

BALZAC UNITED CHURCH

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

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BALZAC UNITED CHURCH
Minutes for Annual General Meeting
April 23, 2023

Call the Meeting to Order – Rev Dr Karen Medland chaired the meeting as the Region Representative. She called the meeting to order at 11:07 am.

Opening Prayer – Rev Karen Medland opening the meeting with prayer.

Election of Secretary of AGM

MOTION 2022AGM-001: – MOVED BY STEVEN BURFORD THAT RUTH UNSER BE ELECTED SECRETARY OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. SECONDED BY HANNAH WALKES. CARRIED.

Chair's Message – Andrew Wigglesworth extended thanks to individuals and the congregation and provided a review of 2022.

MOTION 2022AGM-002: MOVED BY SHERYL PAGE THAT ALL THOSE PRESENT BE ALLOWED TO VOTE. SECONDED BY LUCILLE HAGEL. CARRIED.

Agenda Overview

MOTION 2022AGM-003: MOVED BY MICHELLE KOTELKO THAT THE AGENDA BE ADOPTED AS PRESENTED. SECONDED BY ZOE WALKES. CARRIED.

Minutes of 2022 AGM

MOTION 2022AGM-004: MOVED BY JOHN HAGEL THAT THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING DATED APRIL 3, 2022 BE ACCEPTED AS CIRCULATED. SECONDED BY ANDREW WIGGLESWORTH. CARRIED

Questions for Board Members from Congregation:

The congregation raised questions and concerns to current board members on a number of issues and to Rev Karen Medland regarding the recent staffing change.

Financial Statements 2022

Steven Burford and Hannah Walkes presented the 2022 Financial Statements to the congregation.

MOTION 2022AGM-005: MOVED BY GARY ASTLE THAT THE 2022 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS BE ACCEPTED AS PRESENTED. SECONDED BY ALEX SHAWN. CARRIED.

Budget 2023

The 2023 Budget was presented by Steven Burford and Hannah Walkes.

MOTION 2022AGM-006: MOVED BY SHERYL PAGE THAT THE BUDGET FOR 2023 AS PROVIDED IN THE 2022 ANNUAL REPORT BE ADOPTED. SECONDED BY GARY ASTLE. CARRIED.

Current Board Positions:

The status of the board positions with the outstanding length of term remaining is as follows:

- **Treasurer** – Hannah Walkes – 2 years remaining in term.
- **Internal Affairs** – Hazel Mountford – 1 year remaining in term.
- **M & P** – Joyce Covey – 2 years remaining in term.
- **Member at Large** – Sheryl Page – 1 year remaining in term.
- **Youth Representative:** Hannah Walkes – 1 year remaining in term.

Elections for Board Members:

The following board positions are open for nominations:

- **Chair of the Board** –Position open for nominations.

MOTION 2022AGM-007: MOVED BY MICHELLE KOTELKO TO NOMINATE RUTH UNSER FOR THE POSITION OF CHAIR. SECONDED BY ALEX SHAWN.

There being no further nominations for the position of Chair, Ruth Unser was elected by acclamation.

- **Board Secretary** Position open for nominations.

MOTION 2022AGM-008: MOVED BY RUTH UNSER TO NOMINATE STEVEN BURFORD FOR THE POSITION OF BOARD SECRETARY. SECONDED BY SHERYL PAGE.

There being no further nominations for the position of Board Secretary, Steven Burford was elected by acclamation.

- **Property** – Position open for nominations.

MOTION 2022AGM-009: MOVED BY JOYCE COVEY TO NOMINATE GARY ASTLE FOR THE POSITION OF PROPERTY. SECONDED BY ANDREW WIGGLESWORTH.

There being no further nominations for the position of Property, Gary Astle was elected by acclamation.

- **External Affairs and Outreach** – Position open for nominations.

MOTION 2022AGM-010: MOVED BY JOYCE COVEY TO NOMINATE MICHELLE KOTELKO FOR THE POSITION OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND OUTREACH. SECONDED BY ALEX SHAWN.

There being no further nominations for the position of External Affairs and Outreach, Michelle Kotelko was elected by acclamation.

- **Member at Large**–Position open for nominations.

