



2023

Trinity-Grace United Church Report



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AGENDA

Constituting the Meeting

Election of Chair & Secretary

Confirming quorum

Motion to extend corresponding & voting privileges

Prayer

Adoption of Agenda

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of May 28, 2023 Congregational Meeting

Reports

Highlights and Q&A

2023 Financial statements

2024 Budget

Nominations

Motion to abolish terms for Board & Trustees

Nominations for Unified Board & Trustees

Setting the Course

Proposal: Becoming an Apartheid-Free Church

Table Discussion & Feedback

Closing Prayer

Adjournment

ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES MAY 2023

Attendance List:

Cheryl Sanderson	Mary Al Lay	David Marcantonio	Douglas Jameson
Joanna Hexter	Deb Mickelson	Sally Marcantonio	Sharon Jacobs
Keiko Yamamoto	Charley Higgins	Jane Voellm	Shadia Qubti
Brenda Harrison	Rozalyn Hardy	Paul Pierzchalski	Sandra Nixon
Mia Stark	Robyn Brasell	David Quan	

Constituting the Meeting – The meeting was called to order at 12:34 p.m.

Election of the Chair

Motion (Robyn Brasell/Doug Jameson): That David Quan be elected Chair for the Annual Meeting. **Carried.**

Election of the Secretary

Motion (Sharon Jacobs/David Marcantonio): That Brenda Harrison be elected Secretary for the AM meeting. **Carried.**

Corresponding Privileges

Motion (Cheryl Sanderson/Sally Marcantonio): That corresponding and voting privileges be granted to adherants (those present who are not members). **Carried.**

Opening Prayer – Sandra opened the meeting with a prayer.

Adoption of Agenda

Motion (Sharon Jacobs/Joanna Hexter): That the agenda be adopted as presented. **Carried.**

Approval of Minutes

Motion (Robyn Brasell/Mia Stark): That the minutes of the June 5th, 2022 Congregational Meeting be approved as presented. **Carried.**

Reports

One highlight of the year was the successful appointment of Shadia Qubti to the Community Engagement Animator position. Due process was followed as per United Church of Canada requirements.

David Marcantonio updated the congregation on the renovation which will be starting on May 29th. He explained what will be happening during the renovation as well as the contractor's timeline. Hopefully, the project will be completed by June 30th. David Marcantonio is the point person.

Motion (Doug Jameson/Mary Al Lay): That the reports as presented in the 2022 Annual Report and the verbal renovation report be received as presented. **Carried.**

2022 Financial Statements

Robyn discussed the detailed schedule. We have a small income stream and fixed expenses but we do have investment funds which enable us to cover all our commitments and remain in good standing. Last year our investments had a net loss of 10%, however, first quarter values for this year have recovered by 5%. Our investments also allow us to further our work into the future.

Motion (Mia Stark/Sharon Jacobs): That the unaudited 2022 Financial Statements and 2023 budget be approved as presented. **Carried.**

Nominations

Motion (Sharon Jacobs/Joanna Hexter): That Mary Al Lay, Brenda Harrison, and David Marantonio be elected to serve on Trinity Grace Unified Board for a two year term and that David Quan be re-elected Chair of the Unified Board until the next annual meeting. **Carried.**

Motion (Doug Jameson/Mary Al Lay): That David Marcantonio be elected to serve as a Trustee for Trinity-Grace United Church for a three year term. **Carried.**

Motion (Sally Marcantonio/Doug Jameson): That the persons named below be appointed to the respective standing committees. **Carried.**

Ministry and Personnel Committee George Bartlett
 Brenda Harrison
 Sally Marcantonio

Worship Committee

Janice Guthrie
Doug Jameson
Cheryl Sanderson

Property and Maintenance

David Marcantonio
David Quan

Sandra thanked the Search Team for their work with regards to searching for/hiring an appropriate candidate for the Community Engagement Animator position (Shadia Qubti).

Closing Prayer - Sandra closed the meeting with prayer.

Adjournment - 1:07 p.m.



Photos from the front garden project transformation

MINISTER'S REPORT

A year of renewal

The best word I can think of to describe the past year in our congregation's life is "**renewal**". Let's take a quick look back:



New space...

Since the last annual meeting, we have undergone a major renovation to create new and refreshed spaces...

- Refreshed sanctuary
- New office spaces
- New meeting room
- Rebuilt back steps

New people & partnerships...

- New congregation & "extended community" members
- New office staff and A/V assistants
- New community partners
- New church networks

New projects & ministries...

- Front garden project
- Pride Parade participation
- Fair Trade & Artisan Market
- Monthly Jazz vespers
- Lunch & Learns
- Book Club
- New website

We also "refreshed" our Sunday worship with new A/V equipment and by moving from paper bulletins and hymnals to projecting the service onscreen.

Another highlight was finally being able to bring back our Community Carol Sing, enhanced with participation from our new "Jazzy Jams" friends, a musical group who meet in the church sanctuary twice a month.

With thanks for all of the new and renewed aspects of our life together, we recall that everything we do is in grateful response to the love of Christ and the call of our Creator to seek justice, love kindness and walk humbly.

While all of our "doing" is a wonderful expression of our commitment to following the way of Christ and our mission as we have discerned it, it is our "being" that matters most and reveals our true identity. So may we be one body: living with hope, faith, hospitality, and generosity.

In the spirit,

Sandra +

CHAIR'S REPORT

As usual, much has happened in the ten months since the last Annual Meeting. During that period, the TGUC Board's time has centered around three main areas: building maintenance/ renovation, human resources, and programming.

By far, the largest project in terms of resources, financial and otherwise, was the renovation of the sanctuary/ office areas of the church. After exploring several options the previous year, the Board was able to decide on a contractor and was able to start the work in 2023. The work, as always, took longer than everyone would have liked but the result is universally loved by all the folks who inhabit the space. I want to give a big thank you to David Marcantonio; his leadership and oversight in this undertaking were invaluable. I also want to thank David for personally finishing the new meeting room space.

Continuing with the theme of building-related projects, the Board also decided to rebuild the back stairs, replace the boiler, and recarpet the inside back stairs. All of these are essential to the use of the physical TGUC space. With all this infrastructure work done, we should be set for many years to come. Thanks to David M for his management of these projects as well.

Another primary focus for the Board last year was human resources. The TGUC staff continue to improve and optimize their work. A challenge of the past year has been finding the right person to complement/ support Sandra and Shadia in their work. The first Office Administrator (OA) who joined the team unfortunately wasn't the best fit. We are thankful that she stepped in to help us at the time. In the fall, we welcomed a new OA, Sheryl Pruden, to the team. We are hopeful that the team members will develop synergy as they continue to work together. A special thank you to Shadia, Sandra and others who filled in the gaps during the absence of an OA throughout the year.

