

The Ministers Manifesto

September 21st, 2022

Hello to all in this Autumn season,

I arrived here in Oyen, AB, earlier than some had expected. I officially came to Oyen on August 21, 2022, after the summer camp season ended. I had the honour of spending all summer at Camp Shagabec, located in the beautiful Cypress hills on the Saskatchewan side of the Interprovincial park. This is an incredible United church camp est. in 1938 where everyone has always been welcomed and accepted for who they are, as they are. I may be biased, but this Camp has been a part of my life for the past eight years. The people gave me a place to call home, to belong, to be accepted, welcomed and uplifted for who I am, as I am. After getting kicked out of the camp next door that I attended for ever a decade and worked at for the last three years of that time. All for who I am, for standing by God, with God and for God's truth and love. So with all this being said, my summers are dedicated to giving back to Camp Shagabec for what the people and camp have given me over these past eight years. In my darkest and most challenging moments, they were there. I could never repay what Camp Shagabec has given me, but giving back through my time, commitment, energy, and summers is a small step that allows other kids to receive the same love, welcome and acceptance I have. I and all of us at Camp Shagabec do what needs to be done, and here for the children, that makes it all possible.

So, after an incredible summer in the place I love the most, I rode on a high when I came to Oyen. This feeling has carried on through my time as the Minister for the Big Country United Churches. God's call led me to these unique communities of faith and

the four communities they are situated in. The moment I got to these communities, I felt a sense of peace, of feeling this as the right place to be but, most importantly, the place I am called to be. That, for me, is an essential part of God's call to be here, the discernment behind hearing and answering that call.

I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity and faith these churches and communities have in me, to be their minister and to be involved in the communities as a fellow neighbour. These incredible, beautiful and unique people of these churches have accepted and uplifted me, allowing my crazy beautiful ADHD brain to spew out all kinds of new and exciting ideas to help move us in a new direction. A very bright future is ahead of us. I take no credit for this. It is because of the willingness, eagerness, love, passion, acceptance and upliftment of the communities of the Big Country United Churches. As a minister, a new minister and for a first charge or, in my case, a first 4. Charge is so refreshing. It is so encouraging. You all do not want to give up; you have the love, passion and drive to fight.....to thrive, not just survive. I can promise I will be here and help in every way I can to see us become sustainable and hopefully grow for as long as I can. I had a massive reality check today. My heart, love, call and commitment are here with all of you. I have huge goals, plans and hopes for the Big Country United Churches.

However, the financial reality of our situation sunk in recently. As the Big Country United Churches, we are suffering financially as of right now. We can not support a full-time minister. We also face the reality of this financial situation in all aspects of our ministry, including our building. Churches do not just exist. Churches cost a lot to stay open. Our ministry has been a statement in Our community since the founding of Oyen. Our mission is to give back and support those in our communities who are in need. We run on the weekly donations and fundraising we do throughout the year. As the incredibly generous members of our church have aged and been called to their heavenly homes, we no longer have the numbers to be sustainable. This means the ministry and outreach we provide for the community, through the ministerial, food bank, donating and supporting community events, support for families, funerals, weddings, and activities done within our building, will no longer be possible if this continues. This means these

services provided, the support for the community and those who need it will not be able to continue. This means things such as the food bank, back-to-school supplies, financial support for those suffering for many reasons, those who need help to eat every month etc., will be gone. Our churches are suffering. If we, the churches, are forced to close, the community will end up suffering. This also means there will be a time I physically can not continue. However, the future is bright, and we have time and the ability to change that. My hope and prayer, along with my commitment, love and call from God, will not change for all of you and our communities. This is where God has called me too.

I strongly believe in Matthew 18:19–20 (NRSV): “19 Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. 20 For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am among them.”

We need the community's help by donating to help us as The Big Country United Churches. You can contribute in many ways without putting money on the offering plate on Sundays. We understand life is busy, and Sunday is the day many people have to relax, rest and don't need to leave the house after returning from hockey tournaments and other sports activities. To support and cheer your children on representing our communities and kick butt. You can donate in many ways.

The church's work needs many hands, and we appreciate your support to be a vibrant, supportive presence in our communities.