MOTION 2022AGM-011: MOVED BY GARY ASTLE TO NOMINATE BRENDA ASTLE FOR THE POSITION OF MEMBER AT LARGE. SECONDED BY HANNAH WALKES.

There being no further nominations for the position of Member at Large, Brenda Astle was elected by acclamation.

- **Region Representative**– Ruth Unser – Term completed.

Ruth Unser has Agreed to remain in this position for a 1 year term.

There being no further nominations for the position of Region Representative, Ruth Unser was elected by acclamation.

Board of Trustees

Existing Trustees are and will continue in this position:

- Paul Arnott,
- Ron Beagle,
- Larry Bilben,
- Steven Burford,
- Hazel Mountford,
- Clark Spencer,
- Jim Wigglesworth.

Currently, Rev Tracy Robertson is a trustee as our Pastoral Charge Supervisor, in the absence of our Designated Minister. When a new minister is appointed, they will automatically assume the role as a trustee.

Other Business

- No other business was presented.

MOTION 2022AGM-012: MOVED BY MICHELLE KOTELKO TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 12:16 PM. SECONDED BY LEE DOWAN.

Rev Dr Karen Medland
AGM Chair

Ruth Unser
AGM Secretary

MINISTER REPORT 2023

Kelly Grittner

In the business world, annual reports are published to inform investors as to the success of their investments. Some of us might remember receiving a \$400 cheque in 2005 as a result of having lived and invested in Alberta.

Our 2023 Annual Report speaks in part of our investments and our dividends for the current year. Our financial report tells but a part of the story and yet will probably generate more questions at the Annual General Meeting than will all the other reports combined.

As your new minister I offer thanks for the warm welcome and the support shown me since I joined you on October 1, 2023. In worship, meetings and social occasions I have come to know Balzac United as a vital, viable spiritual community of God's people. In investment terms we are a mutual fund with potential for growth.

But the truth is no annual report can provide investors with a true picture of our investments and our dividends for both occur primarily in the daily life of the church, in the actions of the community.

Over time church communities provide dividends in many different unique ways - conflicts resolved, prayers offered, shelter provided. Meals shared, wedding vows and words around the grave, space rentals, building repairs. Confessions heard, referrals to other agencies, referrals to a higher power. Potluck and no luck. Roofs repaired; broken hearts patched with hope – at no cost. Music played, songs sung, feet shuffled quietly in step with the Spirit. Investments in creating the Kingdom of God in our time.

Janet Morley writes about investing in the kingdom of God in these terms: “The kingdom of God isn't announced with handshakes (however momentous), political flourishes, or speeches that move the heart. As in this place it will be known in thorough healing work: painstaking attention to particular bodies, committed lives, strategic action; the binding and silencing of demons of hatred and injustice that will not want to leave or lose their grip – the mighty works in daily life, of flourishing community”.

May we see ourselves as a flourishing community. God's prosperity dividends, to be shared in love and healing, at work in this community and the world at large.

May the blessings of God flow to us, and through us.

Kelly Grittner

Minister

CHAIR REPORT

Ruth Unser

What a privilege to be the Chair of the Board for Balzac United Church in 2023! I am proud to be a member of this wonderful church and have the opportunity to learn and expand my skills in this new role. It was a challenging year and our congregation has continued to step up and show our resilience and connection as a family as we worked and shared the journey together.

The year started with Rev Lynn McKinnon going on medical leave from January until April 2023. In May, with the support of the region, BUC and Rev Lynn mutually agreed to sever our relationship and go our separate ways. This was a stressful and uncertain time and we relied on God's guidance and wisdom to provide us with the resources and connections that we needed. We supported each other and worked together within our faith family during this time.

We welcomed Kelly Grittner as our interim minister on October 1 st to help us reshape and restructure our activities to help us move forward into the future in a strong and purposeful manner. The original plan was to work with Kelly through March 2024 and possibly longer to complete the work required and look for a new minister to lead us onward. Kelly's gifts of insightful messages and leadership, humor and creative ideas are guiding us to renewed and rejuvenated enthusiasm in our future endeavours.

The extra effort of so many people to fill in the gaps and allow our little church to work through this time is greatly appreciated. Extra thanks to Joyce Covey and her M & P team for all their extra work and efforts to negotiate the requirements of the many changes. With the help of Hazel Mountford and her worship team and with worship service leadership from Dr Alex Shawn and pulpit supply, we were able to continue with our regular Sunday services and move through our challenging experiences.

