



BEACH UNITED CHURCH 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

*Exploring Faith and Building
Relationships with God, People
and the Earth*

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Micah 6:8: Seek Justice, Love Kindness, Walk Humbly

Rev. Gregory Daly



Change continues to be a theme at Beach United Church. We're still trying to find out what the new norm is post pandemic. Maybe we just need to accept that change 'is' the new norm and we have to get used to it. The year ahead looks hopeful on a number of fronts. We've had more staffing changes as we adapt to our financial reality and our needs as a congregation. We've also had some changes to the Board. Gwen Hughes resigned. We greatly appreciate Gwen's contribution to the Board over the last number of years. Her input will be missed. This leaves a vacancy. Please let me know if you're interested in joining our small but dynamic Board.

We're hoping we can enjoy some stability as we recover from the pandemic and rebuild our rental revenues and focus on our long-term financial stability. We have been busy applying for grants in 2023

to help give us the financial support to continue our community programs. We have already received two grants and are waiting to hear about 3 more grants in the spring of 2024.

We officially became an Affirming Community of Faith in June, proudly declaring the full inclusion of all people, embracing many identities.

We are actively living our faith by continuing to make connections in the community which support our many projects. These connections make our community of faith stronger and more sustainable.

I've been so impressed with the dedication and commitment of each member of the Board, our secretary Richard Underwood, Treasurer Paul Dowling and board member Martin McFarland as well as the Ministry and Personnel Committee, Operations Advisory Group and Communications Advisory Group, and all our dedicated staff. As Board chair I have deeply appreciated the leadership, energy and creativity of our minister, Greg Daly. Thank you!

Thank you all for your devotion to keeping Beach United Church a vibrant community of faith. There are lots of exciting things planned for 2024.

Mary Anne Lemm

Report from the Board of Trustees

Our insurance coverage with United Church of Canada Protect/HUB continues at \$19,829.00 before taxes for 2024, a 10.7% increase over the previous year. The diversity of programs offered in our building contributes to the cost of liability coverage. There have been some central administrative challenges over the past 2 years, as HUB has severed their relationship with our local brokers, apparently in a cost-saving effort. Delays, errors in processing and numerous unexplained revisions have occurred. Improvement seems to be evident now.

Trustees have reviewed the investment portfolio in mutual funds at Wood Gundy. This culminates in plans to broaden the portfolio to include the Toronto United Church Council's Investing in Ministry Fund and guaranteed investment certificates issued by credit unions.

We welcomed new trustees Bruce Burley and Marian Hilton in 2023.

Rev Greg Daly, Kathy Clemens, Henny De Lange, Marian Hilton, Bruce Burley, Martin McFarland

General Manager's Report

2023 was a big year of change for me beginning with joining Beach United Church as property manager. Just 6 months in and still learning, I moved into the role of general manager with the added task of rentals.

For 2024 I hope to apply my customer service background to achieve success in both of these roles and improve our rentals revenue by getting what we offer out to the community and surrounding area via social media/word of mouth & collaboration with planners & caterers.

I wish to thank the OAG, the Board, the congregation & my fellow team-mates for both allowing me this opportunity and for supporting me while I navigate my way. Thank you all!

Karen Ward

Communications Advisory Committee

With so much happening at Beach United, our communications team took steps this past year to ensure we can get the word out effectively.

Allison Woo, our Communications Coordinator, worked with Cate Duff, Administrator, to streamline Beach United's email newsletters. They sorted distribution lists, redesigned the templates, and organized a publication schedule. Now we send two newsletters each week: Ministry, Worship & Spiritual News for our community of faith and Weekly Community News for people interested in concerts, events and other activities. Special announcements are distributed when needed. This ensures that our subscribers (nearly 275 and growing!) consistently get relevant information, making it easier for them to engage with activities that interest them.

