

Dear Ascension Member,

As we move into a new phase of COVID-19 in our church life, an update on the financial situation over the first 5 months, April to August, plus an outlook for the remainder of the year, seems prudent.

Congregational offerings have exceeded the previous year in the April to August timeframe by \$985. That is an amazing accomplishment, considering we were not meeting in person and those who are not on pre-authorized givings have to use other methods to support their church.

But during the same period, income from groups, fundraisers and rentals was non-existent.

This has left an overall revenue shortfall of almost \$6,050 compared to last year.

While there was some reduction in expenses when the church building was closed, it became clear that our fixed costs of operation are significant and the ability to reduce expenses was limited.

Looking ahead, there are significant challenges facing us.

As we return to in-person worship, facility costs will start to increase to pre-COVID-19 levels. Additional expenses related to meeting COVID-19 protocols will begin.

At the same time, there will be limited opportunity to raise income from fundraising which is normally significant in the last quarter of the year. Due to continuing restrictions to reduce the spread of COVID-19, rental income will be much reduced for the foreseeable future.

We believe in the remaining 14 weeks of the year (Sept. 27 to Dec. 27), the church will need \$60,000 to meet all its expenses. Without the normal rental and fundraising income, we will all need to dig a little deeper to maintain a financially viable congregation.

We know it is difficult when we are not meeting in person to remember the mission of your church. But there is much that is worth supporting even with the restrictions we face. With contributions like yours, we have been able to continue to offer outreach such as the Community Breakfast and the connection with Youth Opportunities Unlimited; pastoral support to those in distress during the pandemic; the weekly respite of worship; and study programs such as Bible Study and movie talks.

Perhaps you would consider pre-authorized givings as the easiest way for you to give regularly and track your givings. We want to assure you that information that you provide to set this up is treated confidentially and sensitively. Please contact our church treasurer, Bill McKinstry, at either 226-224-0222 or mck728@mac.com and he will guide you through the process.

If pre-authorized givings are not the right vehicle for you, would you consider becoming a regular giver by one of these methods?:

Mail a weekly or monthly cheque (not cash) to the church office at:
Church of the Ascension
2060 Dundas St.

London, ON
N5V 1R2

Make a weekly or monthly Interac e-transfer through your online banking to office@ascensionlondon.com.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration of this.

If there are any questions, please contact a Warden or the Treasurer.

Respectfully,

The Executive Team

Rev. Canon June Hough (226-448-3790, junehough@rogers.com)

Churchwardens Russ Braley (519-659-6782, braley4@rogers.com) and Mary Grant (519-268-8509, mandjgrant3@gmail.com)

Deputy Churchwardens Sandra Coulson (519-649-4339, scoulson@odyssey.on.ca) and Steve Holmes (519-659-6700, hockeysteve@rogers.com)

Treasurer Bill McKinstry (519-224-0222, mck728@m)