



Ralph Connor Memorial United Church

One community of faith ~ two buildings~

Canmore – Ralph Connor Memorial

Banff – Rundle Memorial

An Affirming Ministry of the United Church of Canada

2023 Annual Report



**Annual General Meeting
February 25, 2024**

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February 25, 2024

Ralph Connor Memorial United Church

Annual General Meeting

Agenda:

- Call to order by Rev. Greg Wooley and quorum count
- Motion to allow all attendees to vote
- Motion to approve the agenda as circulated
- Opening Prayer by Rev Greg Wooley, noting 2023 Passages
- Motion to appoint Chair and Secretary of the Annual General Meeting
- Motion to Adopt Minutes of 2022 Annual General Meeting
- Motion to receive reports of Reports of Ralph Connor Memorial Community of Faith as listed in the Table of Contents
- Motion to receive report of Canmore Young Adult Network (CYAN) and to approve the 2023 Budget of the Canmore Young Adult Network (CYAN)
- Motion to receive report of the Bow Valley Refugee Project (BVRP) and to approve the 20223 Budget of the Bow Valley Refugee Project (BVRP)
- Motion to approve the Memorial Fund Wish List 2024
- Motion to appoint Financial Review Agent
- Elections
 - Board of Trustees
 - Church Council
- New Business
- Information report on Ministry plans for 2024
- Adjournment

2023 Reports



2022 Annual Meeting Minutes

Ralph Connor Memorial United Church

March 22, 2023

Our call and purpose as a community of faith is:

- To nurture the spiritual exploration and growth of all our members and adherents;
- To be an intentionally inviting Christian community that seeks, welcomes and embraces new members;
- To reach out and become an agent for social justice in our neighborhoods and in the global community.

As a community of faith on traditional indigenous lands,

- We strive to follow Christ's example in reaching out in love and friendship to all.
- We are committed to full inclusion of people of any age, race, ethnicity, ability, sexual orientation, gender identity, family structure or personal circumstance, in all aspects of our life together.
- We are called, in and with the larger community, to grow in faith through study, prayer and service; to make known God's gracious presence, and to show loving concern for all creations.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Sunday, March 19, 2023 at 11:15 AM

Held at Rundle Memorial United Church, Banff and by Zoom

V1.3

Present in person: Ellen Andersen, Rick Anderson, Ian Brownlie, Allan Buckingham, Mary Buckingham, Jeff Campney, Trish Campney, Paul Elfner, Bill Fisher, Ruby Fisher, Karen Fraser, Kelly Gibson, Marlo Reid-Gibson, Cathy Harrop, Brian James, Karen James, Donna Kennedy, Marshall Kennedy, Bob MacDonell, Marilese MacDonell, Sally MacDonald, Mona McIntyre, Cindy McKay, Gary McKay, Joy McMann, Jim McPherson, Ruben Nelson, Sandy Penrose, Jim Ridley, Bill Rowe, Carole Rowe, Ian Schofield (chair), Heather Snoddy, John Snoddy, Rod Sullivan, Tanya Sullivan, Jane Taylor, Greg Wooley (minister).

Present by Zoom: Allison Edwards, Joan Lawton, Shannon Mang, Patricia Roozendaal, Dave Somerville.

The meeting was recorded. The Secretary, Ruben Nelson, has the video recording.

Call to Order and Quorum Count: The Rev. Greg Wooley, Minister, determined that a quorum was present. He called the meeting to order at 11:23 AM.

To Allow all Present to Vote:

Motion: *"That we allow all persons present, in person or by Zoom, to vote."*

Moved: Karen Fraser **Seconded:** Bill Fisher **Carried.**

Review/Revise/Approve Agenda:

Motion: *"That we approve the draft agenda as circulated."*

Moved: Joy McMann **Seconded:** Ian Brownlie **Carried.**

Opening Prayer: Rev. Greg gathered us in prayer. His prayers included those who had died in 2022. (They are listed on page 6 of v7.0 of the Annual Report.)

Appointment of the Co-Chairs and the Secretary of the Meeting:

Motion: *"That we appoint Ian Schofield and Allan Buckingham as Co-Chairs of the meeting and Ruben Nelson as Secretary of the meeting."*

Moved: Donna Kennedy **Seconded:** Cindy McKay **Carried.**

The Chair: At this point Allan Buckingham took the Chair of the meeting.

To Approve the Minutes of the 2021 AGM of RMUC:

Motion: *"That we approve the minutes of the 2021 AGM of RMUC."*

Moved: Marshall Kennedy **Seconded:** Jim Ridley **Carried.**

Business Arising from the Minutes of the 2021 AGM of RCMUC:—No business arising.

RMUC REPORTS:

Motion: *"That we receive the written reports of RMUC Governance Group, Standing Committees as listed in the Table of Contents of the 2022 AGM Report."*

"MOVED: Joy McMann **Seconded:** Ian Brownlie **Carried.**

The Chair: At this Point Ian Schofield took the Chair of the meeting.

To Approve the Minutes of the 2021 AGM and SGMs of RCMUC:

Motion: *"That we approve the minutes of the 2021 AGM of RCMUC."*

Moved: Rick Anderson **Seconded:** Jim McPherson **Carried.**

Motion: *"That we approve the minutes of the Special General Meeting RCMUC held September 11, 2022."*

Moved: Joy Mc Mann **Seconded:** Jim McPherson **Carried.**

Motion: *"That we approve the revised minutes of the Special General Meeting RCMUC held October 2, 2022."* (The date in the header on page 2 of the minutes needs to be changed to October 2, 2022. This is on page 33 of the Report for the 2022 AGM. This change has been made.)

Moved: Joy Mc Mann **Seconded:** Carole Rowe **Carried.**

Business Arising from the Minutes of the 2021 AGM of RCMUC:—No business arising.

RCMUC Reports:

Motion: *"That we receive the written reports of RCMUC Council, Standing Committees as listed in the Table of Contents of the 2022 AGM Report."*

MOVED: Cindy McKay **Seconded:** Rick Anderson **Carried.**

Reports of the shared committees of RMUC and RCMUC:

Motion: *"That we receive the written reports of the shared Committees of RMUC and RCMUC as listed in the Table of Contents of the 2022 AGM Report."*

MOVED: Cindy McKay **Seconded:** Bill Fisher **Carried.**

Bow Valley Refugee Project, The World is Our Neighbour and CYAN:

The Chair noted that the financial report of the BVRP was not included in v7.0 of the AGM Report: that it is available at the meeting to insert after page 70; and that it will be available on the RCMUC website.

The Chair explained that we are fiscal trustees of both BVRP and CYAN; that accordingly we must receive their reports and approve their budgets. This will allow the Treasurer to expend their funds according to their budgets.

The Chair noted that the BVRP has promised to provide funds, approximately \$9,000, to enable the TWION family to travel from Nepal to Canmore; that in time we will be reimbursed. It was the sense of the meeting that this be done.

Motion: *"That we approve the budget for the refugee work of BVRP and TWION, understanding that it may change during the year."*

MOVED: Donna Kennedy **Seconded:** Karen Fraser **Carried.**

Motion: *"That we receive the report from CYAN."*

MOVED: Ruby Fisher **Seconded:** Joy McMann **Carried.**

Motion: *"That we approve the CYAN budget for 2023."*

MOVED: Joy McMann **Seconded:** Cindy McKay **Carried.**

The Chair: At this point Allan Buckingham took the Chair.

Memorial Fund Wish List:

Motion: *"That the Memorial Fund Wish List for 2023 include:*

(1) A new door from the Sanctuary to Gordon Hall.

(2) Some new furniture for the renovated Gordon Hall.

(3) New shelves or bookcase for the books being circulated among the community."

MOVED: Jim McPherson **Seconded:** Carole Rowe **Carried.**

2023 Budget for the RCCoF:

Bill Fisher presented the budgets for 2023. First the operating budget, then the capital budget, then the BVRP/TWION budget.

- A question was asked about the increase in the levy from the national church. It was noted that the national church is trying to be more equitable, i.e. some communities of faith have sizable trust funds, but many do not.
- There was some discussion of the advisability of creating a separate fund for capital improvements. No action was taken.
- The TWION budget assumes the family will arrive in April, which may not be the case. If they arrive later appropriate adjustments will be made to the budget.
- Paul Elfner noted that about 10% of the increased costs for the accessibility renovations was due to additional features we have added after the first quote was developed, e.g. an extra washroom, additional automatic door openers, automated faucets.

Motion: *"That we approve the 2023 budgets."*

MOVED: Paul Elfner **Seconded:** Kelly Gibson **Carried.**

Appointment of an accountant as our Financial Review agent:

Motion: *"That we appoint Baker-Tilley as our financial review agent."*

MOVED: Kelly Gibson **Seconded:** Jim McPherson **Carried.**

Amalgamation Transition Team:

Motion: *"That we receive the report of the Amalgamation Transition Team."*

MOVED: Kelly Gibson **Seconded:** Donna Kennedy **Carried.**

Motion: *"That we adopt the governance structure set out in the Amalgamation Transition Team report."*

MOVED: Bill Fisher **Seconded:** Jim Ridley **Carried.**

Election of the Board of Directors of the RMUC Charity:

Motion: *"That we elect Ian Brownlie, Allan Buckingham, Mary Buckingham, William Fisher and Marlo Reid-Gibson as Directors of the RMUC charity."*

MOVED: Karen Fraser **Seconded:** Joy McMann **Carried.**

Election of the RCMUC Community of Faith Trustees:

Motion: *"That we elect Gus Campbell, Brian James, Barb Profitt, Marlo Reid-Gibson, Jim Ridley, Carole Rowe and John Thorburn as Trustees of the RCMUC community of faith."*

MOVED: Bill Fisher **Seconded:** Mary Buckingham **Carried.**

Note that by UCC rules the incumbent Minister is also a member of the Board of Trustees.

Election of the Council of the RCMUC community of faith:

Motion: *"That we elect the following persons to the Council of RCMUC community of faith: Ian Schofield, Chair; Paul Elfner, Vice-Chair; Ruben Nelson, Secretary; Mona McIntyre, Treasurer, Rev. Greg Wooley, Minister; Carole Rowe, Trustees; Joy McMann, Ministry and Personnel; Karen Fraser, Deep Listener – Canmore; Janis Dougall, Worship Team, Ruby Fisher, Pastoral Care*

Team; Isabelle Ramsay, Spiritual Explorations Team; Rick Anderson, Stewardship and Finance Team; Marlo Reid-Gibson, Property Team; Paul Elfner, Building Heritage Team; Karen Fraser, Church History Team; Paul Elfner, Past Chair; Allan Buckingham, Representative to Chinook Winds Region.

MOVED: Jim McPherson **Seconded:** Ian Brownlie **Carried.**

NOTE: The following positions are now vacant: Communications, Deep Listener – Banff, Hospitable Welcoming and one Representative to Chinook Winds Region.

We received the following as information: That the following persons will lead our various Community Connection, Equity and Justice Ministry Teams:

- Affirming Ministry – Julie Fletcher
- Alpine Voices Threshold Choir – Jan Tissandier
- Bow Valley Refugee Project/The World is Our Neighbour – Ian Brownlie, Karen Fraser
- Building Accessibility Upgrade Project – Paul Elfner
- Ecumenical Prayer Shawls Knitters – Jeanette Aishford and Mona McIntyre
- Emergency Planning Team – stood down for now
- Evensong – Jan Tissandier and lay leaders
- Faithful Footprints/Environmental Stewardship – Jim Ridley/Ian Schofield
- Friends of CYAN – Joy McMann
- Futures Exploration – Joy McMann and Ruben Nelson
- Good Relations – Marg Suurallik
- Green Exodus – vacant
- Healing Pathway – Vicky Connoy, Val Goodrow and Sue Nichols
- Kids Connection – Faye Forbes-Anderson
- Rundle Thrift Shop – Ian Brownlie and Sally MacDonald
- Wedding Ministry – Rev. Shannon Mang, Aurora Borin, Marlo Reid-Gibson, Joy McMann

Other Business: The following items were noted:

- We will live into the question of how we come to refer to ourselves. For now, legally, we are the Ralph Connor Memorial United Church community of faith, the short form of which is Ralph Connor community of faith.
- The Church History Ministry Team needs someone from Banff to join the Team.
- Deep thankfulness was expressed to Cathy Harrop and Dave Somerville who are leaving the Council and to Patricia Roozendaal for joining us as our bookkeeper.

Adjournment: The Chair adjourned the meeting at 1:10 PM.

Recorded and submitted by: Ruben Nelson, Secretary

Please draw errors and omissions to Ruben's attention: rubennelson@shaw.ca or 403-609-1016

NOTE: As Secretary, I have copies of all reports to Council circulated to the Council prior to a meeting. Please contact me if you require a copy of a given report. I also have a video recording of the meeting.



Public Witness on Banff Avenue

Passages 2023

3 Baptisms

- Blair Deborah, daughter of Alexander Schijns and Erika Schultz
- Brooklyn Lee Shay, daughter of Kelsey Lee Whalley
- Kinsley Eve, daughter of Benjamin Simmonds and Kahla Banfill

11 Weddings – detailed in Wedding Ministry report

12 Deaths

- Betty Baggott**
- Ambrose Chodan**
- Jack Clipperton**+
- Jane Fetterly Bill**
- Joaquin Costa Funk-diPezzo**
- Lillas Marie Hatala**
- Vivienne LeMesurier**
- Gary McKay
- Pauline Mulhall**
- Carolynne O'Hearn+
- Pat Ritchie
- David Watson

2 confirmed members are marked+;

8 Memorial/Graveside services that are noted in our Church registers are marked**.

Submitted by Rev. Greg Wooley

Chair's Report

Last year in my report as Council Chair I highlighted three initiatives the newly amalgamated Ralph Connor Memorial Community of Faith would be actioning in 2023. At a special congregational meeting in October 2022, we formally approved the amalgamation. As the year progressed, we increasingly integrated our Church and mission lives. Council has engaged members from both Banff and Canmore. Most Church subcommittees and missions have involved members from both communities. Ralph and Rundle folks increasingly see both campuses as their Church home for worship and fellowship and now regard the entire Bow Valley as one pastoral charge. I thank the leadership of the Council members and Mission facilitators who have fostered the spirit of amalgamation. We have been so ably assisted in this journey by our esteemed and well-loved Minister, Reverend Greg Wooley. Greg has been with us for close to 12 years. In the early years Greg worked with us to have a firm foundation so

that when the invitation was received from the Rundle Memorial congregation to amalgamate, we were in a position to accept.

