What do we love about our church?

What future do we want?

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Winnipeg

Sunday, April 7, 2024

Outline

- We are a community with a mission and a history.
- This time last year and how we have fared.
- Building the church we love.
- Thinking about our 2024-2025 budget
  - Budgeting to build the church we love and want.
  - Donations support our staff, who support our community and its mission.
- Choices
  - Volunteers, collective, individual.
  - Guidance for pledging choices.

We are a community with a mission and a history

Our Mission

We are a diverse and caring community that is loving, inclusive, responsible, and encouraging.

We are a learning community open to evidence and varied insights that encourages reflection and exploration. We use what we learn to strengthen our relationships and our capacity.

We are a socially engaged community that works collaboratively, compassionately, and urgently for a just society and for our life-sustaining planet.

This time last year

Last year, we reviewed ways we had pursued our mission and renewal
– a story of building strong foundations.

- A new Mission, Mission into Action and Dialogue on Our Future articulated what we aspire to be and do.
- Rentals, savings, and capital investments in our church home were favorable.
- Volunteers, staff, and new equipment and software enhanced our Zoom, A/V and administrative capacity.
- Creative caring, volunteering and welcoming continued as core activities thanks to Sunday Services, Pastoral Care, Harvest, Share the Plate, and a renewed Volunteer Resources Committee.
- We learned to address differences through conflict resolution training and constructive dialogue as we prepared to make our washrooms welcoming to all.
- We renewed our staff team: ministry, pastoral care, religious exploration, music, rentals, A/V and Zoom.

Our conclusion: Be proud of what we have achieved and get ready to grow programs, outreach, membership, pledging and donations.

Our Growing Community

Here are a few indicators as of Dec. 31st

- Overall attendance has increased 27%. Last year average 82, this year 105.
- Adult attendance has increased 40%. Last Year Average 46, this year 65.
- Children attendance has increased over 100%. (Last Year Average 6, This year 13)
- Pledge donations (to Dec. 31st) have increased 15%. (Last Year $116,257; this year $134,000)
- Learning and connection: Our Whole Lives (OWL), youth group, humanist group, learning programs and fun events (scrabble group, book club,) and more.
- Property growth: thanks to many volunteers, achieved funding for elevator

Building the church we love

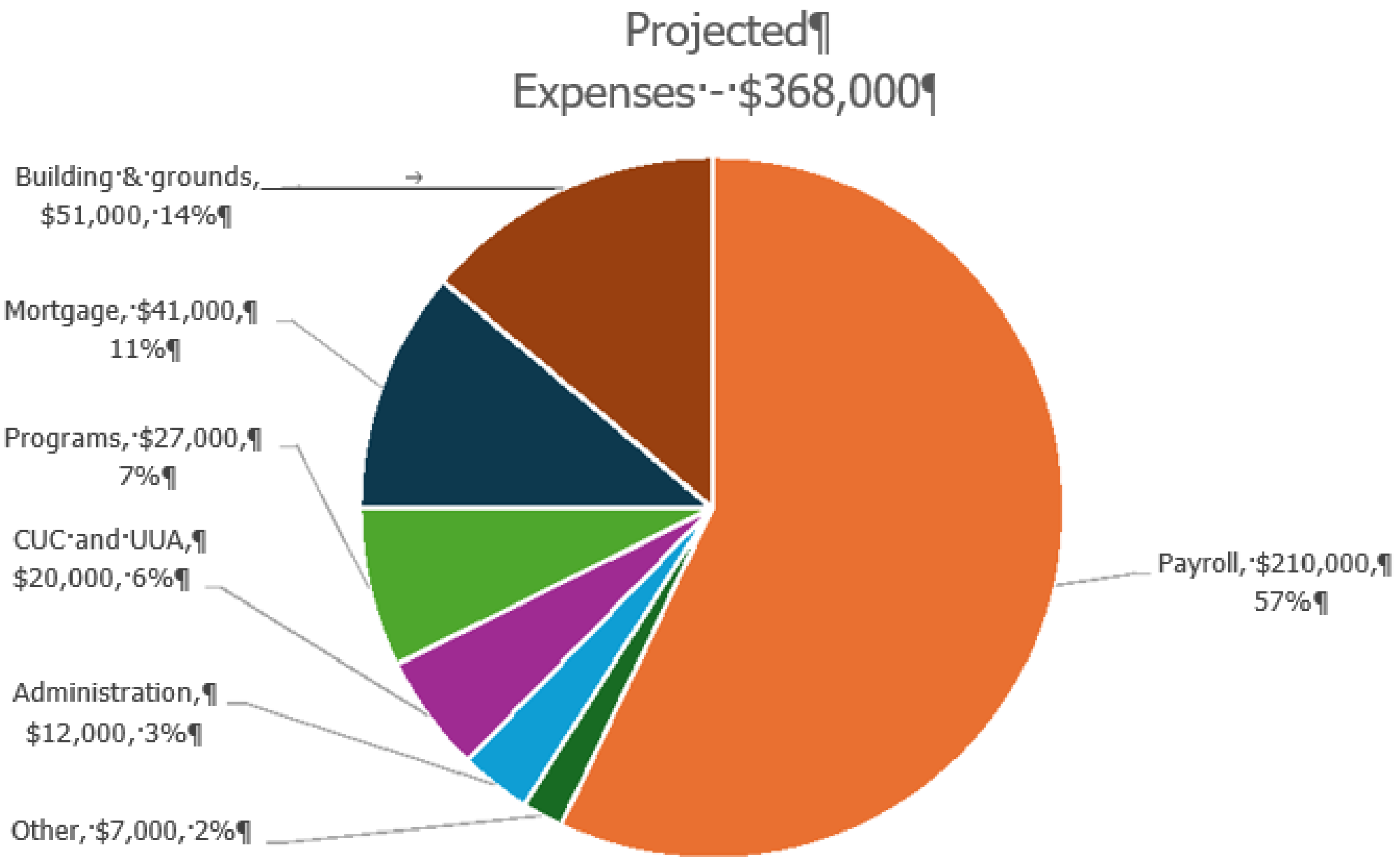
- Our community connects us, grounds us, enlightens us, challenges us, inspires us. Please add your own descriptors and action words!
- It exists and thrives only because members and friends care enough to invest themselves and their resources in what we do. Remarkably, “we” have been doing this in Winnipeg, through thick and thin, since 1891.
- But we can never take such generosity for granted. It must be renewed each year by each of us.
- Our canvass is a time for both connection and renewal.

