

Financial Report for 2025 AGM

2025 Operations

We started 2025 with a deficit of \$15,000.00. We decided on a balanced budget for the fiscal year, which, if met, would require revenue of \$150,000.00, and would erase our deficit.

In April, we borrowed \$6,600.00 from our discretionary savings (balance in Jan 2025 of \$10,000), with the goal of returning that money to savings by the end of 2025. We were able to return that money to the savings account in December.

By the end of December, we were under budget in expenses a small amount, and we met our donations/revenue goal by the end of December, less \$200.00. We brought money into our church in normal ways – cheques and online donations weekly, with extra amounts being donated in December. The occasional rental added a bit. And we did it in creative ways – an auction and fun evening of community building meant we added \$3500.00 to our goal.

We bought the grand piano from Red River Valley Festival of the Arts, through designated donations, with a surplus of \$900.00 from those donations.

Our expenses tend to be practical and prescribed – utilities, salaries, property taxes, insurance, etc. Our committees spend what is needed in order to function well.

The food committee hosted a fair bit this year – a number of choirs, potlucks, and of course, Sunday morning coffee and juice, which in turn, means groceries and kitchen supplies purchased.

Money spent by the trustees and building maintenance meant that our elevator worked, our churchyard looked great all summer and the parking lot was cleared in the winter. The worship committee bought a cordless mic after long conversations – and it has worked well for our worship services.

Our salaries – for pastor, admin assistant, and custodial staff – are our highest expense. Our pastor's salary follows Mennonite Church guidelines, and it's important that we follow that guideline and pay our staff fairly.

As a congregation, we contributed to Mennonite Church Manitoba, the Chaplaincy program at Gardens on Tenth, as well as Youth for Christ and Steps Toward Reconciliation. By the end of December, we were able to pay the full amounts to these agencies. We can be grateful that our donations have an impact on programs in the community, and that we have a conference that helps guide and resource us.

Looking Forward

Last year at this time, our financial situation felt difficult. This year it feels less difficult, but is still something we have to be working at. This is the ongoing work of a community like ours.

The budget looks very similar to last year – we are proposing a few things to consider:

- That we add \$4000.00 in the budget to the Sabbatical Fund
- That we move our \$1000.00 donation from Youth for Christ to The Community Exchange
- That the small surplus we have, we hold through into 2026 as a cushion for the few projects that we are anticipating.

Thank you to Marge Friesen for her approving of all online banking transactions and cheque signing. May we hold our finances prayerfully and thoughtfully as we plan for our 2026 giving.

Marnë Mierau Friesen