The year ended with Greg announcing his retirement from full time ministry in the Bow Valley. The leadership teams over the past almost 12 years all extend our heartfelt thanks for his time, vision and patience during these times of transition. Greg has given us the courage and determination to be a visible Christian community in the Bow Valley. We are extremely grateful for his exceptional work with us. Thank you, Greg!

At the last annual meeting we adopted a new Administrative Structure. Council meets bimonthly. Subcommittee chairs report on their activities and projects. Council advises and focuses on the policy issues, whereas the smaller Executive meet monthly, mainly by Zoom, to deal with administrative matters as they arise. This group is small enough that emergent issues can be dealt with by email and zoom. Our third group, The Big Tent focuses on our mission work. Three times a year, representatives from all our missions gather to report on their activities and seek guidance and support from this group of community activists. The discussions are lively and energizing. Many hands make light work guides the new structure. We want to minimize the amount of time each of us spends at meetings freeing us to do the work. I urge everyone to consider expanding their volunteer commitment in the life of the Church. Council will work hard to support your work so that each minute spend is a worthwhile minute.

The Accessibility Project was approved in late 2022. Under the direction and guidance of Paul Elfner, Past Chair and present Chair of the Building/Heritage Committee, the Ralph Connor campus was renovated and made barrier free. We were so fortunate to have the Rundle campus in Banff for worship during the construction period. For many of us a by-product of the closure of Ralph Connor helped us become comfortable with our Banff campus and its missions. There will be a dedication and ribbon cutting ceremony following services on Sunday, March 3, 2024, with light refreshments to follow. We will salute the hard work and vision of those who shepherded the Project to its conclusion. We are grateful to the Department of Employment and Social Development of the Federal Government for their grant of \$100,000.00 which was a catalyst. I extend special thanks to the Paterson Foundation and the late Jean Slaght for their generous donations. We are also very grateful to members of the Church and the wider Bow Valley Community for their wonderful support and gifts. The 3 stop elevator, accessible washrooms, door openers and reconfigured space has been welcomed by our user groups. I am pleased that new user groups have moved their activities to Ralph Connor as they can provide services to their mobility challenged clients.

We are in a good position at the end of 2023. We have committed volunteers to provide leadership for our Church work and missions. We are open to new ventures. We have two campuses to service our pastoral charge of the entire Bow Valley. We are not dispirited by the challenges of the modern Christian Church. We have been so fortunate to have had inspiring leadership and guidance from our Minister, Rev. Greg

Wooley. Greg has been able to harness the energy and spirit of Ralph Connor and Rundle into one team. We wish him all the best as he moves to the next adventures in his life this spring. As a result of his work among us, we will be able to attract a new Minister to partner with us as we continue to provide Christian mission to the Bow Valley and the wider world.

Submitted by Ian Schofield

Minister's Report

There was a pivotal moment in the year 2023 at the Ralph Connor Memorial United Church Community of Faith – so tangible, yet so subtle that I can't tell you exactly when it was.

For sixteen weeks, the Canmore Church building was closed for renovations. As an amalgamated community of faith with two campuses, Sunday services and a number of other functions moved from Canmore to Banff. Over the sixteen weeks, attendance remained solid as folks from Canmore and surrounding communities joined with Banffites, Banff folks looked after coffee time each Sunday, and our choir faithfully presented wonderful anthems week after week. Somewhere around week ten or eleven, I could feel that things were changing: we were truly embracing the reality that we now had two homes, the 1891 Ralph Connor Church in Canmore and the 1927 Rundle Memorial Church in Banff, and a sense of cohesion was developing – not because we had particularly planned it, but because our consistent time together gave the Spirit the opportunities she needed to bring us together. The unique gifts of each place, as well as the places of common ground, meshed together organically in those weeks in a time of unexpected blessing. That sense of togetherness has remained now that we are finding a rhythm between our two homes, and as all of us enjoy the new sense of openness to Gordon Hall and increased access to the room upstairs (a.k.a. “the Upper Room”).

That sense of the Holy Spirit's urging and nudging and introducing and embracing, is what remains with me most of all about the year just ended, 2023 – the first year of this newly amalgamated Community of Faith, which was at the same time a respectful continuation of the entire life stories of two long-standing congregations.

As is always the case with an amalgamation, there are copious details to figure out. Some of those were obvious and brought positive outcomes, others pushed us to engage in necessary but difficult transitions, and the gracious, generous creativity of the Holy Spirit opened new doors to us that we had not initially seen. I won't go so far as to say “many hands make light work” but I will offer my profound and enduring thanks for the dozens of hands that stayed firmly on the plough even though the work was, chaotic and heavy. I offer particular thanks to our steadfast Ministry & Personnel Committee; to the Amalgamation Transition Team and its predecessor, the Ralph & Rundle group; to our Council & its Executive and the participants of all the teams in our “Big Tent”; and to my co-workers at both campuses. I am also thankful that the Rundle Memorial congregation saw fit to approach the Ralph Connor Canmore congregation early in 2021 to first propose this amalgamation; it has proven to be such a good thing for us as a whole, and such an interesting journey for me personally.

2023 was also a year in which, from about February onward, had for me a growing sense of restlessness – a sense in my soul that I was likely moving into my last year here in the Bow Valley. The middle months of 2023 were filled with discernment, and the deeper I looked the clearer it became. With gratitude for eleven-plus years of Ministry in Canmore, and three in Banff, in December I formally requested a change in pastoral relations, to take effect May 31, 2024. As I stated in my official letter to the Chinook Winds Region, “While this Community of Faith faces many of the common challenges facing Churches these days, it also has a level of vitality, and a commitment to discerning and serving broader community needs, that continue to make this a wonderful, supportive, engaged group to serve in ministry.” As an amalgamated community of faith, I see in the future of this place “diverse, intriguing possibilities for an expanded, dynamic ministry presence in the Bow Valley”.

I am so thankful for the time spent here, for your willingness in 2012 to welcome me back into full-time Ministry after a number of years away, and for the loving support that has been so evident throughout. May God’s rich blessings remain evident in your life of faith.

Blessings/submitted by, (Rev) Greg Wooley

Reports of Ralph Connor Community Ministries Amalgamation Transition Team

On January 1, 2023, the newly amalgamated Ralph Connor Memorial United Church Community of Faith was born. This Community of Faith continues all aspects of the life, work and responsibilities of the previous Rundle Memorial United Church congregation in Banff, and the previous Ralph Connor Memorial United Church congregation in Canmore.

A letter received from the Chinook Winds Region on November 16, 2022, approving the request for amalgamation sent by Ralph Connor, set in motion most of the formal aspects of the amalgamation. There were still many unfinished details, and work pertaining to the amalgamation that needed specific, ongoing oversight, so the Amalgamation Transition Team (ATT) was formed in January 2023.

The work of the ATT in the year 2023 included:

- Expressing our debt of gratitude to the work done by the prior “R&R” team (Ralph & Rundle) which did so much of the groundwork toward the amalgamation;
- Clarifying the governance for the first three months of 2023 and proposing a new governance structure;
- Setting the agenda for the new “Big Tent” meetings where all the ministries of RCMUC can get together for networking and support;
- Revisiting our staffing model, to ensure that paid positions are geared toward the present and anticipated needs of the newly amalgamated Community of Faith;
- Combining the websites of the two prior congregations, acquiring a new Church-held Microsoft Account for all the digital folders of the Community of Faith, and seeking other efficiencies that could streamline the work of the two campuses;

- Encouraging Sunday events to help build understanding of our newly-amalgamated Church culture, including the Lenten series regarding Rev Dr Janet Gear's "Theological Banquet", a Canadian Foodgrains Bank luncheon in October, and November's "Angels of Congregations Past" facilitated by Rev Shannon Mang.

Perhaps the greatest challenge of the ATT's year was the fact that while the two congregations were amalgamated on January 1, 2023, we initially attempted to continue to run two charities, one in Banff, one in Canmore. By April it was apparent that this was creating a lot more work for no particular benefit, and correspondence began with the Canada Revenue Agency. At the end of November, we were pleased to learn that the CRA had approved the amalgamation of the two previous charities...and surprised to learn that this approval was back-dated to January 1, 2023! With this being the case, tax receipts for 2023 will all be issued under the name Ralph Connor. Special thanks to Bill Fisher, to Karen Gibson of Peterson Walker LLP in Edmonton, and to everyone on our finance team for all the work that has gone into unifying our books and our chart of accounts.

As mentioned in my Minister's report, I sense that things have gone well in the first year of the amalgamation, and that this course of action is indeed what we are called to be doing. Thank you for all your support!

Blessings/submitted by GW on behalf of the ATT

Communications

The past year has been the first for a formal communication Ministry of the Ralph Connor Community of Faith. The initial task, as outlined when Greg Wooley asked (or assigned?) myself to assume this task, was to reach out and somehow quantify the many sources and streams of communications directed at and derived from our many church activities. The task was doubly necessary because of the merging of the Banff and Canmore Congregations into one unified community in two locations.

The task has been complex, fascinating and not onerous because of the multitude of great communicators in our midst and their passion and commitment to our abundance of ministries. Looked at from the other end of the telescope, the task is complex, fascinating and onerous BECAUSE of the multitude of great communicators etc. as stated above!

One area of activity, still incomplete, is to bring consistency into the ways we call ourselves, whether in a Newsletter, a weekly bulletin, our website, on social media or official correspondence. This task will become easier in time as more of the sources of these communications refer them to me either before or after they go out to the world. To this end the websites of the former Rundle United and Ralph Connor United have been merged and updated to better reflect who we now are and are becoming.

Submitted by Jim McPherson, Allan Buckingham, and Olivia Stevenson

Future Explorations

The Futures Exploration Working Group had big plans for 2023, however, due to other commitments, many of those plans did not come to fruition as we had hoped. We did host three Futures meetings: one in-person (June) for RC folks and two on Zoom for community members. Some good discussion and connections were made at these meetings.

We found the attendance, almost-full at artsPlace plus many who live-streamed, to Andrew Nikiforuk's presentation on "Degrowth or Collapse" to be very encouraging in that community members are taking an interest in the future of our world.

With Greg's announcement that he will be leaving our community of faith, we have shifted gears a bit to lend a more immediate focus on using some "futures" thoughts to help guide conversations as the Community Profile Group gathers information for our Living Faith Story.

A special thanks to Ruben for his leadership and willingness to share his expertise with our community of faith and to Sim Stroes-Gascoyne whose perspectives and questions have enriched our discussions and decisions.

Respectfully submitted, Joy McMann

Chair, Futures Exploration Working Group

Ministry and Personnel

In 2023 the M&P committees of Ralph and Rundle merged. Partway through the year, Lena Goon decided to step down, leaving the team at: Ian Brownlie (co-chair), Ruby Fisher, Alexine Murray and me. It has been a pleasure to work with such insightful and caring persons and I extend my thanks to each of them. One new piece of work we have undertaken this year was to establish a better job review process and we have been pleased with the results. We are always learning...

On the staff front, 2023 was a very busy year for Greg as, on top of his "regular" duties, he had such a big hand in both the amalgamation and the accessibility project. It is no coincidence that both were completed successfully! Thank you, Greg!

Due to the amalgamation, how our community of faith is staffed was considered. As a result, it was decided that both of the office administrator positions would be eliminated. The Ralph position, held by Trish Campney, finished in early October. The Rundle position, held by Nancy Murray, had to be kept a bit longer due to the delay in sorting things out with CRA. In the meantime, a new and expanded position of Special Assistant was created and filled by Olivia Stevenson in early October. This position was designed serve our whole community of faith. The bookkeeper position, which was created and filled by Patricia Roozendaal at the end of 2022, with the intention and goal of eventually including bookkeeping tasks for the whole community of faith. Again, because of delays with CRA, Patricia spent 2023 working on Ralph's bookkeeping, defining/refining processes and creating a common Chart of Accounts for both Ralph and Rundle in preparation for one set of books.

Thanks to Tanya for her continued work of love in shepherding the choir and to Jan for her heartfelt leadership of Evensong. Our community of faith is blessed to have each of them!

The Rundle Thrift Shop continued with the ebb and flow of staff and the consistent work of Cat as cleaner of Rundle. Thanks goes out to them for their work to make the Thrift Shop successful and to Ian B. and Sally for their ongoing work with the Thrift Shop staff.

In the 2024 Budget, you will see a 6.3% salary/pay increase for our staff. This follows the guidelines set out by the UCC.

Respectfully submitted, Joy McMann, M&P Co-chair

Pastoral Care

Members: Mary Buckingham, Vicky Connoy, Allison Edwards, Cindy McKay, Diane Travers, Rev. Greg Wooley and Ruby Fisher

The committee had three Zoom meetings.

We are very grateful to Rev. Wooley who continues to do visitations and monthly worship services at Golden Eagle View and Bow River Lodge and coordinates the Tuesday service roster with the other ministers. He also does visitations at Banff and Canmore hospitals.

Our committee continues to provide updates to Rev. Wooley regarding Pastoral Care for our congregation.

We wanted to recognize Jeff and Trish Campney who facilitated monthly gatherings at Origin in the first half of 2023. While those gatherings were designed to watch an RCMUC YouTube Worship Service together, it was with the intention of building and sustaining connections between people and the church. Rev Wooley and the Pastoral Care Committee appreciate the effort and initiative that Trish and Jeff put into this outreach.

