

gateway

Our
Annual
report
for
2023

*Together, we desire to be a church of resilient disciples of Jesus,
committed to bringing God's Kingdom whoever we are, wherever we go.*



dear
**Gateway
Whaanau,**

It is our pleasure to be able to share with you the Gateway 2023 Annual Report. In it you will see a reflection on the year that's been and the year ahead.

It has certainly been a year of change, in the midst of the many events of 2023, there was the establishment of a new Trust, we said farewell to a couple of staff and welcomed some replacements; we moved our staff to new offices, and throughout all of this we are reminded that our God goes before us, that He surrounds us and that He is above and beneath.

The staff team that serves Gateway are truly a remarkable bunch of people, I count it a privilege to walk alongside and see their heart for God and for our family. Our new offices have helped facilitate a strong sense of unity and a refreshed collaborative approach to what we are called to do. Don't forget to pop in and say hello!

Our governance structures are now in place and functioning well, we are very grateful to have the support, guidance and leadership from our Trustees, our Leadership Team and our Advisory Board. That said, we will continue to visit aspects of our structure and our processes, this ensures we maintain and, in turn, increases our foundational governance framework.

Finally, thank you all for your support and encouragement throughout the year. I ask for your continued prayer as we launch into 2024.

Whoever we are, wherever we go!



Mike Frew
General Manager

from
our
Senior
Leaders



from our Senior Leaders

As we look back upon the past year, we are filled with gratitude for the many ways God has been at work in our midst. It has been exciting to see the themes of Go, Good News and Community we shared in our Heart and Hope Sunday in February, interwoven into what we do as a faith community.

We continue to celebrate the spiritual growth within our congregation. From the baptisms that marked the beginning of new journeys in Christ to the countless testimonies shared in our Connect Groups and our smaller gatherings.

Another year has shown our collective commitment to prayer, Bible study, and worship and has deepened our understanding of God's Word and strengthened our connection with Him.

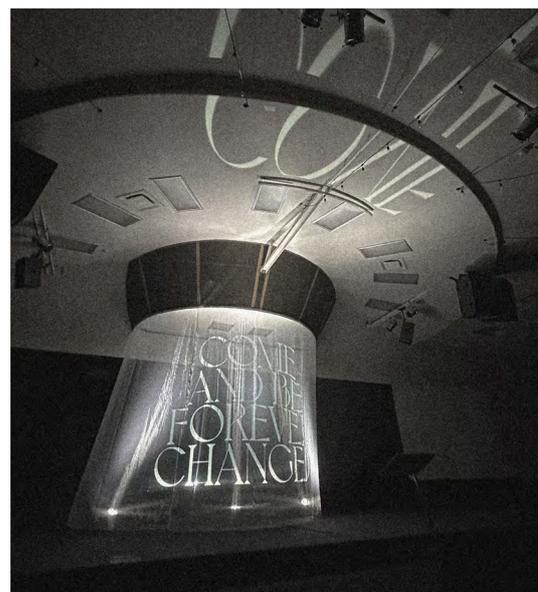
Acknowledging the challenges is crucial for growth. We have faced obstacles, uncertainties, and times of difficulty, and this has included the loss of Karen Barry. Karen served in pastoral ministry for four decades, including as the co-founding pastor of our faith community. There are few words to adequately express the deep sense of pain and loss we have felt. But through it all, we've witnessed the resilience and faithfulness of our congregation. This and other challenges have become opportunities for us to lean on God, support one another, and grow in our dependence on His guidance.

In closing, we express our deep gratitude for your unwavering support, love, and commitment to the work of God in our midst. It is an honour and privilege to serve alongside each of you.

Senior Leaders



Pastoral Team



from our Pastoral Team

As a Pastoral Team, our overarching role is to connect with those who call Gateway home.

Often that connection involves walking with people through periods of deep hurt, pain and crisis, but also through times of celebration and joy.

Our year is peppered with such celebrations as dedications, baptisms, weddings and funerals, as well as meeting with people over coffee, or for prayer or pastoral support.

Sylvia has specific responsibility for our Sunday prayer teams, the crisis prayer team, our Wednesday morning prayer and personal prayer ministry, as well as pastoring our retirees.

Christine has continued to provide ChangeMakers which is a course focused on resilience for members of the wider Hamilton community.

Thank you to all who have supported us as a team in so many various ways.

Hope, Chris, Sylvia, Christine and Jan



Missions



Missions

Once again this past year Gateway has been engaged in outreach and missions both locally and globally.

