



THE UNITED CHURCH DOWNTOWN MISSION OF WINDSOR INC.

875 Ouellette Ave, Windsor/ON, N9A 4J6 • Tel: (519) 973-5573 • Fax: (519) 973-9389

[www.downtownmission.com](http://www.downtownmission.com)

Registered Canadian Charitable Organization No. 11926 0420 RR001



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**40<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
OF THE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED CHURCH DOWNTOWN MISSION OF WINDSOR  
April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**The Windsor Moose Lodge - 777 Tecumseh Rd West, Windsor/ON, N8X 1H4**

PRESENT:

**Current Board Members:**

A. Banman, D. Barsanti, B. Bayraktar, Rev. Dr. C. Collins-Barker (V. Chair), K. Gray, S. Kapasi (Chair), K. Rivard, M. McGregor (Past Chair), K. McInnis, A. St. Antoine, A. Visser (Secretary),

Staff: Executive Director- Rukshini Ponniah-Goulin and Executive Assistant: Edie Newell-Beattie

**Regrets:** T. Kelly

**New Board Members:** Don Atwell & Joe DeLuca

**Staff:** Executive Director Rukshini Ponniah-Goulin, Edit Newell-Beattie, Matt Johnson, Brittany Lavin, Sharda Yadav, Jordan Pope, Jane Atwell, Alexandra Dietrich, Mary-Jo Kovacs, Ashley Marchand, Mike Lockbaum, MJ Layng, Malcolm Bhanks, Lester Amoranto, Patricia Darrow, Jim Douglas, Norma, Garcia-Jimenez, Sadia Iqbal,

Serena Ly (DTM Board Committee), James Hatt & George Bozanich (DTM Chaplaincy Team)

**Community Members:** Steven Hanratty, Director of Parliamentary Affairs (for MP Chris Lewis), From City of Windsor: Andrew Daher, Kelly Goz, Whitney Kitchen, Stephen Lynn, Jennifer Tanner, Cheryl Hawes Renaldo Agostino (Councillor Ward 3). Colm Holmes (Family Services Windsor-Essex), Linda Watson (Windsor-Essex County Health Unit), Sherry Kelly (Baker Tilly), Simon Goulet (Collège Boréal), Susan Ellsworth (Enviro Clean Janitorial Services), Shannon Gilbert & Magdalena Guiu (Flowers by Design), Helen Rattray & Geri Sutts (Glenwood United Church), Darrow Woods (Harrow United Church), On a Mission for the Mission: Heather Court-Roehler, Shaun Fathers, Jeremy Kanally, Lana Kanally, Greg Knight, Rodney Roehler, Todd Turner. Jennifer Crosby & Marc Murphy (Windsor Police Service), Kim McCarthy (Preceptor Epsilon Phi), Carol Cyphery (Riverside United Church), Catherine Borland (Volunteer Award Recipient), Michael J Diemer (Volunteer Award Recipient), Fred Barkhouse (Westminster United Church), Jonathan Bruneau (Windsor Jewish Community Centre), Noor Abdullah, Wuraola Adeyemi, Janeen Auld, Mohamad Bazzi, Dejan (Dan) Boskovic, Quiriart Cerino, Matthew de Vries, Beth Diemer, Kendall Diemer, Oluwatomisin Dosumu, Shiane Elliott, Ben Goulin, Bill McGregor, Jamie Mills, Mike Nguyen, Fernanda Oakes, Rob Pigeon, Walter Ponniah, Deanna Ponniah, Taylor Purtill, Brooke Renaud (Incredible Kids), Amy Renaud, Wilf Renaud, Liz Rockwood, Denes Shaw, Frough Sherwani, Sema Sherwani, Michael Solcz Sr., Rick St. Antoine, Dj Vandongen.

