



Community of Christ

CHRIST'S MISSION, OUR MISSION

October 16, 2021

Mission Centre Financial Officer Report

We share a Mission and a Purpose

2021 has been a challenging year for all of us—many of our “normal” day-to-day activities have continued to be impacted by re-occurring public health restrictions put in place to try and slow down the virus spread. I, like many of you, thought that when the pandemic was identified in 2020 that it would soon be brought under control and in a couple of months we would be back to our regular routines and jobs.

Now, 18 months later, our provinces, cities, and communities are still trying to cope with the rising rates of infection by new COVID variants and the dreadful impact it is having on the lives of individuals and families, as well as our economies and freedoms.

Our congregations have suffered the loss of meeting face-to-face in worship, and the loss of momentum for many missional activities that were being offered as invitation and support in our local communities.

However, out of this disruption, new ways of coming together to visit and worship have emerged. While we were missing the handshakes and hugs when we met—others who were isolated, or unable to be with us in our church buildings now found a way to be with us and were able to share in meaningful worship.

The Mission Centre Leadership with help from many dedicated members has kept the mission and work of the Church moving forward. With the use of technology, many members and friends from all over Canada were able to gather together to visit and worship in ways we had not thought possible. The continued generosity of dedicated members allowed the Mission Centre to keep working and be prepared financially for the time when all the programs, retreats, reunions, and conferences could again be held in face-to-face gatherings.

As I continue to fulfil the role of your Mission Centre Financial Officer, I will look for opportunities to help congregations find hope and purpose in their existence, to recognize the value found in all their assets, that can and will support missional activities, with prudent fiscal management and in sustainable ways.

In the past few years, I have met and enjoyed the company of many of you at conferences and other events and have recognized the unique bond of love that is shared with each other whenever you gather together. It is my wish that as the pandemic restrictions are eased and it

becomes safe to travel again that I can come and visit with each of your congregations and meet as many of you as possible and to share stories of our families, our hopes, and what has brought us to this place.

I want to thank Melissa, Heather, and El-Se for their continued support and for their work on your behalf to implement processes that have brought stability and sustainability to the MC, and for Kerry as he has shared with me in guiding our congregations through these trying times.

I look forward to working with your congregational leadership teams in 2022. May each of you stay healthy and find joy and purpose in faithfulness to Christ's Mission which is our Mission.

Dar Shepherdson
Mission Centre Financial Officer
dar@communityofchrist.ca