Through your generous support, we've been able to partner with community organisations, support missions abroad, and respond to the needs of those facing hardships. The impact of many collective efforts has brought hope to many.

In what was a busy year for Missions, one of the highlights was that we were able once again, to host here at Gateway the missionaries we support who are based and/or working overseas. This is something we currently aim to do every 4 years and again this year proved to be a rich time of fellowship and encouragement for both our missionaries and our wider Gateway family.

We are thrilled to report that our missionaries have continued to thrive in their respective fields.

Another highlight was local. At the start of the year we were invited to be involved in helping feed families who are living in the motels on Ulster St. Due to the hard work and support of our Gateway community, we have been able to serve the needs of many people including children, throughout 2023 and this is continuing on in 2024.

The heart of our missions work lies in the stories of transformation. Lives have been changed, communities impacted and individuals brought into the fold of God's grace and we are thankful for the role everyone has played in this.



Chris Jones

Missions Team Leader

Connections



Connections

Connect Groups

It has been so encouraging to be a part of what is happening in connections at Gateway this year. 2023 has seen more people desiring connection within the wider church, especially among the young adults 18-30 (ish) age group. Overall, we have grown to approximately 21 connect groups, 5 of which are new this year. We are committed to providing groups to cater for all ages and stages of life and faith, so continue to have conversations with potential new leaders in order to grow this area further.

Thank you to those who give of themselves and their time in leading a connect group, to help grow more resilient disciples of Jesus.

Alpha

2023 saw the re-establishment of Alpha at Gateway. We ran our course in term 3 and it was attended by on average 7 people. We saw firsthand how God used Alpha to draw close to people and help them open themselves to Him a little more, start a friendship with Him or dive deeper into knowing Him. Intentional discipleship is following this.

New to Gateway Event

We have reimagined what our 'New to Gateway' event could look like in order to allow us to do this 4 times a year. In October we had our first one for 2023, on a Sunday morning before the Gathering. People who want to know what makes Gateway tick, came and heard about our vision and values along with other integral things in the life our church like connection, giving, volunteering and who our staff and leadership are etc.

2024

2024 will be a year of consolidating the things we kicked off in 2023, helping those who are new to Gateway feel known and connected. Continuing with the development of Connect Groups, resourcing existing leaders and development of some new leaders and finally focusing on the strength of the Alpha program by training further leaders so that this wonderful gift becomes embedded as part of Gateway



Ana Reddish
Connections Lead

Worship Team





Worship Team

2023 for us as a worship team has been incredibly fulfilling as we released our first-ever Homegrown batch of songs on Spotify. We have been encouraged as several other local churches have contacted us as they have resonated with the songs and have started incorporating them in their gatherings. This month we have had over 2,000 active listeners to the album, mainly in the United States and Aotearoa, but also in the Philippines, the UK, Australia, Canada and Germany. It is so exciting to see the “scattered seeds” starting to bear fruit and carry the blessing from our community to others around the world!

Some other key highlights from the year include taking a number of our team up to a Venn Seminar in Auckland in March on “Why Art and Artists Matter” by Dr. Adrienne Chaplin, hosting our second worship and creative conference “Two or More” in July, being part of a combined worship night with other local churches in May at Activate Church, and in August road tripping it up to Life FM in Auckland to do an interview and sing one of our Homegrown songs live on air. As a worship team we also connected with the Fairfield Community Centre who gave us a database of people in Hamilton who were struggling to heat their homes last winter and were able to process and deliver 23 large trailer loads of donated firewood. We would like to especially mention Matt and Julie Harrison and Nathan and Claire Ruffell who gave generously of their time, tools, and skills to make this labour of love a reality.

As part of our ongoing development of the next generation of worshippers, we had the privilege of having some of our Tribe, Emerge, and Crave kids lead worship at our first two Family Worship Gatherings this year, as well as continuing to develop the Crave Band on a regular basis as they lead their peers in worship at Crave. We are continually grateful for the privilege of serving the Gateway whaanau in our gathered times of worship and look forward with anticipation to 2024 being another exciting year together..

For 2024 the team is looking forward to kicking the year off with a slot at Festival One, and then exploring other options for continuing to bless other communities with our songs and our people. We are also looking to ministering in rest homes on Sunday afternoons, do another “Firewood Shout”, and begin writing songs for the next homegrown project. As part of our ongoing rhythm, we look forward to continuing to develop our Tribe, Emerge, and Crave musicians, and to joining with our Gateway whaanau for worship at our gatherings as we minister to the Lord and look with joyful anticipation for Him to move tangibly in our midst.