Allison continues to design promotional materials, market events, update Beach United's website and create content for our social media. In the last year, she assisted with creating an online tour of our church garden using QR codes, shared weekly images and videos of our Thursday lunch program, and assisted with branding and promoting new initiatives such as our Queer Youth United group. Event marketing included the Eco Fair, the Christmas Market and ongoing music series (Jazz & Reflection, Music for the Soul, Organ Stops), as well as sponsorship and promotion of fundraisers for The Beach Cares, including Big Band Music Night. This work will continue in the coming year, to support community-building at Beach United.

Allison's work is supported by the Communications Advisory Committee.

Jo-Anne LaForty, Mary Anne Lemm, Leigh Bowser and Rev. Greg Daly

Fundraising Report

Breaking Bread Together – Chile, March 31 2023 This event with empanada charcuterie boxes, Chilean wine and another virtual trip to a Chilean winery was enjoyed by over 50 people and we made over \$2,000. Anne Marie Gravel made the empanadas. Thanks to the Dowlings and many others for their creative hard work here putting together the charcuterie boxes.

Lecture series Last spring we continued the Mike Daley lecture series with one on Joni Mitchell, which ran from April 27 to May 29. We had over 60 in attendance and brought in over \$2100.00

Big Band Music Night

This was an event we planned to raise money for The Beach Cares in partnership with St. Aidan's. Many local businesses supported the event with donations to the silent auction. We raised over \$9,000 and had a wonderful evening full of music, community connections and fun.

Jo-Anne LaForty

Christmas Market 2023

This year's Christmas Market was a great success. There were approximately 1,000 people in attendance during the 4-hour event. There were 34 vendors offering a variety of homemade crafts and goods. There were also tables run by Beach United Volunteers for Jams, Jellies and Pickles, Christmas Collectibles, a new and very popular table, The Bake Table which is always a draw, a Fair-Trade Chocolate and Coffee table, Knitted Toys and 5 gift baskets for a raffle. We sold over 300 hand pies - a tourtière pie and a mushroom goat cheese pie made by a team of volunteers under the wonderful leadership of Chef Anne-Marie Gravel. We had a Gingerbread House Silent Auction this year. Nine local real estate agents donated gingerbread houses which were auctioned off - they were works of art! We had a lunch counter offering soup and a bun along with cookies and squares, which was very popular. We sold out early. People really appreciated being able to get a bite to eat and sit and rest before or after shopping. Steven Webb and Alex Eddington played Christmas music during the entire market which really helped everyone get into the Christmas spirit.

The Market was led this year by Pat Buchanan and Mary Anne Lemm. We had 20 volunteers setting up on Friday and then 48 volunteers approximately on Saturday. Total earnings were about \$12,000.

Thank you to all the volunteers, who led and organized tables, helped set up, put up decorations, worked in the kitchen, made items to sell and who were there to help out on the day of the Market. Your enthusiasm shone through to everyone who attended.

Mary Anne Lemm and Pat Buchanan

Garden Group

In 2023 the Church garden and its maintenance team went through a major transition, as both Matt and Sally took a well-earned rest and a new team started to find its way to care for the colourful garden, initiated and developed by Sally and Matt over many years.

Over the course of the spring, summer and fall period, new and returning volunteers, from both the congregation and the wider community, came along to help. And it is with pleasure we list as many of those as have been recorded - thank you to Britta Barnes, Lynne Barger, Cathy Byrne, Corin Collins, Florence Cook, Paul Dowling, Marie Guney, Andy Kramer, Naureen Raza, Jerry Reitsma, Doreen Walker and Hastings Withers. To any others not mentioned, thank you too!

The contribution of the Church office staff should also be acknowledged, for invaluable help with communications, and stepping in to help with watering and cleaning up when required.

2023 Developments

Regular Maintenance: This was the major job for the year, there are a lot of beautiful plants, almost all of which need attention, and which when properly attended to lead to a lovely result. One example is the Roses of Sharon. Every one of the branches, on all four plants, required pruning, branches cleaned up and disposed of.

