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Hope is a song in a weary throat.

- Pauli Murray

2022 Fundraising Highlights | The Best is Yet to Come!

Dear MCC Toronto members and congregants,

While an audit of our 2022 financial results won't begin until next month for a formal presentation at our Annual Church Business Meeting (ACBM) in June, I wanted to share some preliminary fundraising highlights from the fiscal year 2022.

- In April, we publicly launched **ELEVATION – MCC Toronto Campaign** with the announcement that we had raised \$4.75 million toward our \$5 million goal. Since then, I am delighted to report that we have raised **\$5.1 million**. Funds raised through the **ELEVATION** Campaign have supported the 5,000 net square foot renovations of public spaces outside our Sanctuary, the hiring of Bennett “BJ” Jensen as our inaugural Human Rights Director and new human rights programming as well as technology enhancements in our Sanctuary and Social Hall. Of the funds raised, over 80% have come from donors outside our Church family who chose to support us because they believed in our human rights work.
- In July, we announced that the Congregational Campaign in support of **ELEVATION** had raised \$160,000, which was \$10,000 over the fundraising goal. Since that time, a further \$5,000 has been raised. Funds from the Congregational Campaign will support Sanctuary improvements (wall & ceiling repairs, painting, new fans) slated for this summer.
- Our Year-End Appeal, “The Best is Yet to Come,” raised a remarkable \$116,529! This Campaign, along with the Congregational Campaign, marked the first time that MCC Toronto rolled out two major fundraising campaigns in the same calendar year. Together, these Campaigns raised a truly astonishing \$280,000! We are incredibly grateful for the many ways our members, congregants and broader community step

forward in support of our work.

- This past year, MCC Toronto raised a record-setting \$93,000 in major gifts to support our LGBTQ+ Refugee Programs. Even more incredible was the fact that a greater number of these significant gifts came from outside funders who recognize the critical importance of providing services, support and hope to the hundreds of LGBTQ+ Refugees that we serve each year. Many thanks to the following donors for their major gift support of our LGBTQ+ Refugee Programs in 2022: Perrinham Foundation, The Catherine & Maxell Meighen Foundation, Tippet Foundation, Chris Brillinger, Scott McCain & Leslie McLean, The Paul Butler and Chris Black Foundation at Toronto Foundation, and Human Rights Internet.
- This past year, we also secured the first of a three-year commitment of \$35,000 per year from TD Bank Financial Group in support of The Triangle Program, Canada's first LGBTQ+ High School, which has been housed at MCC Toronto since 1995. TD's support, along with long-time program funder RBC Foundation, enables MCC Toronto to continue to host The Triangle Program free of charge. We are grateful to both banks for their enabling support.

Beyond these great fundraising successes, I am happy to report that we are in good financial shape heading into the 2023 calendar year. I look forward to sharing the full results of our financial picture once a formal audit is completed this spring. I would like to extend thanks to **John R. Farrell, MCC Toronto's Director of Development & Communication**, for his continued fundraising leadership and to our hardworking **finance team**. And most importantly, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to you – our members, congregants and donors – whom every day give us the confidence to declare that the best is yet to come!