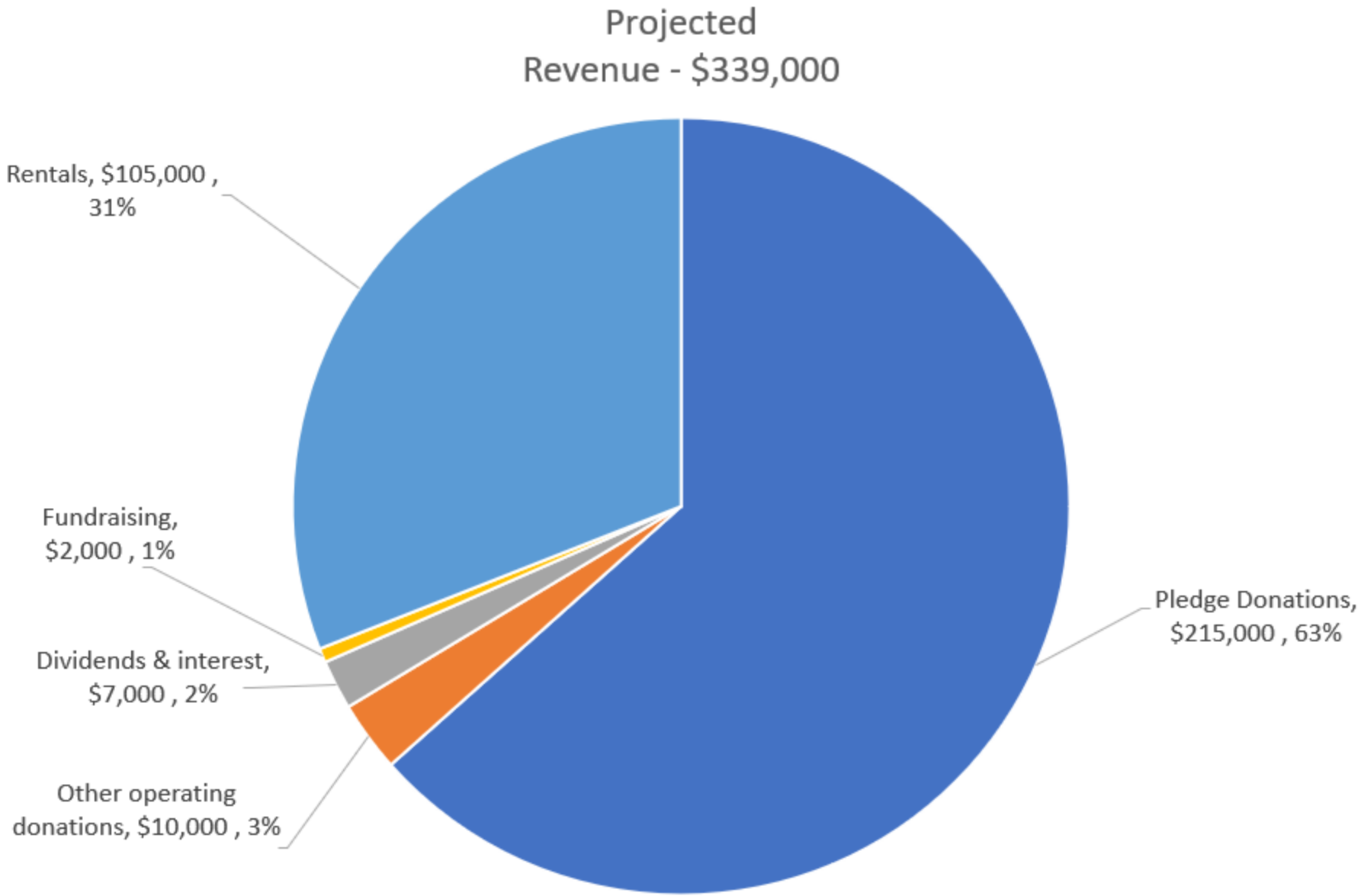
Questions for connection and renewal

1. **What do you love about our church?**
   This is your chance to celebrate what we do well and makes you feel connected.
2. **What model of ministry appeals to you?**
   Stefan has prepared a summary of options discussed. What are the most important considerations for deciding on our future ministry?
3. **What dreams do you have for our church?**
   This is your chance to let loose on what you envision we can be, for you, for all of us, and for the larger community and planet.

We will aggregate your responses and report back to the congregation

Thinking about our 2024-2025 Budget


Projected¶
Expenses·-·$368,000¶
Building·&·grounds,
$51,000,·14%¶
Mortgage,·$41,000,¶
11%¶
Programs,·$27,000,¶
7%¶
CUC·and·UUA,¶
$20,000,·6%¶
Administration,¶
$12,000,·3%¶
Other,·$7,000,·2%¶
Payroll,·$210,000,¶
57%¶


Projected
Revenue - $339,000
Rentals, $105,000 , 31%
Fundraising, $2,000 , 1%
Dividends & interest, $7,000 , 2%
Other operating donations, $10,000 , 3%
Pledge Donations, $215,000 , 63%

Our lives and our church develop from the choices we make.

Choices

- **Volunteer choices.** The choice to serve by many saves us 10s of thousands of dollars every year.
- Projected expenses are $30,000 higher than income – a deficit. How shall we deal with it?
- **Many individual pledge choices** will determine if our income is higher or lower than the projection.
- **Our collective choice at the AGM**. Should we budget a deficit next year if pledges don't close the gap? Let's invest in the future we want!