Respectfully Submitted, Ruby Fisher, Chair

Benevolent Fund

The Ralph Connor Benevolent Fund is designed to cover both Emergency needs and Community Service initiatives. In the year 2023, Benevolent donations assisted local people as well as folks "in transit." Needs funded included groceries, gas money, bus tickets, meals, food support for grieving families, and overnight stays at one of Canmore's two hostels. Donations were made to the fund supporting victims of the Lake Louise residence fire, and to both the Bow Valley Christmas Spirit (Canmore and Bighorn) and Santas Anonymous (Banff). In December the Benevolent Fund contributed significant financial support for the Eagle's Nest Shelter at Mini Thni (our "Mitten Tree" recipient) and the third annual Iyarhe Nakoda Christmas Feast. Thank you all for your generous support of this fund. Donations may be made through the online donation portal, or via the "second offering" on Communion Sundays.

Submitted by Rev. Greg Wooly

Healing Pathway

During 2023 The Healing Pathway Team chose not to gather for monthly meetings. A meeting was held prior to Christmas. We supported each other through on table practice and meditation. A discussion followed about starting to offer healing sessions to congregants. At this time, the members feel a need to continue to support each other and are unable to join our hearts and hands to support others through our Healing Sessions. It is undecided when we will be offering Healing Pathway Sessions.

Continuing from the fall out of COVID, Val Goodrow is meeting virtually once a week with the Healing Pathway Prayer Circle for meditation and prayer. This Ministry continues to be a Blessing for our group, and we offer our prayers to support the World. During our time together we are privileged to include those people who have specific prayer requests. Greg is always included in our prayers as well as our congregation.

If you know someone who would like to be prayed for by The Healing Pathway Prayer Circle, we request that the person gives consent to have their name mentioned in prayer as privacy/confidentiality is of utmost importance. We also would appreciate knowing when the situation changes so we can release them from our prayers or update the prayer to a different need.

During these times, our sub-group of the Healing Pathway Ministry is honored to continue to respond to the community needs virtually.

Respectfully submitted by Val Goodrow and Sue Nichols

Spiritual Explorations

In addition to the ongoing work of Kid's Connection (see below), 2023 was a year of discernment for the Spiritual Explorations team. Our connection with the local interfaith community continued to grow, with an invitation to attend the Buddhist monastery opening ceremony in June. Late in the year, the "Spirituality of Aging" initiative began to take shape and a connection was struck with Rev. Dr. Jane Kuepfer of Conrad Grebel College at the University of Waterloo, an expert in this field who is enthusiastic about the work we are beginning. Plans will continue to emerge in 2024.

Respectfully submitted, Rev Greg Wooley with Isabelle Ramsay

Kids Connection

Our "Kids' Connection" is Christian development and hospitality in equal measure. We welcome children ages 4 to 15 to an interactive environment to learn about our faith and the love Jesus taught, while their adults enjoy Sunday worship.

In Canmore, where we have a fellowship hall (but no separate children's space in the sanctuary), our children participate in the Sunday worship until the first hymn, then accompany a volunteer into the fellowship hall for a 10 - 15 minute activity, and then rejoin worship in the sanctuary for the anthem and the remainder of the service.

During the summer, and when volunteers are not available, our children are invited to enjoy activity pages in the pews.

In Banff, where we have a small area at the front of the sanctuary (but no separate space for a lesson) our children are invited to remain in the sanctuary at a small table with some supplies and activity pages.

While very few children attend, we remain committed to providing this important ministry, and we welcome additional volunteers.

Respectfully submitted by Faye Forbes-Anderson

Worship

Members: Greg Wooley, Sim Gascoyne, Donna Kennedy, Tanya Sullivan, Jan Tissandier, Ann Thorburn, Sharon Fish, Jan Dougall

Special Services Research and Presentations: Lynn Katarey

The Worship Committee organized many meaningful services and events while taking into consideration both amalgamation with Rundle United and our physical move to Banff due to the renovations at Ralph Connor. Upon reflection, we felt this worked well for members of both congregations to become familiar with each other and their traditions.

Ralph Connor has now adopted Rundle United's tradition of having communion at "table". Early in 2023 while being cognizant of Covid protocols, individual cups containing a grape and fish cracker, symbols of the bread and wine, were handed out at the entrance doors. We have now returned to monthly communion.

The committee is going to try a roster system for volunteers as there are many openings left each Sunday. This will be left to our office administrator to find volunteers if there are spaces to be filled. We will reassess how effectively the roster system is working mid-year.

While Greg was on vacation for the month of June, the committee organized a music Sunday to highlight the talents of choir and other musicians within our church family. Reverend Michael Ward and Allan Buckingham led our other services.

Highlights of Services/Events

Black History Month: Jen Prince presented an interesting talk. She is willing to come back and answer questions for those who want further discussion.

Easter Services: The theme for Holy Week was a theological banquet. This worked well for Palm/Passion Sunday as it covered all the emotions of Holy Week as we did not offer a Good Friday service. Ken Levae and Gloria Snow led the sunrise service. Elder Glen Stevens spoke very powerfully using the 23rd Psalm. The Easter Sunday service was held in Banff.

Earth Week: This service was led by Sarah Arthurs from Green Exodus.

Red Dress and Orange Shirt Day: Displays were set up both at Rundle and Ralph Connor. A QR code was available for those wanting more information.

Grain and Beans Sunday, October 1st in Banff: Donations were collected for the Canadian Food Grains Bank

Remembrance Day: Presentation by Lynne Katarey based on information of service members whose names are on plaques under the church windows. Marg Suurallik also presented some of her memories and those that she heard from her mother, Molly.

Christmas Eve Services: A service of Lessons and Nine Carols was held at Rundle United at 5:30 pm and Ralph Connor at 8:30 pm. Both services were well attended. This year we did not hold a pageant at the Seniors Centre due to increased costs and volunteer burnout.

The Worship Committee is appreciative of Greg's guidance, dedication and enthusiasm. Our members will continue to strive to provide meaningful services and events while working with the future staff.

Submitted by Jan Dougall, Chair

Music

Music continues to be a very important part of the ministry of Ralph Connor Memorial United Church. We continue to attract new members to the choir and but as members age and priorities change we continue to welcome anyone who wants to join us.

We spent most of the first half of 2023 rehearsing at St. Michael's Anglican church hall due to the church renovation and worshiped in Banff for the duration. That gave the choir an opportunity to experience singing in different venues. We capped the spring season off with a "Welcome back to Ralph Connor" music service on June 4. It was well received and we even had visitors from other churches join us.

With a very busy season of choir, I didn't take many holidays, so I took most of the summer off again and we welcomed Chantalle Maundy back to fill in for a summer contract. She filled in previously in 2019, so she already knew the routine. Other musicians who filled in or assisted include, Jan Tissandier, Corina Strim, Cathy Harrop, Diane Bischak, Bev Carrick and Threshold choir. Cathy Robinson continues her mission of choir conducting when she is available and her expertise is much appreciated.

I attended Naramata this summer as my continuing education. We had a very energetic director, Scott Leithead, who usually works with younger singers (youth), but it was good to have that fire and energy. Several other choir members attended and a former member flew in from Ontario to attend and reconnect.

We started our fall season with a meeting/party to establish commitment levels as personal priorities continue to evolve. There was reassurance that members are still invested in our ministry but we decided to make a few concessions going forward to ease the load.

A surprise invitation in the fall from Distinguished Choirs International New York (DCINY.org) led to a lengthy discussion and ultimate decision to accept the call to sing in New York at Carnegie Hall in the spring of 2024. A contingent from the choir will perform the cantata “Our Father” by Pepper Choplin alongside close to 200 other singers from all over the US and conducted by the composer. This will be a big commitment and personal expense for the participating members and we are exploring fundraising options. There is also the option for supporters to join us as VIPs.

Another surprise mixed up our routine in the fall with a commitment to test drive the sampler for the new virtual hymn resource “Then Let Us Sing”. It was met with mixed reviews and was a bit rushed, so we gave it our best efforts as a choir and congregation.

Overall, we had a very interesting year of music making.

Respectfully submitted, Tanya Sullivan

Evensong

More and more of us are imagining a wild theology that arises under the stars and planets, along a thundering river or meandering stream...gazing at a spider spinning her web, observing a single tree bud form, swell, burst, and bloom. ~ Brian McLaren

Drawing inspiration from the natural world, from poets, from Indigenous wisdom, Evensong moves through the year marking the liturgical seasons with rituals and sacred intention. From chalking the door at Epiphany to sharing The Longest Night through word, song, and image on YouTube, Wednesday contemplative gatherings are offered January to the end of May, and October to the winter solstice. A dedicated circle of lay leaders continues to hold space for community to gather in the sanctuary, alternating with meeting on Zoom. Online worship welcomes attendees from Calgary, BC, Ontario, England, as well as those in the Bow Valley who prefer the ease of joining from home. We are grateful for the wisdom and heart that our worship and technical hosts bring to this practice, with thanks to Marni Virtue, Judith Maxwell, Eric McAvity, Joy McMann, Femmeke Holthuis, Heather and Alan McFadyen, Judy Archer, Jackie Baker, and Greg Wooley.

On behalf of the Evensong community (submitted by),

Jan Tissandler

Wider Church

As the representative for the wider church, I view my role as bringing information from the wider church to the various ministries at Ralph Connor, and the community as a whole, as I come across them, and provide information as needed/requested to anyone as well. I also reflect back to the wider church what's happening in our Community of Faith as appropriate. I've tried to do this throughout the year, most recently raising up the Moderators Book club and the book being read in November, *The Wall Between*. (The book club continues for another year+).

If you're interested in staying more on top of what's happening at a [Regional](#), [National](#) or [International](#) level in the church world, there are various newsletters you can sign up to as well. Let me know what area you're interested in, and I can help direct you appropriately if you'd like.

If you or your ministry have any questions about what's happening in the wider church related to what you do, or have any feedback for the wider church, please let me know.

Submitted by Allan Buckingham

Reports of Wider Community Ministries

Affirming Ministry

This year marked a continuation of our commitment to being an Affirming Ministry, covering the Bow Valley. In 2023, we celebrated the affirmation of Rundle Memorial United Church in Banff, joining our cause for inclusivity. As a result, both our Canmore and Banff campuses have successfully maintained their Affirming status, reaffirming our dedication to openness and inclusivity. As a member of the Affirming Ministry, I also worked to continue to build our connection and work within the community as a representative of the church at Bow Valley Safer Spaces meetings. We discussed how to create safer spaces and opportunities for 2SLGBTQIA+ community members in the Bow Valley, as well as how we can continue to create education opportunities for those interested in how they can better support and be allies. This led to the “Gender and Sexual Diversities for Parents and Caregivers” workshop that took place on February 2nd, 2024 as a collaborative effort between Alida Kelly (a local Registered Social Worker and member of the congregation) and myself.

I look forward to seeing the continued success of the Affirming Ministry at Ralph Connor and it was a pleasure to serve in this role for a period of time.

Respectfully submitted by Olivia Stevenson

Alpine Voices Threshold Choir

We are all just walking each other home. ~ Ram Dass

From singalong gatherings in long term care, bedside sings in hospital rooms and living rooms, public rituals for January's Blue Monday and December's candle lighting memorial service, the singers of Alpine Voices were there. The words of Ram Dass, set to music by Threshold Choir founder Kate Munger, encapsulate the concept of “kindness made audible”, bringing support to those at the thresholds of life through gentle singing. We gather twice monthly to rehearse in the church sanctuary and the lovely acoustics lift our voices and spirits. We are thankful for the ongoing support of Ralph Connor Memorial United Church.

Submitted with gratitude on behalf of Alpine Voices Threshold Choir,

Jan Tissandier

Bow Valley Wedding Ministry

There were eleven weddings in 2023 with the Bow Valley United Church Wedding Ministry

Couple	Date	Location
Gillian Christie & Andrew Gibbs	April 1	Rundle UC- Banff
Julie Wong & Ryan Travis	April 1	Malcolm Hotel -Canmore
Curstin Raghunath & Scott Graham	April 8	Banff Springs Hotel-Banff
Giancarlo Zaghini & Dana Carmichael	May 27	Ralph Connor UC- Canmore
Delaney Schofer & Ryan Okamura	July 15	Malcolm Hotel- Canmore
Meghan Kerwin & Kyle Hanson	Aug 19	Sacred Buffalo Guardian- Banff
Yoseth Diaz & David Romero	Aug 20	Private Residence- Airdrie
Jan Joubert & Maggie Cappelletti	Sept 23	Vermillion Lakes- Banff
Brooklyn Dayne & Matthew Goddard	Oct 7	Sacred Buffalo Guardian- Banff
Norman Duchaine & Robbie Carter	Oct 19	Malcolm Hotel- Canmore
Jacquelyn McGuire & Fredrik Dalmen	Dec 28	Rundle UC - Banff

- 3 Church ceremonies- 2 at Rundle UC in Banff and 1 at Ralph Connor UC in Canmore
- 3 off-site ceremonies in Canmore and 4 off-site ceremonies in Banff; 1 ceremony in a private residence in Airdrie
- 3 requests from ministers to use one of the marriage registers for weddings- one of those requests was from Catherine MacLean and Earl Reaburn for the wedding of their son at Emerald Lake
- There was one request from a couple who wished to book the Rundle sanctuary to do their own vow renewal ceremony

On June 1, 2023 the wedding rates changed. These are the current rates (although 2 more weddings in 2024 will be “grandfathered” with the former rates as they were booked and the deposit made prior to June 1, 2024) :

A Church Wedding In Banff Or Canmore

Rundle Memorial – Banff \$2000.00 [seating for 180]

Ralph Connor – Canmore \$1500.00 [seating for 90]

Off-site Ceremony in Canmore or Banff \$500.00

Most of the weddings this year came from inquiries from the Bow Valley United Church Weddings website: <https://weddings.ralphconnor.ca>

I enjoyed working with musicians Aurora Borin, Tanya Sullivan and Jan Tissandier for the 3 church ceremonies and Marlo Reid Gibson (wedding host) for 2 of the 3

ceremonies, and a thank you to Ruby Fisher for sharing the hosting duties with Marlo for one of the weddings.