The "Bus Stop Garden": This is the south-east corner near where people wait for the Main Street bus. Its location makes it vulnerable to being trampled. Cathy and other volunteers re-planted the area with native species that like dry, sunny spots; Jerry's contribution was to install a new fence to protect the plantings.

Beach United Garden Tour - The Bus Stop Garden and two other locations have a post with a QR code, which connects to a section of the Church website with a description of the plants in that part of the garden.

2023/24 Winter Planning

Sign-up sheets: A winter task just getting started is to plan the maintenance tasks with a timetable for garden activities, setting dates. This is a model used by other community gardens - signup sheets shared in early Spring, refreshed on an ongoing basis as needed and remaining open for people to drop in.

Seeking additional resources: One possibility being actively followed up in conjunction with Green Neighbours Network is participating in a "Biodiversity Count" - a Canada Summer Works project. If the funding is approved, Beach United would have students who would work in the garden for a short period of time during summer 2024.

Hopes and plans for 2024

Along with regular maintenance, a key objective for 2024 will be to undertake projects that will help make the garden more self-sustaining, using native plants where possible, and encouraging plants which enhance insect and bird life. Related to this, and of particular importance, is to continue efforts to address the problem of non-native invasive species that have got started. An example is along the west wall of the parking lot where invasive Garlic Mustard will be replaced by shrubs like Fragrant Sumac, Northern Bush Honeysuckle, and Goldenrod, all of which have the added benefit of requiring less pruning.



Cathy Byrne & Hastings Withers

Justice Seeking at Beach United Church

Beach United Church is committed to engaging with the community in ways which promote justice for the earth and its people. Key areas we are involved with are the Climate Crisis, Refugees, Poverty and Housing Insecurity, particularly homelessness. We work in partnership with other people in the wider community to address the challenges facing our community at the local level, city-wide and at a global level.



In May we hosted a very successful EcoFair, where 40 tables with a mix of vendors and non-profit organizations attracted about 600 attendees. Our church table shared information about our actions, including our solar panels, green parking lot, gardening club and EV chargers. We even described how we protected our chimney swifts. The Solar Energy for Beach Co-op had their own table which attracted lots of interest. While it was not planned as a fundraising event, the EcoFair did raise almost \$2000 and, most importantly, inspired people to take action for the planet.

We also became members of the Green Neighbours Network, a grassroots network of people and groups working to make Toronto greener, healthier, and more sustainable.

As a founding member of The Beach Cares, we continue to support the 3 Syrian refugee households sponsored in prior years as they grow in independence. In 2023, we supported a couple fleeing the Russian invasion of the Ukraine to come as “visitors” to Canada. The husband, the brother of a Syrian woman we had previously sponsored refugee, was living in Ukraine with his Ukrainian wife. As 2024 begins we are welcoming the remaining 5 members of their family to Toronto. The Beach Cares is a collaboration with the Anglican Church of St. Aidan and people from the wider community.

In June a team from Beach United participated in Fred’s Walk to end homelessness. It was one of the hottest days of the year but we raised over \$3700 and learned about the amazing work the Fred Victor Centre does year round to help people who are without a home.



A small group from Beach United has begun supporting East End United Church (Eastminster Campus) in providing space for up to 20 people who are homeless. A small group from the Beach United community have taken on the breakfast shift one Saturday morning a month. On our first shift, we provided breakfast for the 20 overnight guests as well as 28 African asylum seekers that had been staying at the church since November.

Reverend Greg and a few people from Beach United offered to cook and serve a dinner of traditional African goat stew to the African asylum seekers. The cooks included Tina and Sherry, African women who participate in Queer Youth United. It was with mixed emotions we learned the 28 Africans were gone. Moved into hotels by the airport. While disappointed that we didn’t get to serve the special meal, we are happy they now have real beds and private bathrooms after sleeping in the church basement for a month.



As part of the Beaches Interfaith Outreach Lunch Program, we continue a decades-long commitment to providing healthy food and companionship to members of our local community. Every Thursday, members of the local community, including several from our congregation, prepare a hot meal and sandwiches for about 45 people in our church, while about 25 others pick up a lunch to take away. While this program has historically stopped in the summertime, we experimented this year with providing a bag lunch at the kitchen door. The response was great, both from community volunteers and from guests, as we served more than 40 people every week.