CHAIR'S REPORT

The core of TGUC has always been its programming and community involvement. Gracie's and Graceful Noise seem better than ever. Some other programming highlights are Jazz Vespers, Pride Parade, Farm-2-Table Marketplace, Lunch and Learns, Fair Trade and Artisan Market and film screenings/ discussions. The Board was able to provide input and support for these events at the meetings. I'm also enjoying all the gardening-related initiatives, like the wildflower and pollinator bed at the front of the church. I'm sorry to have missed "Seedy Sunday." Thanks to Sharon Jacobs for bringing her knowledge and passion on this subject to TGUC.

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I am grateful to be part of a dedicated team of Board members, who can discuss, and decide on, a variety of topics. I'm also thankful to be part of the wider TGUC community. I look forward to the year ahead as the Board works together to continue finding ways to engage meaningfully with folks inside and outside the church.

One last thank you to Brenda Harrison, who always manages to capture the essence of our meetings with concise and comprehensible meeting minutes, despite our sometimes-tangential conversations.

Peace and Blessings,

David Quan Chair,
Trinity United Church Board
February 26, 2024

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

In 2023, Trinity-Grace was fortunate to welcome four new members: Ruth Houle, Robyn Brasell, Deb Mickelson, and Jane Voellm. Sadly, we lost Ruth in May, but in her short time with us, we were blessed to have her share her love, generosity, faithful encouragement and passion for social justice.

Beginning of 2022:

Adults in full membership	17
Inactive	-
Children (cradle roll)	5

Members Added:

Through profession of faith	3
Through Baptism	-
Through Transfer	1

Removed:

By request/action of the Board Members	-
Status Unknown	-
By death	1

End of 2023:

Members - full	20
inactive/Status Unknown	0
Cradle roll (baptized children)	5

Total Members (full & cradle)	25
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Wider Community

Adherents	11
Regular program participants/volunteers (TGUC "extended community")	50

GRACEFUL NOISE COFFEEHOUSE



In November 2023, we celebrated what we thought was the tenth anniversary of Graceful Noise. Thanks to Gary George and Terry Chong we determined that despite the writing on the cake, it was actually our eleventh anniversary. We laughed; as usual everything at Graceful Noise is wonderful, and nothing is ever perfect.

Every other Saturday, we invite people of all levels and abilities to come and play and sing (sometimes imperfectly), or just come and enjoy the music, eat good comfort food, and build community. We encourage everyone, and the result is a magical afternoon of fantastic music. Come and enjoy the fun.



GRACIE'S THRIFT STORE

For the first time since the start of COVID in 2020, Gracies Thrift Store had a full year of opening in 2023, and an income higher than the preceding year. \$23,733.00 was the income for 2023.



2023 Report

National Charities

\$12,491



2023 Report

Local Charities

\$10,321.11



TGUC Annual Meeting
 Gracie's Thrift Store

GRACIE'S THRIFT STORE

In 2023, donations were given, once again to organizations that work, world wide, in countries ravaged by war. MSF (Doctors Without Borders), Save the Children, UNHCR, to name a few. The refugees and victims of the continuing war in the Ukraine and the Israeli bombing and invasion of Palestine, have received humanitarian aid through these charities. Although food and medical supplies to Gaza have been prevented from getting to the victims, we shall continue to donate.

There are many other areas of the world where war and famine exist and it is agonizing sometimes to decide where we should send proceeds, without forgetting the many needs in Canada, like child poverty, homelessness and Indigenous Peoples needs - such as revitalizing native languages and culture.

In 2023, for the first time, we donated to the Moose Hide Campaign that works to end gender-based violence, and the Pacific Association of Native Women which envisions a matriarchal community where all Indigenous Women are safe and respected, with a sense of belonging and connection to cultural traditions.

In the Downtown Eastside we continue to support the Women's Centre, the WISH MAP Van and Drop-in Centre , with clothing and personal care donations. These come from donations, to our store, from neighbours and friends of Gracies. Blankets, umbrellas and jackets are given to those living on the street.

Mens clothing is dropped of to a fairly new, low barrier 24 hour shelter, The Osborn, the Aboriginal Friendship Centre, the Disco Bus (that takes supplies to those living in tents), UGM, First United and wherever we hear items are needed.

Clothing and footwear suitable for construction work are now being donated to Working Gear in the Main and Hastings area, where there is great need, for persons finding work again, or for the first time.

Items donated to Betty's Boutique (now the DTES Marketplace) at the corner of Main and Cordova, help to make life a little easier for those living in poverty or on the street.

GRACIE'S THRIFT STORE

Gracies has started providing children's and teenagers clothing, toys and books to the Immigrant Services Society of B.C. (ISS) which provide support to refugees and newly arrived families to Canada. They are also supported by The Mount Pleasant Family Place, a recipient of a Gracies fundraiser, which operates a Child Care centre at ISS. One refugee family shopped for household items last year, and 411 Seniors Centre refers seniors, who are finding housing and in need of the items to set up their new accommodation.

As usual, this operation would not exist without a core group of volunteers (mostly from the community and 4 from the congregation) who continue to show up to sort, price and clean items, donated by our customers and neighbours. The average proceeds on a Saturday are around \$1200, but we have had record sales of up to \$1800. Occasionally we have the operator of a local indigenous-owned charity- shop, come and make a large purchase, that she resells to fund her outreach to young people, and their pets, living on the streets. Its a win-win situation.

Our ability to recycle more clothes has been enhanced by the purchase of the washer and dryer, that enables us to clean soiled but otherwise saleable items.

Every so often we are reminded that Gracies is a community, with customers that have become our friends and who share their joys and sorrows, over a cup of coffee, and hopefully leave feeling better than when they came in.

Thank you volunteers! You are amazing, with many gifts, that enable us to make Gracies what it has become. As one of our beneficiaries put it - "Everyone feels seen, heard and appreciated at Gracie's. A lot of magic in a church basement".

Sincerely
Sally Marcantonio

SOCIAL JUSTICE REPORT

Throughout 2023, Trinity Grace continued to focus on social justice work, both local and international. Below are just some of the topics and issues we learned about, participated in, and responded to throughout the year.

Early in the year throughout Lent (late February to early April last year), we followed a weekly calendar, with education, actions and prayers for a variety of social justice themes that are close to our hearts at TGUC (Anti-Racism/Black History; Reconciliation; Inclusion/Affirm; Justice for Palestine; Local/Global Poverty; Climate Justice).

