



## **Greening of UCiM Campaign Accountability Report from the Greening Steering Committee to the Congregation October 2023**

A Congregational decision to install a geothermal system was made in April 2023 at our Annual Meeting after careful evaluation of the options for over a year (a big thank you to the Heating and Cooling Task Group for all their research!). The construction is anticipated to take 3 to 4 weeks during the Summer of 2024.

This greening project has three goals:

- to address the climate crisis by reducing harmful emissions;
- to ensure that the building continues to serve the community with accessible and affordable space, and;
- to serve as a visible model to demonstrate possibilities and inspire action from others.

UCiM is well placed to achieve these goals. The congregation has the essential strength, expertise and commitment for success. The church is a known and trusted pillar of the community, and the members of the congregation are well connected in the broader community. Collectively and individually, as we tell our story of positive response to the climate dilemma that seems overwhelming, we are confident we can contribute to help people move from despair toward positive action.

**The Greening Steering Committee** was struck to immediately get things going. We have been meeting regularly since June 6, 2023, a dedicated group of volunteers! Breaking down this ambitious undertaking into more manageable bits was our first job. We have made Task Groups with Convenors to lead them and volunteers in each. Please applaud the members of the Steering Committee and Task Groups! (see table below). We also celebrate the valued contributions of our youth – Eli Kanhai, Nicholas Dube and Jemma McLean for their contributions talking with politicians and making greening videos.

## Things we have done so far!

Created a project **plan**

Held our first fundraiser – **Very Groovy Things Concert** June 2023 raised \$5000!

Created a **logo, banner, Tree progress gauge and several videos** on Greening topics. Updated our congregation by way of Quick Notes and the website [www.ucim.org](http://www.ucim.org) with Greening information and donation page. Also researched and added Climate Change info bits on Quick Notes weekly.

Created **Gift Acceptance Policy**, determining what happens if we exceed our fundraising goal or the project is delayed, and a **pledge form** and process

Researched and applied for **grants** – to the Cropo Foundation (received \$10,000!), Winnipeg Foundation, Assiniboine Credit Union and are preparing to apply for others, including government programs.

Met and **talked about project and funding with many politicians** (Markus Chambers, Mike Moyes, Jamie Moses, Adrian Sala, Rochelle Squires); received support letters and commitments of ongoing interest in our funding needs.

Had a successful **Launch of the Campaign on Sept 28, 2023** with speeches from Erin Crawford, Chair, Markus Chambers, City Councillor for our area, and wonderful performances by choirs that use our building regularly, College Jean Sauve and Women of Note Choir. Regrets came from Carmen Lansdowne, UCC Moderator and Terry Duguid, Member of Parliament.

## Where we are at financially to date

We are receiving pledges, including a pledge from a Steering Committee member of **\$20,000!** UCiM Men's Group are pledging **\$5000!**

Here is the very good news:

**Money received:** \$40,383 in donations, \$4,855 from fundraising, \$10,000 in grants.

**Promised:** \$60,000 in grants, \$51,235 in pledges (as of September 30, 2023)

## The Budget

### GEOTHERMAL BUDGET

as of Sept 30, 2023

#### Project Costs

#### Budget

Geo-thermal Feasibility & Design	\$	28,000
Geo-thermal Loop Installation	\$	90,000
Heat Pumps (installation and set up)	\$	260,000
Contingency	\$	50,000
Fundraising Costs	\$	5,000
Project Management	\$	17,000
	\$	450,000

#### Revenue

#### Budget

#### Promised or Secured

Government Sources	\$	180,000	\$	30,000
Grants (Foundations)	\$	95,000	\$	40,000
Fundraising Events	\$	20,000	\$	5,000
In-kind Contribution (Volunteers)	\$	17,000	\$	17,000
Individual Donations	\$	138,000	\$	91,618
	\$	450,000		

Geoptimize, the Engineering firm we are working with, provided an initial estimate (in Fall 2022) for the design and installation of \$389,000, which is what was presented to the congregation in April 2023. That quote did not include GST, consistent with the quotes for other options, nor an amount for inflation and other contingencies. Geoptimize is now detailing the design (Fall 2023) and then we will have clearer project costs which might adjust the fundraising target. The amount of \$450,000, which appears on the pledge form, includes GST, contingencies, and our best guess at inflation. It also includes our in-kind contributions of volunteer time, which is **not** cash that we need to raise. This preliminary budget was developed to use in our grant applications and to get other fund raising underway.

On the Revenue side the numbers are informed guesses and subject to change as our grant applications are successful (we hope!) and as government programs

change, which is a possibility with the new provincial government. There may be other sources of revenue we haven't thought of. If you have ideas, please feed them in.

## Why we chose Geothermal

While the upfront costs of geothermal are greater than other options, the long-term operational costs are lower. In 2024 there will be a 25% reduction in operating cost over natural gas, even with additional air conditioning. By 2030 that reduction increases to over 40%, based on increasing carbon charges. This reduction in operating cost will assist the congregation in continuing to host community groups for no or very low rental fees. Also factored into the bottom line is the benefit of eliminating reliance on fossil fuels as a step to mitigate against the costly impact of changing climate. Our current natural gas furnaces produce 18 tonnes of GHG (Green House Gas) emissions annually. Conversion to a geothermal system will reduce UCiM's emissions for heating and cooling to zero.

## The Help Needed

We still need more helpers! The old saying of "many hands make light work" really does apply here. One such job is that we need people who can plan and carry out a fundraising event. We have had many "ideas" brought up to us but really need people to carry out ideas now. If you've got an hour or two per week or even per month that you can dedicate to the Greening project, please come to Margaret-Anne Michalsky ([margaret-anne@shaw.ca](mailto:margaret-anne@shaw.ca) 204-930-6103) or Erin Crawford ([sean and erin crawford@hotmail.com](mailto:sean_and_erin_crawford@hotmail.com) 204-229-2361) and we can find a place for you, based on your skills, likes and time available.

**"Living with respect in Creation"** is a line from The United Church of Canada creed and this is a goal for our congregation. Earth is a gift from God, our Creator. Our task is to care for it and to equitably share its abundance in a sustainable way.

## Greening Steering Committee and Task Groups

Name	Role
Liz Bachmann	Fundraising TG (Grants)
Mike Balshaw	Steering Cte/Engagement TG Convenor
Bev Beck	Communications TG
Joy Bissoon	Fundraising TG
Jeri Bjornson	Communications TG
Jane Bullied	Steering Cte/Communication TG
Archie Campbell	Construction TG
Susan Campbell	Steering Cte/Communication TG
Erin Crawford	Steering Cte
Caryn Douglas	Steering Cte/Fundraising TG/Communication TG
Dane Dwarka	Communications TG
Diane Dwarka	Steering Cte/Trustees Liaison
Ron Eros	Steering Cte/Fundraising TG Convenor
Gil Forrest	Steering Cte
Pat Goss	Fundraising TG (Grants)
Gary Hyde	Finance TG
Peter Kidd	Steering Cte/Construction TG Convenor
Ron Kirby	Finance TG
Dominic Lussier	Construction TG
Joe Makumi	Construction TG
Mike McIlrath	Steering Cte/Finance TG Convenor
Margaret-Anne Michalsky	Steering Cte/Communication TG Convenor
Julie Nash	Steering Cte/Fundraising TG
Doug Purdey	Fundraising TG
Rudy Ramchandar	Steering Cte/Fundraising TG
Tannis Young	Treasurer: Consultant