Once again, this year a group of stalwart knitters from our congregation and beyond were busy knitting. In 2023 a total of 1,239 handmade blankets, sweater/vests, hats and toys were given to Canadian Food for Children for distribution to 16 countries around the world. Amazing!

Paul Dowling



Music Director's Report

2023 was a return to form for our music program at Beach United after years of growth and rebuilding after the pandemic. Here are some of the highlights from the past year:

- Our choir continued to grow, with a number of new members joining us in 2023. In addition to performing tirelessly on Sunday mornings throughout the year, our choir also performed a very special Jazz & Gospel Palm Sunday service and another successful Christmas Cantata, entitled 'Christmas Presence'.
- The Music for the Soul series continued strongly this year. The series, which features up-and-coming singer/songwriters was pleased to welcome artists Sarah Hiltz, Gillian Stone and Brooklyn Doran.
- This year saw the retirement of Jo-Anne LaForty from running Jazz and Reflection (thank you Jo-Anne!). The series had another amazing year with highlights including performances by Faith Amour, John Amato, Tom Reynolds, George Koller, Paul Novotny and Heather Bambrick.
- More repairs were undertaken on the church organ, as the instrument is revitalized for more frequent use. For our organ concert series, returning favourites like Stefani Bedin, and up-and-coming performers like Manuel Piazza wowed audiences.
- This year saw the launch of our BUC Children's choir. Led by congregant Sheila Brand, the choir had a successful first performance at a Sunday morning Advent service.
- Two large fundraiser concerts were held, including a Piano Concert featuring Oleg Samokhin to raise money for surgery programs in Ukraine, and a Big Band Music Night featuring John Amato in support of The Beach Cares refugee sponsorship program.



Heather Bambrick performs a sold-out Christmas Show as part of the Jazz & Reflection Concert Series in December, 2023

With a new year, I'm looking forward to many musical activities at Beach United Church, including:

- An exciting 'Spring Fling' Fundraiser in April featuring our choir, members of the congregation and a very special musical guest.
- The launch of 'Then Let Us Sing', a new hymnal from the United Church, and the incorporation of these hymns in our services.
- The continued growth of our children's choir.

Steven Webb

Ministry & Personnel Committee Report

The Ministry and Personnel (M&P) Committee provides human resources support to the congregation which includes:

- regularly reviewing the working conditions, responsibilities, and compensation of all Beach United Church staff.
- revising position descriptions of pastoral charge staff as needed.
- conducting annual performance reviews of BUC staff.
- being available for consultation and support for matters involving BUC staff; and
- overseeing the relationship of BUC staff to each other and to people in the congregation.

Presently the M&P committee consists of four members: Lynne Fulcher and Karen Watson (co-chairs), Henny DeLange and new member Don Short.

We worked closely with OAG members to develop a new staffing model.

With the support of OAG, the M&P committee led the recruitment and onboarding of our new lay staff: writing job descriptions, advertising, participating in interviews, developing contracts, arranging for police checks, drafting offer letters, and ensuring staff were on the payroll and receiving benefits. Many thanks to Martin McFarland for his payroll support.

The departure of our General Manager, Karen Cornece, gave us an opportunity to review the staffing model and to make some changes. Karen Ward moved from Property Manager to General Manager and took on the rental duties. Peter Dyer (Property Care) became the new Property Manager and took on many of the property duties previously covered by the General Manager.

We are pleased to have been able to hire Nathalie Zeta as our Children and Youth Coordinator. She has quickly become a valuable member of the staff.

We attended regular Board meetings. To live out BUC's commitment to supporting a living wage for all staff, we continue to ensure that all staff were receiving or exceeding a Living Wage (In Toronto a Living Wage is \$22.08 per hour).

A BUC staff Manual has been revised to include the Harassment, Violence, Discrimination policy to current standards.

