

## Communications report – Music United AGM 2023

As the pandemic shifts into an endemic phase, I am encouraged by the new life I see in church communities across the country. Hosting an actual, live Music Matters gathering at Islington United Church last month without serious COVID consequences, was a great joy for us all. I look forward to what the future holds!

Our Music United Facebook group, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/musicucc>, has grown from roughly 1100 members last year to over 1250 members currently. Conversation continues to be stimulating and helpful, with resources being shared, questions being asked and answered, and new music being released to the community. Earlier this year, Facebook allowed groups to become private again, after a few years of making all groups public by default, so we are back to being able to vet all new membership requests, asking people to answer a few simple questions before they can join. And with the shift back to a private group, we have a greater degree of safety for when members need to ask more sensitive questions. Thanks to all who actively participate and help keep our group vital and important to the work of Music United.

Our website, [www.musicunited.ca](http://www.musicunited.ca), continues to attract new enquiries and to provide documents, job postings and event notices to the community. We continue to vet potential job postings to ensure there are adequate hours and compensation for the work expected, following the guidelines in our handbook, *The Ministry of Music in The United Church of Canada*, available as a free download at [https://united-church.ca/sites/default/files/2021-04/ministry-of-music\\_apr2021.pdf](https://united-church.ca/sites/default/files/2021-04/ministry-of-music_apr2021.pdf). In some cases, congregations have revised their expectations and remuneration when searching for new music personnel, so I continue to be grateful for our collective advocacy in this area. If you need to reach someone, a regional convenor or admin team member, continue to use the contact forms on the site and I will redirect your communication to the appropriate person. And if you have suggestions for the website, or something you think needs to be posted such as an event notice, send them to us and we will assist in spreading the word.

To close, this great, volunteer network of musicians and music lovers from across the church continues to inspire me! We are at our best when we're all actively engaged, so thank you for all you do to keep our community thriving.

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[www.musicunited.ca](http://www.musicunited.ca)