Indeed, education, events and actions around the themes mentioned above were highlighted throughout the year both during worship and in the e-news, giving members of the congregation many meaningful opportunities to take part.

Later in the year (early November) we hosted a **Fair Trade and Local Artisan Market**. It was a fun, festive and community-minded event that highlighted the importance of purchasing ethically made products when possible. Vendors representing 18 organizations participated and community turn-out was steady throughout the day. We even had a couple of vendors who came from Vancouver Island to participate! A highlight of the market was selling items that Shadia purchased from the **Bethlehem Fair Trade Association** and this continues to be a great partnership between BFTA and TGUC as we continue to sell these items throughout the year.

The fair trade theme continued in December, as we had a couple of **mini-Fair Trade Markets** during advent.

Trinity Grace continued to serve **Fair Trade Coffee**, purchased from Café Etico, a Vancouver based organization that is part of a larger non-profit, CoDevelopment Canada. **Café Etico** also sells **Zatoun fair trade Palestinian products** such as olive oil and olive oil soap, and at various times throughout the year we also highlighted and sold these products.

Throughout the year, Trinity Grace continued to make a regular monthly donation to the local organization **WISH Drop-in Centre Society**. WISH works to improve the well-being of women who are involved in Vancouver's street-based sex trade.

SOCIAL JUSTICE REPORT

“Gracie’s Thrift Shop” continued to make a **regular donation to Doctors Without Borders/ Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)**. Doctors Without Borders/MSF is a medical NGO known for its work in conflict zones, disasters and epidemics. Their medical teams act quickly and go where they are needed most.

Various **advocacy opportunities** regarding the current situation in Gaza/Palestine were presented, including petitions and letter writing.

On occasion, updates about the ongoing **First United** redevelopment were provided.

I know that Shadia’s report will add much more information regarding our ongoing social justice work at TGUC (as will many of the other reports).

We look forward to what the rest of 2024 will bring regarding social justice education and action.



Community Garden



START DATE March 30, 2023

DESCRIPTION

Front Garden project began to diversify area with seasonal plants. Additionally, garden beds were topped with fresh soil and used by church members and extended community.

MORE INFORMATION

www.tgucvan.com/garden

477 Seniors Centre



START DATE August 11, 2023

DESCRIPTION

Part of Transforming Communities grant through Union Gospel Mission (UGM). In partnership with 411SC, lunch is provided every other Friday at the centre.

MORE INFORMATION

www.tgucvan.com/partners

Farm-2-plate Marketplace



START DATE October 5, 2023

DESCRIPTION

We became a community hub for Farm-2-plate Marketplace - an online farmers market community that aims to reduce food waste. Every week, between 8 to 14 people from the neighborhood come by to collect their products.

MORE INFORMATION

www.tgucvan.com/f2pm

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT

DATE November 18, 2023

DESCRIPTION

Through our partnership with F2PM, we partnered with Story Money Impact where we hosted the screening of the Interceptor - a local initiative that started during COVID by Chef TJ (Reroot) who cooked produce that would otherwise go to waste from restaurants. The event was attended by more than 40 people.



"The Interceptors" Film + Discussion

DATE August 4, 2023

DESCRIPTION

TGUC Spearheaded the participation of a cluster of Lower Mainland United Churches in the Vancouver Pride Parade. A large number of TGUC members marched on the day, and were Public, Intentional and Explicit.

MORE INFORMATION

www.tgucvan.com/pride



Vancouver Pride Parade

Keys

-  Reconciliation in Canada
-  Climate Justice
-  Justice for Palestine & Israel
-  Poverty and Food Insecurity
-  Inclusion

Bethlehem Fair Trade Association



START DATE November 2023

DESCRIPTION

New Partnership to bring products from Palestinian artisans to raise awareness about justice for Palestine. The products were featured in the Fair Trade and Artisan market. More than 30 orders from individuals and churches benefitted so far.

MORE INFORMATION

www.tgucvan.com/bfta

Seedy Sunday



START DATE February 4, 2023

DESCRIPTION

TGUC Garden working group hosted an event where the extended community share their seed stock and engage in a live demonstration of composting methods.

MORE INFORMATION

www.tgucvan.com/garden

Fair Trade and Artisan Market



START DATE November 5, 2023

DESCRIPTION

TGUC hosted a Fair Trade and Artisan Market where over 16 vendors and more than 250 people enjoyed the selection of products and various social justice causes.

MORE INFORMATION

www.tgucvan.com/ftam

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT

DESCRIPTION

TGUC is an active members in The United Network for Justice and Peace for Palestine and Israel working locally and nationally to raise awareness about current events in Palestine.

MORE INFORMATION

www.tgucvan.com/partners



UNJPPI

Interfaith Climate Justice

DESCRIPTION

A local network that brings together multi-faith leaders who are passionate about climate justice.



DESCRIPTION

The Vancouver Food Network brings together representatives from Vancouver committed to promoting food security in neighbourhoods across the City of Vancouver.

MORE INFORMATION

www.tgucvan.com/partners



Vancouver Food Network

Mt. Pleasant Food Network

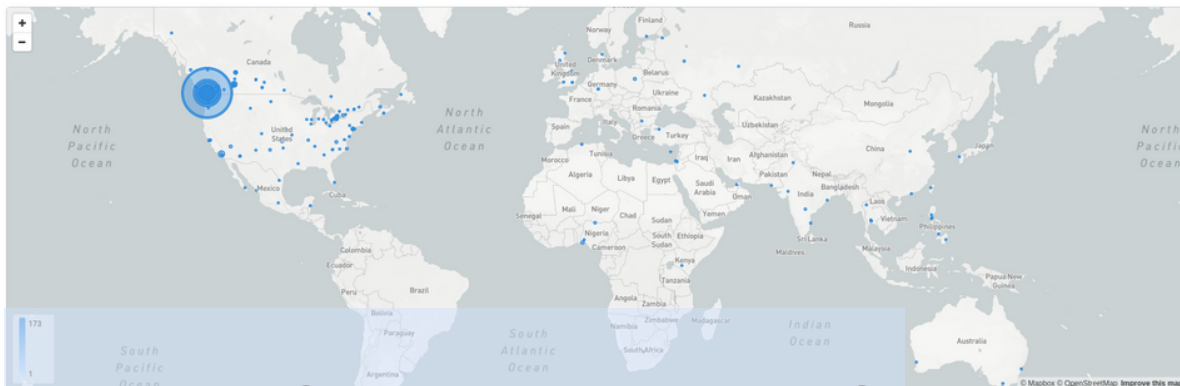
DESCRIPTION

A neighbourhood division of the larger Vancouver Neighbourhood Food Network. Through this network, we were able to connect with F2P Marketplace, 411 Senior Centre and other food insecurity stakeholder in the neighborhood.