2024 activities will include:

- Staff performance reviews (February/March)
- Attending Shining Waters quarterly information meetings.
- Attending BUC board meetings
- Staff appreciation get together

We would also like to add one or two new members to our committee, so please reach out to Lynne Fulcher if you would be interested. Thanks to everyone who provides support and information.

Lynne Fulcher

Operations Advisory Group Report

The OAG mandate is to provide and coordinate care of the building and property, support for ministry programming, and revenue generation through careful management of church resources. There were five areas of OAG work in 2023 of most interest to the community:

1. Staffing Changes.
 - Adjustments will result in payroll reduction of over \$35,000.
 - Karen Ward is now General Manager
 - Peter Dyer is Property Manager
 - Cate Duff continues as Office Administrator.
2. Parking Agreement Renewal.
 - Negotiations completed for new 5-year contract with Toronto Parking Authority
 - 20% increases of fees, overnight parking permits, regular annual adjustments
 - Revenue to BUC expected to exceed \$55,000 annually
3. EV Charging.
 - Overnight parking permits to be packaged with discounted overnight charging fee
 - Beach neighbours without driveways or pads can now charge EV's conveniently at good rates. Spread the word!!
4. Rentals Program.
 - Updated rental rates will generate additional revenue
 - Balancing support for ministry events with providing rental revenues is an increasing challenge.
 - Regular review of rental program now a standing item on OAG agenda.
5. 2024 Special Projects.
 - Engineer has identified source of rain leaks into Lounge and Office
 - Bids from contractors now being sought, expect work completed by late spring
 - New roof for shed, repairs to Main Hall windows
 - Security upgrades

The OAG members, Jim Winn, Jerry Reitsma, Barry Watson, Ron Fitton (volunteers) and Karen Ward (General Manager) remain available to answer questions and hear concerns and suggestions. As is often reported about volunteering, we gain more than we contribute through the sense of teamwork and the satisfaction of seeing the concrete results of our work. Care to join in?

Ron Fitton

Pastoral Care Report

Our pastoral care team (Greg Daly, Susan Dowling, Frank Hamper, Marian Hilton, Pat Plue, Shirley Underwood and Marney Winn) is committed to providing support and encouragement to members of our church family, with special emphasis on those who, for a variety of reasons, are unable to participate in regular church services. The church bulletin and weekly sermon are sent to several of these members.

Over the past year, we have had several Zoom visits, over 70 home and hospital visits, 165 phone calls, sent over 170 cards as well as many emails, texts and Zoom visits. We also organize delivery of flowers at Christmas and Easter.

As a consistent pillar of our team, Greg has offered pastoral care support in a variety of ways. In 2023, several long-standing members of our community died, and we were grateful for the opportunity to celebrate their lives through services and gatherings. Baptisms and weddings offer us additional celebrating moments and Greg has committed himself to being available to support these important events in our community.

If you or someone you know needs a listening ear, please contact a member of our team. We are ready to support you and offer assistance in accessing the services and/or connections you require. We are thankful for all the members of our congregation who quietly offer random acts of kindness, supporting one another.

Pat Plue

Queer Youth United



In 2023 Queer Youth United did a lot of cooking together. Every week we would try and pick a dish that could be made together as a group. For example, one night we decided to do a make your own pizza night where participants could pick their toppings and create their own pizza, and one night we even baked our own bread. For Thanksgiving we cooked a big dinner which included, potatoes, cabbage, carrots, turkey, stuffing, and cottage roll. We even cooked goat stew for the refugees at East End United. We have also done activities, such as carving pumpkins and painting decorations for Halloween. We

also had someone from Lumenus Community Services come in and talk to the group about the services they provide and the different workshops they run. In 2024 we hope to be able to run more workshops and fun activities, as well as be able to provide more services and resources for our participants.

