

# Run-the-Church-for-a-Day!

## Background

The annual cost to operate First-St. Andrew's in 2023 is budgeted at **\$665,000 or about \$1,800 per day**. This amount includes all staff salaries, administrative costs, committee budgets, utilities, cleaning, repairs and regular maintenance, contracted services, the UCC assessment, insurance, and municipal taxes.

Excluded from this analysis are major capital maintenance and renovation projects which are generally funded from trust fund income, and our UCC Mission & Service Fund contribution which is funded directly by the designated givings of members and adherents.

For 2023, operating expenses will exceed revenue, leading to a projected operating budget deficit of approximately \$60K. And for 2024, an even larger deficit is predicted based on currently available information and patterns.

In June 2023 Council approved a multiyear, multipoint plan to create a sustainable operating budget for FSA. The latest version of this plan is available on the FSA website. One of the items in that plan is an initiative to appeal to the FSA community to help run the church for a day by making a donation explicitly for this purpose while providing the opportunity to publicly dedicate the gift to a particular individual, group, special occasion, or a church activity or program.

Our deficit situation for 2023 makes it clear that approximately 30 days, or one month, in the calendar year are "unfunded". One way to cover some of the unfunded days is a direct appeal to the FSA community to help to run the church. While most of us cannot afford an incremental contribution of \$1800 in order to run the FSA for a whole day, many are in a position to consider helping to run the church for one day. Collectively, we have the potential to cover some number of the unfunded days through this initiative.