Nick Kraenzlin
Worship Team Leader



Generations Team



Generations

Summary 2023

It's been a year full of events, some expected some not, from staff, to room changes, to new spaces and leadership changes. But we made it! and we've seen massive growth from the team and in their areas of responsibility, we are so proud of what each person brings to the team that looks after our 0-30 age group.

Focus for 2024

We have taken the opportunity over recent months to review the structure that supports our Generations area and have reached a decision that helps better define the age-groups and leadership.

We will therefore split our areas to better recognise their different life stages:

'Gateway Kids' - 0 years to 12 Years

(with oversight from Annabelle Russell)

'Gateway Youth' - 13 Years to 30ish Years

(with oversight from Luke Waterhouse)

Our focus however doesn't change, we remain committed to seeing our young people, youth and young adults become resilient disciples of Christ.



Luke Waterhouse
Generations Team Leader

Young Adults

Focus for 2024

Our 18-30ish age group is an area that will see some focus in 2024, following the restructure of leadership of our Generations ministry (Now 'Gateway Kids' and 'Gateway Youth') we have a desire to ensure this age group is led into maturity in Christ through worshipping together, studying the Word together and being in community.

Crave

Summary 2023

The year has been an incredible time of growth within our leaders and our young people, we started the year off with our own Easter camp and then focussed our attention on a structured year.

Focus for 2024

Building from 2023 we want to continue to see the layers of Emerge, Crave, and Young Adults covered well and ensure that there are good transition plans in place as they move through their various life stages. We will also continue to identify leaders to support this work.

Emerge

Summary 2023

It has been a great year being able to lead our intermediates in how to love Jesus and have a relationship with Him. We've covered topics like 'wise friends', 'how God can use you', 'doubt', 'fear', and 'stretching your faith'.

Focus for 2024

We are delighted to have Hayleigh Rossetter take the lead with this important age group and so there will be a period of transition in 2024, however the overarching goal is to ensure that Emerge continues to be a safe place for our intermediates to explore questions about their faith journey as they grow in their discipleship with Jesus.

Tribe

Summary 2023

2023 has been a year with great opportunities to connect with our families and Tribe kids to help grow their Christian faith and build deeper church friendships, especially after the last few covid years.

Some highlights this year include successfully creating and moving our Zion (Years 5 & 6) kids into a new room to enjoy a bit more space and learn in a large group setting targeted for their specific age group. This has helped us offer 6 sessions at the end of the year for our Year 6 kids to make a smooth transition up to Emerge next year for their time as Intermediates. Our Zion & Emerge Skate night was a fabulous social time with both these age groups connecting together.

Every Sunday morning we have welcomed a continual flow of new kids transitioning up from Juniors in Kingdom throughout the year into our Eden (Years 0-2) room. Our faithful leaders are able to help and engage with these kids in small group activities and our large group where we hear a bible story each Sunday morning.

Focus for 2024

We continue to focus on teaching our kids in the way of Jesus and his word, helping them grow as resilient disciples. As we have new leaders come and serve each year we want to train them to ensure we have dedicated and skilled volunteers working with our kids. Building strong volunteer teams, including parents, actually helps us impact the current generation of kids and teach them in their journey to follow Jesus. Part of our mission in Tribe is to partner with families in nurturing and sharing the Christian faith with their children. Each month we explore a different theme through various bible stories, you can find this information and prompts for chatting to your kids about faith on our Tribe page on our Gateway Website or our church app.

Kingdom

Summary 2023

We have had some amazing times of connection with our families during Summer Splash, Easter Egg Hunt Event and Coffee & Koorero. Kids have been enjoying our refreshed Kingdom rooms, building friendships with each other and their leaders while developing a deeper understanding of who God is. We have amazing teams of volunteer leaders across our rooms on a Sunday morning who we are so grateful for.

Focus for 2024

To continue to provide a welcoming, safe and enjoyable environment for our kids to be in as they form their first impression of God's love. We also want to support our parents and caregivers as they parent and lead their kids in faith, as with Tribe you can find resources for leading your family in faith chats on our Gateway Kids page on the website.

Mainly Music

Summary 2023

We have had wonderful celebrations this year including our annual family night, and then smaller celebrations of Mother's Day, Easter, Father's Day and Christmas. We have had a change of leader with Jessie Waterhouse taking over leading the team, announced a day change for next year - now on Mondays, made some small changes to our song sets to be more inclusive for all of the children, and have put out a survey to our families to hear their feedback from the year.

