



Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre



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“I’m sorry I stole your car.

Can I give you a ride?”

by Adrian Jacobs, Keeper of the Circle

This statement is ridiculous. It can be made in another way, “I’m sorry we stole your land. We sold it and want to give some of the money back to you.” Colonialism stole Indigenous lands and cast us out of them. We lost our refrigerator, our pharmacy, our sacred sites, our hospital, our home sites – for this is what the land is to us. We are not asking for 100% of the proceeds from our stolen lands. We agreed in treaties to share the land and equity requires us to deal fairly and generously now when lands are being disposed of by churches.

Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre is very appreciative of churches, presbyteries, conferences, General Council, and now regions for their generosity in supporting Indigenous ministries in The United Church of Canada. We are looking forward to 100 years of relationship at General Council 45 in 2025. The United Church is living out its apologies to Indigenous people for colonial theft and Indian Residential School destruction of Indigenous languages, cultures, and community well-being. Congregations right now are sending and considering sending proceeds from the sales of decommissioned churches and we give thanks.

The hard work of climbing the mountain of reconciliation, as Senator and Justice Murray Sinclair, of Canada’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission describes it, has started. Methodist mission in Ontario is almost 200 years old so reconciliation will take a long time and reparations are part of this equitable response. The United Church sits on billions of dollars of property and has seen many more billions of dollars of ministry benefit flow through these churches. An equitable sharing with the original owners of these lands should ensure viable and generous support for Indigenous ministry for the foreseeable future.

Please consider Call #8 for equitable financial support, in the Calls to the Church adopted by General Council 43 in Oshawa, ON, in 2018. Your support for Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre’s ministry training work would be well directed and there are many ways to give.

Learn more about the Calls to the Church at bit.ly/CallstoChurch.



Reparations: A Joyful Release

"Reparations is the making of amends for a wrong that one has done, or from which one has benefitted, by paying money or otherwise helping those wronged. The usual assumption behind charitable giving is that our choice to give is a noble act of altruism above and beyond expectations. In contrast, reparation is a choice arising from our own awareness of our complicity in a harm done and an intentional choice to act responsibly towards repairing that harm—in this case the violence that has been done to Indigenous peoples through settler colonialism and genocide."

"Developing long-term, significant relationships with Indigenous individuals and coming to see how the historical harms and inequity continue to impact their communities is an essential first step in a journey toward reparation. Relationship can shift us from an attitude of scarcity and reluctance to a joyful release."

- By "Share the Gifts – Honour the Treaties", a volunteer group working towards Settler accountability in treaty relationships through sharing the gifts that have come from living on Indigenous land. Learn more at honourthetreaties.ca.

Here's How:

Call on Your Community of Faith

Is your congregation letting go of a building? In the Calls to the Church, Indigenous faith communities of the United Church have called for some of the proceeds of property liquidation to be allocated to Indigenous ministry and justice work. Some congregations have already taken this step. When Meewasin Valley United Church closed as a congregation they saw the opportunity to continue their commitment to social justice by making a gift to Sandy-Saulteaux. (Read more about their story in our December 2018 newsletter.)

Is your church home able to maintain and upgrade their building? Years ago, River East Church, part of the Mennonite Brethren Church of Manitoba, agreed that they would tithe on the amount they spend for buildings and grounds each year to support church institutions that are not well favoured in capital resources. Recognizing the systemic injustice that affects their Indigenous neighbours, they chose to direct their 2021 tithe to Sandy-Saulteaux.

Set an Example

There are many ways for you to support Sandy-Saulteaux as an individual:

- Sign up as a monthly donor to provide reliable support year-round.
- Donate securities for one of the most cost-effective ways to make a gift.
- Talk to you family and trusted advisors about leaving a bequest to SSSC in your will.
- Make a one-time gift by cheque or credit card.

To learn more about supporting Indigenous ministry and cross-cultural education on the road to reconciliation, visit sandysaulteaux.ca/donate or contact robert@sandysaulteaux.ca.

Start with Relationships

For Meewasin Valley United Church, River East Church and many of our individual supporters, their gifts arise out of an intentional commitment to the journey of reconciliation, including a practice of listening to Indigenous voices and reaching out to build relationships.



River East Church members with the Cree and Anishinaabemowin translations of a book on mindfulness they helped fund and distribute.