I have deeply loved having the role of the Wedding Minister for the Bow Valley United Church Wedding Ministry that has been *Public, Intentional and Explicit*, based on the Affirming Values of Ralph Connor Memorial United Church. On Dec 6, 2023 I resigned from this position effective March 31, 2024. From the time that Rev. Greg Wooley handed the Wedding Ministry off from his duties, it has been overseen by a standing committee made up of Joy McMann and Cathy Harrop. Their guidance and support have been a gift to this work. Thank you for entrusting this ministry with me since June, 2021.

Submitted by Rev. Shannon Mang

Bow Valley Refugee Project (BVRP)

The Church is involved with two separate refugee sponsorship applications. Rundle United through its mission, TWION (The World is our Neighbour) is sponsoring the Bhattis, a Pakistani family of four now resident in Nepal. Ralph Connor through its mission, BVRP (Bow Valley Refugee Project) is sponsoring Ahmed Ali, a Syrian refugee now resident in Malaysia. With the amalgamation of the parent churches the two groups have informally amalgamated under the name of BVRP.

Both the Bhattis and Ali have been recognized by UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) as convention refugees. Early in 2023 Canada Immigration approved the Bhattis for resettlement in Canada and gave them permanent resident status. Ahmed is awaiting that approval. TWION and BVRP has raised funds to provide the refugees for the first year of residence in Canada, as required by the sponsorship agreements. Upon being advised that the refugees are ready to travel to Canada BVRP is ready to spring into action to raise additional funds, secure housing and furnish as required and to aid access to health, language testing, transportation, and educational services, which are available to refugees in Canada.

However, for the Bhattis there is the issue of an overstay fine imposed by Nepal. The Bhattis entered Nepal as visitors and were issued a term visa. Nepal imposes a daily overstay fine if a visitor, including those fleeing persecution as refugees, overstays the visa. After more than 7 years in Nepal that fine for the family is huge. We naively thought that the Nepalese government would welcome the decision of Canada to accept the Bhattis and would waive the overstay fine and send the Bhattis on their way. But, unfortunately that is not the case.

The issue of overstay fine does not only affect the Bhattis but also a cohort of 70 refugees accepted for resettlement in Canada. There are other UNHCR refugees accepted for resettlement in other Western countries that are also stymied by overstay fines. BVRP has left no stone unturned to lobby the Canadian government, UNHCR

and refugee advocacy organizations for assistance to resolve this outstanding issue and will continue to do so.

While we wait BVRP keeps in regular contact with our refugees rendering what support we can give to make this wait more bearable. We ask for everyone's prayers that 2024 sees both the Bhattis and Ahmed safely and happily resettled in the Bow Valley.

On a brighter note, we can report that the Kahkejian family continues to thrive in Canmore and Drumheller. They are raising 4 beautiful, healthy, active children, a living testament to our mission to sponsor refugees.

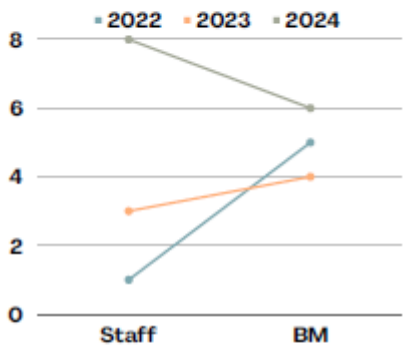
Submitted by Karen Fraser

Canmore Young Adult Network (CYAN)

INTRODUCTION

The Canmore Young Adult Network is thrilled to overview a record-breaking year marked by numerous firsts, remarkable accomplishments, and significant strides in building connections. This year has been pivotal in fostering our organization's sustainability, propelling us into 2024 with exciting opportunities for expansion and growth. As we reflect on the past, we are energized by the foundation laid for a promising future moving to 2024 and beyond.

OPERATIONS REVIEW



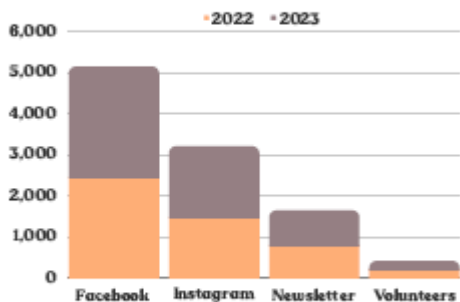
- increase from **2 paid casual employees** to **6**
- increase from **120 working hours** per month to **160 hours** per month - **33.3% increase in capacity/operations**

2023

- increase from **6 paid casual employees** to **8**
- increase from **160 working hours** per month to **202 hours** per month - **26.25% increase in capacity/operations**

2024

OUTREACH & COMMUNITY REVIEW



- In **2023** CYAN hosted **8 community booths**
- in **2023** CYAN hosted **2 community presentations**
- in **2023** CYAN participated in **10+ networking events**
- in **2023** CYAN participated in **3+ community initiatives**

⇒ **resulting in** ⇒

- Outreach within our **social media channels** has increased by **13.5% in 2023**
- **Newsletter** outreach has increased by **19.4% in 2023**
- Our **volunteer following** has increased by **36% in 2023**

PROGRAMMING REVIEW

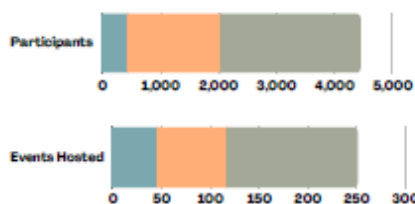
2023

Programming	Hosted Events
Mental Well-Being	Sound baths, Mindfulness Meditation, Mediumship reading, Tarot Card Reading, Mindfulness Goal Setting, Transformational Breath Ayurvedic Medicine, Mindfulness Painting and 2024 Goal Setting
Physical Well-being	Weekly Yoga Nights, Cross-Country Skiing, Bike Maintenance, Mountain Biking Lessons, Disc Golf Lessons, Guided Hikes, Guided Snowshoeing, Guided Skating, Indoor Climbing lessons
Social Events	Painting, Halloween Pumpkin Painting, Ornament Painting, Cookie Decorating, Terrarium Building, Speed Friending, Cocktail Making, Trivia
Other Events	Games Night, Pasta Night, Birthday Bash

2024

Programming	Details
Political	quarterly meetings with the mayor, political lead up information sessions
Environmental	Twice a year - trail restoration, community clean-ups etc.
Life Skills	Quarterly - Finance, environmental, life skill topics

- Grant funding will determine frequency of the above new programming and costing put towards this.



- CYAN hosted **100+ events**
- over **1600+** young adults participated in these events

2023

2024

- CYAN will host over **130+ events**
- expecting over **2200+** young adult participants - **40.6% increase**

FUNDING REVIEW

- **\$219,000** applied in grants
- **\$35,000** approved in grants
- **3** declined submitted applications - **\$23,000** in unsuccessful funds
- **\$78,400** waiting approval from applied grants
- **\$13,851.59** sourced in event income - **80%** higher than 2022 due to donations moving online increasing income sources
- **\$55,652.68** total in sourced income - **11.98% less** than 2022
- **\$3,811** was donated funds from Congregation
- CYAN hosted their **first ever fundraiser** resulting in **\$3,026.09 raised funds**

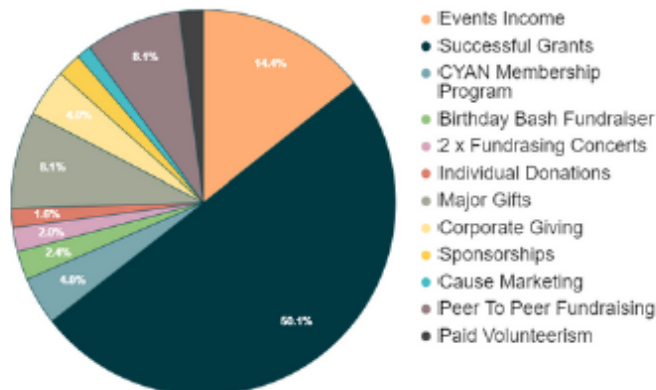
- Grant Income
- Event Income
- Fundraising Income
- Congregation

2023



2024

- CYAN expects a **33% success rate** for applied grants - hoping to result in **\$62,000** approved grants out of **\$186,000** applied (TBC on Calgary foundation grant application in 2024)
- CYAN expects to have a minimum of **\$17,762.10** in event income for 2024 - **39% increase**
- CYAN will begin to implement potentially **8 new** funding opportunities; fundraisers, paid volunteerism, Sponsorships, Individual donations, Corporate giving, Peer to Peer Fundraising, Cause Marketing and CYAN membership programming



CONCLUSION

In conclusion, CYAN's journey in 2023 marks a pivotal chapter in our progress. Transitioning into 2024, we have a high opportunity to become a fully performing and sustainable organization moving into 2025, thanks to our dedicated and experienced team. With twice the operational power, including committed board members, we anticipate a year of innovation and success.

Furthermore, the financial landscape looks promising as we embark on the new year with a substantial \$30,000 in secured funds already as of January. This accomplishment places us at an impressive 16% away from already reaching what we received in 2023 for grant funding. The robust start to our fiscal year is a testament to the hard work and strategic planning that have become hallmarks of CYAN's operations.

As we look ahead, the substantial financial foundation, coupled with our growing team, positions CYAN for sustained growth and a heightened ability to fulfill our mission. The momentum gained in 2023 allows us as an organization to further solidify our presence within the Bow Valley, expanding our reach, commitment, and name recognition. With gratitude for the support received and enthusiasm for the journey ahead, we eagerly anticipate a year of significant achievements and community enrichment in 2024.

Submitted by Steve Wollard

Ecumenical Prayer Shawl Ministry

12 -14 prayer shawl knitters met the second Friday of every month from 1 to 2 p.m. "Knitted hugs" continued to find new homes courtesy of Banff, Canmore and Foothills hospitals and emergency shelters in Morley and Banff. Shawls were once again provided at the Community Candlelight Remembrance Service in December at St. Michael's Anglican Church.

We were once again blessed with a generous donation of \$2,000 from Crossway Community Thrift Store. The latter has been the main benefactor for the knitters and this donation was the latest in their generosity. Please support Crossway Community Thrift Store as the successor to the now departed Dollar Store as much as possible.

Submitted by Jeanette Aishford

Friends of CYAN

2023 was a stable year for CYAN with its main staff members, Nicole and Steven, taking on increased responsibilities. CYAN has also added contract staff to help with events and rebranding, among other tasks. FoCYAN had less involvement in 2023 except for Ruben, who contributed much support with grant writing. You will read, in CYAN's annual report, some of the things they undertook and accomplished in 2023. Their impact in connecting with young adults in our community continues to be of much importance and value. We thank all those who help with CYAN's success.

FOCYAN sends out a big THANK YOU to Marci Segal who decided to move on to other ventures. Our current members are: Ian Schofield, Ruben Nelson and Joy McMann from RCMUC and Laura Wellmann, from FCSS. We express great THANKS to each FoCYAN member for their time and energy in support of CYAN.

Our community of faith demonstrated its commitment to CYAN through donations, by being CYAN's fiscal trustee and by covering the bookkeeping costs. With its growing stability, CYAN has become an even stronger connection to hearing from young adults in our community.

For more, please see CYAN's Annual Report as well as their 2023 Budget.

Respectfully submitted, Joy McMann and Ruben Nelson; Co-chairs of FoCYAN

Green Exodus

Green Exodus is a visionary project birthed in early 2021, which brings together contemplative spiritual practice and a deep connection with nature. 2023 offerings included seasonal online series and one-day in-person events across southern Alberta. A number of Ralph Connor folks have been part of the "Sits for the Planet" sessions, a contemplative online group, and in early December an Earth Vigil was hosted at RCMUC as a cooperative effort of Green Exodus and our Spiritual Explorations team.

The founder of Green Exodus, Sarah Arthurs, preached twice at Ralph Connor in 2023, and is an active participant in our Big Tent meetings.

Ralph Connor is the fiscal trustee for Green Exodus (many thanks to Mona McIntyre

and Patricia Roozendaal). The oversight group for G.E. consists of Sarah Arthurs (Calgary), Tony Snow (Mini Thni/Calgary), Beth Lorimer (Kairos Toronto), Robin Hope Galey (Calgary/Turner Valley) and Rev Greg Wooley. For more information or to learn of current programs, see <https://greenexodus.ca/>

Submitted by Rev. Greg Wooley

Rundle Thrift

The Rundle United Thrift Shop has had a very busy year. We continue to be well received by the Bow Valley community. Our gross revenues have increased by approximately 40% from last year.

Please see Treasurer's report for specific financial information. We hired two extra staff on November 1st, 2023, which has made an enormous improvement in the daily operations of the store. We currently have six employees who work 8-12 hours/week and 12 volunteers who come in for varied time commitments through out the week. In 2024 we are working on increasing our social media presence and trialing opening an extra day (Mondays). Submitted by Sally MacDonald

Reports Regarding Physical Assets Board of Trustees

This is the report of your Board of Trustees for the year ended December 31, 2023.

There are seven locally elected trustees (Carole Rowe, Barbara Profitt, Jim Ridley, John Thorburn, Gus Campbell, Marlo Reid-Gibson and Brian James) who meet quarterly with the active advice and counsel of Rev. Greg Wooley who is, by United Church polity, also a Trustee. With the amalgamation of Rundle and Ralph both sets of Trustees became one Board. We acknowledge and thank Randy Nicholls, Rick Hester and Sally Macdonald who have stepped down from the Board.

Copies of the minutes of all Trustee meetings are available from the Chair Carole Rowe or Secretary Barbara Profitt.

