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***I thank my God for every remembrance of you...praying with joy for your partnership
in the gospel.... (Philippians 1:3-5, NRSV)***

Dear Friends in Christ,

Paul's letter to the Philippians is deeply touching. Even though he wrote it while he was in prison, a place where he undoubtedly suffered greatly, it is full of joy, hope, and thanksgiving. In a time of great uncertainty, his letter is future-oriented. It is filled with confidence that Jesus' message and the ministry in his name would continue to thrive, come what may.

We have reflected on this passage a lot in the last year. To say it has been a challenging time is an understatement. Yet, as the apostle Paul said, Jesus' message of justice and hope has thrived.

Thanks to the faithfulness of supporters, our ministry together through Mission & Service continued to help transform lives and deepen discipleship throughout 2021. The good news contained in the enclosed 2021 report bears witness to your generosity. Please share the enclosed Certificate of Thanksgiving with your community of faith so that Mission & Service supporters know how much of a difference they make. Highlighting the certificate in your worship, newsletters, social media, and other communications lets people know that their generosity matters.

Paul's letter to the Philippians is one of the most beautiful thank-yous in scripture. He wrote it because he wanted to encourage his community to be united and to let them know they were no longer disconnected individuals but a cohesive body of Christ capable of doing great things together.

Likewise, we aren't just united in name; we are also united in Spirit. Thank you for making that so apparent by giving generously through our shared Mission & Service.

With gratitude,

The Right Rev. Dr. Richard Bott
Moderator, The United Church of Canada

Sarah Charters
Director of Philanthropy

P.S. Thank you for consistently sending in your Mission & Service givings. It lets those we serve know they can count on your support. We're here for you if you need help with anything about Mission & Service—we're always happy to connect at ms@united-church.ca.