Focus for 2024

To adapt well to any changes in dynamics that come with changing our day from Fridays to Mondays. To continue to be a welcoming and supportive space for the families who come along. We plan to add parenting tips/ encouragements in to our sessions so parents have something practical to take away. To meet the needs of our older (home schooled) children who come along regularly e.g crafts table, more age-appropriate activities. To discuss and work on ways we can make better use of our yearly budget. To have regular team meetings and trainings so our team of volunteers feel well equipped and supported to serve the families in our community. To ensure we are serving the children healthy food at morning tea time by reviewing regularly what we are offering.

Technical & Creative



Technical

We are once again so grateful to those that help with sound and media at our gatherings, often they go unnoticed, particularly when all goes well!

This year saw the opportunity to produce and release a live, in-house recording of some new music from our Gateway Worship Team called 'All Things New'. We were delighted with the result; this has given us some confidence about what is possible.

We look forward to working closely with Creative and Comms as we seek ways to support worship, prayer and word here at Gateway.



Hamish Berkers
Technical Lead

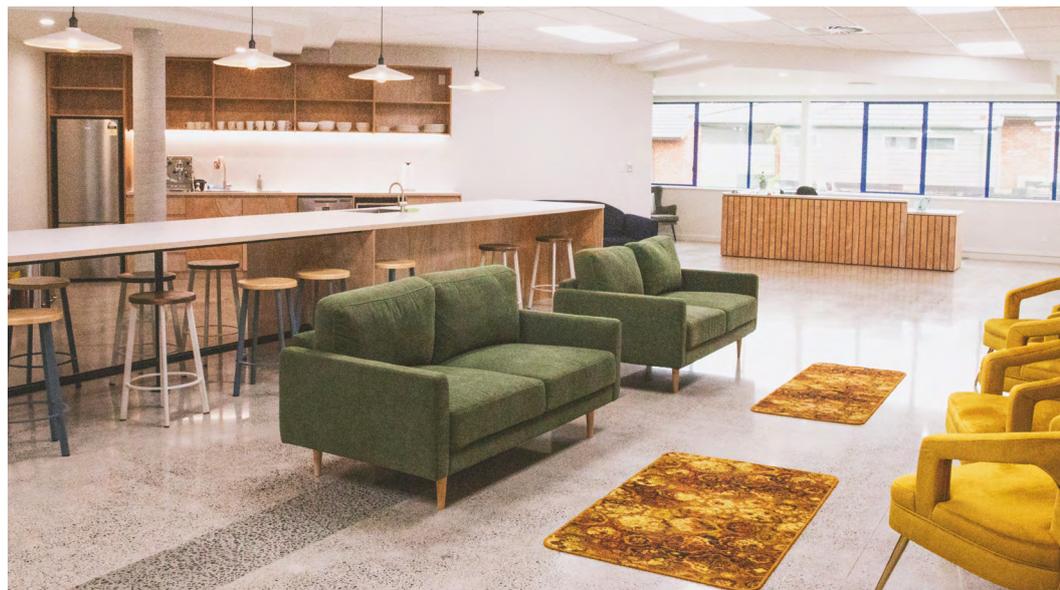
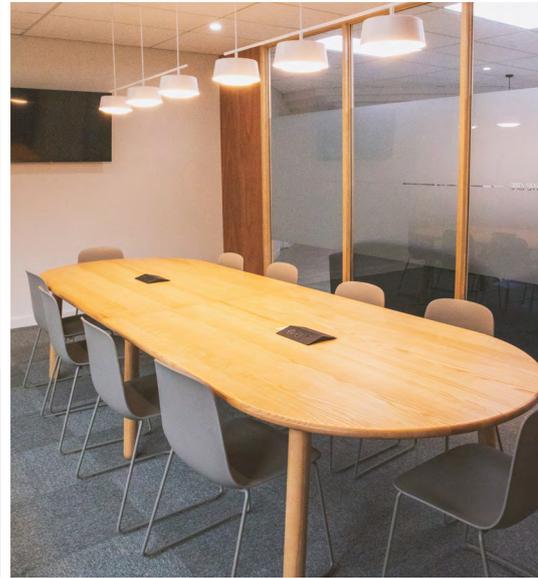
Creative and Communications

In December we farewelled Stephen Hart from his role as Creative Lead, we have been incredibly blessed through the giftings that Stephen possesses, and we are excited to see what's in store for Stephen in NZ and offshore.

