



Called to Renewal (2011-2013)

A financial campaign to renew Calling Lakes Centre



Calling Lakes Centre • (306) 332-5691 • www.callinglakes.ca

Calling Lakes Centre is the solid, living proof of the miracles that can result from responding to the call of the Spirit. Sixty years ago visionary people heard the whisper of the Spirit and dreamed of creating a special place where lay people could learn and grow as leaders in the church. What a dream that was -- to build the Prairie Christian Training Centre on the prairie hills in the Qu'Appelle Valley on the shores of Echo Lake.



Prairie people heard the Spirit and responded with whatever they were able to give, whether useful items, money or time or particular skills.

Who would support such an undertaking? How could the financial and personal resources be found to succeed? Dr. Bill Clarke, the first Director of the Centre, along with other key leaders such as Elmer Leaker and Wilbur Howard, responded with total commitment that often meant great challenges involving both themselves and their families.

On July 1, 1951, the Prairie Christian Training Centre became a reality. Their great work continued for years and the dream grew and grew, inspiring United Church folks throughout Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario and beyond.

In 2011 we celebrate both the Centre's beginnings and the dreams and accomplishments that have brought growth and transformation to the Centre as its context and surroundings changed.

With the continued prodding of the Spirit, the Centre has risked real change by:

- becoming more inclusive and welcoming of all people;
- providing informative, challenging and inspirational programs, where ministry personnel and lay people become learners and teachers together;
- giving leadership and encouraging real discussion and action in response to difficult issues;
- and, even changing its well-loved name so that people from outside the United Church might know Calling Lakes Centre as their Centre too.



The first building and the first students.

Calling Lakes Centre needs your help!

For 60 years PCTC-Calling Lakes Centre, has operated as efficiently, effectively and as frugally as possible. The Centre has been frugal out of necessity. While a balanced budget has often been achieved, there have rarely been excess profits that could be put away for future large renovations and significant maintenance. Several times over the decades, the Centre has had to adapt to unexpected expenses and changes in income by relying on its small reserves and by borrowing money.

The Centre can no longer continue in this way. Its buildings, although solid, are now 60 years old and need significant upgrading so that they may serve the Centre into the future. Operating the Centre with no reserves puts an unacceptable level of stress on the Board and staff.

We have a huge dilemma!

On the one hand, the Centre cannot be sustainable, either financially or environmentally, unless financial resources are found for the following purposes.

The facilities need to be renewed and upgraded. The Centre needs sufficient financial reserves to eliminate its dependence upon credit. For future sustainability, the Centre needs to expand its current overnight accommodation so that it may house as many people as the meeting rooms and dining room can accommodate.

On the other hand, Calling Lakes Centre presently is a spirit-filled active education and retreat centre, a prairie treasure, that has been consistently supported by the faithful Friends of the Centre, UCW groups and congregations.

The Centre not only provides its own creative, innovative and inclusive programming, it serves a variety of organizations, including United Church groups and events.



Its hosting clientele continues to grow, having served diverse groups such as the University of Regina teachers in training; the Bethlehem Church women's retreat; Health Canada training sessions for health workers on First Nations reserves; Tribal Councils; family reunions and special occasions; and, almost 25 years of the annual

Saskatchewan Federation of Labour Youth Camp. The Centre's relationship with First Nations people has become closer and more trusting each year.

Over the past decade, an average of 550 people have attended Centre Programs each year. Annually, another 1500 people have been hosted at the Centre, enjoying the facilities, the generous spirit and the community atmosphere found here.



Calling Lakes Centre is truly living out its mission statement.

The purpose of Calling Lakes Centre is to provide a sacred space where all people are welcome:

- to search
- to be challenged
- to question
- to rest
- to learn
- to find the Holy within and around them



We are called to the future

A meaningful and dynamic future awaits Calling Lakes Centre as it moves onward.

PROGRAMS

Models of adult education and experiential learning:

The Centre is uniquely able to support, encourage and educate leaders in this time of change and upheaval in our church.

Designated Lay Ministry: This essential program for training ministry personnel who provide vital leadership in pastoral charges of all sizes is a challenging new endeavour for the Centre.

Spiritual exploration: At the Centre people join with others in community and are supported and challenged to explore deeply and take risks. The peaceful setting with its natural beauty draws people away from their routine existence and gives them the space they need to experience real and lasting spiritual growth. When people are strengthened spiritually they are better able to identify and address justice issues in their personal lives, their communities and the world.



ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE FACILITIES

Renovations:

- Shingles and roof repair for guest halls
- Window replacement to reduce heat loss
- Siding and extra insulation for all buildings
- Bathroom upgrades and plumbing repair and other improvements
- Significant grading and drainage improvements for the site

Energy audit leading to possible upgrades such as:

- solar array for hot water heating for main building
- wind energy or geo-thermal energy

Practical beauty:

- gardens, herbs
- secluded corners for meditation and reflection

Goals for the Financial Campaign

Phase I

Financial Security

- debt reduction and establishment of a reserve fund
\$200,000

Facilities Renewal, including:

- Roofs and shingles for guest halls
- Energy audit
- Insulation and new siding for all buildings
- New insulating windows for dining room
- Plumbing
- Interior renovations and upgrades, particularly for bathrooms

\$200,000

Site improvements, including:

- Grading and drainage
- Gardens – herbs, flowers, some vegetables

\$30,000

Phase 2

Develop plans for expansion

Green energy production, including:

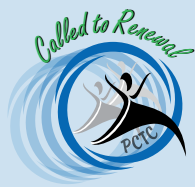
- Solar array for main building hot water
- Installation of wind turbines or large solar arrays
\$170,000

Phase 3

Facilities Expansion

- The vision for this phase is to construct a new building that would enlarge the available overnight accommodation and make it possible to provide a variety of accommodation choices (single, double, family, group) at differing rates.

This phase will require significant expenditures exceeding a million dollars.



Prairie people heard the Spirit and responded to this great vision long ago.

May we hear anew the call of the Spirit for our time.

Help keep this prairie treasure alive and vibrant by responding to

The Call for Renewal