A primary responsibility of the Trustees is to manage the portfolio of investments purchased with the proceeds from the sale of the Canmore manse. The manse was sold by the church in March, 2004 with net proceeds to the church of \$353,848. The income from this portfolio is provided to the church to offset a portion of the cost of the housing component of the Minister's salary. In addition, the Trustees strive to maintain the market value of the portfolio at the original value of the manse sale adjusted for inflation. This was originally a requirement established by the Presbytery, which ceased to exist in 2018, but the Trustees decided to continue to follow this guideline. About 60% of the portfolio is invested in blue chip securities with the balance in short term bonds and cash selected in concert with the Trustees' investment advisor.

A copy of the portfolio is available for viewing by any member of the congregation. To establish a working benchmark, the Trustees decided that inflation would be defined as the Alberta All Items Inflation Index which is published by Statistics Canada. Based on this Index, the target value for the portfolio at the end of December 2023 was \$551,178.

The portfolio value at December 31, 2023 was \$562,107. In 2023, the Trustees were able to provide \$21,520 towards the Ministers housing as part of general operations. Annually the amount contributed to the Minister's housing is adjusted in line with the housing portion of the Alberta Consumer Price Index. Investment markets in 2023 recovered from the negative returns of 2022 and the portfolio had a positive return of 7.38%

In 2023 the Trustees contributed \$100,000 towards the accessibility project.

In discussion with our investment advisor all future potential investments will be subject to an ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) filter. As socially conscious investors we will receive recommendations based on a set of standards for a company's behavior.

The Trustees also invest monies on behalf of the church which are not subject to restriction, except by decision of the Church Council. The Trustees hold \$6467 in Memorial Funds donated to the church by various individuals in memory of loved ones. This amount fluctuates with additional donations and withdrawals for various projects as determined by the Church Council.

The Trustees have also established a "reserve" fund to provide funds for unexpected needs relative to the church buildings. The sum of \$400 is added to this fund every month. The balance in this fund at the end of 2023 was \$10,700. The reserve fund was reduced by \$20,000 to reflect the initial contribution towards the accessibility project.

In addition to the management of the portfolio, the Trustees have an oversight responsibility for the Church properties and the Rundle Manse. We report that appropriate insurance coverage is in place. Rundle does require a significant repair to the flat roof and continued masonry work on the walls. The Rundle Manse has received significant physical improvements with the installation of several new windows, flooring and bathroom renovations. The Trustees continue to work with the property committee to determine the need for any future repairs and replacements for the church buildings.

Respectfully submitted by Carole Rowe

Property

The property team – Bill, John, Ruby, Cam, and Rod continue to be wonderful, amazing worker bees. They do so much from arranging duct cleanings, alarm testing, painting, painting and more painting. We meet on an adhoc basis and communicate over text and email.

Rentals- We rerated and combined the rental applications to include a standardized 1 time use and short-term rental agreements between the 2 campuses. (Thanks Olivia and Cam). We still have hopes to make it more online and sync the calendars. Rundle playschool remains as our only multiyear tenant, while we have the choirs signed for the year operating in both locations. One-time use opportunities are being handled smoothly and appear to be increasing in number. One of the highlights of the term was using our newly accessible space for Bow Valley Community Connection group which

serves neuro diverse individuals. We did this at a reduced rate, and it feels really good. A comment received about the group “! I just wanted to let you know that the Adult Day Program renter group is going so well. They are always so clean and respectful, and I can tell how much they love using the space. They have been cleaning up after themselves always (they even take out their own garbage - which usually also includes the Church's garbage) and they bought extra paper towels that they will use (but offered that the church is always welcome to use too). The paper towel is above all of the shelves in the kitchen. I just wanted to send you the message so that you could share with the group that their reduced rental fee is making such a big difference in so many lives and that our space is truly being respected!’ We continue to explore opportunities to get the Banff Sanctuary used more often.

Banff Property Notes-We continue to work through the Pinchin report as to what needs to be done at the Banff property and trying to prioritize appropriately. I am pleased to report that we have met all the conditions of the insurance inspection requirement on the Banff property. I am also pleased to report that the Parks Canada lease was finalized, and we are just awaiting registration with land titles.

I have continued to be part of the Town of Banff Heritage Resource Action Plan representing the non-profit sector. Recommendations will go to council in February 2024. And there will be granting that may help us to continue to preserve our heritage building available in the near future.

Projects completed this year include: Windows in the manse, concrete work required by insurance, painting of the manse, the playschool playground black top. Fixing up of the thrift store washroom after a freeze.

Projects we are still working on include: a replacement of the flat roof at the Banff location, followed by interior repair. We have obtained 2 quotes and will look to have it replaced in early spring 2024 (budget pending). The balance of window in the Manse being replaced (budget pending) . The eavestroughs on the Manse will be done any time (previously budgeted for).

Canmore Property Notes- The accessibility project was completed (reported separately), ducts were cleaned, elevator continues to be maintained. There have been a few required quick fixes a stuck door, a small electrical upgrade upstairs.

Snow removal at the Banff Campus continues to be joint effort of wonderful volunteers and JMB contracting, and Canmore continues to be handled solely by Clearvue.

The Trees- we took down 3 big ones in Banff we do need to plant 1 new one this year, and it will be in honor of the Watson family. The one in the back parking of the Canmore location remains on radar and hope it will meet its demise in 2024.

Respectfully submitted by Marlo Reid.

Building/Heritage

Our “Accessibility Project” is completed! In June 2023 the project officially was declared substantially complete, and we once again had use of our newly renovated and fully accessible space. We can all take credit for supporting and making this possible - a heartfelt thank you to everyone!

A special thanks goes to our tireless continuous committee members - Karen Fraser, Ian Schofield, John Thorburn and Rev Greg Wooley and earlier members Sue Nichols and Arie Boekel. A special thanks to the “Property Guys” plus one gal – Bill Rowe, John Snoddy, Rod Sullivan, Cam McMann and Joy McMann who painted and moved and fussed over the details. And finally to Ann Thorburn who directed John as they sorted out and organized our storage.

The road was long and a little winding. For the record:

- We began in 2015 and I called our project “Vision 2020” (surely it couldn’t take *that* long...)
- Through various engagement sessions and careful reflection, we formed a consensus for a project with a priority to improve accessibility and update our washrooms.
- In October 2021, Ralph Connor Memorial United Church was approved by ESDC (Employment and Social Development Canada) for a \$100,00 grant under their Enabling Accessibility Program. Specific items under the grant include a 3-stop elevator from Gordon to the Sanctuary and continuing to the second floor, removing barriers to use of main door into Gordon Hall and building a fully accessible washroom.
- This funding was contingent on completion by October 2023, the Committee worked diligently throughout 2022 toward formalizing design scope and budget for a project that would accomplish these objectives and meet the prescribed deadline – our “Accessibility Project”.
- In the first half of 2022, design scope was advanced, that also included redevelopment of all washrooms in addition to the accessibility items. Based on this scope, Ashton Construction Services provided us with a budget cost which was set at \$280,000.
- A funding plan was also advanced, that included the ESDC funds, a legacy donation, money from the Ralph Connor trust fund, and money to be raised from the Congregation and other sources.
- At a special congregational meeting on September 11, 2022, we voted over 90% in favor of proceeding with the project as presented.
- Subsequent to the meeting, a Construction Management contract was executed with Ashton Construction Services to complete the project. The project was completed in June 2023 with a final cost was \$316,797 (not including gst). Most of the cost overrun was due to “value added” items - notably a fourth washroom, additional automatic door operators and new flooring throughout Gordon Hall and the Second Floor.

- We continue to show a \$32,000 shortfall in funding, that to date has been covered from General Revenue. We will continue to raise funds as possible.

Respectfully submitted – Paul Elfner -Chair

Historian/Memorial Fund

The Heritage Subcommittee was involved in three projects this past year.

The **Canmore Heritage Festival** is an annual celebration of the rich cultural heritage of Canmore. We participated in the Doors Open event on Saturday, September 9. Ralph Connor Memorial United Church was one of the heritage and cultural buildings that opened its doors to the public. Over the years the Heritage Subcommittee has developed several story boards with pictures and text to give life to the historic Sanctuary for our visitors. In addition we had wonderful, engaging volunteers who greeted the public, invited them into the Sanctuary and the renovated Gordon Hall and answered questions. The younger children enjoyed the opportunity to ring our historic Church bell. We estimate that close to 100 explored the interior of the Sanctuary and many more walking the street slowed down to read the story boards hung on the fence. We are looking forward to participating in the 2024 Canmore Heritage Festival.

The interior of the Sanctuary was refurbished in 1945 in part as a Memorial Chapel. Many Canmore families donated stained glass windows and furniture in memory of the young men of the Congregation who were killed in action during World War II. Other families made donations in thanks for the return of their children after active service. Lynn Katarey gave us a guided tour and relayed stories of their lives, their families and their sacrifices. Marg Suurallik talked about her Uncle Johnny Erickson who died in Normandy days after the D Day Landing. He is immortalized on the plaque on the pulpit. Thank you to Lynn and Marg for their contributions to a very poignant Remembrance Day Service.

Prior to 1974 there was a United Church Sanctuary and Church Hall in Exshaw. This was part of the Canmore Pastoral Charge. Exshaw United Church had a vibrant congregation with regular Sunday Services, Sunday School, youth, and adult programs. After the Church buildings were torn down by Lafarge to accommodate plant expansion, the congregation migrated to Ralph Connor in Canmore. Karen Fraser prepared a summary of the Church's history and culture and how its congregants infused the Exshaw spirit into the life of Ralph Connor.

There has been Christian witness in the Bow Valley since the mid-1800s. In 2024 the Heritage Subcommittee wants to expand to tell the stories of the United Church and its predecessor Methodist Church in Banff and celebrate the historic Sanctuary and exceptional stained-glass windows of Rundle United. We need to learn about this long history. We invite anyone interested in heritage to volunteer. Is there a story that you want to research and share? Let us know.

Submitted by Karen Fraser

Stewardship

Stewardship is about inspiring us to be thankful for God's generosity by being generous ourselves.

There are many ways to be generous however the Stewardship program at Ralph Connor concentrates on our volunteer energy and our financial gifts.

Time and Talent:

Many individual members step forward in a variety of ways to help us strive towards expressing our Mission as a church. Countless hours are dedicated through time and talents by many individuals, and all of our standing committees function well because of this dedication

Mission and Service:

In 2023 we contributed weekly presentations that provide insight to the activities that Mission and Service undertake to support social justice in Canada and around the world.

Pledgefest: November 2023

Organizers: Mona McIntyre, Carole Rowe, Faye Forbes-Anderson, John Thorburn, Rick Anderson

Purpose: Inform members, generate energy and have fun.

This year we wanted to add some energy by having a fun event. It was meant to generate fun, not funds, but it turns out it generated both. Our choice was a silent auction. Over 70 items were donated to the auction, and over 50 people attended. There was lots of energy and laughter in the room and \$6000 was raised. I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who donated items for sale. It was the quality of these items that made the Silent Auction, the mini-bazaar and the sale of poinsettias a success.

Although it was subdued this year, we did not completely abandon our effort to convince members that our Community of Faith is worth supporting and our donations are used to support our Mission and Purpose.

1. Ruben Nelson gave powerful testimony of what this Church contributes to his life. Also CYAN, Green Exodus and Futures Explorations all gave presentations that showed the good work our Community of Faith supports
2. A Minute for Mission was dedicated to how our donations and Thrift Shop income is used to support the Mission of the RCMUC Community of Faith.
3. We gave members an opportunity fill out Giving Plans for 2024. There was very little focus on this aspect of Pledgefest this year.

Submitted by Rick Anderson

Annual Financial Report

Attached are the Profit & Loss Statement and a report of Fund Balances at Year End (appendices).

Also attached is an amalgamated budget for 2024 (appendices).

We also contributed \$17,530 to M&S in 2023.

After many years of serving as Ralph's Treasurer, I am retiring on February 18, 2024. It has been a privilege and an honour to work with so many wonderful people.

In the past year we have had many changes, including changing to accrual accounting, the accessibility project and getting ready for the amalgamation. Thank you for the ongoing work of our bookkeeper for helping this happen.

Submitted by Mona McIntyre, Treasurer



2023 construction – slide 1

February - April

Admin office ready for demolition;
Gordon Hall set for storage;
old office and washrooms stripped
back to studs;
elevator shaft roughed in.





2023 construction – slide 2

May - June

3-stop lift installed;

Gordon Hall expanded and
re-floored;

Accessible washroom is
among four new non-gender-
specific washrooms



Appendix A.