Corin Collins

Roll Report

Members Added by Baptism/Affirmation

1. Aurora-Marie Allen Hann-Pearce, baptized January 8, 2023
2. Bianca Rose Rivait, baptized April 30, 2023

Members Removed by Death

1. James Partridge, January 23, 2023
2. Jean Tice, April 5, 2023
3. Violet Kelly, April 22, 2023
4. Helen Lumb, September 12, 2023
5. Joanne Ferron, November 6, 2023

Non-Resident Members

1. Jim McKibbin
2. Nanci Harris

Members/Adherents Moved Away/Transferred Out

1. Chris Bell
2. Carol Bell
3. Brenda Rundle
4. Walter Von Boetticher
5. Miko Schacter
6. Poppy Von Boetticher

New Adherents

1. Nancy Abernethy
2. Sheila Brand
3. Corin Collins
4. Jane Flanagan
5. Jeffrey Hann
6. Lynda Marshall
7. Rodney Rendell-Green

Solar Energy for Beach Co-op Inc Report (SEBCI)

Energy production in 2023 was 55396 kWh, 3.9% below 2022, mainly due to weather. An inverter failed at the beginning of June; the co-op was provided a replacement under warranty at no cost in mid-June. The reserve for inverter replacement is at \$17400 and one out of the 4 inverters is now new. Net income was \$503 versus \$1563 in 2022. Obligations to the church for roof rent and loan repayment were met.

Jerry Reitsma, Wendy Johnston, Allan Baker, Richard Underwood, Lee Muirhead, Martin McFarland

Treasurer's Report and 2024 Budget

Financially, 2023 ended better than we predicted.

An end of the year surge in offerings put us ahead of our projection by almost 6%. Greg and I like to think that this was, in part, the response of the congregation to our stewardship fireside chat in October, where we urged people to give a bit more and the congregation responded generously. Buoyed by this response, we are proposing a budget for total offerings for 2024 that is about 6% more than 2023 – while this is optimistic, we believe that we can do it.

We also saw a boost in fundraising income late in the year, due to highly successful events like the Christmas Marketplace and the concerts in December. Thanks to Mary Anne Lemm, Steven Webb and Jo-Anne LaForty for their leadership in these events and for the many volunteers that contributed to their success.

In the operations area, our revenues continue to move in the right direction, with our staff changes being a contributing factor. Although we were a bit short of our target for rental income, we made up for it with parking income. With a new contract with the Toronto Parking Authority and continued growth in rentals we expect 2024 to be even better, as reflected in the proposed budget.

Income from our \$600,000 in investments was a bit higher than expected.

We were very fortunate to receive 2 grants this year: one for \$7,500 to provide security enhancements for our building and \$3,000 from Seeds of Hope to support the Queer Youth United group. Most of these funds have been deferred to 2024, when the work will be done.

On the expense side, we came in about 2% over budget:

- personnel costs were a bit higher, due to some underestimating of caretaking and benefits costs,
- administration costs were higher reflecting the additional staff in the office, and
- higher program costs were due to increased fundraising costs, including those related to fundraisers we sponsored for The Beach Cares and Ukrainian hospitals.

We also had a small cost to investigate the ongoing leak in the wall facing Wineva – the bigger cost to actually repair the leak will come in 2024.

The bottom line is that, in 2023, instead of the budgeted deficit of \$124,000, our deficit was “only” \$102,800.

As we look at 2024, we are projecting lower costs than in 2023. Slightly lower personnel costs reflect our mature staffing model. Administration will be somewhat lower, as we shift some part of our bookkeeping in-house to volunteers and our Administrator. Thanks to Cate Duff for her willingness to take on the bookkeeping responsibility and to Martin McFarland for managing the payroll.

Our ongoing operating costs are projected to show a deficit of less than \$75,000. Unfortunately, our major projects, including the security upgrades and wall repair will result in an overall budget deficit of \$127,600.

This budget is proposed for the approval of the congregation.