We saw a number of board changes in 2023 with some role changes and three members leaving, Andrew Wigglesworth, Clark Spencer, and Paul Arnott. We thank them for their service and contributions to the board and our church. We welcomed three new members, Gary Astle, Brenda Astle, and Michelle Kotelko who brought new energy and ideas as we all continue to learn and work together.

We are grateful for our congregation who continued to support the efforts of the board with their financial support, encouragement and generosity through their donations and volunteer work.

As we look forward to the future, we are confident in our ability to overcome any challenges and continue to serve our church family and the community. We continue to focus on sharing God's love, and the message of Christ and providing a welcoming and supportive environment for all.

Thank you all for being an integral part of our church family.

Ruth Unser
Board Chair

BAPTISMS

No one was baptized within the year 2023.

IN MEMORIAM

We remember Viola Jones, who passed on February 23rd, 2023.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS REPORT

Hazel Mountford

In the first part of January Rev L McKinnon left on sick leave and never returned.

The worship Team and M&P worked through the disruption with Pulpit Supply, lay People and members of the congregation helping out when needed. Thank you to all who stepped up and helped in BUC's time of need. Dr Alex Shawn did several services during our healing. Thank you to all who continue to support and grow with BUC.

Region was/is involved, and we have a plan to move forward with our interim Kelly Grittner. His ministry began in October 2023. He has been a pleasure to work with.

Our seasons remain constant, however small details may change, improved, and BUC continues to maintain our dignity and character within a turbulent time. Epiphany, Ordinary Time (Time after Epiphany) Lent, Easter, and Ordinary Time (Time after Pentecost) Advent, Christmas.

One of the reasons BUC has continued to remain open is because of the Board of Directors remaining steadfast and allowing God to direct us.

Ministry of Music

Led by Dr Alex Shawn and Lee Dowan. Our choir remains quite well attended and our choir has grown in knowledge since Lee can now concentrate on playing and Dr Alex leads us. The piano was tuned and will be fine for the rest of the year. We have been fortunate to have an affiliation with Desert Skys in Arizona who have lent BUC music.

Childrens Ministry

This past year saw some changes in children's ministry leadership with our longtime Sunday school leader and teacher, Victoria Walkes retiring from teaching as well as Zoe Walkes stepping back from teaching. We are grateful to both for their wonderful work in this vital ministry.

Since September the Sunday School has been meeting weekly, with the occasional Sunday off if no subs are available to teach. We are averaging 3 – 5 children per week. Ranging in age from 3

years to 16 years old. The Sunday School is looking forward to their annual mission and service project just before Easter.

The youth group is meeting monthly and have volunteered at the Crossfield Christmas hamper program. The group average 3 youth, though the Christmas party had 4 youth and 1 young adult.

BUC is blessed to have children and youth who enjoy attending Balzac United Church.

Advertising

BUC has placed two advertisements during 2023 calendar year. Joyce Covey is very proficient at finding the right time to advertise. Paul Arnott changes the message on the BUC sign. Thank you for your help and commitment.

Respectfully Submitted by

Hazel Mountford

Chair of Worship/Internal Affairs

MULTIMEDIA REPORT

Kevin Walkes

This year we had many changes within our church and our social media was there covering our events. We continued to add new content and integrate multimedia between the website, Instagram, and Facebook. Ongoing, we post audio of our services, sermons, choir music events, store audio files on the church's Google drive account, and Video on our YouTube page – all listed content is referenced on the BUC website. There were several great features this year including producing our first YouTube service when the weather was bad. This year we wanted to take accountability of what we do so we conducted a survey of church social media in August. We discovered viewers liked our social media overall, 75% of users access our social media 1 - 2 times a week. All the results from the survey will serve us well in the future.

Kevin Walkes

Web Master

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS REPORT

Michelle Kotelko

Transform lives. Inspire meaning and purpose. Build a better world... These three statements are at the heart of Mission and Service and are alive and in action at Balzac United Church! Over the past several months, I have had the opportunity to see and be part of the many ways in which BUC reaches out into the community.

Reflecting on the External Affairs at BUC over the past year brought many highlights to mind!