**Called to Order @ 5:40 pm** by Sandor Kapasi, Board Chair

**Opening Prayer:** Sandor introduces Rev Catherine Collins-Barker to lead us in opening prayer.

Sandor Kapasi present Chair of the Board of Directors of the Downtown Mission welcomes all who are attending this Annual General Meeting. The Downtown Mission is an incorporated ministry of the United Church of Canada, and the Antler River Watershed Regional Council is our supervising council. I would like to thank you all for taking the time to be with us this evening. Whether you are a community partner, a donor, a volunteer, an employee, or an interested person in the community, please know that without your support, we could not continue to do the work that

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we do to help those who need it most. You all play an important part in keeping us viable and able to continue our Mission mandates and we are truly blessed to have such strong support in the community. On behalf of the Board, we thank you. I would now like to call this, the 40th Annual General Meeting of the United Church Downtown Mission of Windsor, Inc. to order at 5:40pm

Introductions and Opening Procedures: Sandor Kapasi

- i. Introductions - recognize specific groups attending and ask that you raise your hand if you are in this group, so you are recognized: City of Windsor; Downtown Mission Board of Directors; Mission Staff; Community Members; Volunteers and Donors. Again, thank you for taking the time to be here this evening.
- ii. Presentation:
  - Sandor introduces - Steven Hanratty acknowledged Chris Lewis's "wholehearted support" for the work the Downtown Mission does by presenting a certificate. Addressed that 50 billion hours per year are put in by organizations like the DTM to support people in need. Steven thanked the Downtown Mission for himself as well as Chris Lewis.
  - Sandor introduces - Renaldo relayed that he counts himself as blessed for seeing what goes on inside of the Downtown Mission, be able to attend the Phoenix graduation which touched him to witness the gratitude of people who have been helped. Expressed that people see the outside of the mission, a building, but inside there are great people doing great work. Renaldo expressed thanks for the work that is done at the Downtown Mission.
- iii. Constitution - Sandro; "As Chair of The United Church Downtown Mission of Windsor Incorporated, I hereby declare this 40th Annual General Meeting of The Corporation to be duly constituted with quorum for the transaction of business, including the receiving of reports, approval of the budget, appointment of auditors, the election of directors and any other business which might properly come before this meeting".
- iv. Voting Privileges - Current members of the Board of Directors and members of The Corporation of the Downtown Mission appointed by The Board of Directors have voting privileges at this meeting. All Directors have been provided with a yellow card and will raise it at the appropriate time the vote has been called.

**Motion That all other person's present be made corresponding members and thereby have the opportunity to speak on the relevant matters of the meeting, restricted to twice on the same topic with a maximum of three (3) minutes on each occasion.**

**M/S - Carried**

Notice of the Meeting - The notice of the 40th Annual General Meeting was properly published on our website and newsletter and forwarded to the United Church of Canada Governing Body, Antler River Watershed Regional office, our employees, volunteers and donors.

2. **Approval of Agenda of the 40<sup>th</sup> AGM on April 26, 2023:** Sandor Kapasi

**Motion that the agenda for the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting be accepted.**

**M/S C. Collins-Barker / K. Gray – Carried**

3. **Motion that the minute from the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held on April 27, 2022 be approved.**

**M/S A. Banman / K. Rivard – Carried**

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#### 4. Reports

- i. **Report from the Executive Director:** Rukshini Ponniah-Goulin - Thanked everyone for coming out to join in person. Reflect on the great year and all that we have been through. Presented a brief history of the DTM. Thanked the Board, staff, volunteers, community partners and donors. 2022 community impact report can be viewed in the annual report that is now published – it will be shared on social media and website tonight. Invited Jordan Pope up to share his story – works in the enterprise program – discussed his connection to the mission, how he went from guest to phoenix grad to enterprise grad, to a leader at the DTM in the enterprise program.
- o Jordan shared his personal story about drug addiction and mental health issues, homelessness, and hopelessness to the point that on Oct 31, 2022 he became suicidal. Jordan booked himself into the psychiatric ward, where he stayed for 2 weeks. From there he came to the Downtown Mission, entered The Downtown Mission's Phoenix Addiction Recover Program and took food and shelter. "Dr John O'Rourke and Chris Thibert helped me do what I never thought I could do," Jordan recovered from addiction, and graduated from the Phoenix program. He went on to follow through in the Downtown Mission's Enterprise program, graduated from there and is now Sharda Yadav's (Manager of Enterprise) assistant. Jordan reported that he now lives with some great guys in a dry house, enjoys his position as Sarda's Assistant, and is applying to finish his degree at the University of Windsor in the coming fall. Jordan thanked his mom and everyone at the Downtown Mission for saving his life.