MORE INFORMATION

www.tgucvan.com/partners





WEBSITE TRANSITION

Last April, Trinity Grace transitioned to a new website operating platform more suited to the capabilities of the staff operating it. Below are highlights from 2024 website Analytics.

3,012

NEW SITE SESSIONS

A session is a visit to your site. It ends after 30 minutes of inactivity.

1,979

NEW UNIQUE VISITORS

The number of people that visited your site. A visitor is considered unique when they connect from a different browser or device (IP address).

6,975

NEW PAGE VIEWS

The number of people that visited your site. A visitor is considered unique when they connect from a different browser or device (IP address).

102

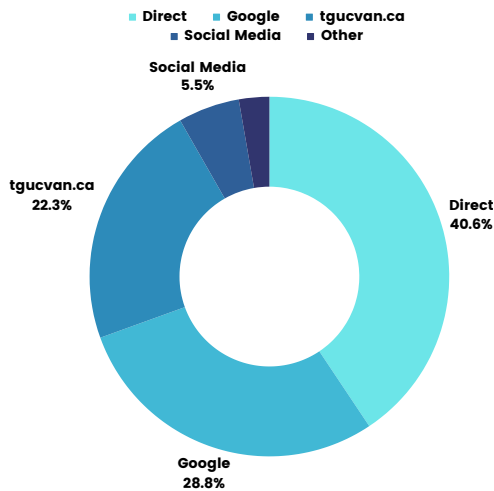
FORMS SUBMITTED

how many people have filled in your form over different periods of time

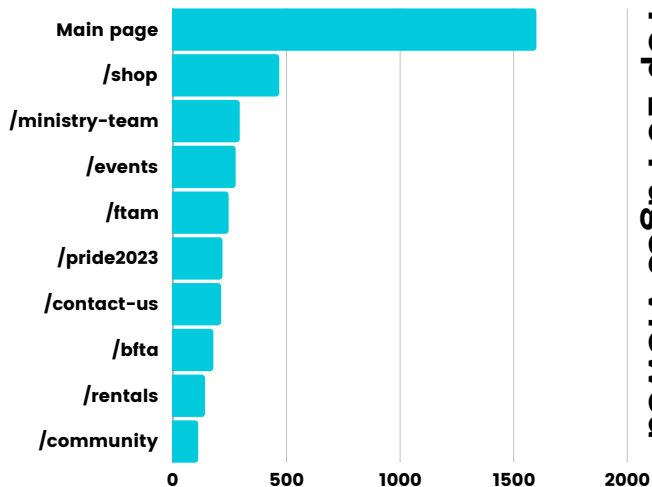
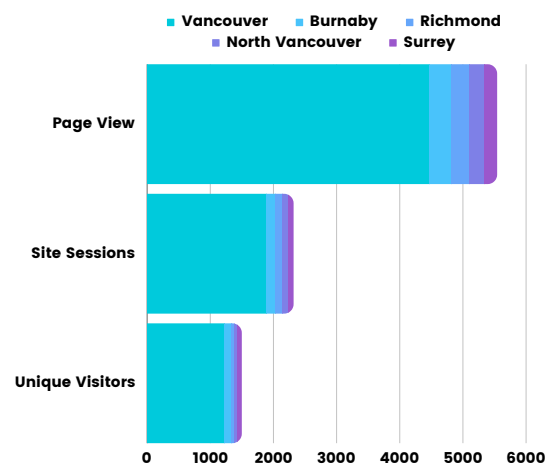
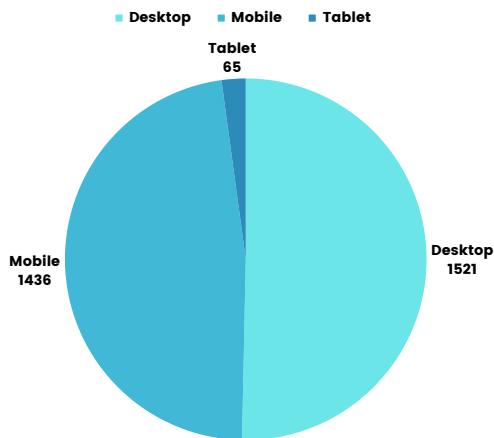
Click-to-Contact



Traffic Sources



Traffic by Device



Top 5 Traffic Locations
Top 10 Pages Viewed

PROPERTY & MAINTENANCE REPORT

2023 was an exciting year for Trinity-Grace United Church.

We finally had two new offices built - one for the Office Administrator and the other for the Community Engagement Animator. The materials from the dividing wall in the original office were used to build a storage closet on the left side of the stage. The old offices were converted into a meeting room, complete with cabinets, frig, coffee maker and microwave.

After many years of "fingers crossed" with the "antique" furnace, the time came to replace it with a very up to date system, which is working well.

Another project that was much overdue was replacing the back steps and deck, using a composite material that looks like painted wood and will last for many years.

The final project of the year was to have new carpet installed on the stairs to the basement.

Having all of these projects completed, we look forward to 2024 without any major expenses predicted.



Sanctuary space after Renovation



Before and during Renovation



CEA Office



Small Meeting Room



Admin Office

AFFIRMING MIINSTRY REPORT

The Affirming Committee comprises Rev. Sandra, Rev. Janice, Shadia Qubti, David Quan, Mary Al Lay, Cheryl Sanderson and Doug Jameson. All members welcome suggestions and concerns from the congregation and the wider TGUC community.

The past year has been very eventful for the community. The highlight was no doubt our vibrant participation in the 2023 Vancouver Pride Parade. Kudos to Shadia for steering TGUC and the wider community into a loud, proud and very visible presence in the parade. We reached out to the wider UCC community and were successful in creating a cluster of Affirming Congregations in the Lower Mainland, all of which were well represented in the parade. Our presence in the parade was a testimony and a public witness to the United Church's ethos of radical inclusion and acceptance. It was especially gratifying that Trinity-Grace had very strong representation, and the Committee offers its thanks to the many congregants who walked the new and very long parade route! Fortunately, the Pride Parade had made accommodation for seniors and disabled so several of the congregants were able to cheer on our friends from the sidelines. The parade was the first Pride experience for many of the marchers and proved to be a very positive experience. All marchers were furnished with a custom created t-shirt which underlines our commitment to love and inclusion for all.

Our application for participation in the 2024 Pride Parade has been submitted and information will be communicated to the congregation as it becomes available. The cluster of Affirming Congregations remains in place and we continue to reach out to additional congregations.