Ralph Connor Memorial United Church Profit and Loss

Ralph Connor Memorial United Church	
Profit and Loss	
January - December 2023	
	Total
INCOME	
4010 Total Offerings (Excluding M&S)	
4020 Offerings - General from Envelope and Loose for Congregation	42,321.82
4030 Offerings from PAR for Congregation (Excluding M&S)	83,779.96
4040 Offerings from Shares for Congregation (Excluding M&S)	10,287.25
Total 4010 Total Offerings (Excluding M&S)	\$ 136,389.03
4100 Rentals - Total	
4130 Hall/Church Rentals	4,385.00
Total 4100 Rentals - Total	\$ 4,385.00
4400 Weddings and Funerals - Total	
4420 Funerals	700.00
Total 4400 Weddings and Funerals - Total	\$ 700.00
4500 Fundraising - Total	
4510 Fundraising - General	6,194.92
Total 4500 Fundraising - Total	\$ 6,194.92
4600 Donations to Special Funds - Total	
4691 General Donations - Rundle	17,436.00
Total 4600 Donations to Special Funds - Total	\$ 17,436.00
4740 Interest Income (BMO GIC)	2,074.08
4910 Miscellaneous Revenue	-1,809.37
4920 Rundle Contribution	57,504.91
4930 Housing Allowance from Trustees	21,520.00
Total Income	\$ 244,394.57

EXPENSES	
5007 Ministry & Personnel Total	
5008 Clergy Payroll	
5010 Clergy - Salary	52,592.00
5020 Clergy - Housing Allowance	33,000.00
5030 Clergy - Pension & Gr. Ins.	15,263.89
5040 Clergy - Education & Books	1,901.25
5050 Clergy - CPP	2,933.82
5060 Clergy - E.I.	1,165.84
Total 5008 Clergy Payroll	\$ 106,856.80
5075 Admin Payroll	
5080 Admin. Wages	24,947.96
5081 Admin. CPP	1,178.64
5082 Admin. E.I.	447.40
5083 Admin. Pension	2,928.83
Total 5075 Admin Payroll	\$ 29,502.83
Total 5007 Ministry & Personnel Total	\$ 136,359.63
5500 Musicians Total	
5510 Musicians Services	22,833.54
5520 Music Supplies	357.52
5530 Piano maintenance	450.73
5540 Miscellaneous - music	11.41
Total 5500 Musicians Total	\$ 23,653.20
5600 Worship Total	
5620 Worship - Baptisms/Confirmations	49.81
5660 Decorations - sanctuary	21.51
5670 Worship supplies	872.17
5680 Pulpit supply	1,291.00
5695 Travel associated with Worship - Clergy	948.84
Total 5600 Worship Total	\$ 3,183.33
5700 UCC Total	
5710 UCC Annual Assessment	15,543.00
5900 Pastoral Care and Outreach - Total	
5910 Travel associated with Pastoral Care & Outreach	31.35
5940 Faith at Home	5.96
5950 Advertise	821.70
Total 5900 Pastoral Care and Outreach - Total	\$ 859.01
6000 Office General Admin & Fees - Total	

6010 Fees and Subscriptions	1,641.16
6020 Telephone & internet - church	2,111.31
6030 Telephone & Internet - Clergy	900.00
6050 Postage & Courier	35.78
6060 Equipment & office purchases	2,808.29
6070 Office supplies	713.15
6080 Interest & Bank Charges	1,735.40
6090 Payroll Charges	394.86
Total 6000 Office General Admin & Fees - Total	\$ 10,339.95
6100 Professional Fees - Total	
6110 Legal and professional fees	2,191.59
6120 Accounting fees	18,429.99
6150 Security monitoring	621.70
Total 6100 Professional Fees - Total	\$ 21,243.28
6200 Building Operating Costs	
6210 Maintenance & repairs	2,811.65
6250 Custodial services - cleaning and supplies	5,468.89
6255 Kitchen supplies	427.44
6260 Custodial services - snow removal	2,625.02
6290 Insurance	7,363.18
Total 6200 Building Operating Costs	\$ 18,696.18
6300 Utilities - Total	
6310 Buildings - church - water/sewer/garbage fees	1,320.24
6330 Hydro	2,576.51
6350 Gas heat	2,896.11
Total 6300 Utilities - Total	\$ 6,792.86
Total Expenses	\$ 236,670.44
PROFIT	\$ 7,724.13

Appendix B.

Ralph Connor Memorial United Church Balance Sheet

Ralph Connor Memorial United Church	
Balance Sheet	
As of December 31, 2023	
	Total
Assets	
Current Assets	
Cash and Cash Equivalent	
1050 Petty Cash - CYAN	100.00
1055 BMO Chequing Bank Account	113,855.17
1058 BMO GIC	0.00
1065 BMO Investor Line Account	35,217.17
Total Cash and Cash Equivalent	\$ 149,172.34
Accounts Receivable (A/R)	
1200 Accounts Receivable	1,445.00
Total Accounts Receivable (A/R)	\$ 1,445.00
1101 Trustee Investment	
1110 CIBC Cash Account	2,881.22
1120 CIBC Investments	559,226.12
1156 BVCU Bank Account	137,092.43
1166 Trustee BMO Investor-Line Investments	0.00
Total 1101 Trustee Investment	\$ 699,199.77
1201 Accounts Receivable - History	1,783.10
1205 Interest Receivable	0.00
1210 Distributions Receivable	0.00
1227 GST Received back from CRA	0.00
1400 Prepaid expenses	29.11
Total Current Assets	\$ 851,629.32
Non-current Assets	
Property, plant and equipment	
1500 Buildings	
1550 Ralph Connor - Equipment and Furniture (Replacement Value)	59,078.34
1560 Building - Ralph Connor Church Hall - Replacement Value	242,635.00

1570 Faithful Footprints - Solar Panels	35,479.73
	\$
Total 1500 Buildings	337,193.07
6800 Gain/Loss on Disposal of Equipment	0.00
	\$
Total Property, plant and equipment	337,193.07
	\$
Total Non Current Assets	337,193.07
	\$
Total Assets	1,188,822.39
Liabilities and Equity	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable (A/P)	
2101 Accounts Payable	6,423.62
	\$
Total Accounts Payable (A/P)	6,423.62
1225 GST Rebate Due	-8,358.33
2102 Account Payable	0.00
2106 Faithful Footprints Grants - Deferred Revenue	0.00
2120 Accrued Liabilities	5,500.00
2125 Accrued Housing Allowance from Trustees	0.00
	\$
Total Current Liabilities	3,565.29
Non-current Liabilities	
2105 Other Deferred Revenue	0.00
2600 CEBA Loan	0.00
2710 CYAN - Deferred Revenue	19,813.29
2750 Accessibility Grant - Deferred Revenue	0.00
2751 Accessibility Donations - Deferred Revenue	0.00
2801 Green Exodus - Deferred Funds	19,080.46
2802 Benevolent Fund - Deferred Fund	1,653.36
2803 Right Relations - Deferred Fund	1,226.09
2805 Prayer Shawl Ministry - Deferred Funds	2,344.58
2807 Memorial Fund - Deferred Funds	150.00
2808 Minister's Sabbatical Fund - Deferred Funds	25,000.00

2811 Futures Exploration Project - Deferred Funds	1,000.00
2813 Staff Compassionate Fund - Deferred Fund	394.16
Total Non-current Liabilities	\$ 70,661.94
Total Liabilities	\$ 74,227.23
Equity	
Retained Earnings	1,070,465.45
Profit for the year	44,129.71
Total Equity	\$ 1,114,595.16
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$ 1,188,822.39
Monday, Jan. 22, 2024 07:52:02 a.m. GMT-8 - Accrual Basis	

Appendix C.

Ralph Connor Memorial United Church Amalgamated 2024 Budget

Ralph Connor Memorial United Church	
Amalgamated Budget	
January - December 2024	
	Total
Income	
4010 Total Offerings (Excluding M&S)	
4020 Offerings - General from Envelope and Loose for Congregation	48,000.00
4030 Offerings from PAR for Congregation (Excluding M&S)	76,000.00
4040 Offerings from Shares for Congregation (Excluding M&S)	35,000.00
Total 4010 Total Offerings (Excluding M&S)	\$ 159,000.00
4060 Total Offering for M&S	
4070 Offerings from Envelope and Loose for M&S	0.00
4080 Offerings from PAR for M&S	0.00
Total 4060 Total Offering for M&S	\$ 0.00
4100 Rentals - Total	
4110 Rundle Playschool - Rental	11,100.00
4120 Rundle Manse - Rental	26,400.00
4130 Hall/Church Rentals	5,500.00
Total 4100 Rentals - Total	\$ 43,000.00
4210 Thrift Shop Proceeds	195,000.00
4300 Accessibility - Total	
4310 Accessibility Donations	0.00
Total 4300 Accessibility - Total	\$ 0.00
4400 Weddings and Funerals - Total	
4410 Weddings	2,250.00
4420 Funerals	350.00
Total 4400 Weddings and Funerals - Total	\$ 2,600.00
4500 Fundraising - Total	
4510 Fundraising - General	1,000.00
Total 4500 Fundraising - Total	\$ 1,000.00

4600 Donations to Special Funds - Total	
4605 TWION donations - Rundle	1,000.00
4691 General Donations - Rundle	2,000.00
Total 4600 Donations to Special Funds - Total	\$ 3,000.00
4930 Housing Allowance from Trustees	21,520.00
Total Income	\$ 425,120.00
Gross Profit	\$ 425,120.00
Expenses	
5007 Ministry & Personnel Total	
5008 Clergy Payroll	
5010 Clergy - Salary	59,873.00
5020 Clergy - Housing Allowance	33,000.00
5030 Clergy - Pension & Gr. Ins.	15,300.00
5040 Clergy - Education & Books	1,900.00
5050 Clergy - CPP	3,000.00
5060 Clergy - E.I.	1,200.00
5063 Search Committee Expense	40,000.00
5065 Clergy Sabbatical Expense	3,000.00
Total 5008 Clergy Payroll	\$ 157,273.00
5075 Admin Payroll	
5080 Admin. Wages	28,801.00
5081 Admin. CPP	1,200.00
5082 Admin. E.I.	500.00
5083 Admin. Pension	3,000.00
Total 5075 Admin Payroll	\$ 33,501.00
Total 5007 Ministry & Personnel Total	\$ 190,774.00
5200 Total Thrift Shop - Rundle	
5210 Total Thrift Shop - Payroll	65,000.00
Total 5200 Total Thrift Shop - Rundle	\$ 65,000.00
5300 Total Caretaker	
5310 Total Caretaker - Payroll	5,000.00
Total 5300 Total Caretaker	\$ 5,000.00
5500 Musicians Total	
5510 Musicians Services	26,829.00
5520 Music Supplies	350.00
5530 Piano maintenance	450.00

Total 5500 Musicians Total	\$	27,629.00
5600 Worship Total		
5660 Decorations - sanctuary		50.00
5670 Worship supplies		800.00
5680 Pulpit supply		2,500.00
5690 Indigenous Ministry		1,500.00
5695 Travel associated with Worship - Clergy		900.00
Total 5600 Worship Total	\$	5,750.00
5700 UCC Total		
5710 UCC Annual Assessment		15,600.00
Total 5700 UCC Total	\$	15,600.00
5800 Weddings Total		
5810 Weddings - Clergy		650.00
Total 5800 Weddings Total	\$	650.00
5900 Pastoral Care and Outreach - Total		
5950 Advertise		1,400.00
Total 5900 Pastoral Care and Outreach - Total	\$	1,400.00
6000 Office General Admin & Fees - Total		
6010 Fees and Subscriptions		2,600.00
6020 Telephone & internet - church		2,500.00
6030 Telephone & Internet - Clergy		900.00
6050 Postage & Courier		40.00
6060 Equipment & office purchases		3,000.00
6065 Technology		5,000.00
6070 Office supplies		800.00
6080 Interest & Bank Charges		2,150.00
6090 Payroll Charges		400.00
Total 6000 Office General Admin & Fees - Total	\$	17,390.00
6100 Professional Fees - Total		
6110 Legal and professional fees		2,000.00
6120 Accounting fees		20,000.00
6140 Fire Alarm Inspection Services		1,500.00
6150 Security monitoring		750.00
Total 6100 Professional Fees - Total	\$	24,250.00
6200 Building Operating Costs		

6210 Maintenance & repairs		4,800.00
6220 Buildings - manse routine maintenance & supplies		1,000.00
6230 Rundle Church Major Repairs		75,000.00
6240 Buildings - manse major repairs / renovation		9,000.00
6250 Custodial services - cleaning and supplies		7,000.00
6255 Kitchen supplies		450.00
6260 Custodial services - snow removal		5,500.00
6270 Grounds - maintenance & flowers		2,250.00
6290 Insurance		22,500.00
Total 6200 Building Operating Costs	\$	127,500.00
6300 Utilities - Total		
6310 Buildings - church - water/sewer/garbage fees		3,400.00
6320 Buildings - manse - water/sewer/garbage fees		2,500.00
6330 Hydro		5,500.00
6350 Gas heat		23,000.00
Total 6300 Utilities - Total	\$	34,400.00
6500 CYAN Expenses		
6520 CYAN Expenses - Other		3,000.00
Total 6500 CYAN Expenses	\$	3,000.00
6610 Thriftshop Supplies		2,000.00
6620 Thriftshop Square Fees		2,500.00
Total Expenses	\$	522,843.00
Net Operating Income	-\$	97,723.00
Net Income	-\$	97,723.00



CYAN FY24 BUDGET REVIEW

- 1 CYAN closed last year with a cash balance of \$20k, **+16k vs FY23 Budget**, providing us with the ability to support program growth in to next year
- 2 Focus this year will be expansion of fundraising efforts and net new revenue streams to continue to enable more regular events and reduce reliance on external grants.
- 3 Budget for net new events (political, sporting)has been set conservatively - ensuring that we have sufficient funds to cover these in a 'high net expense' case.

