

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, 26 singers

Major Actions of 2025/26

- Continued to create and deliver one service a month from October to May, using the Soul Matters theme as a foundation
 - Maintained rehearsals and services during Gordon's absence due to health reasons in November and December. Rebecca Patterson served as accompanist for two rehearsals, the Dec. 7 service and the Dec. 8 EVM event.
 - Sally Hunt served as accompanist for two rehearsals and the Mar. 8 service when Karen was on holiday.
- Reviewed Sunday hymns with the choir to better support congregational singing
- Continued to introduce new repertoire and hymns to the congregation
- Provided the annual Carols and Lessons service, which featured the premier of *Happy & Jolly & Gay* by Gordon Ritchie
- Co-hosted the annual holiday concert with Edmonton Vocal Minority in December
- Hosted a cabaret on April 17 with guest musicians Daylin Jørgensen, Martin Borch and Yvonne Boon
- Are looking forward to two collaborative services (May 3 at UCE, May 10 at SSUC) with the Spiritual Seekers United in Community (also known as Southminster-Steinhauer United Church) choir. We will be presenting four pieces from Kyle Pederson's suite *A Vision Unfolding*.

Outcomes Achieved

- Built community and connection among singers
- Continued to try different styles of music and formats to challenge ourselves and enrich services
- Increased awareness of UCE through the EVM holiday party and SSUC collaboration
- Practiced outreach by inviting Edmonton Prime Timers to our Christmas potluck
- Consistently achieved high attendance on Chorealis Sundays
- [Hopefully] raised funds at the cabaret

Planned Actions for 2026/27

- 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