Sunday, March 14 is Affirming Sunday, aka PIE Day. The United Church's commitment to acceptance and inclusion is Public, Intentional and Explicit. Once again, we will be having a special service and there will be pie! Following the service, a Lunch & Learn will feature the screening of "1946: The Mistranslation That Shifted a Culture". This documentary chronicles how the misuse of a single word changed the course of modern history. Congregants are encouraged to invite the wider TGUC community to the screening.

AFFIRMING MIINSTRY REPORT

Finally, the Affirming Ministry Team is planning for a spring project to do some rainbow painting at the back and front exteriors of the church. Watch for more details coming soon!

Although pride is often referred to as one of the seven deadly sins, the congregation of Trinity-Grace United Church can offer itself a small measure of pride in its continuing commitment to social justice issues, in particular the radical inclusion of all of God's wondrous creation in the life and work of the United Church.

Respectfully submitted.

Doug Jameson



BIBLE STUDY REPORT

The dirty little secret of biblical studies: the bible is a weird book...full of surprises and contradictions, unexplained impossibilities, intriguing supernatural creatures, and heroes doing horrible things...[W]hat “the Bible says” on a given topic is multifaceted, sometimes even contradictory.--*Jacket notes, A Most Peculiar Book: The Inherent Strangeness of the Bible by Kristin Swenson*

For most of 2023, Trinity-Grace’s Bible Study group met in the catacombs (aka the Thrift Store), but when renovations on the main floor of the church building were completed toward the end of the year, we moved into the new meeting room (which some members refer to as the Upper Room). We are now able to meet in person, but continue to provide a Zoom option for those who wish to use it.

As a rule, the texts we discuss are the Older Testament and Gospel readings assigned for the week in the Revised Common Lectionary. This lectionary, which first came into public use in 1994, was the product of consultation and collaboration between the (North American) Consultation on Common Texts and the international English Language Liturgical Consultation. It is used by many denominations in Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

Our attendance varies from week to week: some come regularly, others occasionally, as they are able. The group members represent a variety of lived experiences, church involvement, and theological understanding, which leads to rich discussions, lots of laughter, and a sense of community among the participants.

The Bible is a dangerous, challenging, and often contradictory collection of writings, inviting interpretation on many levels. Our intention is to take it seriously, but not literally (and not too solemnly either; Kirsten Swenson’s first commandment for reading the Bible is: Thou shalt not make the Bible God.) As far as possible, we consider the social, historical, political, economic, and theological contexts in which the texts arose as we attempt to discern if and how they relate to contemporary life, and what they mean for us and the communities to which we belong. Our conversations tend to be wide-ranging, rambling about through theology, language and literature, church history, world religions, current events, contemporary developments in science, ethics...and much else. Questions are always welcome (though not always answered) as we engage the challenges raised by the readings, pushing us to fuller and deeper theological explorations.

If you are curious about the Bible, if you wonder how a book with its origins in the early millennia before the common era can possibly speak to the contemporary world—please join our conversations.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Significant Items in 2023

- We re-hired the Office Administration position effective February 2023.
- Aalary totals for 2024 reflect 2 Ministry positions and 1 position re office administration.
- Tech AV support services and the janitor's services are contract work positions.
- All work for the Thrift Store is performed by volunteers.
- The operations result for 2023 is net expenses of $-(271,710)$. Net expenses and the renovations capital cost $-(175,816)$ are offset by the net positive position
- reported from the investments portfolio.

Invested Funds

- The net investment result for 2023 recovered 73% of the investment losses for 2022,
- \$290,000 was withdrawn in 2023 from invested funds in order to finance operations.
- \$300,000 was withdrawn in January 2024 to finance the 2024 operations budget.

Thrift Store and Donations - Special Note

- Thrift Store operations completed 20 "in person sales " dates and raised \$23,733.
- Donations of \$22,313 added to Missions and Service, and MAP Van donations
- for total donations \$24,918 for the year.
- Clothing and essential supplies also donated by the Thrift Store throughout the year.

Notes for 2024

- Investments. A conservative position is estimated for 2024 ;
- net positive 5.5% return - \$132,500.

- The accompanying financial statements represent Trinity-Grace United Church 2023 results of operations, compared to results for 2022.
- The budget sheet Schedule 1, presents the Budget 2024 compared to actual 2023.
- Schedule 2 sets out notes and assumptions in preparing the Budget for 2024.

Summary:	2024 Budget	2023 Actual
Offerings, Rent, Thrift Store	77,340	75,198
Operations, Donation, Equipment	(389,134)	(347,990)
	(311,794)	(272,792)
Interest / Market Value Change	132,500	267,103
Property Renovation	(500)	(175,816)
Net - Operations (Expenses)	(179,794)	(181,505)
Cash Invested and on hand is as follows:	Dec 31, 2023	Dec 31, 2022
Cash on Hand	58,357	254,290
Funds Held for Palnet	11,771	11,771
Refugee Fund	-	-
Food Outreach / Breakfast Club	24,937	24,937
	95,065	290,998
Term Deposits	-	-
Trinity-Grace Invested Funds	2,700,391	2,723,288
Cash on Hand & Investments	2,795,456	3,014,286

(continued)

- Re Palnet : Trinity-Grace assists to administer Palnet Funds - an agency working
- for Human Rights in Palestine / Israel.

Other Notes

- Renovations re the Sanctuary and offices were completed in 2023. The work extended to include replacing the furnace, re-building the stairs at the back entrance and replacing stair carpeting.

Signed :
Treasurer

Robyn Brasell
February 5, 2024

TRINITY-GRACE UNITED CHURCH

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Prepared Without Audit

Year Ended December 31, 2023

TRINITY - GRACE UNITED CHURCH
BALANCE SHEET
December 31, 2023
Prepared Without Audit

	2023	2022
Current Assets		
Bank Accounts (Note 4)	\$ 95,065	\$ 290,998
GST Recoverable	3,485	1,031
Accounts Receivable	914	-
Total Cash and Investments	99,465	292,029
 Fixed Assets (Note 3)		
Musical Instruments	50,675	50,675
Computers	10,420	4,488
Equipment and Furniture	9,601	6,598
Less Accumulated Amortization	(56,373)	(52,412)
	14,323	9,349
Refugee Fund Account	-	-
Invested Funds (Note 5) Per Attached Statement	2,700,391	2,723,288
Land and Building at Nominal Value (Note 2)	1	1
Sanctuary Renovations - (Note 5)	183,252	16,371
	2,997,432	3,041,038
TOTAL ASSETS	\$	\$
REPRESENTED BY :		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	\$ 3,520	\$ 1,437
Music Grant Revenue Deferred	-	-
Special Purpose Funds	3,520	1,437
Refugee Fund Account	-	-
Palnet Fund Account (Note 4)	11,771	11,771
CEBA Government Loan	-	40,000
Capital and Equity Accounts		
Opening Balance Beginning of Year	2,987,830	3,592,46
Operations Results Current Year	(5,690)	0
Closing Balance Capital & Equity Accounts	2,982,140	(604,630)
		2,987,83
		0
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$ 2,997,432	\$ 3,041,038