The congregation of Meewasin Valley United at their Celebrating Spirit event.

Our Story in Our Language

A Many Nations Virtual Teaching House
on the Vision of Indigenous Testamur



Join Susie McPherson Derendy and Adrian Jacobs for a monthly conversation exploring what community leadership training means for Indigenous communities of faith.

February – June

second last Saturday of the month at 10 AM Central

\$25/session or \$75 for the 5-part series.

Participate live or watch the recording.

Contact us to register.

Donor Connections: Marion Hodge



In 1998 my beloved father died, during a time of profound personal struggle. I very much needed to get away and the minister of St. John's United Church, Reverend Lesley King, in Thompson, where I lived, told me about the Centre. I spent a week's retreat there and was treated with such respect and kindness it will stay with me for the rest of my days.

The seven days that I was at the Centre proved to be transformative. In gratitude to Rev. Janet Silman who was there at the time, I made a drawing of her two cats. I surprised myself at how the drawing turned out and she was very pleased to receive this small gift. This encouraged me, upon returning home, to create a little business called Pets by Pencil, Etc. and I really got a lot of pleasure from drawing pet portraits.

This in turn led to a long journey of accepting myself and acknowledging that my role in life is to respond to Creation with creativity. It has been a deep struggle to find myself and, many times, I have been dragged away

from this creative path because of life's circumstances. For this reason, and in deep gratitude to the people of the Circle I have always wanted to support other people's spiritual journeys. I always look forward to receiving the newsletters and it makes me feel, in a small but important way, connected to the Centre.

My spiritual journey, faltering through most of my life, grew roots and wings during the seven days that I spent at the Dr. Jessie Saulteaux Resource Centre. It wasn't just the connection to Rev. Silman. Melody McKellar welcomed me also. She shared a great deal but two ideas have really stayed with me. One is the wisdom of the Grandfathers and the Grandmothers. Melody described the reverence for the grandparent relation of the rocks and stone. She also spoke of the reverence for "All Our Relations". Both of these ways of understanding reality make perfect sense to me and this understanding, this approach to life, informs my creativity.

I hope someday to visit you all in the new Centre and I thank you for all the wonderful ministry that you are performing.

Will you join Marion to help nurture this space where people find roots and wings for their spiritual journey? Give today by mailing in the form on the last page of this newsletter or visit sandysaulteaux.ca/donate to make an easy online gift.

Tell Us Your Story!

We want to know how the Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre has impacted your life.

Email: erica@sandysaulteaux.ca

Kih-ininamowin nah? Nehl algyax'n Gitsanmx'na?

We want to include stories in our newsletter in our languages! Help us celebrate Indigenous languages. Let us know if you speak a language you'd like to see shared in the pages of this newsletter.



Fun in the Snow

Return of the Buffalo is the name given to the work of fostering family wellbeing at Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre. At a family retreat here this March, everyone had a great time playing together outside.

Graduation & Honoured Elders Celebration & Pow Wow

Save the date! On June 4, we're looking forward to gathering in person to celebrate with our students, our elders and all our graduates who completed their studies during the pandemic. Stay tuned for details - we'd love for you to join us too!



Return Undeliverable
Canadian Address to:

Sandy - Saulteaux Spiritual Centre

Box 210
Beausejour, MB
R0E 0C0

Yes, I support the Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre!

With a gift of: ☐ \$35 ☐ \$75 ☐ \$150 ☐ \$300 ☐ Other _____

☐ I would like to make my gift monthly! Please contact me to set this up.

My gift is in honour of _____
(we will acknowledge this gift with the honouree or family if you provide contact information.)

This is an unrestricted gift to the Centre or I wish to designate this gift to:

- ☐ Return of the Buffalo - fostering family well being
- ☐ Legacy Fund - an endowment to provide long-term support
- ☐ General Student Bursary - scholarships for students
- ☐ Dorothy McKay Memorial Fund - scholarships for Manitoba students

Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

☐ I enclose a cheque made out to Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre.

I will donate by: ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard

Name on Card _____

Card Number _____ Expiry Date _____

☐ I am considering including Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre in my will. Please contact me.

☐ I offer prayers for the ministry.

To donate online visit www.sandysaulteaux.ca/donate

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Thank you for your generosity

