your Board of Directors is aware of bylaw 47:

47. Membership Dues “Members shall be notified in writing of the membership fees at any time payable by them and, if any are not paid within one (1) year of the membership renewal date, as the case may be, the members in default shall thereupon cease to be members of the Corporation.”



### Now to the financial statements themselves!

We have a large cash balance in our bank accounts which is made up of surpluses in each of the past 10 out of 11 years. Also, in 2018, there was an unusual contribution from a congregation that closed its doors and gave Affirm United about \$40,000 of their ending bank balance. I do want to have those cash balances earn a better rate of interest income through TD Canada Trust term deposits in the future.

The prepaid expense was for a contractor that was paid more in December against their January 2022 fee. The Deferred Revenue represents the funds held in trust for Korean Rainbow United, provided to AUSE by The United Church of Canada to fund the activities of that organization over a 2 year project.

### To the Statement of Operations

Membership fees have been based on the new calculation for their second year in Fiscal 2021. The Membership fees for 2020 were based on the 1/20th of 1% of Net Revenue for the Pastoral Charge's 2018 Net Revenue and for Fiscal 2021 on the PC's 2019 Net Revenue. That, with the fact that the membership numbers grew over that time, accounted for the increase in Membership Fees from 2020 to 2021. Donation Revenues were down in 2021, likely due to reasons of the Pandemic. The only grant we received in 2021 was the standard operating grant from the United Church of Canada. Overall, revenue was up year over year, which was positive.

Programming just did not happen as we were not allowed to gather in in-person groups and Zoom meetings do not cost near the same amount as In-Person meetings. Communication costs were over budgeted as well, the annual conference travel budget was not needed due to the pandemic restrictions. Administrative expenses are minimal as everyone works from their homes and we just do not have a great need for these types of expenses. We need to budget for them regardless though. The bad debt expense was covered earlier in my report.

We have experienced large surpluses in 2020 and 2021, mainly due to Pandemic gathering restrictions.

I apologize for the statement not being reviewed by an outside party in time for this presentation. The hard copy of the financial records has changed from Kingston to Calgary and therefore I need to find someone closer to me to perform this review. I did ask one individual but she declined the invitation. I am positive I will be able to find someone to do this work for the small fee that has been budgeted.

### Proposed Fiscal 2023 Budget

In 2022 we have seen some new memberships added, however, their revenues are based on the 2020 net revenues of the PC's. All of those PC's were affected by the pandemic and had much lower revenues that year. We are hoping that the 2023 membership fees (based on 2021 revenues) will recover somewhat, also with the addition of many new Congregations being affirming. (I refer you to Linda's previous report.) The Regional Councils are also starting to become affirming which makes a large difference to the Membership Revenue.

My attention in the early months of this year has been to bring the QuickBooks data base to where invoicing could be done by email, rather than the manual invoices with the Canada post delivery method of the past. Because of this, Donations and Individual Memberships did not get the proper attention from me to John and he was not able to do his part effectively. (I will say that on June 28 I sent out 243 invoices, 238 of them by email and 5 by postal mail. About 35 of those invoices have already been paid by E-Transfer but on Tuesday and Thursday I received 38 cheques in the snail mail as well.) Therefore



Donation \$ may be down at the moment but these will recover before the end of the year. As we receive more affirming congregations, more members of their bodies are aware of the AUSE membership opportunities.

The Board has budgeted for the standard UCC Operating Grant as well as the Horseshoe Falls Region grant again.

Other Programming expense includes a \$5,000 budgeted amount which will be explained to you in New Business and officially voted on at that time.

At the AGM in 2019 at Calgary, one of the main reasons for increasing the fee structure was so that all of our directors could be at the AGMs with 100% paid travel expenses (rather than just the Executive). We have not had an in-person AGM since 2019. (We were hoping that this year would be in-person but that was just not viable in light of Pandemic restrictions late last year and early this year.)

The other reason for the change in the fee structure was to be able to add a paid Executive Director to the organization. This did not happen in 2020 nor 2021 but the search for and definition of our Executive Director was budgeted for in 2022. In 2023 we have budgeted for an Executive director at 10 hours per week. This time commitment will likely grow into the future. As I mentioned earlier, the contract bookkeeper budget amount will not be paramount in the budget for the next few years.

When you look at the bottom line of the Proposed Budget, we see a number which is not very pretty!!

A new journey was decided to be embarked on in 2019, and it is starting to manifest in 2023. Thankfully we have had large surpluses in the last 2 years (and the 2022 is year looking like a small surplus or breakeven.) 2023 will use up much of that surplus, and into the future, you notice that we have 176 ministries in the Affirming Process, many of them which will come on board and share the future expenses of this 2019 decision.