We are so excited to announce the appointment of Petra Reid, replacing Stephen as Creative and Communications lead, Petra has a heart to see our worship of Him facilitated creatively and to this end she will be seeking to establish a team of 'Creatives' so keep an eye out for an invitation to join the team!!

A huge welcome to Petra!

Operations



Operations

Alongside Sally, I look after the Operations & Admin area of Gateway.

It's been a big year, moving to our new office space, changing over Trusts alongside all the usual tasks.

We have been so grateful for our wonderful volunteers again this year within the operations areas. This includes Sunday Admin, Library, Communion and Catering teams. Thank you to each of you for all you do behind the scenes, it's really appreciated.

Changing over trusts has consumed much of this year, and has been no simple task, this has involved establishing new bank accounts, and encouraging everyone to swap over to the new accounts; re-employing all staff members by the new trust. We are almost fully operating within the new trust, and we thank you all so much for your assistance with this process.

As an operations team we love being able to support all areas of Gateway. This is often behind the scenes, making sure things are ordered, paid for, and organised for Gateway as a whole.



Kezz Gurusinghe

Head of Operations

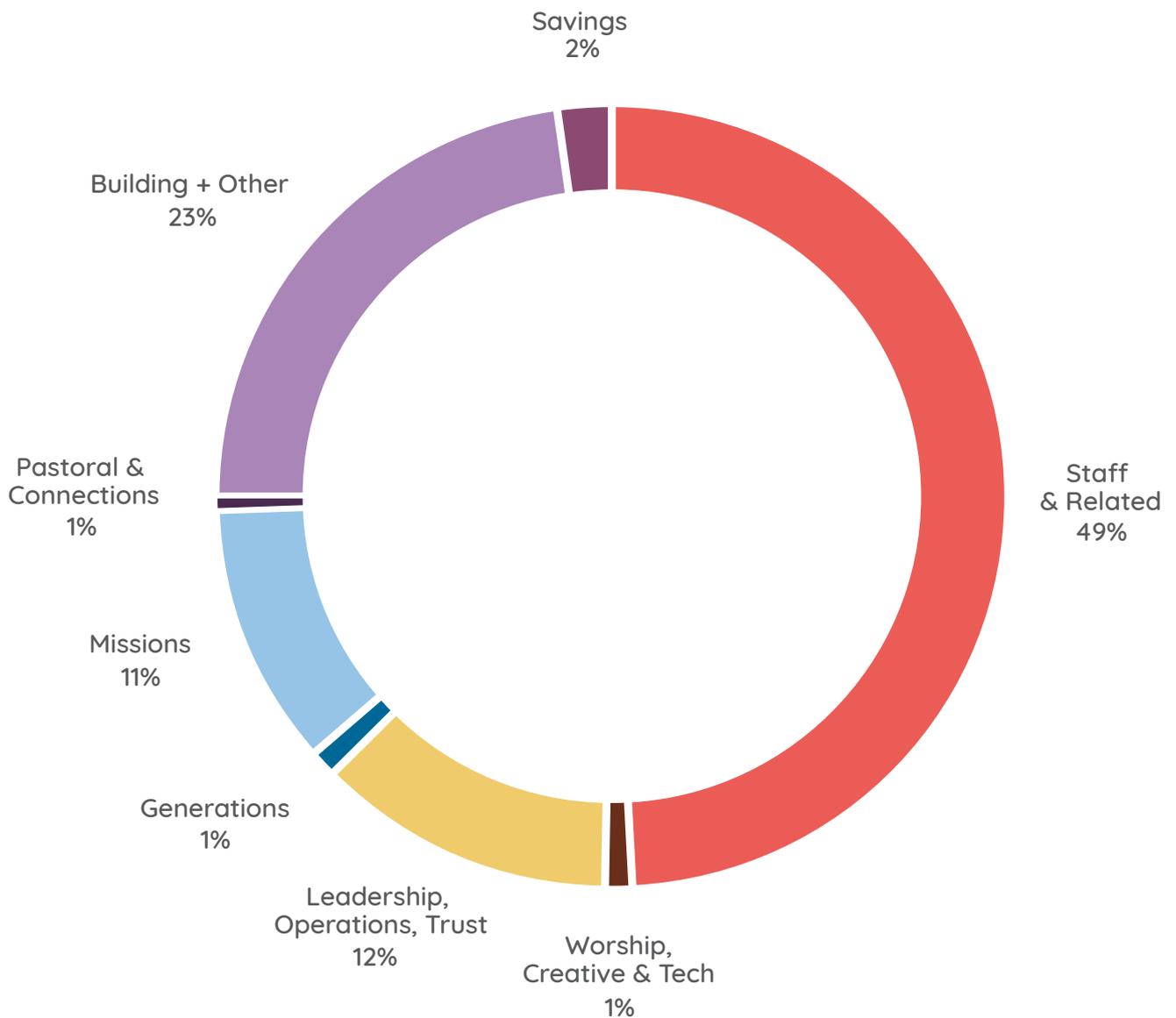
Finance Report

This year we are providing you our draft financial results or the year ending December 2023. Historically we have waited for our audited results, but this delays our ability to produce a timely annual report. Audited financials will be available in due course and will be posted to the Charities Website:

