



December 11, 2022

Dear New Vision Family and Friends,

May the blessings of the season rest upon you!

The waiting time of Advent invites us to reflect on the year that has been. I know that I speak for all New Vision Council when I say how deeply grateful I am for the ongoing abundant generosity of this faith community. So many of you share your gifts on a regular basis: thank you!

This year, we have solidified our practice of hybrid online / in-person worship services, gradually becoming used to this new normal. We have been blessed to see how our online presence continues to bring together worshipers both local and international. Meanwhile, the resumption of in-person events meant that it was possible for New Vision to participate in the 2022 edition of Hamilton Pride. For the first time ever, we were able to partner with three other local Affirming United churches, creating an eye-catching and welcoming presence together. Recent events in Hamilton and in the broader world, though, continue to demonstrate why Affirming work is life-giving, life-saving work.

At The Music Hall, we have seen important renovations. The old carpet and linoleum flooring was removed thanks to the hard work of a large number of Threshold Partners and friends. Subsequently, a new stage, customized for the needs of the venue was installed. We were excited to see performances return to The Music Hall this autumn with a rich diversity of entertainment from Loreena McKennitt to The Canadian Arabic Orchestra, amongst others.

Yet we are also aware that all of this work, and our continuing pastoral mission, comes at a cost. Our Threshold Partners give generously of their time and resources through the year, but a budget gap remains. I ask you, therefore, to consider making a special Christmas donation to New Vision in order to ensure our community's financial stability through 2023.

I continue to believe strongly that living the Gospel means living, working, seeking, and listening for calls for justice from all parts of Creation – especially those which the world considers the least. When we listen, we realise that God's call is not one of rigidity, spiritual exceptionalism, or legalism; but one of deep love, communal growth, and imagination. New Vision's commitment to Belonging first is one expression of this, as is our Affirming advocacy and our Intercultural learning. We work to embrace the living dynamism of scripture as it relates to our real world context, without showiness or trendy performance. This is a Gospel message that is not common, and, I would argue, needed in downtown Hamilton.

This is why I ask you to consider a special donation.

Please know, however, that it is your presence and witness that is paramount. We are grateful for every gift of time and talent.

Yours in faith community,

Dixon Challoner  
New Vision United Church, Council Chair

PS We do not have special Christmas appeal envelopes; however, you can mail a cheque addressed to New Vision or donate online at [www.newvisionunited.org/donatenow/](http://www.newvisionunited.org/donatenow/) or by etransfer to [payments@newvisionunited.org](mailto:payments@newvisionunited.org) and note Christmas on the memo line.