

## **Metropolitan United Church Sanctuary Renovation**

On June 27 at 1 p.m., we held a congregational meeting to consider the recommendation from the Sanctuary Renovation Study Congregational Steering Committee to proceed with the renovation of our sanctuary if sufficient funding can be secured. This was the first time we've held a hybrid meeting with about 75 people participating via Zoom and about 30 people gathered in the sanctuary. Thanks to the excellent preparation by David Wood on Zoom and Rob Cairns in the sanctuary, we were able to ensure everyone could hear and see everything that was going on regardless of where they were participating.

Following some preliminary administration and an opening prayer by Jeff, Al Edwards delivered a presentation on behalf of the Sanctuary Renovation Team composed of Christine Buchanan, Al Edwards, Murray Faulkner, and Shirley Smith. Most of what Al presented had previously been offered to members and adherents of Metropolitan in five information sessions held on June 14th and 15th. Following Al's presentation, the following was moved by Al Edwards and seconded by Shirley Smith:

Resolved that Metropolitan United Church accept the recommendation endorsed by the Board of Elders and Board of Trustees and supported by the Metropolitan Foundation Board to proceed with the sanctuary renovation at an estimated cost of \$1 million, subject to approval from the Antler River Watershed Regional Council. Before contracting for renovations, the Board of Elders and Board of Trustees must be satisfied that sufficient funds have been committed to allow the project to proceed.

The floor was opened for discussion of the motion, and several people on Zoom and in the sanctuary offered well-considered comments and questions that were mainly addressed by Al Edwards. Jeff offered a prayer for guidance prior to the vote being called. Dr. Gregg Redner provided a musical interlude during the short interval when votes were being counted.

The results of the vote were announced as follows:

Number of votes cast: 104

Number of votes in favour of the motion: 100

Number of votes opposed to the motion: 4

The motion was carried, and the meeting was adjourned with prayer.

This was an overwhelmingly positive vote in favour of an exciting opportunity for Metropolitan. There will be lots more to come on this as we develop fundraising plans and secure agreements with Antler River Watershed Regional Council and potential partners in this project.

Submitted by David Spencer