

Outreach & Community

We serve the wider community through activities and programs such as:

- Free monthly **community** dinners
- Acting as an order pick-up station for Edmonton Food Bank
- Free bag lunches 3 days a week
- Choral Morphosis
 - A choir for people with disabilities
- Providing space for AA and NA meetings
- Free Yoga Class
- Soul OUTing
 - Monthly LGBTQ2S+ worship services
- “Messy Wednesdays”
 - Meals & activities for young families
- Mom’s and Dad’s group
- Sponsoring refugees
- Spirited Arts Movement
- Supporting the Bissell Centre, Inner City Pastoral Ministry, Operation Friendship, and Hope Mission.
- Administering and disbursing trust funds to the benefit of local charities totaling over \$50,000 per year.



How Are We Funded?

Robertson-Wesley is funded through offerings, donations, and bequests. We are completely reliant on the generosity of the people we serve. We receive no money for operating costs from the national United Church or the Government.

We also raise money by renting our space to tenants, recurring **community** groups and one-time events, concerts, as well as wedding rentals.

By donating to R-W you contribute to our Outreach programs, ministry and the operations of our historic building. Donations to the church can be made by cash, cheque, Pre Authorized Remittance (PAR), e-transfer, or through Paypal on our website. Because Robertson-Wesley is a registered charity, tax receipts will be issued for annual donations exceeding \$20. All we need is your name and address with your donation.

Social Justice

At Robertson-Wesley, we understand it’s not enough to say “All are welcome.” We need to live it by affirming and celebrating each person’s unique gifts, including those in the LGBTQ2S+ **community**. When we say all are welcome we mean in all rituals, ceremonies and programs we offer at the church, including marriage.

While recognizing that we will always have work to do, we are striving to be a **community** that accepts everyone. As an Affirming Congregation, we commit to take a public stance for the **inclusion** of all people in both the church and the broader **community**.

As part of our continued commitment to living out Truth & Reconciliation, we wish to acknowledge that the land on which we gather is Treaty 6 territory and a traditional meeting ground for many Indigenous peoples.

The Arts

We believe that the world can be healed and transformed and that justice can be served through self-expression. We express ourselves through visual arts, drama, writing, movement, voicing, music, and digital arts.

The **Spirited Arts Movement** is committed to bringing people together, and creating space for all ages to be inspired and to have their artistic selves unleashed. This is a movement and one that is ever changing and evolving AND definitely one you want to be a part of.



Our **Music Ministry** follows in the practice of ancient times, singing and the playing of instruments have been important elements in communal worship, and quality music has always been a significant part of the work and worship of Robertson-Wesley United Church.

Robertson-Wesley is home to several musical groups that enhance our worship: Robertson-Wesley Choir, Robertson-Wesley Ringers, Nova Bells, Cantilon Choirs, and Choral Morphosis.

Who Are We?

Robertson-Wesley is a congregation of The United Church of Canada, and is a progressive and caring **community**. We are a place of inclusion & diversity, artistic exploration, community partnerships, outreach, healing, spirituality, and of historic architectural beauty.

We welcome approximately 9,000+ people through our doors every month. We are **accepting** to all and are continually broadening and exploring our faith through art, music, movement and worship. You do not have to be a member of the church to participate, if you are here you already **belong**.

Theology & the Bible

All are welcome regardless of their faith tradition. We welcome theological diversity. If you have faith questions, this is the place to explore them.

The Bible is the common source of our faith, but members are not required to adhere to any particular interpretation or any of its formulations of doctrine. It is a source of wisdom, inspired by God (not the literal word of God). We read the Bible in its context. This means that we acknowledge that what was experienced when the Bible was written doesn't necessarily fit with today's world.



History

We celebrated our 100th year in 2013! The cornerstone of the building was laid on July 1, 1913 and the first Sunday service was held on January 25th, 1914. Robertson-Wesley United Church was born through the union of two historic churches: Wesley Methodist Church and Robertson Presbyterian Church.

Built of Redcliff brick and faced with Chicago limestone, the architectural style of the church is an adaptation of High Victorian Gothic Revival. The interior was designed in the congregational style, with curved pews and balconies. The World Wars and the Depression of the 1930's delayed new construction until the 1950's, when Memorial Hall and the Chapel were erected.

Robertson-Wesley was declared a Historic Heritage building in 1989. The 100-foot steeple of the church is a landmark and an important symbol of the congregation. Combined with stylized wind representing the Spirit, it was incorporated into a new church logo in 2008.

In 2009, we became an Affirming Congregation, solidifying our commitment to take a public stance for the inclusion of all people in both the church and the broader **community**.

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R-W is wheelchair accessible via the west side glass doors and we have wheelchair accessible bathrooms. Large print bulletins, large print hymn books, and hearing devices are available from the ushers.



Please take this brochure!



Welcome!

Please know you already **belong** here and are welcome to participate in any of the activities of the congregation.



Statement of Welcome & Inclusion

We open our hearts and our church family to all people in our community regardless of sexual orientation, age, gender identity, differing abilities, ethnicity, or economic circumstances. Many people's lives continue to be devastated by hatred, prejudice, and inequality, therefore we stand with those who are adversely affected by injustice, alienation and oppression.