

Committee/Team Name: Chorealis

Purpose of Committee: To share and model the principles of Unitarian Universalism through music, and grow and enrich our community

Members: Co-directors Gordon Ritchie and Karen Mills, 28 singers

Major Actions of 2024/25

- Continued to create and deliver one service a month from October to May, using the Soul Matters theme as a foundation.
- Reviewed Sunday hymns with choir to better support congregational singing
- Continued to introduce new hymns to the congregation by contemporary composers such as local composers Christopher New and Gordon Ritchie
- Provided the annual Carols and Lessons service in December with Dickens' A Christmas Carol as the theme.
 - Guest musician Bill Damur (flute) joined us for the December and January (Taize) services
- Co-hosted the annual holiday concert with Edmonton Vocal Minority in December
- Are looking forward to launching a book of Gordon's choral music with a concert on Saturday, May 10 at 7 p.m. at UCE. It will be a great celebration!

Outcomes Achieved

- We continued to try different styles of music and service formats to challenge ourselves and grow.
- Increased awareness of UCE through the EVM holiday party
- Practiced outreach by inviting Edmonton Prime Timers to our Christmas potluck
- Consistently achieved high attendance on Chorealis Sundays

Planned Actions for 2025/26

- Work with the Worship Arts and Music team to enhance services
- Plan repertoire to be inclusive, accessible and fulfilling
- Examine opportunities for choir workshops, exchanges and singing in other venues

Submitted by: Karen Mills and Gordon Ritchie