

# TRANSCONAVIEWS

## Transcona Memorial United Church Evolving to Meet the Needs of Its Community

by  
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Transcona Memorial United Church has undergone many changes since the current sanctuary was built in 1953.

“In 1963 the congregation made an intentional decision to provide community space,” says Reverend Carol Fletcher, one of the two ministers serving at TMUC. “The community was booming and there was a need for youth programming. So they built a gymnasium and built a space that has become a nursery school space for over 30 years.”



Then, in the early 1980's, they found that accessibility was a problem, so they altered the building in order to install an elevette, a mini elevator two feet three inches by three feet three inches in the interior.

In 1988 TMUC opened the Transcona Food Bank which can serve up to 120 families every two weeks. Ten years later they partnered with the Transcona Council for Seniors to open the Congregate Meal Program, which can serve anywhere between 20 to 200 people, depending on whether it was a regular week or a special occasion.

Eventually, they found that the elevette was not good enough, they needed a full elevator. TMUC also needed additional renovations, including the need for more accessible washrooms. So in 2011 they did a community survey to discover what they needed to do to become more accessible to their community.

Carol says, “The whole construction project took 20 months. It involved demolishing 600 square feet of the original building and second addition and rebuilding a new space.”



The original gymnasium now serves as a multi-purpose area, used for seniors' pickle ball, seniors' meal program, food bank distribution, their annual dinner theatre, the Hi Neighbours Tea, and more. The next room serves as the set up area for the dinner theatre, smaller meal service for the meal program and the Mom and Me, Families Connecting program,

The new addition has a barrier free area, including washrooms, a laundry and a full sized elevator.

TMUC also partners with the Alzheimer's Society to provide a unique support group for both those with Alzheimer's and their caregivers.

Carol has been with TMUC and part of the Transcona community since 1988 and feels very strongly about community ministry. She says, “The people around us are very important people. This is all about providing a place that, when you need it, it is here. When you need us, we are here.”