Rukshini thanked Jordan for sharing and for trusting us at The Downtown Mission. She went on to introduce Brooke Renaud.

- o Brooke is of the Remarkable Kids who have been raising money for the Mission through creating fundraiser to support their Coldest Night of the Year walks. Over the last 4 years the Incredible Kids have raised 10 to 20 thousand dollars and this year alone they raised over 4 thousand. Rukshini emphasized "Brooke is the future of our community...we are thankful for Brooke and young people like her." Rukshini, in thanks, gave Brooke a Community Hero Award as a representative of her team, The Incredible Kids"

Rukshini thanked the community for helping us do what we do.

**Report from the Board Chair:** Sandor Kapasi - Verbal report from the Board Chair: "I would like to briefly touch on something that lacks some fanfare and I wanted to talk about I would like to tie in my brief report to our mission statement; it says, "the DTM exists as a place of sanctuary. In response to the mandate of the Gospel, through outreach we provide food for the body, nurture for the spirit, shelter for the homeless, advocacy for the impoverished and opportunity for human growth." The roots of homelessness go deeper than just economics. Most of the hundreds of people we serve @ the DTM every day have deep emotional wounds and inadequate life skills, often due to a very difficult upbringing or severe trauma. Despair or the absence of any positive relationship are normal. A lack of affordable housing and employment opportunities are leading causes for those that are homeless but the roots of it go much deeper including trauma, mental illness, family conflict, criminal history, and domestic abuse. We have also seen a substantial spike in the working poor accessing our services, particularly the food bank and kitchen. We have also seen a dramatic uptick in overdoses due to the ease of availability of fentanyl. The challenges are very real but this leadership team and

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staff does not waiver. I would like to thank Matt Johnson (Director of Programs and Services), Mary Jo Kovacs (Director of Youth Services and Accreditation), Laurie Musson (Director of Food Services), Sharda Yardav (Manager of Enterprise Program) and Rukshini (E.D) for your exemplary leadership. The DTM transforms lives by providing the compassionate engagement and services necessary to meet people where they are and walk with them towards a purposeful life”.

ii. **Consideration of Annual Report:** Dolph Barsanti

- Acknowledge the Finance committee members, volunteers, and staff. Also thanked the auditor for this fiscal year, Baker Tilley (Sherry Kelly). The DRAFT (Dec 31, 2022), financial statements are on the tables and the DTM website. The auditor’s opinion is “qualified” (Which means the financial statements present fairly except for this one issue) as Downtown Mission does not record gifts in kind. While this is a departure from Canadian Accounting Standards, the net effect of revenue over expense in NIL.
- There is no qualification for revenue from donations and fundraising activities which is common for many not-for-profit organizations.
- This year DTM has an operating surplus of \$331,297 compared to an operating surplus of \$181,211 last fiscal year. The overall surplus including the capital fund was \$408,684 compared to an overall surplus of \$72,521 last fiscal year.
- At year end DTM received a bequest of \$357,047 which was set up as an account receivable and recognized as income.
- DTM has a mortgage receivable of \$285,935 which matures this June 2023 for 664 Victoria Ave. property which was sold.
- DTM received Federal support money from the Canada’s Homeless Strategy Support program.
- There were no “subsequent events” requiring note disclosure at year-end.

5. **Consideration of the Auditor’s Report & Financial Statements:** Dolph Barsanti, Treasurer

**Motion: Whereas the Board of Directors met on April 19, 2023 to review the audited financial statements of the United Church Downtown Mission of Windsor; And whereas the Board has recommended to the Annual General Meeting of the Mission; Be it hereby resolved that the audited financial statements as presented are approved.**

**M/S A. Banman / K. Gray – Carried**

6. **Appointment of Auditors for 2023:** Dolph Barsanti

**MOTION: Whereas the Board of Directors has recommended the firm of Baker Tilley be retained as auditors for 2023; Therefore, be it resolved that Baker Tilley be so appointed.**