PO BOX 57057 RPO GLADSTONE, OTTAWA, ON K1R 1A1

Phone 403-880-4684 | [AUSEtreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:AUSEtreasurer@gmail.com) | [AUSE.com](http://AUSE.com)

## Financial Statements

For the year ended

**December 31, 2021**

With comparatives to the prior year and to budget

*These Financial Statements have not as yet been reviewed by an independent accountant. Once this task has been completed, the statements will be sent out to the membership by email.*



affirm united /s'affirmer ensemble  
**Statement of Financial Position**

As of December 31, 2021 with comparative to 2020

	December 31, 2021	December 31, 2020	\$ Change
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Chequing/Savings			
1010 • Petty Cash	\$ -	\$ 100	(100)
1100 • Chequing	102,518	71,463	31,056
1150 • Savings	45,506	45,415	91
Total Chequing/Savings	148,024	116,977	31,047
Accounts Receivable			
1200 • Accounts Receivable	4,290	6,554	(2,264)
1251 • Allowance for doubtful accounts	(1,634)	-	(1,634)
Total Accounts Receivable	2,656	6,554	(3,898)
Other Current Assets			
1500 • Prepaid expenses	1,100	-	1,100
Total Other Current Assets	1,100	-	1,100
Total Current Assets	151,780	123,531	28,249
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 151,780</b>	<b>\$ 123,531</b>	<b>28,249</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>			
<b>Liabilities</b>			
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Accounts Payable			
2100 • Accounts Payable	\$ 152	\$ -	152
2150 • Anne TD VISA Account	(211)	(3)	(208)
2152 • Peter TD VISA Account	21	-	21
Total Accounts Payable	(38)	(3)	(35)
Other Current Liabilities			
2300 • Deferred Revenue	5,200	-	5,200
Total Other Current Liabilities	5,200	-	5,200
Total Liabilities	5,162	(3)	5,165
<b>Equity</b>			
3200 • United In Marriage	13,834	13,834	-
3350 • Conference Surplus Fund	1,175	1,175	-
3360 • Emergent Grant Fund	2,830	2,830	-
Total 3100 • Restricted Net Assets	17,839	17,839	-
3600 • Unrestricted Net Assets	105,695	75,328	30,367
Surplus/(Deficit), current period	23,084	30,367	(7,283)
Total 3500 • Unrestricted Net Assets	128,779	105,695	23,084
Total Equity	146,618	123,534	23,084
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>\$ 151,780</b>	<b>\$ 123,531</b>	<b>28,249</b>

affirm united /s'affirmer ensemble

**Statement of Operations**

January through December 2021, compared to 2020

	Jan - Dec 2021	2021 Budget	Jan - Dec 2020
<b>Income</b>			
4100 • Membership Fees	\$ 48,282	42,500	\$ 40,634
4200 • Donations	14,104	11,200	17,051
4300 • UCC Grant	3,000	3,000	6,170
4700 • Merchandise Sales	1,402	1,000	338
4800 • Other Income	127	200	153
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>66,915</b>	<b>57,900</b>	<b>64,345</b>
<b>Expense</b>			
6000 • Education/Research			
6020 • Gifts to Qualified Donees	-		1,200
6050 • Affirming Ministry Program	405	7,175	3,220
6055 • Affirming Programming	2,176	10,000	300
6080 • Other Educational Initiatives	1,217	2,000	1,769
<b>Total 6000 • Education/Research</b>	<b>3,797</b>	<b>19,175</b>	<b>6,489</b>
6200 • Communications/Promo/Networking			
6030 • Website	649	150	525
6230 • Broadview Classified Ads	589	800	740
6250 • Translation	-	500	95
6285 • Bookkeeping Service	2,247	8,000	-
6290 • Marketing Coordinator Services	26,526	31,200	18,668
6295 • Marketing Coordinator-Other	-	3,500	226
<b>Total 6200 • Communications/Promo/Networking</b>	<b>30,010</b>	<b>44,150</b>	<b>20,254</b>
6300 • AU Council	521	17,300	4,274
6400 • Merchandise Cost	1,188	500	32
6500 • Administration			
6510 • Office supplies	158	150	81
6515 • PO Box Rental & Mail Forwarding	800	600	519
6520 • Postage	531	200	120
6525 • Photocopying	29	-	-
6534 • Bank/Cr Card Service Charges	336	480	373
6540 • Member/Donor Relations	544	900	705
6550 • Computer Software	547	-	-
6570 • Administration Honorariums	500		-
6610 • Accounting	300	350	300
6625 • Advertising	973		-
6650 • Directors Liability Insurance	828	850	831
6710 • Bad debt expense	2,769		-
<b>Total 6500 • Administration</b>	<b>8,315</b>	<b>3,530</b>	<b>2,929</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>43,831</b>	<b>84,655</b>	<b>33,979</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>\$ 23,084</b>	<b>(26,755)</b>	<b>\$ 30,367</b>

