



# Richmond Hill United Church

10,201 Yonge Street, Richmond Hill, Ontario L4C 3B2

Telephone: (905) 884-1301

Fax: 905-884-1326

www.rhuc.org office@rhuc.org

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Dear Members and Friends of RHUC,

*Generous Spirit* happens each year at this time. We reflect on the life and work of RHUC - why this congregation matters to us, and how as stewards, we can support this faith community in its mission in the neighbourhood, the broader community and the wider world.

We do this by sharing our financial resources, our time and our skills. For those less familiar – the day-to-day life of this church and the maintenance of our buildings are dependent on the financial support of the congregation and resources generated through partnerships and use of our facilities.

**Thank you** for being part of our community – for your financial support, caring for each other, offering leadership, being advocates for justice, filling our services with music, sharing your varied gifts of listening, creativity, hands on skills that care for our aging buildings, and most importantly welcoming newcomers in our midst. So many gifts enrich the life of our congregation and demonstrate why RHUC matters in these turbulent times.

Through our Circle process that concluded in 2018, we committed to becoming a Centre for Community in the village core of Richmond Hill. There are many exciting things happening. We have opened our doors to new partnerships, are expanding our profile in the broader community and new folks from different corners of the world are finding their way into our midst, enriching our faith journeys!

At the same time we have been working diligently to determine the current state of our aging buildings, our financial position and adjusted our governance structure in order to realize our vision and mission. This has been an enormous amount of work and commitment and is at times very challenging! We will be reporting at the Annual Meeting on the first Sunday in March 2020 on the results of our efforts. As we look to the long-term future we also need to focus on the next 3-5 years.

We recognize that these can be challenging economic times, but we are requesting that each household reflect on how you can continue to support the work of this congregation. **Please complete the attached financial pledge form and return it to the church office or on the collection plate by December 8.**

**Please consider an additional contribution to our Building Fund – over and above your contribution to the day-to-day work of the congregation.** We have particular concerns related to the CD building roof and our boilers are nearing the end of their life. While they have been cleaned/maintained we must be prepared for a potential replacement. We are conscious of our environmental footprint and this will be an important consideration.

**Please reflect on your gifts, skills and interests that provide meaning and purpose in your life.** We will need many hands in the days ahead. We may need to let go of some things in order to work on new priorities. Are you up for the challenge?

**On December 12<sup>th</sup> we will be hosting a Building Value Options Matrix Session from 5-9pm.** This will be an exercise facilitated by SHS Consulting that brings together the work that we have done over the past year to help determine our options regarding our facilities. ***If you are interested in participating, you will need to do some homework.*** Please leave your name with the office and we will send you a package of information.

Thank you again for your contribution to the life of this congregation. As we move forward into the future, we are facing some big decisions and likely there will be some substantial changes. It is both an exciting time and a time when people maybe fearful about what lies ahead. But we are not alone - the Spirit of God travels with us!

Blessings,

Generous Spirit Team  
Members of the Board

Mission Action Plan Pilots  
Mission Action Business Plan Team