[*https://register.charities.govt.nz/CharitiesRegister/Search*](https://register.charities.govt.nz/CharitiesRegister/Search)

Income Investment

Total income of \$2,361,365 has been distributed as follows



Detailed Financial Performance (Unaudited)

1 Jan 23 – 31 Dec 2023

<i>Income</i>	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Variance</i>
Giving	\$2,087,975	\$2,200,000	\$(112,025)
Other Income	\$273,659	\$132,000	\$141,659
Total Income	\$2,361,635	\$2,332,000	\$29,635

Expenses

Connections	\$5,242	\$5,000	\$(242)
Creative	\$8,502	\$9,000	\$498
Generations	\$26,219	\$27,000	\$781
Leadership	\$40,006	\$48,000	\$7,994
Missions	\$254,166	\$220,000	\$(34,166)
Operations	\$234,460	\$238,500	\$4,040
Pastoral	\$11,035	\$13,000	\$1,965
Tech	\$1,767	\$2,000	\$233
Wages & Staffing Costs	\$1,157,313	\$1,300,000	\$142,687
Other Staff expenses	\$6,455	\$13,500	\$7,045
Worship Team	\$6,348	\$6,000	\$(348)
Worship Recording project	\$11,549	\$10,000	\$(1,549)
Trust Expenses	\$12,912	\$20,000	\$7,088
Gateway Online	\$ -	\$6,000	\$6,000
Total Expenses	\$1,775,974	\$1,918,000	\$142,026

Net Surplus \$585,661

Capital Expenses

	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Budget</i>
Building	\$460,719	\$354,000
Other	\$74,341	\$60,000
Total Capital Expenses	\$535,060	
Net Surplus after Cap Ex spending	\$50,601	

One-off Expenses

- 2023 surplus utilised to fit-out our staff offices and costs associated with examining future building options
- Worship Recording is complete
- Trust expenses will continue to feature as we move through the transition from the old trust to the new

Other

- We must monitor operational expense as cost increases flow through e.g. we are expecting a 30% increase to insurance premiums in 2024.
- Ongoing surpluses are anticipated, we will continue to accumulate funds to support decisions related to our property.
- Missions variance represents the use of surplus carried forward from the previous financial year.

Financial Position (Summary Unaudited)

31 DEC 2023

Current Assets:

	2023 Actual
Bank accounts, Cash and Term Investments	\$4,643,743

Fixed Assets:

Property plant and equipment (Book Value)	\$4,897,329
Total Assets	\$9,541,072
GV (Land + Improvements)	
950 Victoria Street	\$8,550,000
21 Clifton Road	\$3,245,000

Summary

I would like to again acknowledge the work of Kezz Gurusinghe, this has been a significant and extra-ordinary year, the winding up of one trust and the establishment of a new trust has needed much care and accuracy and we are grateful to have someone of Kezz's ability and dedication. Thank you Kezz.

Our financial results are again sound; while giving is up on the previous year, we have fallen short of our anticipated giving target of \$2.2m by \$112000. We do continue to believe for an increase in giving in the 2024 year so that we are able to well resource our various ministry areas.

Building Update

We have over recent months been examining options available to Gateway, understanding that as our facilities continue to deteriorate, we feel a sense of urgency to set some future direction.

Upon instructions from the Trustees, we have dedicated time to understand the potential costs to refresh 950 Victoria Street. In December 2023 we received this information and have had follow up meetings to ensure we have a good understanding of the implications in undertaking this significant work. Additionally, as we have done for many years, we have examined other potential locations for our Gateway community. In February 2024 a meeting of Trustees, Leadership Team and Advisory Board was held to review the information received and to agree on a preferred course of action. In due course these recommendations will be shared with our wider Gateway community (to date we have held commercially sensitive information which has prevented us from disclosing various matters). We hope to have the freedom to share more detail with you shortly and to hear your voice.