TRINITY-GRACE UNITED CHURCH
 INVESTED FUNDS
 Year Ended December 31, 2023
 Prepared Without Audit

	2023	2022
Opening Balance - Beginning of Year	\$ 2,723,288	3,359,175
Amounts Drawn during Year for Operations	(290,000)	(270,000)
Income Earned for Invested Funds during Year	116,963	51,026
Funds Management Fees	<u>(17,276)</u>	<u>(19,051)</u>
Net Income from Fund	99,687	31,975
Unrealized Gain (Loss) on Marketable Securities	<u>167,416</u>	<u>(397,862)</u>
Invested Funds Increase for Year	<u>267,103</u>	<u>(365,887)</u>
Change in Invested Funds Balance for Year	(22,897)	(635,887)
Closing Balance Invested Funds - End of Year	<u>\$ 2,700,391</u>	<u>2,723,288</u>

TRINITY-GRACE UNITED CHURCH
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS
Year Ended December 31, 2023
Prepared Without Audit

	2023	2022
Revenue :		
Offerings	\$ 43,287.92	36,467.55
Music Grant	-	1,750.00
Rentals	8,177.25	7,069.00
Thrift Store	<u>23,732.64</u>	<u>22,230.30</u>
	<u>75,197.81</u>	<u>67,516.85</u>
 Operating Expenses :		
Salaries & Benefits	212,218.16	173,746.88
Building & Property	26,558.40	23,190.41
Administration	25,129.21	22,217.82
Music	14,169.05	14,789.59
Congregation & Worship	13,375.38	8,603.05
Community Ministry	11,088.15	6,471.30
Conference & Pacific Mountain Region	10,332.88	10,017.90
 Computer Upgrades	3,042.81	4,609.44
Web Site & Social Media	2,933.28	10,789.68
Professional & Consulting Fees	2,460.00	2,460.00
Honorarium	950.00	2,850.00
Thrift Store	797.00	854.95
 Donations to Registered Charities	22,313.11	20,491.04
Missions and Service United Church	<u>1,705.00</u>	<u>1,710.00</u>
	<u>\$ 347,072.43</u>	<u>302,802.06</u>
 Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue Over Expenses Before Investment Results & Amortization	 \$ (271,874.62)	 (235,285.21)
 Investment Income (Expenses)		
Income Invested Funds & Term Deposits	116,963.00	51,026.00
Invested Funds Management Fee	<u>(17,276.00)</u>	<u>(19,051.00)</u>
	<u>99,687.00</u>	<u>31,975.00</u>
 (Deficiency) Excess of Revenue Over Expenses	(172,187.62)	(203,310.21)
Add Unrealized (Loss) Gain on Invested Funds	<u>167,416.00</u>	<u>(397,862.00)</u>
(Deficiency) Excess of Revenue Over Expenses Before Amortization	(4,771.62)	(601,172.21)
Amortization (Note 3)	(3,961.53)	(8,066.70)
Building Renovations	(172,773.21)	(16,371.02)
Transfer Computer Upgrades / Equipment to Capital A	<u>175,816.02</u>	<u>20,980.46</u>
Excess of Expenses over Revenue\$	<u><u>(5,690.34)</u></u>	<u><u>(604,629.47)</u></u>

TRINITY - GRACE UNITED CHURCH
 NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
 Year Ended December 31, 2023
 Prepared Without Audit

1 Amalgamation and Nature of Operations

Grace Memorial United Church and Trinity United Church amalgamated as Trinity - Grace United Church effective January 1, 2018 .

Each member of the amalgamation is constituted from long-standing congregations ; the congregations having been established under The United Church of Canada, as provided in The United Church of of Canada Act, 1925 .

As with other United Church congregations, the congregation is not incorporated. The congregation constitutes an internal division of the national incorporated body and, in addition, maintains individual charitable status .

2 Significant Accounting Policies

Land and buildings are owned by the Trustees for the Church and are contributed from the former Grace Memorial United Church. The balance sheet reflects a nominal value of \$1.00. At the date of amalgamation the assessed value of the land and buildings, as reflected in the annual report of BC Assessment records is approximately \$5,019,800.

Musical instruments and equipment are recorded at cost. Assets are depreciated on the declining balance basis at rates indicated below. In the year of acquisition one-half of the normal rates are applied .

3 Capital Assets

	Rate	Cost	Accumulated Amortization	2023	2022
				Net Book Value	Net Book Value
Yamaha Grand Piano Purchased 2018	4 Year SL	\$50,675	-\$50,675	\$0	\$0
Computers , Sound System	30% dv	\$10,420	-\$3,840	\$6,580	\$5,31
Furniture & Equipment	20% dv	\$9,601	-\$1,858	\$7,743	0
		<u>\$70,696</u>	<u>-\$56,373</u>	<u>\$14,323</u>	<u>\$4,03</u>
					9
					\$9,34

4 The Congregation is assisting to administer funds on behalf of Palnet Organization, an agency⁹ working for Human Rights in Palestine / Israel. At December 31, 2023 \$11,771 of Palnet funds are included in total funds within the Trinity-Grace operations account. Palnet Organization is a program sponsored by Pacific Mountain Region, United Church.

5 Invested Funds and 2023 Property Renovations

The Ministry Plan approved by the Congregation at date of amalgamation included prospective plans for redevelopment of the capital property along with short term minor updates. An amount of \$280,000 was noted as an estimate for this purpose.

In 2022 the Congregation approved the 2 plan to renovate the Sanctuary and create new offices and a meeting space. Renovations were completed in 2023 for a total cost \$183,252.

Renovations also included replacing the furnace \$43,050 and rebuilding the back steps \$20,238.