1. Your support will help keep our buildings warm and dry, so we can host events such as soup and sandwich luncheons, concerts, and worship and offer hospitality during community and personal crises, celebrations of life, spiritual nurture and welcome.
2. Your support will help us continue to share the leadership and pastoral skills of a Minister who serves all of our communities.

Your tax-deductible donations can be a one-time or a scheduled monthly offering or, when in-person worship, be given weekly as you attend worship. **How to donate:**

- Mail your cheque, made out to your church of choice, to Box 392, Oyen, Alberta, T0J 2J0.
- Fill in a PAR form (attached below) and mail, with a voided cheque, to the above address. This will authorize a monthly support amount to be given directly to the church from your bank account. In addition, using the PAR Program ensures that our Treasurer receives an accurate list of all those who are donating through monthly amounts.
- Or send your donation by E-Transfer. Don't forget to put in the notes if this is for Local or Mission and Service Funds. No Password is needed.

Oyen United Church: OUCetransfers@gmail.com

Cereal United Church: CUCetransfers@gmail.com

Thank you,

Pastor. Shane Goldie



PAR AUTHORIZATION FORM

(For new PAR donors and to make changes to banking details)

PAR congregational number: _____

Name of church PAR contact: _____

Phone number: _____

Envelope # _____ Gift amount: \$ _____

Name of local church: _____

This gift to the above local church is to benefit

Local church: \$ _____ Mission and Service Fund: \$ _____ Other: \$ _____

This donation/payment is made by: ☐ Individual(s) ☐ Business

Name: _____ Preferred addressee on mailings ☐

Name 2: _____ (optional) ☐

Name 3: _____ (optional) ☐

Street number/unit: _____ Street name: _____

City: _____ Province: _____ Postal code: _____

E-mail: _____

Option 1: Pre-authorized debit

Please attach a **VOID** cheque.

I/We request/authorize The United Church of Canada to debit my/our account on the 20th of every month, starting the 20th of _____, 20 _____. I/we also recognize and agree to the following:

- I/we may change the amount of my contribution at any time by contacting our church PAR contact.
- I/we have certain recourse rights if any debit does not comply with this agreement. For example, I have the right to receive reimbursement for any debit that is not authorized or is not consistent with this PAR agreement. To obtain more information on my recourse rights, I may contact my financial institution or visit www.cdnpay.ca.
- I/we waive my right to receive pre-notification of the amount of pre-authorized remittance (PAR) and agree that I do not require advance notice of the amount of PAR before the debit is processed.

Option 2: Visa or Mastercard

Please note that a 2-3% service charge reduces the total of your donation.

Card number: _____ Expiry: _____ MM YY

Name on card: _____

Signed: _____ Dated: _____



How to Participate

GOD'S MISSION OUR GIFTS

If you have automatic withdrawals from your bank account to pay your bills, taxes, or mortgage, then you already understand the PAR principle.

Besides being convenient, using PAR for your offering ensures regular monthly givings to help our church's ministry even when you are away. You will be providing our congregation a dependable flow of contributions, which increases our overall financial stability. Why not participate in PAR?

Your regular giving supports the local ministry of our congregation.

Your giving for Mission and Service helps people overcome poverty, helps train new ministers, equips leaders, sends chaplains into communities, and sends mission personnel to serve M&S partners around the world. You give support to Aboriginal ministries and remote congregations. In Canada and around the world, your Mission and Service gifts support vibrant and vital ministries for the healing of the world.

1. Prayerfully decide what you will give each year, and divide that amount by 12.
2. Fill out the authorization form, and attach a cheque marked "VOID."
3. Enclose both in an envelope and place on the offering plate, give to our designated PAR contact person, or leave at the church office.
4. The amount will be transferred from your account to our congregation's account on the 20th of each month. You can modify or cancel your donation, change how it is designated, or change your information at any time.
5. Making an offering is an important part of our worship time together. We will give you PAR cards to place on the offering plate as a symbol of your gift.

Our congregation's contact person:

Name:

Phone number:

For more information please contact
par@united-church.ca or
 call 1-800 268-3781, ext. 3050 or 3152.