- Each Friday during the month of February, a handful of women served tea and sweets and visited with the residents of Airdrie's Carewest Retirement Home. Some ladies who were not able to come on Fridays brought baking to the church for us to take and serve! ***Thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus!***
- A BUC favourite comes each year when the youth put on their Mission and Service Fair. They researched and presented a few countries of the world in need of helping hands and external resources. Not only did the youth impart their newfound knowledge to the congregation, but they also prepared different foods and beverages from their countries for everyone to sample following the service. ***Thank you, Balzac youth, for teaching us about and allowing us to experience a little bit of the places that need our help!***
- Over the past year, over \$5,000 was collected and turned over to the Mission and Service Fund of the United Church of Canada. Your generosity and sacrifice extend our reach beyond our own province and country out into other continents and countries – ***Church! Thank you for your generosity and commitment to transform lives and build a better world!***
- The congregation of BUC came together to transform the lives of a family in need. Overwhelming support was poured out allowing us to fill the hamper for our family and donate extras to help with other hampers. ***Thank you, Lord, for the blessings you give to us so that we may share them with others – and thank you for the generous souls of Balzac United Church!***
- Our external focus over the course of November and December also pertained to the Veterans Food Bank. We were able to send an abundance of non-perishable food items to them and had monetary donations that they can use to purchase fresh produce and other items that aren't often donated. ***Thank you, Lord, for the blessings you give to us so that we may share them with others – and thank you for the generous souls of Balzac United Church!***

I have had the privilege of working with many volunteers in the church community. By baking treats, donating financial resources as well as time and talents, organizing outreach efforts, offering ideas, and leading the charge on different endeavours you have embodied the hands and feet of Jesus. Thank you! 2024 promises to be an even better year – let's continue joining together to make an even bigger impact in our community and world!

With gratitude,

Michelle Kotelko

MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL REPORT

Joyce Covey

During the first part of the year the Sunday Services were mostly covered by Lay Leaders and Pulpit Supply Ministers because of our Minister's Medical Leave.

Ms. Victoria Walkes retired as Sunday School Teacher as of June 2023, after being in that role since August 2006. She has made a huge difference in the lives of the children of our church during that time. We thank her for her service and dedication and wish her well in her retirement.

Angela Wigglesworth agreed to step into that role starting September 2023. In doing so, that left her position as Church Secretary, which she had been in since November 2010. Thank you, Angela for your dedication and hard work and we wish you well in your new role.

In September, Zoe Walkes was hired as Office Administrator. We welcome her and will support her in that new position.

October 4th, we welcomed Minister Kelly Grittner as our Interim Minister. We thank him for providing us with his expertise and leadership.

Blessings

Joyce Covey

Chair, Ministry & Personnel Committee

PROPERTY REPORT

Gary Astle

Over all the condition of the Church is good, there is painting and cosmetic improvements that could be done to exterior of the church. The mechanics of the Church seems to be in good shape with no problems noted.

On going maintenance has occurred in 2023 including:

- Furnace filters have been replaced on a regular basis
- Smoke detector maintenance has taken place; smoke detectors will have to be replaced in the next few years
- Door bell has been replaced
- Front exterior light has been replaced

The largest project for 2023 was the refurbishing of the Church sign.

Yours truly,

Gary Astle

Property Chair

TREASURER REPORT

Hannah Walkes

This year has been an interesting one with many new changes to personnel within the church and changing church traditions back to what we had before the pandemic. We have implemented some new forms to track receipts more effectively and have tried out a new model for presenting monthly numbers for the congregation in December. I will continue to work on the Income Statement for the congregation and work out some more details so it is more readable and useful.

At the end of 2023 we are over budget by \$10,060.58 and our revenue was only 82% of what we budgeted. However, our expenses were less than we forecasted for as we had only used 92% of our budget. For 2024 we have budgeted for a deficit budget of (\$30,313) based on the results of this year.

We had four GIC's mature during this year amounting to \$59,159.00. We had made plans to purchase new GIC's but due to changes in the board personnel this has been pushed back to this year, where we will still invest in new GIC's this year. We plan to keep staggering the GIC's so the amounts mature at different times in the upcoming years.

We have continued to support Mission & Service, Airdrie Food Bank and Veterans Food bank this year. The total amounts we have raised for the charities are \$6,624.95 for Mission and Service, \$1,050.00 for Airdrie Food Bank and \$130.00 towards Veterans Food Bank.