Trinity - Grace United Church
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
 SCHEDULE 1 January through December 2024 / 2023

	Budget 2024	Actual Jan - Dec 23
39999 · Church Income	\$ 39,840	\$ 43,288
41050 · Property Recoveries	8,500	8,177
41850 · Bequests		\$ -
Total Income	\$ 53,340	\$ 51,465
Expense		
50000 · Personnel Compensation	236,474	212,219
50202 · Amortization	3,525	3,962
50220 · Marketing & Communications	-	2,933
50260 · United Church Assessment	12,000	9,556
50265 · United Church Conferences	1,300	777
50265 · United Church Conferences	27,450	25,127
50500 · Administration	22,430	2,460
50605 · Bookkeeping Expenses	550	14,325
50700 · Congregation & Worship	13,550	522
50763 · Carol Sing	14,755	13,647
50792 · Music Expenses	9,550	11,088
50800 · Community Ministry		17,540
60801 · Maintenance & Janitor		9,019
60815 · Utilities and Taxes		
Total Expense	\$ 364,044	\$ 323,175
Net Church Operations	-\$ -	-\$ -
310,704		271,710
Other Income		
61000 · Investment Income (Expenses)		
61020 · Investment Funds Earnings	50,000	116,963
61030 · Management Fees	-	-
61030 · Management Fees	17,500	17,276
61050 · Unrealized Gain (Loss)	100,000	167,416
	132,500	267,103
61250 · Thrift Store Operations		
61300 · Thrift Store Income	24,000	23,733
61350 · Thrift Store Expenses	- 360	- 797
61390 · Donations Per Thrift Store	- 23,020	- 22,313
Total 61250 · Thrift Store Operations	620	623
Total Other Income	133,120	267,726
70000 · Capital Additions		
60905 · Monitor / AV / Sound System	- 500	- 3,043
70010 · Sanctuary Renovations	-	- 103,593
70029 · Furnace	-	- 43,050
70030 · Equipment & Fixtures	-	- 5,892
7028 · Back Steps	-	- 20,239
Total 70000 · Capital Additions	- 500	- 175,816
80010 · Missions & Service	- 1,710	- 1,705
NET RESULT FOR YEAR	-\$ 179,794	-\$ 181,505

Trinity - Grace United Church
OPERATIONS BUDGET 2024 NOTES - SCHEDULE 2

Information in preparing expenses budget for 2024.

Note 1

Revenue details are estimated based on actual results for 2023.

Note 2

Estimated at 12 months for full time minister and community engagement animator. Office administrator salary 12 months salary at 20 hours per week. Salaries include pensions and benefits as determined by UC Canada.

Note 3

Marketing / Web Site costs are no longer sourced from an outside organization.

Note 4

Insurance premiums are based on the quote received.

Note 5

Worship, Jazz Vespers and Events	\$ 10,430	\$
AV Tech Support and editing on line content	12,000	
	\$ 22,430	

Note 6

Weekly Music Leadership	\$ 12,300	\$
Special Services - Soloists	850	\$
Music Licences	400	\$
	13,550	

Note 7

Initiatives - Gender, Social Justice	\$ 4,500	\$
Graceful Noise	3,975	\$
Pride Parade and Faith Events	2,100	\$
Indigenous Initiatives	1,200	\$
MAPVan Donation	1,200	\$
Community Garden	1,000	\$
General	780	\$
	14,755	

Fair Trade Marketplace & Bethlehem Fair Trade Sales assumed to operate at break even. Budget allocations may be adjusted between the categories, depending on changes in the scope and extent of programs or whether new programs arise. Note that we consider property rentals as an offset to the costs incurred for community and outreach programs.

Note 8

Janitor - contract for 12 months	\$ 6,750	\$
Repairs and Maintenance (regular)	13,250	\$
	20,000	

Note 9

Electronics - upgrades / additions \$,500.

Note 10

Pacific Mountain Region advise investment returns. 10.2% positive return was recorded for 2023. Estimate for 2024 budget purposes - 5.5% positive return.

NOMINATIONS REPORT

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That term limits for serving on the Unified Board and Board of Trustees be abolished.

UNIFIED BOARD:

The membership of the Unified Board consists of those members of the congregation, elected at the Annual Meeting (or appointed by the board in between congregational meetings).

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the following persons be appointed to the Unified Board until the next Annual Meeting.

Robyn Brasell	David Marcantonio
Brenda Harrison	Sally Marcantoion
Mary Al Lay	David Quan

Trustees

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the following persons be appointed to the Board of Trustees until the next Annual Meeting.

Robyn Brasell
David Marcantonio
David Quan

COMMITTEES

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the persons named below be appointed to the respective standing committees.

Ministry & Personnel	Worship
George Bartlett	Janice Guthrie
Brenda Harrison	Doug Jameson
Sally marcantonio	Cheryl Sanderson
Finance	Property & Maintenance
Robyn Brasell	David Marcantonio
David Marcantonio	David Quan
David Quan	

NOMINATIONS REPORT

Committees and Ministry Teams can be joined at any time throughout the year. If you are interested in joining a committee, ministry team or ad hoc group, please speak to Rev. Sandra or to a program coordinator or committee member.

The called/appointed minister an an ex-officio member of the Unified Board, Trustees and standing committees.

For Information

Ministry Teams:	Affirming	Social Justice
	Janice Guthrie Doug Jameson Cheryl Sanderson Mary Al Lay David Quan <i>Staff Support: Sandra & Shadia</i>	Brenda Harrison <i>Staff Support: Sandra & Shadia</i>
AD HOC Ministry Groups	Garden Group	Fair Trade & Artisan Market (Currently Recruiting)
	Sharon Jacobs Sally Marcantonio <i>Staff Support: Shadia</i>	Brenda Harrison Sally Marcantonio Jane Volem <i>Staff Support: Shadia</i>
PROGRAM COORDINATORS:	Graceful Noise	Gracie's Thrift Store
	Mary Al Lay	Sally Marcantonio

APPENDIX 1

Becoming an Apartheid-Free Church

Preamble: At its meeting on February 14th, the Trinity-Grace Unified Board agreed to recommend the following to the Annual Congregational Meeting.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Trinity Grace United Church make an Apartheid-Free Pledge and become an Apartheid-Free Community of Faith.

BACKGROUND:

As churches and individual congregations did in the struggle against apartheid in South Africa, it is important that we be part of the struggle against apartheid in Israel and Palestine.

The American Friends Service Committee ("AFSC") has developed an Apartheid-Free program through which organizations, including individual communities of faith, can declare themselves to be Apartheid-free and pledge to join others in working to end all support to Israel's Apartheid regime, settler colonialism, and military occupation.

More details can be found on this website - <https://apartheid-free.org/>

BACKGROUND:

Churches around the world, including those in Canada, were very active in the struggle against apartheid. Like others active in that struggle, churches celebrated and gave thanks when the South Africa apartheid regime ended. Sadly, however, the end of apartheid in South Africa did not preclude apartheid arising elsewhere. For many years, Palestinian human rights organizations have been saying that what exists in Palestine is apartheid. Now well-known Israeli and international human rights organizations are also naming what exists in Israel and Palestine as apartheid.