- **As truth-seekers, our choices should be informed.**

Making up my mind what to pledge.

General guidance.

Pledging Guidance

- Bylaws, Article 1: a member is expected to make a sincere effort to support the congregation functionally (volunteering) and financially.
- A Biblical tithe is 10% of income. A "UU tithe" is 5% to the church and 5% to other charities.
- You have a world of worthy causes to give to. We hope investing in our future is a priority.
- The Fair Share Contribution Guide reckons income and level of commitment together.

Making up my mind what to pledge.

What will it cost after tax credits?

Pledging Guidance

- Charitable tax credits lower the cost of your donations. By how much?

Monthly Donation	X 12 = 1 Year	CA + MB Credits	My Cost
$100	$1,200	$515.60	$684.40
$200	$2,400	$1,072.40	$1,327.60
$400	$4,800	$2,186.00	$2,614.00
$800	$9,600	$4,413.20	$5,186.80

From Canadian Red Cross Calculator

Making up my mind what to pledge.

What are others pledging?

Pledging Guidance

- Average pledge = $1869 or $150/month
- Median pledge = ~$1500 or $125/month
- Top pledgers over 5 X average pledge.
- With 10% increase:
  - Average pledge = $2,000 or $167/month
  - Top pledge = $10,000 or $833/month
- Compare with Fair Share Contribution Guide.
- Compare with your own past giving & and circumstances and add in your tax break. Can I give more? Or less?

Making up my mind what to pledge.

Give until it feels good!

Putting it all together

“Make your pledge in an amount you feel good about in your current circumstances….

Give until it feels good.”