

ANNUAL REPORTS 2024

CO-CO-ORDINATOR REPORT

We are grateful and say thank you to the many passionate volunteers and members of Music United who continued to provide a strong and supportive presence over the past year. Your time and dedication, in guidance with the Holy Spirit, has truly been a blessing to the wider church community.

This year we had a full executive as we welcomed Kara to the membership and newsletter role and Byron as Co-Co-Ordinator. Both have been doing an outstanding job keeping communication open with the membership and submitting articles to Gathering. Byron has also made connections with regions working on music events and with the United Church of Christ to help promote collaboration between groups. We are still working on refining the convenor position and we are looking to fill convenor positions in regions that are currently vacant. If you are interested in becoming more involved in Music United this is a great opportunity - just let us know your interest.

Debbie Fingas has completed 3 years as co-Co-Ordinator and will be retiring from the executive at the AGM. Byron is looking for a co-Co-Ordinator! If you might be interested, please let us know.

It is with great anticipation that we look forward to meeting in Thunder Bay for our Music Matters conference and AGM. We have refined the hybrid model of having some participants join us simultaneously online. A HUGE thank you to Dawn, Diana, the executive and especially our wonderful hosts at St Paul's United Church!

I wish to extend my deepest appreciation to Dawn as she leaves her position as program coordinator on the executive. Under her expert guidance we have had three fantastic conferences, and her tireless energy and passion has kept us organized and learning new things. Thank you, Dawn!

The upcoming year promises to be an exciting one with the release of the electronic version of "Then Let Us Sing" later in the year. We will strive to keep you up to date on the status of the resource. Continued blessings to all engaged in the work of Music United.

Debbie Fingas and Byron Hermann
Co-Admin Coordinators

PROGRAM CO-ORDINATOR

It's been another busy year as Program Co-Ordinator of Music United. Planning for this year's event in Thunder Bay actively started in June 2023 (no rest for the weary!) so that we could discuss ideas while they were still reasonably fresh in our heads after Music Matters 2023.

There were many discussions and variations as the fall progressed. In December, we made the difficult decision to stop working on the proposed songwriters' retreat (that would have been an extension of the weekend's conference) in order to save energy and focus for Music Matters itself. We did agree to have a day of choral workshops and involve the choral community in Thunder Bay – we are so grateful to Andrée Dagenais of Brandon University for agreeing to lead these workshops!

Marketing, budgeting, and planning individual workshops are all part of this job and I have greatly appreciated everyone's assistance in making this work. Diana Hannaford-Wilcox and her team of volunteers have been amazing at dealing with the Local Arrangements side - Thank you!

As this year concludes and initial preparations begin for 2025 in Montréal, it is time for me to hand over this challenging but wonderful portfolio to the next Program Co-Ordinator. Three years have passed so quickly but it is time for someone else to share their ideas and visions for professional development with the musicians of Music United.

Thank you all for your support over these past three years.

Dawn Duncliffe
Program Co-Ordinator

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The membership coordinator oversees the membership database, putting together communication via newsletter through MailChimp and coordinating Music United content creation for the Gathering publication.

Similar to last year, the membership is slowly growing. We keep our membership list through a free MailChimp account, where we distribute the Music United newsletter. We continue to use the Music United Facebook page as a platform to promote members to join the newsletter mailing list, and repost announcements from the newsletter on the page. Both Mailchimp and Facebook are effective in communicating with our broader network. Our mailing list currently has 112 members.

We send out newsletters throughout year, the frequency is assessed to be on an as needed basis depending on promotional needs for upcoming events, i.e. Music Matters. The newsletter

usually features a brief introduction, details and links to upcoming events and resources, and on occasion a profile of a Music United member. If you have an experience, a song, a resource, event or workshop to promote and share, please consider submitting to the Music United newsletter!

The role of Membership Coordinator also coordinates Music United column to Gathering Magazine. The Music United column is prepared by one (or more) Music United members. The article usually features reflections on the assigned topic by the editor, or can feature that is seasonally relevant subject, worship ideas, prayers and musical resources. We have two written contributions from Byron Herman, who wrote on the topic of Hymn Preparation, and Rev. Dr. Lisa Waites prepared a theological reflective piece around the history of our hymnody while facing the 100th anniversary as the United Church.

Looking onward to 2024-2025, we will continue to promote and encourage more of the Music United network to join our membership list to have a more direct communication for upcoming Music United news, events & opportunities.

Faithfully submitted,

Kara Derma

Membership Co-Ordinator

Email: musicunitedmembership@gmail.com

CONVENOR REPORT

Music United Regional Conveners

- We have been meeting monthly with some busy schedules to deal with.
- We had some good conversations around special services, community involvements, bringing congregations together.
- We are still working on reaching out to find Conveners encouraging people to apply, at any time, for a vacant position.