Apartheid is now recognized in international law as a crime of general application. It is criminalized by three main international treaties - the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD); the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid (Apartheid Convention) and the Rome Statute which created the International Criminal Court (Rome Statute).

As defined by those treaties, there are three elements to the crime of Apartheid:

- An intent to maintain the domination by one racial group over another
- Systematic oppression by one racial group over another
- And one or more inhumane acts as part of that oppression

Between September 2020 and February 2022, four highly respected human rights organizations - 2 Israeli and 2 International - issued reports with detailed analysis explaining how the oppressive conduct of Israel towards Palestinians in the occupied Palestinian territory itself meet the definition of Apartheid. Two of the organizations also analyzed what exists in Israel itself and named it as apartheid.

continued A1

The most recent and most thorough of the reports was issued on 1 February 2022 by Amnesty International ('AI'). It was preceded by reports from Israeli human rights organizations Yesh Din (7 September 2020) and B'Tselem (12 January 2021), and from Human Rights Watch ('HRW') (April 2021).

Amnesty International

The 280-page AI report is entitled 'Israel's Apartheid Against Palestinians – Cruel System of Domination and Crime Against Humanity'. The report can be accessed from their website through this [page](#).

A brief summary is available on the [landing page](#) for the report, including a link to an excellent 14 minute [video](#) explaining the basis for the AI conclusion that what exists is Apartheid.

Much of the AI report is a very detailed analysis of how what exists both in Israel and under the Israeli occupation in the occupied Palestinian territory ('OPT') meets the definition of Apartheid.

B'Tselem

B'Tselem, The Information Centre for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories, is a partner of the United Church of Canada. On 12 January 2021 it issued a report entitled [A Regime of Jewish Supremacy from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea: This is Apartheid](#)

The introductory paragraph on the [landing page](#) for the report in one paragraph gives a good synopsis of its conclusions:

The Israeli regime enacts in all the territory it controls (Israeli sovereign territory, East Jerusalem, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip) an apartheid regime. One organizing principle lies at the base of a wide array of Israeli policies: advancing and perpetuating the supremacy of one group – Jews – over another – Palestinians.

The B'Tselem website provides a concise [Explainer](#) of the report that briefly explains why B'Tselem reached the apartheid regime conclusion. At the end of the Explainer, in response to the question 'What now?' it correctly states the importance of naming what exists as Apartheid:

This is a call for change. It is impossible to fight injustice without naming it: apartheid.

It is painful to look reality in the eye, but more painful to live under a boot. That is why a determined struggle for a future based on human rights, liberty and justice is more vital now than ever before.

The reality described here is harsh, yet we must remember: people created this regime, and people can replace it.

There are various political paths to a just future here, between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea, but all of us must first choose to say: **No To Apartheid**.

Human Rights Watch

In a [report](#) issued 10 months before the AI report, HRW reached much the same conclusion as AI, though with its focus on the OPT and not so much on Israel itself.

In a 3 minute [video](#), HRW explains why it reached the conclusions it did.

In the Conclusion to its report, HRW states:

This is a call for change. It is impossible to fight injustice without naming it: apartheid. Israeli authorities have deprived millions of people of their basic rights by virtue of their identity as Palestinians. These longstanding policies and systematic practices box in, dispossess, forcibly separate, marginalize, and otherwise inflict suffering on Palestinians.

In the OPT, movement restrictions, land expropriation, forcible transfer, denial of residency and nationality, and the mass suspension of civil rights constitute “inhuman[e] acts” set out under the Apartheid Convention and the Rome Statute. Under both legal standards, inhumane acts when carried out amid systematic oppression and with the intent to maintain domination make up the crime against humanity of apartheid.

Yesh Din

The Israeli organization Yesh Din was the first of the four organizations to issue its document. Its September 7, 2020 [legal opinion](#) was in reference to Israel’s actions in the occupied West Bank. As it states in the first paragraph of that website page:

The conclusion of this legal opinion is that the crime against humanity of apartheid is being committed in the West Bank. The perpetrators are Israelis, and the victims are Palestinians.

The opinion goes on to state:

The crime is committed because, in addition to colonizing the occupied territory, the occupying power has also gone to great lengths to cement its domination over the occupied residents and ensure their inferior status. The crime of apartheid is being committed in the West Bank because, in this context of a regime of domination and oppression of one national group by another, the Israeli authorities implement policies and practices that constitute inhuman acts as the term is defined in international law: Denial of rights from a national group, denial of resources from one group and their transfer to another, physical and legal separation between the two groups and the institution of a different legal system for each of them. This is an inexhaustive list of the inhuman acts.

CONCLUSION:

Since 2020, respected international human rights organizations have issued reports naming what exists in Israel and under its occupation of Palestine as apartheid. Others had so named it earlier, including Palestinians and the late [Archbishop Desmond Tutu](#).

With what is happening in Israel and the occupied Palestinian Territory having been named as apartheid, it is time for communities of faith to take action to help end the apartheid, much like we did in relation to South Africa. A good first step is to make the Apartheid Free Pledge and commit to join others in working to end all support to Israel’s Apartheid regime, settler colonialism, and military occupation.

Background prepared by George Bartlett

APPENDIX 2

TGUC Mission & Vision

OUR MISSION:

Inspired by Jesus, we seek to create a sanctuary where spirits are nourished and community grows as we collaborate for a kinder and more just world.

OUR VISION:

A community rooted in God's love, connected by spirit, and following the way of Christ with compassion and courage.

OUR VALUES:

1. We believe in kindness and caring.

We seek to create a communal table that provides nourishment to bodies, minds and spirits, and which includes love for all God's creation.

2. We believe in engaging our neighbours one at a time to build the power of community.

Building relationships bring us closer together and sustains our spirits.

3. We believe in the strength of diversity.

We are a collection of individuals, each with unique gifts to share.

We seek to create a space that honours diversity and celebrates people of any age, race, ability, sexual orientation, gender identity, religious background or economic circumstance.

4. We believe in sacred wisdom.

Through the teachings of Jesus, and with insights from other spiritual traditions, we can experience greater depth and meaning to life and the interconnectedness of all creation.

5. We believe in the spirit of collaboration.

We can achieve more when we work together

6. We believe in reconciliation.

God calls us to be reconciled and reconciling, nurturing right relation in all aspects of life.

We take responsibility for:

- *the legacies of colonialism & honouring the traditions and culture of indigenous peoples*
- *living with respect as part of creation*