Shannon Malloch, Executive Director
smalloch@mcctoronto.com

Recognizing Black History Month

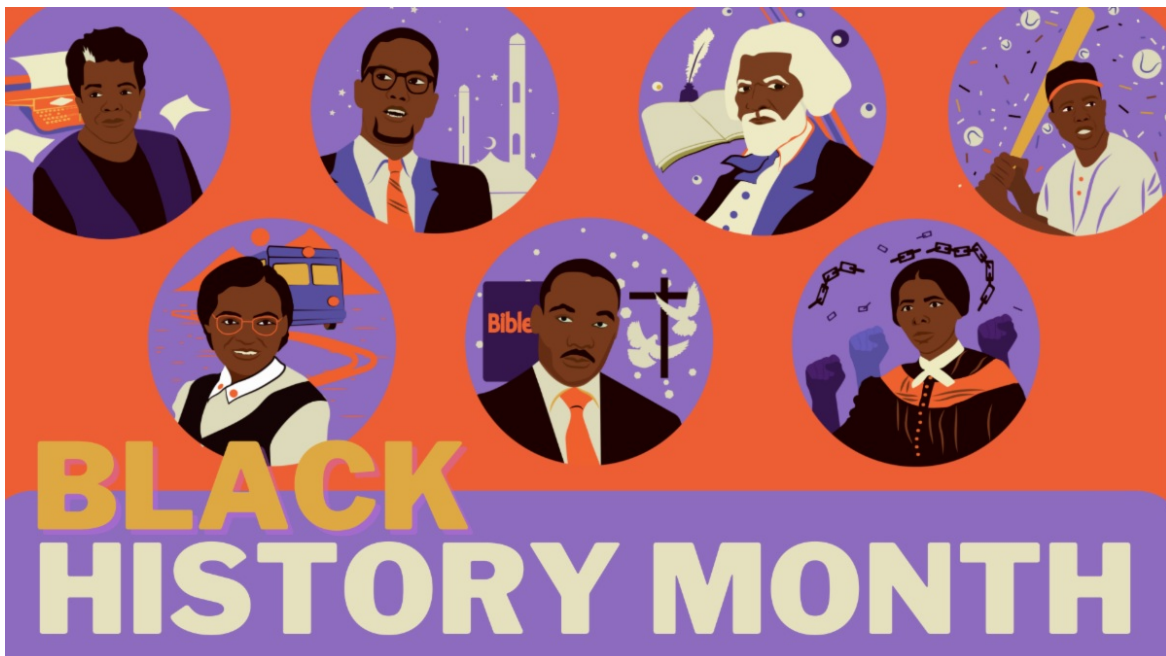


Image source: <https://www.blackillustrations.com>

“We recognize that in many cities and spaces, Queer Black folks still face erasure from the Black community as well as the mainstream queer community. In this space however, we exist. We remember. We hold this space and honour individuals in our community. We remember the work that has been done and we are inspired to do the work that lies ahead.

But most of all, we are reminded that we are not alone and we have always been here.”
— [House of Anansi](#)

February marks the beginning of Black History Month. While we reflect on and celebrate the legacy of Black lives, MCC Toronto would challenge you to lift up, celebrate, listen to, and learn from those in our community who are living Black *queer* lives, specifically. Our friends at [Queer Events](#) (a community resource and connection tool) agree: “the histories and struggles of queer Black communities and contributions are frequently erased and missing from mainstream narratives. Deemed unworthy of saving or even recognized by society, they often remain buried in files and boxes in the homes of the individuals who participated in those activities or faded out of memory. This loss of memory threatens to erase us from the history of the Queer community, and it is vitally important that this space is reclaimed and held.”

To the Black community members: we wish you a joyful time of community and celebration of all your intersecting identities. If you are a white ally of the Black community, we urge you not to be a passive observer this Black History Month. Read about and follow the work of [notable Black Canadians](#), support [Black-owned businesses](#) in the GTA, attend [programs, classes, & exhibits](#), show up to [community events](#), engage with [queer Black creators](#), take in [Black art](#), and — just as we are challenging ourselves to do at MCC Toronto in 2023 — engage in active [self-learning on becoming anti-racist](#).

Our vibrant queer community is blessed with the super-power of support that allows us to lift up one another in a magical way. This February, we invite you to use that gift to uplift those with multi-identities and all of their beautiful intersections. Happy Black History Month!

Black History Month at MCC Toronto

Join MCC Toronto this month as we celebrate Black History Month. Black History is Canadian History, enriching all of us to learn more about it. Beginning at this Sunday’s Worship Service (Feb 5) and continuing through to Feb 26, we will host special Theme Conversations that will spotlight different stories and people in black history, focusing on activism, faith and queerness. This Sunday, Rev. Junia begins our Theme Conversation series by highlighting the life and work of Rev. Pauli Murray, an American civil rights activist, lawyer, gender equality advocate, priest, author, and queer person. [You can read about Rev. Pauli Murray here](#) or [watch Rev. Junia talking about last year on MCC Toronto’s TikTok channel!](#)

This month, Music Director Jason Jestadt has invited two incomparable musical guests - **Billy Newton-Davis (February 5 & 12)** and **Beau Dixon (February 19 & 26)** - along with our amazing Choir of MCC Toronto, to help us celebrate the gospel music, African American spirituals, South African rhythms and contemporary jazz and blues music that is at the beating heart of popular western sacred and secular music. In Jason’s words... “This is the music that uplifts us, calls for social change and expresses cultural pride and deep faith while never shying away from a painful past. It is this music that inspires us to move, fills us with joy or moves us to tears.”

We hope you will join us!

Musical Guest



Billy Newton-Davis is our Offertory Performer this Sunday!

