

Faith Lift Campus Ministry Report to Northern Spirit Region

May 2021.

April 16, 2021

The 2020/2021 Academic year has been a time of finding resources to survive in the wilderness. The continuing COVID crisis required more long term adaptations to this ministry. The Isolation in working from home has necessitated more contemplation (which is never a bad thing!). It has also brought people together in authentic and innovative ways. It has also revealed holes in systems and services. I have been most fortunate to have a network of support to draw on both personally and professionally that have helped me to understand and address the ways myself and others are being affected by this crisis. We are still in the wilderness and paths are emerging to take us into future. Thanks be to God.

March 16, 2020 the University of Alberta, in compliance with provincial legislation, sent all students , staff and faculty to do their work from home. All face to face social clubs and activities were discontinued and all classes and student services remain on line one year later. The Universities current plan is for this arrangement to continue at least until the fall of 2021 when it is hoped that face to face classes and services will resume. Then we will be adapting to a new normal.

The Landing Drop In Center for LGBTQ2S+ students, community people and allies. The chaplain spends approximately five hours each week with this service. Throughout 2020 this service operated on the zoom platform. In January 2021 The Landing Drop and Programs were moved to the Discord platform. The traffic of people “dropping in” to the Landing increased dramatically. Throughout the 2020 -2021 Academic year the Weavings program run by the chaplain was a small group of a total of roughly twelve to fourteen people who attended over the year with a core of about three who participated regularly.

Throughout the fall emails were sent to students in the small network I had remaining from the dinner group. The pandemic made it impossible to rebuild this student group as it was focussed on sharing a meal together. As I was made aware of new students on campus I reached out to be in touch. Only a couple of students took advantage of zoom drop in hours. The most successful way to stay in touch was through phone calls. The biggest challenge this academic year has been building a more extensive online presence in an effort to connect with and offer resources to students and alumni of DUCS (United Church students). A Faith Lift UAlberta Instagram account was created and regular postings on it and the Facebook page were begun by October. This was another place where there was a lot of learning to be done about how to effectively use these kinds of platforms...needless to say the learning continues.

One of the gaps the Inter Faith Chaplain’s Association has been working to address is the lack of significant communication links to other bodies in the University in particular the Office of the Dean of Students to whom the Chaplain’s Association is responsible. The need for better communication links was underlined in this crisis. Chaplains met five times to support and to keep in touch with what each other were doing with students.

Faith Lift Campus Ministry's connection to Northern Spirit Region continues to evolve. A written report from Faith Lift was submitted for the online gathering of Northern Spirit region in fall of 2020. Action on the Motions from 2019 Region meeting to : create an Advisory committee for Campus ministry and find ways to support young adult ministry were slowed considerably as the church dealt with the pandemic. A continuing concern first raised with the Region in January 2019 was the need for a review of the financial strategy for funding Campus Ministry. *Two years later this situation has now become more urgent. It is projected that by the end of 2021-22 Academic Year funds held in trust by St Paul's U.C. Edmonton for Faith Lift Campus Ministry will be reduced to \$9,000.*

I have deep appreciation for the considerable support of St Paul's U.C. Edmonton to Faith Lift Campus Ministry at many levels throughout this crisis and over the years. The church Treasurer and Administrator take care of finances, and administration, the Ministry and Personnel committee have given support and attention to human resources aspects of this ministry. In addition the congregation has made a significant financial commitment to Faith Lift in addition to roughly forty individual supporters and a handful of other organisations and churches that support Faith Lift.

Faith Lift is very grateful for the support of faithful donors who kept this ministry going through 2020 which ended with a deficit of just \$3000. Money held in trust was able to cover this.

2021 Promises to be another year of adaptation to COVID safety restrictions and changes in the United church. Through it all God's never ending love will hold us and strengthen us as we move on through unfamiliar territory.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Denise Davis Taylor". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Denise Davis Taylor, Chaplain
Faith Lift Campus Ministry at the University of Alberta

		St Paul's United Church Faith Lift Campus Ministry		
		2021 Budget	2020 Actual	2019 Actual
Revenue				
	N.S. Region	20,500	22,500	20,000
	St Paul's	8,280	8,280	8,280
	Donations-Receipts	10,000	7,909	10,288
	Donations-No Receipts	5,000	5,050	4,971
	Fundraising-No Receipts	-	-	-
	CEWS (Wage Subsidy)	-	1,513	
	Wage Subsidy 10%	-	688	-
Total Revenue		43,780	45,939	43,539
Expenses				
	Salary & benefits	49,600	47,952	46,827
	Program Costs	2,500	620	1,064
	Fundraising	-	-	-
	Adminstration	700	344	1,366
	Misc	-	-	-
Total Expenses		52,800	48,915	49,257
Net income (loss)		(9,020)	(2,976)	(5,718)
Directed Funds held in Trust				
	Feb-21		18,088	21,064