**M/S A. St. Antoine / K. McInnis– Carried**

7. **Ratifications of Acts:** Sandor Kapasi

**Motion: That all acts undertaken in good faith in 2022 by directors, staff and volunteers in an attempt to ensure and maintain the effective and continuing operation of The United Church Downtown Mission of Windsor Inc. be hereby ratified.**

**M/S A. Banman / A. St. Antoine – Carried**

8. **Elections:**

i. Recognition of Outgoing Directors:

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- Recognizes Anna St. Antione – served on the board since 2016. Ruk presented her with a gift.
- Recognizes Michele McGregor – served since 2015. Ruk presented her with a gift.

ii. Elections of New Directors: Rev. Dr. Catherine Collins-Barker

**Motion: As recommended by the Nominating Committee, that Don Atwell and Joe Deluca be appointed as Directors to the Board of the Downtown Mission effective April 26, 2023.**

**M/S C. Collins-Barker / D. Barsanti – Carried**

iii. Slate of Current Directors: Rev. Dr. Catherine Collins-Barker

**Motion: That the following directors continue their first term:**

**Abram Banman, Ken Grey, Keith Rivard, Amy Visser, Burcu Bayraktar, & Tanya Kelly**

**That the following directors continue their second term:**

**Kristie Mcinnis, Cathy Collins-Barker, Dolph Barsanti, Sandor Kapasi (past Chair)**

**M/S A, Banman / B. Bayraktar – Carried**

9. **New Business:** Sandor Kapasi

Michelle McGregor (Past Chair) spoke about volunteerism at the Downtown Mission

- Named DTM employees as the best in Ontario for giving heart and soul for little pay.
- Michele started volunteering in the kitchen before becoming a board member and now works in the warehouse. DTM needs people to help do the job so money that is donated goes to services. Schedules are flexible to work around people's schedules.
- The Fresh Program: Many don't know what the Fresh program does. First thanks to Nature Fresh Farms who give a generous donation to keep the program going. 1.9 million pounds of produce were rescued from going to landfill last year. That food is brought to the warehouse where it is sorted. The Downtown Mission's foodbank, kitchen, and WYC uses 5% of this produce the rest is donated to over 25 local schools and agencies in Windsor/Essex County; some are as follows: Amherstburg Community Center, Can AM Indian Fellowship, Family Services, Holy Name of Mary Catholic Church, Housing and Homeless Help Hub, Men of God, Prince Edward School and other schools, St Vincent DePaul, Street Health... People are helping more in the community than just the Downtown Mission when they donate because they are supporting programs such as Fresh.

**Next Annual General Meeting: April 24, 2024**

**Motion: That the next (41th) Annual General Meeting of The Corporation be held on Wednesday, April 24, 2024**

**M/S K. McInnis / K. Rivard – Carried**

10. **Adjournment of AGM:** 6:25pm

**Motion: I would like to ask for a motion for that the 40th Annual General Meeting be closed.**

**M/S A. St. Antoine / K. Gray – Carried**

Rev. Jim Hatt – offered closing prayer.

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**Sandor Kapasi, Chair**

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Amy Visser, Secretary

**Letter Submitted By: Antler River Watershed Regional Council  
of The United Church of Canada**

Tuesday April 25, 2023

The Downtown Mission of Windsor

Dear Friends at the Downtown Mission:

I have been working with Central United Church recently who played a part in establishing the Downtown Mission. The work and focus of the mission have changed dramatically over the five decades since that happened. While providing emergency relief with meals and shelter continues, the services have expanded to address the systemic issues of poverty and to equip those caught in it to move out of it.

I wish I could say the need for your services has diminished over 50 years, but it has only increased. Your adaptability and responsiveness to these changes along with your respect for those accessing your services are qualities to celebrate.

In the Bible, 50 is an important number. It was meant to be the year when failings of the previous 49 years were righted with a commitment to free people from oppression and to ensure all experienced life to its fullest. I want to note the many for whom you have done this throughout the past 50 years and give thanks for your ministry.

Although neither our President, Rev. Jane Van Patter, or I are able to join you for this landmark celebration, we send you our warmest greetings and deepest thanks for all you do. We are honoured to be in ministry with you.

Blessings,

Rev. Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa

Executive Minister

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