Billy is a singer/songwriter/recording artist and four-time Juno Award winner. He has performed in venues across Europe and North America, sung with artists such as Celine Dion, and is perhaps best known for his extensive work with The Nylons.

Billy also donates his talent towards numerous humanitarian causes, including AIDS awareness, Actors Equity, and housing for people living with mental illness.

[CLICK HERE TO JOIN US FOR THIS SERVICE ONLINE](#)

Town Hall | Sun, Feb 5 | 12:30 PM

REMINDER: The MCC Toronto Board of Directors invites you to join them for a Town Hall meeting to be hosted this Sunday (**February 5**) at **12:30 PM**, following the Worship Service. The Town Hall will allow members and congregants to share their feelings about MCC Toronto in its 50th Anniversary year and to hear further updates on immediate plans, including the search for a new Senior Pastor.

The Town Hall meeting will also be livestreamed. You can click on the link below to watch:

[CLICK HERE TO WATCH](#)

Bible Study | Returns Feb 7 | 7 PM

Bible study returns this Tuesday (**February 7**) at 7 PM. Please click on the link below to join:

[JOIN HERE](#)

Meeting ID: **897 1945 8479**
Password: **559690**

Children's Church | Returns Feb 12

Our every second Sunday Children's Church returns on Sunday, **February 12**, for kids from kindergarten to grade five. No registration is required but please click [here](#) to tell us about your child/children should you be interested in having them take part!


2022 Charitable Tax Receipts Update

REMINDER: MCC Toronto will be sending 2022 charitable tax receipts out via email in mid-February. If you have new email or address information, please pass along your new details to giving@mcctoronto.com. If you would prefer to have a hard copy of your tax receipt mailed to you, please also let us know.

Winter Clothes for Those in Need

MCC Toronto invites our communities to consider donating any gently used winter clothing for men, women, teenagers and kids. This includes coats, boots, hats, gloves, scarves, sweaters, backpacks, and of course, purses and bags!

Items can be dropped off Tuesdays, Thursdays or Sundays. To arrange a drop-off, or to request a pick-up of your items, **contact Margi Wallace** [here](#). Thank you!



**Become a
Monthly Donor**

It is always a pleasure to acknowledge and celebrate members and congregants enrolled in our weekly and monthly giving program! The on-going support of our 300+ sustaining donors is so critical to the work MCC Toronto does everyday, and we are extremely grateful for your gifts. However, like a lot of churches, MCC Toronto has seen our weekly and monthly contributions decline over the past two years. Today, we invite you to consider joining our family of weekly or monthly donors. Whether your gift is \$5 a week, or \$25 a month, every bit helps support our operations. You can sign up on our [website](#) or contact giving@mcctoronto.com for more information.



**Congregational
Care**

Taking care of each other is more important than ever these days, and if you are in need of some care we are here for you. Just hop on the link below and fill out the form to let one of our pastors know about your needs.

Want to learn more about our Congregational Care program? [Watch this video by Rev. Junia Joplin!](#)

[REQUEST CONGREGATIONAL CARE HERE](#)

Every Gift is a Blessing. Please consider making a gift to MCC Toronto.

[DONATE](#)

Online and In-Person Programming February 5 - 11

FEBRUARY 05-11	SUNDAY 05 11 AM - Online and In-Person Sunday Service 12:30 PM - Town Hall	MONDAY 06	TUESDAY 07 7 PM - Bible Study	WEDNESDAY 08
		THURSDAY 09 10:30 AM - Ever Wonder Group Discussion (ZOOM) 3 PM - Digital Fellowship Hall	FRIDAY 10	SATURDAY 11

Sunday:
11 AM - Online and In-Person Sunday Service
12:30 PM - Town Hall

Tuesday:
7 PM- [Bible Study](#)

Thursday:
10:30 AM - Ever Wonder Group Discussion
(Email: everwonder@mcctoronto.com)
3 PM - [Digital Fellowship Hall](#)



Join us for

Online and In-Person Worship Services

Sunday 11 AM | MCC Toronto YouTube

Sunday Service Worship

Online | 11 AM | In-person | MCC Toronto YouTube

Share Us Digitally!

If you know of anyone who might be interested in anything we're doing at MCC Toronto please invite them to join us digitally via the button below.

[SHARE THE QUERY HERE](#)

Questions? Comments? Inquires?
We'd love to hear from you!

Connect with us at communications@mcctoronto.com



Sent with love 