**Affirm United / S'affirmer Ensemble**

**Preliminary Budget**

**Fiscal 2023**

	2023	2022		2021
	Budget	Jan - Jun	Yr Budget	Yr Actual
<b>Income</b>				
Membership Fees	\$ 54,000	\$ 44,076	\$ 48,100	\$ 48,282
Donations	15,250	6,388	17,300	14,104
UCC Grant	6,000	6,300	3,000	3,000
Merchandise Gross Profit	500	369	150	214
Other Income	200	82	100	127
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>75,950</b>	<b>57,216</b>	<b>68,650</b>	<b>65,727</b>
<b>Expense</b>				
<b>Programming</b>				
Affirming Ministry Program	4,000	1,188	5,000	830
Other Programming	13,500	5,320	12,000	2,967
<i>Included in other programming is \$5,000 for the Student Bursary stated in new business</i>				
Communications/Promo/Networking	36,920	15,005	35,950	27,764
<b>Total Programming Expense</b>	<b>54,420</b>	<b>21,512</b>	<b>52,950</b>	<b>31,561</b>
<b>Administration</b>				
Conference Travel Expense	30,700	-	17,000	521
Executive Director	20,800			
Mgm't Consult Fee for Exec Director		11,970	20,000	-
Bookkeeping Service	3,000	480	10,000	2,247
Office supplies	400	280	100	158
Postal Services	1,200	403	1,750	1,905
Financial Fees/Charges	500	166	460	336
Computer Software	1,000	666	730	547
Administration Honorariums		-		500
Accounting/Audit Honorarium	750	-	350	300
Legal Fees	100		20	
Admin Adveertising		-		973
Directors Liability Insurance	1,000	-	850	828
Accounts Receivable Adjustments	-	772	-	2,769
<b>Total Administration Expense</b>	<b>59,450</b>	<b>14,738</b>	<b>51,260</b>	<b>11,082</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>113,870</b>	<b>36,251</b>	<b>104,210</b>	<b>42,643</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>\$ (37,920)</b>	<b>\$ 20,965</b>	<b>\$ (35,560)</b>	<b>\$ 23,084</b>

**Pandemic Years:**

2020 Surplus	\$ 30,366
2021 Surplus	23,084
	<b>\$ 53,450</b>

2023 Fiscal AUSE Budget Final Draft.xlsx, RPK

7/15/2022

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**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**2021**

## **Communications Report – M Chorney (she/they)**

Throughout this last 11 month, things have been quite busy on the communications front for Affirm United! On an almost daily basis, I craft and post social media and website posts. One highlight was the “meet your board” posts, which got a lot of interactions and uptake from our membership! May/June was also very busy with website updates, as we had countless affirming celebrations to promote! About 50% of my time is taken with website updates, backdoor functions, and updating plug ins so that all of the website continues to work well for those using it. We get a lot of traffic to the site, and I do constant website evaluations, making sure every link works, and taking down pages that are redundant. We had some serious hosting issues and concerns within the last year, but I’ve managed to make it all straight forward and working well again. If you ever find anything on the site that doesn’t work or doesn’t link correctly, please email me and I will fix it, usually within the day!

I’ve made many phone calls and wrote many emails on behalf of the communications work here at AUSE. One highlight was a lovely phone call I had with a gentleman who was looking for tools to help support his gender-queer grandchild. He was not quite computer literate, but we worked through how to make it work so he could support his loved one!

We ordered a new banner this year, after many many years of the previous one and many cross-country trips. The first company we went with messed up the order, and it involved me going back and forth many times to get it resolved. But, we managed to get the money back, and got a second (and third!) banner made at a local-to-Judy company.

Starting in November, I was in contact with Affirming Connections to plan PIE Day, which takes place in March. This year, we held two joint events – Queer Virtue with The Reverend Elizabeth Edman, and a panel discussion entitled “Everyone Gets a Slice”, which can be watched here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=un-ZNp252GI>. We also had some liturgies written for the day.