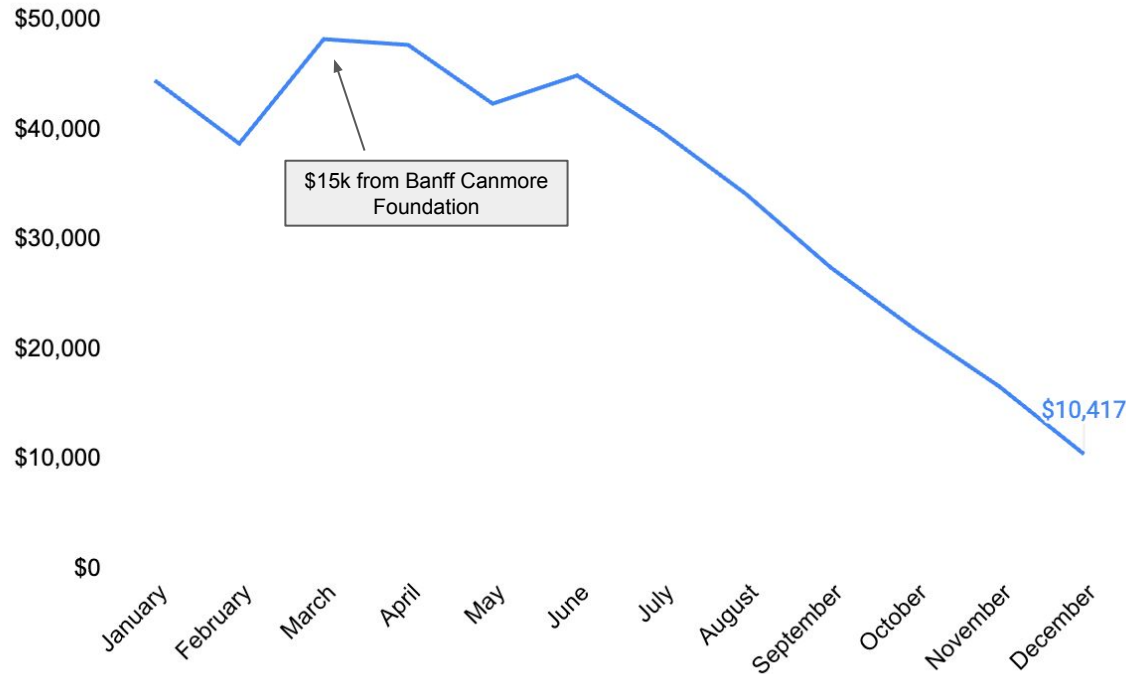
Grant Funding Status

Grant Sponsor	Status	Budgeted Date	Grant Specifications	Grant Amount
Wim & Nancy Pauw	Secured	JAN '24	Sporting Events, Marketing & Operations	\$25,000
Alberta Health Service	Secured	JAN '24	Yoga Program 2024 - Space, rental, staffing, advertising	\$5,000
Rotary Club of Canmore	Virtual Guarantee	APRIL '24	Life Skills & Meet the Mayor & Environmental	\$5,000
Banff Canmore Foundation	Virtual Guarantee	MARCH '24	Mental Health Programs & Operations	\$15,000
RBC	Virtual Guarantee	JUNE '24	Mental Health Programs	\$2,500
Town of Canmore	Virtual Guarantee	JUNE '24	TBC	\$5,000
Calgary Foundation	Potential Opportunity	N/A	TBC	\$75,000
Other Grants*	Potential Opportunity	N/A	TBC	\$53,500

} Not in Budget

* Other Grants include : Alpine Club of Canada, Costco, Honda, Chevron, Carthy Foundation, Air Canada, Safeway, The Keg, Walmart, UFA, United Way of Canada, Chinook Winds, Crossways Community Thrift, MD of Bighorn, BOWDA

Having already secured \$30k of grant funding and an additional \$27.5k virtually guaranteed, we feel confident in our ability to expand our programming within our budget



Budgeted Income of \$79k split as follows

- \$61.2k External Funding
- \$17.7k Income (Conservative estimate)

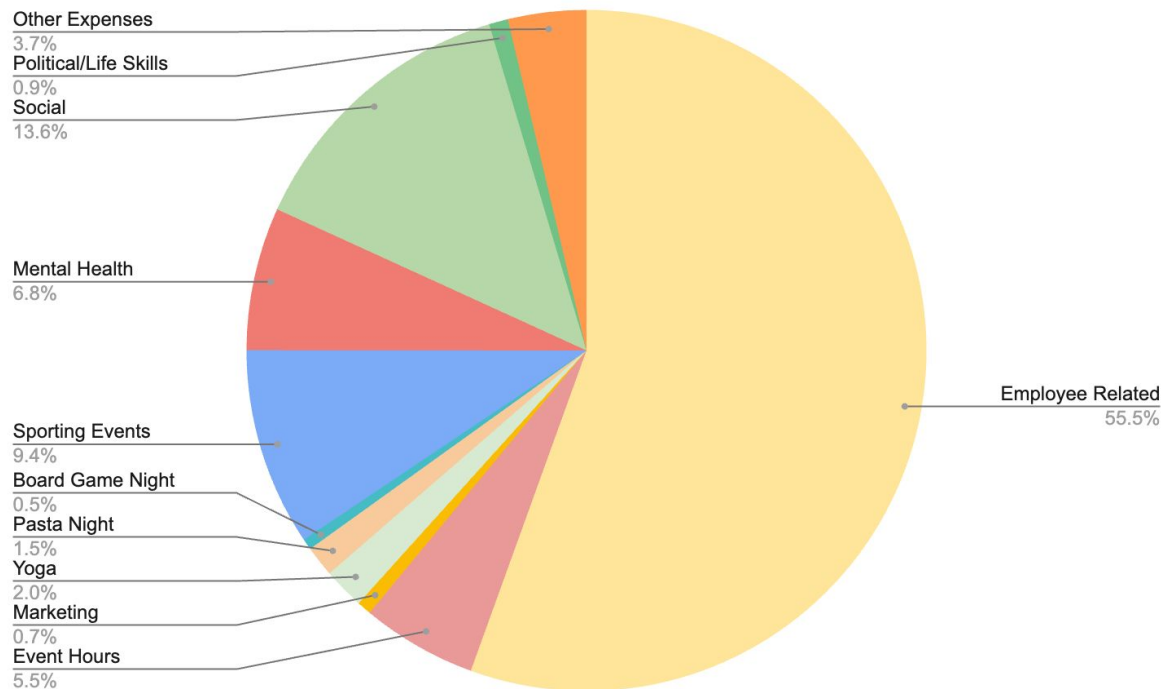
Note : We have already secured almost double the grant income we received in aggregate last year (\$35k in FY23)

Income generated from the following activities:

- \$30 per Yoga event (vs \$45 LY)
- \$180 per Pasta Night (vs \$275 LY)
- Cost for Sporting & mental health events set at 30% of the expense cost
- Cost for Political/Life Skills Events set at 10% of expense
- Social event costs paid for fully (99.5%) except eventbrite fee

*chart shows budgeted cash on hand over the year. Note that we are currently operating to budget but \$30k funding from Nancy Pauw and AHS was actually deposited in Feb but is budgeted in January.

Total Expense Allocation: \$88.5k



Similar to last year - Fixed cost Employee related expenses the largest part of the budget at 50%

- Steve
- Helen
- Nicole

Assumed fully funded fixed costs in budget meaning that as additional grants are unlocked, funds will all go to events/programming.

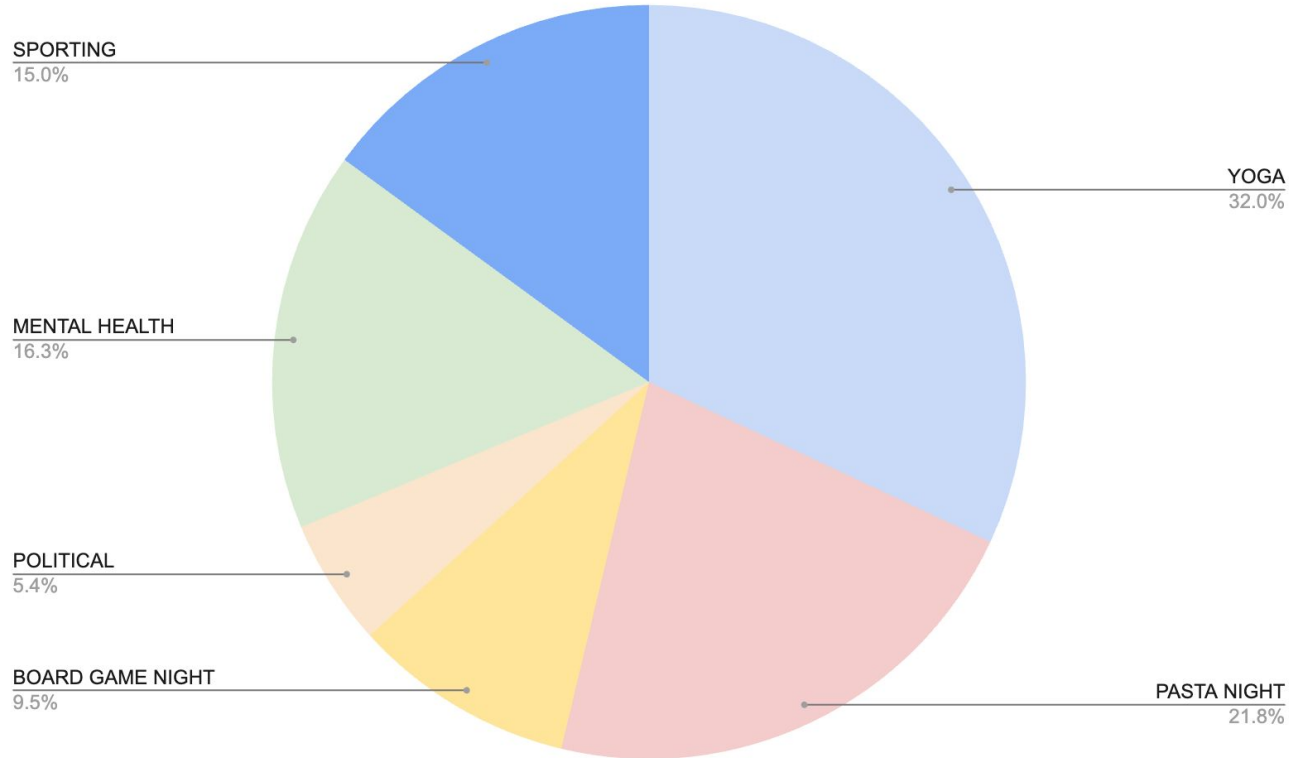
Other expenses include :

- Accounting Fees
- Software licenses (i.e. webflow, web hosting, BVCC, Eventbrite etc)

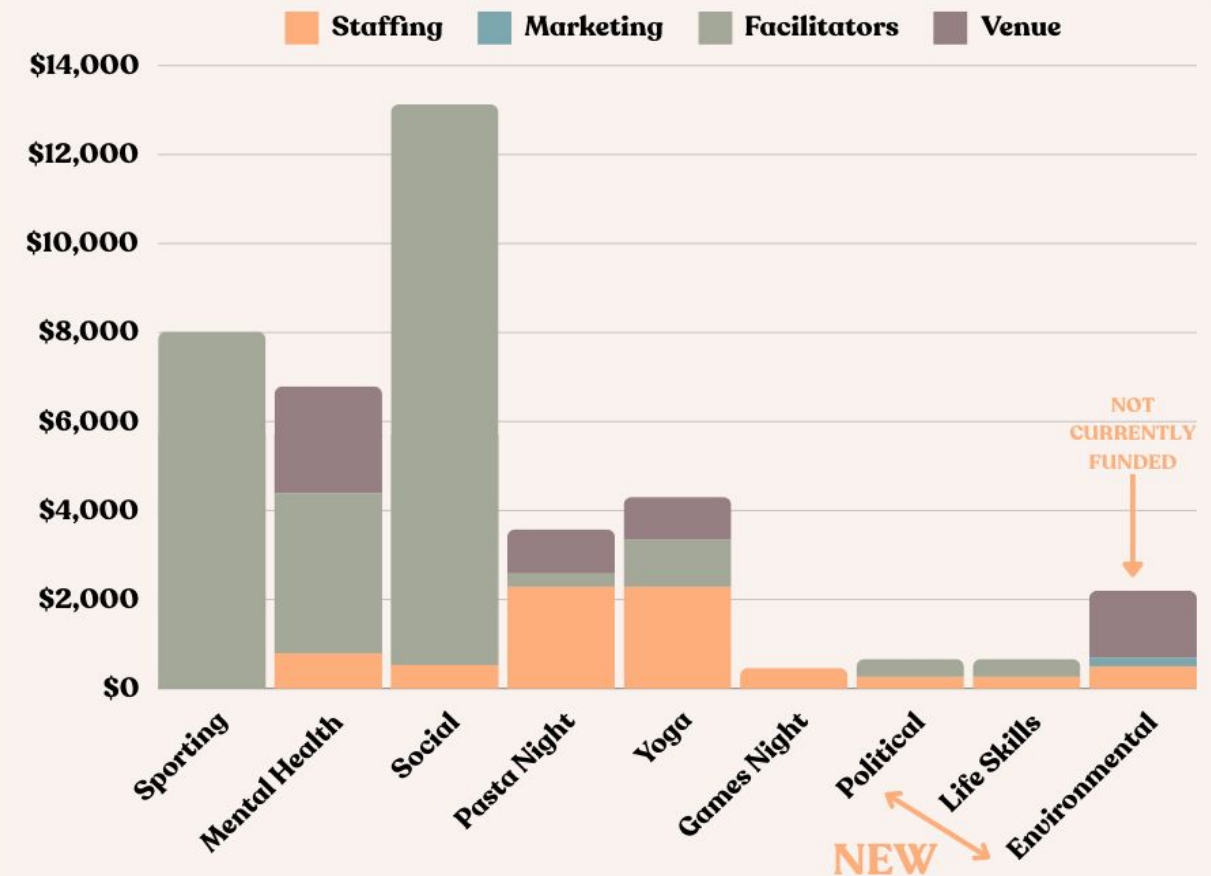
Event costs budgeted on the higher side (factors in unknowns as we haven't started planning these)

- Social events (1x a month) are the highest % mix but will be fully funded through ticket sales.
- Mental Health (1x a month) funded through AHS grant

