

Presidents Report to the Annual Meeting 2022

Overview

It was yet another year operating during the Covid-19 pandemic; however, it certainly did not slow us down. In fact, the past year has been a year of major positive change and important organizational growth. TUCC has expanded its scope in both the number of congregations we serve and our relationships with partner organizations.

Our services and expertise are more in demand than ever by four United Church Regions, their communities of faith, the United Property Resource Corporation (UPRC), and the United Church of Canada (UCC).

To meet this demand for more and new services, we have added strategic bench strength to our staff complement. In addition, the staff have been equipped with upgraded technology, a new, better located and equipped Council office, and a hybrid working model.

Our work is carried out by volunteers and staff who contribute with excellence, experience and wisdom within TUCC: Saying 'Thank You' to every one of these amazing people has never had so much meaning. Here are your dedicated teams:

- The Board of Directors
- Standing Committees: Finance and Property
Church Development and Leadership
Financial Development
- Executive Director and Staff
- External partners in real estate, property services, legal services, investment management, finance & audit, and consulting.

Moving our office location

- We moved to the new offices over the Nov 26-29, 2021 period
- Making full use of available technology to allow a mixture of in-office and home office working
- We assumed full management of the Lansing building on March 1, 2022
- Our old office at Wertheim Court on the market for sale the beginning of June

This is a relocation to a new office after 21 years at the Wertheim Court site. The move to the Richmond Hill area, first to 14th Avenue and then to Wertheim Court was in response to an opening up of TUCC services beyond Toronto to all nine presbyteries that made up Toronto Conference at the end of the 1990s

This latest move to the Lansing site is another milestone – the need for an accessible building on a transport hub to reach all four Regions we now serve, as well as the specific needs of the Lansing congregation for management of their wonderful building.

Expanding Property Role

- Since 2017 TUCC has supported Toronto Conference and now Shining Waters Regional Council through the management of properties where congregations have closed. The portfolio began with 6 properties (and three cemeteries). The work has expanded into four Regions (Shining Waters, Western Ontario Waterways, Eastern Central Ontario, and Horseshoe Falls) and involves 21 properties and numerous cemeteries.
- UPRC/Kindred Works and TUCC are working closely together as buildings are held pending redevelopment rather than simply being sold off.
- In addition to the management of the Lansing building, including space rentals, we have agreed with Cummer Ave United Church to manage the rental aspect of their newly renovated building. These two will be marketed together to make the reach into the market for community space more effective. As congregations become increasingly dependent on revenues that a building can generate, TUCC is leading the way in experimenting in a collaborative approach to sharing that burden. TUCC cannot support every congregation, neither can every church building generate sufficient revenues to meet the cost of 'professional management', but this approach is important for testing the possibilities.

Strengthening our Staffing

- In response to these new demands for TUCC support in the property field, **Clare Dennis** began work at the end of March as Director of Special Events & Community Services. **Christine Swearing**, Church & Community Facilities Manager at Lansing will be transferring to the TUCC team in the next weeks.
- Due to increasing workload demands, we are dividing the property services and capital loans position into two distinct roles
- Our work at the Innovative Ministry Centre is growing larger. We are delighted that **Tay Moss** will be joining the TUCC staff fulltime from July 1st. We will hear more about the exciting developments in the **Churchx** platform during the annual meeting.
- Transition for some individual members.
 - In October 2021 **Joyce Kung** went on Maternity Leave and gave birth to a little girl Abby that month.
 - **Jim Patterson** has begun a reduced-hours contract in March 2022 as he transitions toward full retirement in 2023 after 19 years of service with TUCC.
 - **Katja Brittain** will be living in Germany for a year from July 1 but continuing to do some work on a contract basis.
 - With the separation of property and capital loans work, **Ken Clarke** to be able to concentrate on the capital loans area, and in the Fall of 2022 plans are for a new Director of Property Services to be appointed.

Changing Our Investment Advisor.

After 20 years with CIBC Wood Gundy in May, a decision was made to transfer the TUCC Investment Pool to Fiera Capital. Fiera has a strong history serving the UCC. As managers of a total pool of around \$40 million, TUCC can now be considered an 'institutional investor', opening the door to more investment opportunities and reducing the amount of detailed management needed by TUCC.

Expanding relationships

Relationships with our new regional partners continue to grow. For example, three organizations from the East Central Ontario Regional Council are looking to TUCC to continue their legacies by establishing restricted funds with us:

- Peterborough Presbytery Extension Council, who have generously agreed to allow the funds to be used across the area served by TUCC (\$370,000)
- Four Winds Presbytery Development Corporation are looking to transfer property in the Kingston area to Council's stewardship
- Trinity United, Peterborough have also voted to establish a special fund on their closure this summer (\$100-350,000)

Supporting Investing in Ministry – by the numbers -June 2021 to 2022

People	31 individual congregations received advice or consulting support including 4 longer term projects 3 Team Development Sessions for new ministerial teams in Shining Waters RC
Dollars	Loans of over \$1.5m approved to communities of faith Grants and Awards of over \$330,000 (incl \$280,000 to the five overnight camps) 8 Baillie Youth & Young Adult Awards 1 Vincent Alfano Award 2 Winston & Merle Roach Awards Over \$560,000 distributed to Investing in Ministry Fund investors in 2021

Church Camps

TUCC continues to support five United Church summer camps. During Covid-19, these five properties, with our encouragement and support, took the opportunity to do significant infrastructure upgrades, and are now more equipped than ever to welcome overnight campers back for the summer of 2022.

Opportunities for Serving and Making a Difference

The Board and Committees of TUCC are staffed by great volunteers, with defined calendar terms of office. The personal rewards are serving the wider church and using your talents and energy in a meaningful way. If this peaks your interest, please get in touch with our Executive Director, Ron Ewart