Kitchen Sink has been a slow start back up project here at AUSE. I wrote to all of the affirming regional councils and heard back from a few – we held one event this year in May, entitled “Mourn and Organize”. Many of the regional councils wanted to wait to the fall to put on an event. We have one coming in September. Keep tuned in and we’ll have those coming to you soon!

I visited the Centre for Christian Studies in the spring and picked up old AUSE meeting agendas, minutes, and reports. I have been scanning them into the AUSE google drive so that everyone has access to them!

I have also sent out quite a few newsletters and helped to create a survey for our membership to send out as well! I also manage all the logo requests, and emails for new affirming congregations.

It has been a busy year, and if you have any questions on any of this, please feel free to email me at [communications@ause.ca](mailto:communications@ause.ca)!



## **General Council Office Report**

Ren Ito, Network Coordinator, Church in Mission Unit

July 10, 2022

Greetings from the General Council Office! Since November 2020, I have been on staff part-time in the Church in Mission Unit as a Network Coordinator, where I have been supporting networks and programs in a number of areas across the Church, including work related to LGBTQ+ justice. Since February 2021, I have also been the staff liaison between our Office and Affirm United/S'affirmer Ensemble.

In the summer of 2020, the Church in Mission Unit was thoroughly reorganised. Several key staff positions (including Jordan Sullivan's role as animator of 2S-LGBTQIA+ justice work and AUSE liaison) were cut, and program staff (who had been responsible for national leadership in various areas of social justice work) were reassigned to focus primarily on supporting justice-related networks across the Church. As a result, there have been fewer staff-led LGBTQ+ justice initiatives at the GCO than in years past, with a focus instead on collaboration with and support of partners like AUSE, as well as other members and networks of the Church.

### **Iridesce Working Group**

The bulk of this work over the past year has revolved around Iridesce: The Living Apology Project. Launched in 2017, the Project—a collaboration between AUSE and The United Church of Canada—aimed to invite the Church “into a journey of dialogue and reconciliation with LGBTQ2S+ persons” through story-sharing, conversation, worship, and education. Over the course of three years, the Project gathered stories from across the Church, and submitted its Final Report to the General Secretary in July 2020. In January 2021, the General Council Executive reviewed this Final Report, and directed GCO staff to form a working group to recommend follow-up actions to the General Council.

After some initial conversations with AUSE co-chairs and staff in early 2021, it was decided in mid-summer that GCO and AUSE would once again partner to oversee the Iridesce Working Group, which would submit formal recommendations for follow-up on the Iridesce Project to the General Council Executive. A proposal was presented and deliberated at the September 2021 meeting of the AUSE Council, and over the next several months, potential members were identified. Efforts were made to ensure that the Working Group reflected the diversity of the



Church's membership, including different experiences of sexuality, gender, and race, as well as generational and regional differences. In the end, nine individuals committed to joining the Working Group, which would carry out its mandate over the first half of 2022, with the aim of submitting recommendations to the General Council Executive by September 2022.

### **Additional Supports for AUSE**

In addition to partnering in the creation of the Iridesce Working Group, our Office is currently considering ways to better support AUSE in its vital ministries across the Church. In particular, we have been exploring the possibility of sharing technical and file-sharing platforms with AUSE, in the hope of streamlining our partnership and lightening AUSE's technical costs and staff/volunteer workloads.

### **Other Initiatives**

Over the course of 2021, GCO staff were involved in a number of other initiatives, of which several are highlighted below:

- Beginning in late 2020 and continuing into early 2021, staff in the Church in Mission Unit liaised with global partners in the Republic of Korea to support Rev. Lee Dong-Hwan, a minister in the Korean Methodist Church who was disciplined by his denomination for offering a blessing at an LGBTQIA+ community event. Concurrent with solidarity actions from the Korean Ministries Network of the United Church, the General Council Office sent letters of support to Rev. Lee and to Rev. Park Seung-ryul, Director of the National Council of Churches in Korea's Human Rights Center, which was advocating on behalf of Rev. Lee.
- As part of a series of planned Asian Heritage Month events, but taking place during Pride Month in June, a group of Asian members of the Church planned and hosted Lament and Hope: An Invitation to Asian LGBTQ+ Christians, an online event of sharing, conversation, worship, and solidarity for Asian LGBTQ+ Christians in and beyond the United Church.
- Throughout 2021, GCO staff supported research undertaken by the Community Based Research Centre, in collaboration with No Conversion Canada and Simon Fraser University, on survivors of conversion therapy.
- Represented by GCO staff, The United Church of Canada continues to be a member of Dignity Network Canada, a group of organisations across Canada supporting global human rights for LGBTQ+ people.