This has been my first official year as Board Treasurer, I have learned a lot and have much to still improve upon, but I thank you all for this great year.

Sincerely,

Hannah Walkes

Board Treasurer

BALZAC UNITED CHURCH
STATEMENT OF FINANCIALS AS OF DEC. 31, 2023

Assets	December 31, 2022	December 31, 2023
Current Assets		
ATB Bank Account	75,069.41	82,866.91
Prepaid	<u>2,897.25</u>	<u>3,722.87</u>
Total Current Assets	77,966.66	86,589.78
Investments		
ATB GIC 417900 Matures 12 Mar 23	11,274.68	0.00
ATB GIC 421700 Matures 17 Mar 23	17,230.22	(456.60)
ATB GIC 683100 Matures 01 Feb 23	15,654.12	0.00
ATB GIC 894200 Matures 21 Sep 23	15,000.00	0.00
ATB GIC 683100 Matures 01 Feb 24	<u>0.00</u>	<u>15,841.97</u>
Total Investments	59,159.02	15,385.37
Long Term Assets		
Capital Assets	30,586.99	30,666.94
Accumulated Depreciation	<u>- 5,811.53</u>	<u>- 5,811.53</u>
Total Long Term Assets	24,775.46	24,855.41
<u>Total Assets</u>	<u>161,901.14</u>	<u>126,830.56</u>
Liabilities and Equity		
Short Term Liabilities	0.00	0.00
Equity		
Retained Earnings - Beginning	168,008.62	161,901.14
Add Accumulated Net Income	<u>- 6,107.48</u>	<u>- 35,070.58</u>
Retained Earnings - Ending	161,901.14	126,830.56
<u>Total Liabilities and Equity</u>	<u>161,901.14</u>	<u>126,830.56</u>

**BALZAC UNITED CHURCH
COMPARATIVE INCOME STATEMENT**

	<u>Actual 2023</u>	<u>Actual 2022</u>	<u>Difference 2023 – 2022</u>
Total Cash and In Kind Donations:	100,385.99	94,462.36	5,923.63
Expenses:			
Ministry and Personnel	97,355.83	65,686.06	31,669.77
Ministry of Property	20,667.49	18,425.56	2,241.93
Ministry of Internal Affairs	4,317.30	3,206.48	1,110.82
<u>Ministry of External Affairs</u>	<u>13,115.95</u>	<u>13,251.74</u>	<u>(135.79)</u>
<u>Total Expenses:</u>	<u>135,456.57</u>	<u>100,569.84</u>	<u>34,886.73</u>
<u>Net Surplus(Loss):</u>	<u>(35,070.58)</u>	<u>(6,107.58)</u>	<u>(28,963.10)</u>

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
	<u>Actuals</u>	<u>Actuals</u>	<u>Actuals</u>	<u>Approved Budget</u>	<u>YTD Actuals</u>	<u>Proposed Budget</u>
Revenue	110,333	97,146	94,463	122,898	100,385.99	87,390
Personnel	81,630	78,190	65,687	110,224	97,335.83	76,705
Property	13,752	17,485	18,427	18,824	20,677.49	22,538
Internal	6,211	3,384	3,208	4,250	4,317.30	4,700
External	14,181	16,784	13,252	14,600	13,115.95	13,760
Total Expenses	115,774	115,843	100,574	147,898	135,446.57	117,703
CEWS	26,538	20,374				
Surplus (Loss)	21,097.00	1,677.00	(6,111.00)	(25,000.00)	(35,060.58)	(30,313.00)

Budget Commentary:

- Revenue** Based on how many donations we had received last year before December we had decided to make revenue reflect the possible amounts for this coming year.
- Ministry & Personnel** Our expense for a Minister's Salary this coming year is for a part-time minister opposed to a full-time minister after Kelly's term with us has been completed.
- Ministry of Property** We expect that our Utilities will go up next year and our budget reflects our predictions as well as insurance increasing.
- Ministry of Internal Affairs** Our predictions are similar to previous years and this has helped to continue making our church welcoming.
- Ministry of External Affairs** Expected development of more outreach and fundraising initiatives for next year is highlighted in this budget.