Regional standings in order of West to East plus 3 specific Convener positions:

- Pacific Mountain - Bruce Harding
- Northern Spirit - **vacant**
- Chinook Winds - **vacant**
- Living Skies - Clayton Braybrook
- Prairie to Pine - **vacant**
- Canadian Shields – Diana Hannaford-Wilcox
- Western Ontario Waterways – Dan VanWinden
- Antler River Watershed – Tim Lai-Smith
- Horseshoe Falls - Karen Segrave

- Shining Waters – Jason Locke
- East Central Ontario - **vacant**
- Eastern Ontario Outaouais – Pat Mayberry and Bryan Cook
- Nakonhaka – Alexandra Fol
- Fundy St. Lawrence / Dawning Waters - Layton Peck and Louise Elder
- Region 15 - Kevin Parks
- First Dawn Eastern Edge – **vacant**

Specific

- Indigenous Convener representing Indigenous music interests – **vacant**
- Bilingual Convener representing Francophone music interests – **vacant**
- Ethnocultural Convener representing cross-cultural music interests – **vacant**

Diana Hannaford-Wilcox
 Convenor Co-Ordinator

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

Life in the post-pandemic era continued to unfold in 2023 for United Church musicians across the country. In my own ministry context at Crossroads United Church in Delta, BC, there is excitement and hesitancy all rolled in together with a greatly altered sense of expectation – people approach life differently after many months of lockdown and anxiousness. But it sure is good to be singing in community again!

Our Music United Facebook group, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/musicucc>, has grown from roughly 1250 members last year to over 1330 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. Two new options which Facebook is offering are group chats on topics of our choice – we will likely begin exploring the possibilities this year – and the ability to post anonymously, which provides a greater degree of safety for members when they need to post 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, 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. 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.

Bruce Harding
 Communications Co-Ordinator
www.musicunited.ca

2023 Report of Budget to Actuals for Music United

Sum of Calculated Amount	Debited Activities	Credited Activities	Total
Revenue			
GCO		5000.00	
Registration		4130.00	
Expenses			
Host- Islington United Church			3300.00
Space Rental	500.00		
Tech. Support	300.00		
Hospitality and Meals	2500.00		
Conference Fee			
Honoraria			750.00
Music Matters- Deborah Bradley	250.00		
Music Matters-Anneli Loepp Thiessen	250.00		
Music Matters-Elaine Choi	250.00		
Music United Executives			870.11
Debbie Fingas	189.00		
Dawn L Duncliffe	88.44		
Diana Hannaford-Wilcox	342.67		
Billet gift cards	250.00		
Registration Fees			317.51
Music Matters reg. fees	317.51		

2023 Music Matters Registration Fees

	Price	Quantity	2023 Actual
Music Matters			
Revenue			
General admission for In-person	CA\$100.00	25	2,500.00
Admission for In-person	CA\$75.00	3	220.00
Admission for In-person	CA\$50.00	10	600.00
Group General Admission In-person (4 tickets)	CA\$300.00	1	300.00
General admission for Online	CA\$50.00	9	450.00
Admission for Online	CA\$30.00	2	60.00
Group General Admission for online (4 tickets)	CA\$150.00	0	
Grand Total		50	\$4,130.00

2024 Music Matters Registration Fees

	Price	Quantity	2024 Actual
Music Matters			
Revenue			
General Admission for In-person	CA\$200.00	11	2,200.00
Sliding scale admission for In-person	CA\$150.00	2	300.00
Admission for Online	CA\$75.00	6	450.00
Sliding scale admission for Online	CA\$50.00	3	150.00
Choral workshop only (Saturday afternoon only)	CA\$25.00	76	1,900.00
All choral workshops (Saturday including lunch)	CA\$75.00	4	300.00
Grand Total		102	\$5,300.00
	5237.62	9130.00	- 3892.38
Grand Total			

REPORT ON THE OXFORD UNITED CHURCH ENDOWMENT FUND

Date: February 13, 2024

Fund Centre No. 5172086

Statement of Fund Activity For the period from January 01, 2023 to 12/31/2023

Opening Balance	\$ 238,453.40
Revenues Donations	\$ -
Investment Income	\$ -
Unrealized Investment Income (gain/loss)	\$ 23,977.73
Total Revenues	\$ 23,977.73
Expenses Grants	\$ 8,935.00
Administrative Fees	\$ 3,654.10
Other	\$ -
Total Expenses	\$ 12,589.10
Transfer	\$ -
Total Transfers	\$ -
Closing Balance	\$ 249,842.03

Restricted amount

If you have any questions please contact Jenna Yango Leonard at 1-866-430-8223 or at jyleonard@united-church.ca