Beach United Church				
Statement of Revenue and Expenses and Draft Budget				
January 26				
	Approved Budget	Actual Year End	Budget	Budget notes
	2023	2023	2024	
Revenue				
Offerings	16.0	20.1	22.0	9%
PAR	102.8	100.7	106.0	
Canada Helps, United Way	8.0	13.1	14.4	
Total Offerings	126.8	133.9	142.4	6%
Fundraising & Other	40.0	53.1	48.0	2023 includes pass thru \$9.3
Bequests	0.0	11.4	0.0	
Total Congregational Gifts	166.8	198.4	190.4	
Parking	41.0	48.2	56.0	
Solar	14.9	14.9	14.6	
Rent	145.0	141.5	145.0	
EV Chargers	4.0	2.0	2.0	
Total Operations	204.9	206.6	217.6	
Investment income	18.5	22.2	21.0	
Grants & Subsidies	0.0	10.5	8.9	2023 Revenue deferred to 2024
Total Revenue	390.2	437.7	437.9	
Expenses				
Personnel	360.6	366.0	362.9	
Facilities	77.5	75.2	75.4	
Electric Vehicle Chargers	3.5	1.8	1.4	
Admin	15.2	17.9	15.0	Minus accountant
Programs	32.0	37.5	30.0	2023 included \$9.3 fundraising expenses for pass thru events
M&S	12.7	13.4	14.2	10% of Offerings
Region	12.8	12.8	12.8	
Total Expenses	514.3	524.6	511.8	
Operating Deficit	-124.2	-86.9	-74.0	
Deferred revenue				
Security Grant		-7.5		Grant received in 2023; spent in 2024
Seeds of Hope		-2.7	-1.4	Part of grant received in 2023 spent in 2024
Total Deferred revenue		-10.2	-1.4	
Projects				
Security			-7.5	Paid with grant
Rain Leak repair		-5.7	-37.8	Repair in spring
Other Projects			-7.0	OAG plan
Total Projects		-5.7	-52.3	
Overall Deficit	-124.2	-102.8	-127.6	

Deficit Reduction

Our wise board secretary, Richard Underwood, likes to remind me that someday we will have no choice but to have a balanced budget.

The attached balance sheet shows our overall financial position at the end of each of the past 3 years. The bottom line, labelled reserves, illustrates the impact of several years of ongoing deficits. If our deficits continue at the current rate, our investments will be fully depleted in about 5 years. After that we will have no choice but to spend only what we receive.

Our challenge is to move toward a balanced budget sooner in order to have a reserve to meet unexpected expenses in the future.

There are only 2 ways to balance our budget. We need to increase our revenues from all sources, and we need to keep our expenses as low as we can. The Board is putting in place a planning process to address our deficit challenge. You are invited to join that process.

Paul Dowling

Beach United Church 2023 Balance Sheet

Beach United Church			
Balance Sheet			
As of December 31			
	As of Dec. 31, 2021	As of Dec. 31, 2022	As of Dec. 31, 2023
Assets			
Cash	239.7	171.0	110.9
Accounts Receivable	0.0	1.0	0.0
HST Recoverable	17.4	11.3	14.4
Accrued Income	2.0	31.0	0.0
Total Current Assets	259.0	214.3	125.3
Investments	571.3	564.5	564.2
Solar Co-op Loan Receivable	180.8	169.2	157.3
Total Liquid Assets	1,011.1	948.0	846.8
Property			
Church building	5,920.8	5,920.8	5,920.8
Total Assets	6,931.9	6,868.8	6,767.6
Liabilities			
Accounts Payable	11.2	13.9	0.9
Credit Card	0.5	0.1	-1.8
Due to Solar Co-op	14.6	16.6	16.6
Deferred Revenue	0.0	0.0	10.2
Total Liabilities	26.3	30.6	25.9
Fund Balances			
Unrestricted Fund	6,192.7	6,210.3	6,210.3
Retained earnings	0.0	0.0	-67.4
Profit/loss for the year	17.7	-67.4	-97.0
Surplus	695.4	695.4	695.4
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	6,932.0	6,868.9	6,767.2
Reserves	984.8	917.4	820.9