Event hours split : 220 hours @ \$22.p.h



Programming Costs 2024



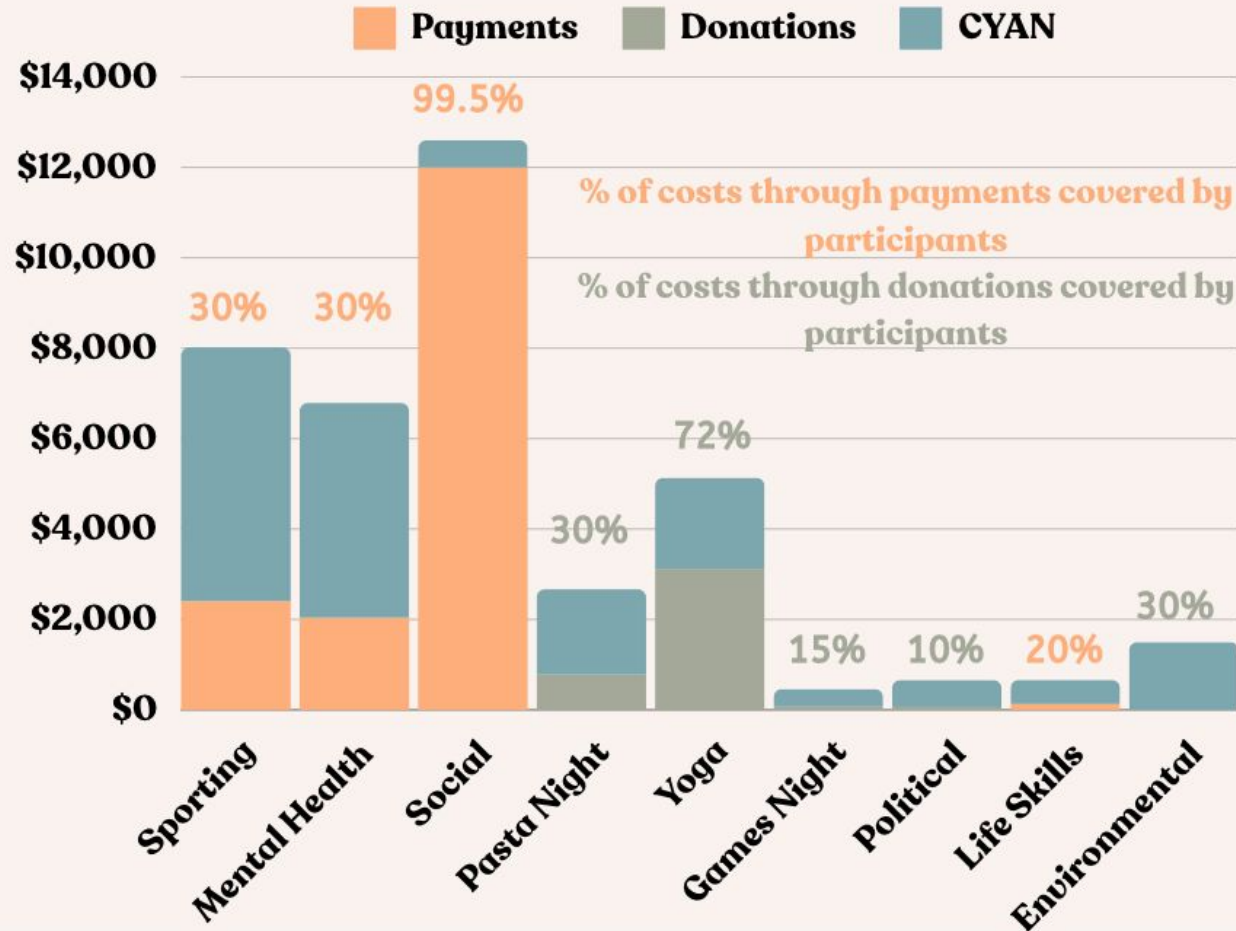
2023

- CYAN had a total of **\$34,266** in program costs

2024

- CYAN forecast to have a total of **\$38,977** in program costs
- CYAN is accounting for higher costs for venues/facilitators but tends to track under budget on majority of events.
- For the first time ever Pasta Night & Yoga donations are trending higher than the total costs of the events themselves - this is due to higher attendance than ever (20-40 on average attendees for yoga and 100 average attendees for pasta night)
- CYAN predicts to not spend on marketing sources for events due to sell outs/not enough supply to provide for the current demand

Attendee Contribution vs. CYAN costs



2023

- CYAN participants covered on average for all programs for the year a total of 45% (\$18K)

Therefore in 2024 we have predicted the below. However with trending donations and attendance at a all time high we expect likely 45-50% covered by participants in donations and payments. However in 2024 budget we are forecasting less for buffer room.

2024

- in conclusion, CYAN participants cover a total of 37.3% (\$21K) of the full program costs
- This is in order to guarantee participant attendance for accountability purposes and the generosity of online donations increasing

Bow Valley Refugee Project

Balance Sheet

31-Dec-23

(unaudited)

Assets

Cash	\$ 36,203	
		<u>\$ 36,203</u>

Liabilities

-	\$ -	
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Equity

Reserve	\$ 36,203	
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Liabilities and Equity		<u><u>\$ 36,203</u></u>
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Income Summary

31-Dec-23

(unaudited)

Revenue

Donations (via RCMUC)	400	
Donations (via Rotary)	<u>\$ 2,071</u>	
		<u>\$ 2,471</u>

Expenses

Grant (Settlement Services)	1,000	
Visa application support	1,400	
Webhosting	<u>\$ 348</u>	
		<u>\$ 2,748</u>

Revenue in excess of Expenses	<u><u>\$ (278)</u></u>
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Comments

\$36,203.04 is in the BVRP bank account as at December 31, 2023.

BVRP intends to reimburse the Bhatti family's travel from Kathmandu to Canmore at an estimated cost of \$9,200.

TWION has budgeted approx. \$57,000 for direct financial support of the Bhatti family out of \$64,000 cash raised.

LIVING INTO RIGHT RELATIONS

We continued to celebrate the following Special Indigenous Days: May - *Red Dress Day*, June - *National Indigenous History Month* and Sept - *National Day for Truth and Reconciliation/Orange Shirt Day*. Thoughts, music and prayers were included in Sunday services. Eye catching displays decorated the front of both Ralph Connor and Rundle churches and QR codes were displayed for people to have easy access to more information.

We again participated with Mini Thni Christmas initiatives. Funds were donated to the *Nakoda Food Bank* and Church members went to help assemble Christmas Hampers that were distributed to Eden Valley, Big Horn and Mini Thni (Morley). At our request, *Eagles Nest Family Shelter* gave us a wish list of items they were in need of and our Christmas Mitten Tree gathered 2 cars full of mostly new items that helped fulfill their wish list. High Strung Ukulele group members also donated money and items. We were invited in for a partial tour of the facility when we delivered the items. Again this year, Sim Stroes-Gascoyne, made a generous donation from her Christmas Sales to support the Feast and Food Gift Cards for Eagles Nest Family Shelter. With money collected from the Mitten Tree and Sim we were able to donate \$450 in food gift cards to the Family Shelter.

Rev. Tony Snow Baptised Tatum, Kiana Daniels little girl, on December 5 at RCMUC. Trina, Karalee and Lanie Daniels, and other members of Kiana's family from Morley were also there as well as a few people from Ralph Connor.

We want to thank the whole congregation (Banff and Canmore) for their continued interest and stewardship in Living into Right Relations. Through putting the call out for volunteers we were able to grow our list of people interested in supporting or learning more about our Living Into Right Relations initiatives. We operate on an as-need basis. Committee members are Donna and Marshall Kennedy, Marg Suurallik, John & Heather Snoddy, Laura Hunt and Linda Bolen; Jan Tissandier, Joy McMann and Judy Archer act as consultants And Ruby and Bill Fisher provide support for Banff Installations.

Submitted by: Marg Suurallik

Rundle Memorial United Church

Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2023

	Total
Assets	
Current Assets	
Cash and Cash Equivalent	
1000 Cash Total	0.00
1020 PayPal - Rundle	0.00
1030 BMO TWION Account	64,753.16
1040 Petty Cash - Thrift Shop	100.00
Total 1000 Cash Total	\$ 64,853.16
1010 BMO Chequing Account - Rundle	69,242.07
Undeposited Funds	0.00
Total Cash and Cash Equivalent	\$ 134,095.23
Accounts Receivable (A/R)	
1201 Accounts Receivable	320.00
Total Accounts Receivable (A/R)	\$ 320.00
1400 Prepaid Expenses Total	0.00
Total Current Assets	\$ 134,415.23
Non-current Assets	
Property, plant and equipment	
1610 Building - Rundle Church	164,595.00
1620 Building - Church - Accumulated Amortization	-156,397.45
Total 1610 Building - Rundle Church	\$ 8,197.55
1630 Rundle Manse	18,269.00
1640 Accumulated Amortization - Manse	-17,628.86
Total 1630 Rundle Manse	\$ 640.14
Total Property, plant and equipment	\$ 8,837.69
Total Non Current Assets	\$ 8,837.69
Total Assets	\$ 143,252.92
Liabilities and Equity	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable (A/P)	
2101 Accounts Payable	5,695.26
Total Accounts Payable (A/P)	\$ 5,695.26
2200 GST/HST Payable	0.00
2300 Deferred Revenue	6,183.95
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 11,879.21
Non-current Liabilities	
2600 CEBA Loan	0.00
Total Non-current Liabilities	\$ 0.00
Total Liabilities	\$ 11,879.21
Equity	
3000 Opening Bal Equity	0.00
Retained Earnings	194,118.43
Profit for the year	-62,744.72
Total Equity	\$ 131,373.71
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$ 143,252.92

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Rundle Memorial United Church

Profit and Loss

January - December 2023

	<u>Total</u>
INCOME	
4000 Offerings	
4010 Total Offerings From Congregation	
4020 Offerings from Envelope and Loose for Congregation	0.00
4030 Offerings From PAR for Congregation	0.00
Total 4010 Total Offerings From Congregation	<u>\$ 0.00</u>
4060 Total Offering for M&S	
4070 Offerings from Envelope and Loose for M&S	255.00
4080 Offerings From PAR for M&S	600.00
Total 4060 Total Offering for M&S	<u>\$ 855.00</u>
Total 4000 Offerings	<u>\$ 855.00</u>
4100 Rentals	
4110 Playschool	5,321.00
4120 Rundle Manse	10,000.00
4130 Hall/Church Rentals	1,855.00
4140 General	800.00
Total 4100 Rentals	<u>\$ 17,976.00</u>
4200 Thrift Shop - Total	
4210 Thrift Shop Proceeds	187,064.82
Total 4200 Thrift Shop - Total	<u>\$ 187,064.82</u>
4400 Weddings - Total	
4410 Weddings	5,000.00
Total 4400 Weddings - Total	<u>\$ 5,000.00</u>
4500 Funerals - Total	
4510 Funerals	100.00
Total 4500 Funerals - Total	<u>\$ 100.00</u>
4600 Donations - Total	
4605 TWION Donations	0.00
4615 Benevolent	0.00
4675 Canadian Foodgrains Bank	0.00
4690 General Donations	0.00
Total 4600 Donations - Total	<u>\$ 0.00</u>
4900 Miscellaneous Revenue Total	
4910 Miscellaneous Revenue	1,350.00
Total 4900 Miscellaneous Revenue Total	<u>\$ 1,350.00</u>
Total Income	<u>\$ 212,345.82</u>
GROSS PROFIT	<u>\$ 212,345.82</u>
EXPENSES	
5000 Ministry & Personnel	
5070 Total Administration	
5075 Payroll	6,216.08

5081 CPP	175.41
5082 EI	128.08
5083 Pension	-70.95
Total 5070 Total Administration	\$ 6,448.62
5200 Total Thrift Shop	
5210 Payroll	38,404.24
5230 CPP	1,245.69
5240 EI	769.93
Total 5200 Total Thrift Shop	\$ 40,419.86
5300 Caretaker - Total	
5320 Wages	4,706.68
5330 CPP	56.64
5340 EI	142.51
Total 5300 Caretaker - Total	\$ 4,905.83
5500 Musicians Total	
5540 Piano Maintenance	210.00
Total 5500 Musicians Total	\$ 210.00
5600 Worship, Choir, Sunday School	
5670 Worship Supplies	281.21
Total 5600 Worship, Choir, Sunday School	\$ 281.21
5800 Weddings	-200.00
5810 Clergy	3,652.00
5820 Musician	600.00
5840 General	550.67
Total 5800 Weddings	\$ 4,602.67
Total 5000 Ministry & Personnel	\$ 56,868.19
6000 Office - Total	
6010 Fees & Subscriptions	629.15
6020 Telephone & Internet	1,757.21
6080 Bank Service Charges	589.26
6090 Payroll Charges	462.78
6095 Office Miscellaneous	120.25
Total 6000 Office - Total	\$ 3,558.65
6100 Professional, Technical & Other Services	
6120 Accounting Fees	1,491.00
6140 Fire Alarm Inspection Services	1,116.89
6170 Mission and Service	1,800.00
Total 6100 Professional, Technical & Other Services	\$ 4,407.89
6200 Buildings & Grounds - Total	
6210 Church Routine Maintenance & Supplies	2,819.34
6220 Manse Routine Maintenance & Supplies	2,212.63
6230 Church Major Repairs/Renovation	8,886.32
6240 Manse Major Repairs/Renovation	13,142.54
6250 Custodial Services and Cleaning Supplies	751.39
6255 Kitchen Supplies	38.00
6260 Snow Removal	2,508.20
6270 Grounds - Maintenance and Flowers	4,419.45

6280 Equipment and Furniture Purchase	10,705.11
6290 Insurance	13,483.41
Total 6200 Buildings & Grounds - Total	\$ 58,966.39
6300 Utilities	
6310 Church Sewer & Water	1,076.15
6320 Manse Water Sewer	1,515.81
6330 Church Electricity	4,005.79
6340 Manse Electricity	1,374.10
6350 Church Natural Gas	25,082.00
Total 6300 Utilities	\$ 33,053.85
6600 Thrift Store - Total	
6610 Thrift Store Supplies	1,033.74
6620 Square Fees	2,094.22
Total 6600 Thrift Store - Total	\$ 3,127.96
6800 Donations	
6810 Donation to Ralph Connor United Church	114,642.47
Total 6800 Donations	\$ 114,642.47
6900 Amortization Expense	465.14
Total Expenses	\$ 275,090.54
PROFIT	-\$ 62,744.72

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