

2025 Annual Report

Westminster United Church

Our Mission Statement



Westminster United Church is a Christian family sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with the congregation, the community and the world at large. We provide a spiritual home for worship, celebration of the sacraments, and Christian Education.

Statement of Inclusion



We embrace people of all ages, races, sexual orientations, gender identities, abilities, ethnicities, social and economic circumstances in the membership, ministry, leadership and life of this community of faith.

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Minister's Introduction

On Sunday morning, I love the warm greeting upon walking through the doors and the smell of coffee drifting through the narthex. People settled in chairs against the wall catch up on the week's events while in the sanctuary, choir members stretch into their first notes. Long before anything "formal" begins we can tell that something important is already happening.

I am especially grateful for moments of connection after the service when someone lingers to say what the sermon made them think of, or how something stayed with them through the week. All the ways that the Word takes on flesh. Which makes sense, because community--like faith--is not an abstract idea. It is seen in faces, heard in laughter, and gathered around tables where hard things are discussed and difficult decisions are made. Community is in the nourishment of pancake suppers, and in veggie trays and carefully made sandwiches after a funeral. It walks in the Coldest Night of the Year and in Pride Parades. It knits prayer shawls and packs bags full of groceries.

We do not always agree, and the work is not always easy. Yet, when Sunday comes, we still stand together and pass the peace. I like to think it's because we recognize the gift we've been given, (and keep being given) by a God who is, at the very heart of things, community. Creator, Christ and Spirit. Three in One. And a God who invites us into that same way of being.

Last fall, Westminster's Council and leadership spent time reflecting on what values live here. These were not the values that we hoped to grow into someday, but the ones already visible in how we live together. We brought the question to you, and you shared your answer: Community and Belonging; Hospitality and Inclusion; Service and Outreach; Faith and Spiritual Growth.

We may not know exactly what lies ahead, but we know who we are and whose we are. The pages that follow are the evidence.

*** A word of gratitude.

None of what you read in these pages happens without people who consistently give of their time, energy, care and resources. You do so without recognition, nor expecting any. To my colleagues on staff (Amy, Ronell, Ben, and a warm welcome to Linda!), to Ava, Carrie, Paul, and Council, to Rev. Sue and Rev. Dan, to Peter and Lorraine on M&P and to the committee chairs and members, to the people who make coffee, set up, clean up, who come early and stay late: thank you. I am grateful to share in ministry with you and I do not take for granted what it requires of you to do it so well.

2025 At A Glance

January - Winter Wellness Series begins with presentation from Hospice Whitby, World Religion Day, Youth Pizza and Movie Night

February - Winter Wellness presentation about Dementia Friendly Communities, Valentine's Dinner Fundraiser, Youth Learn to Play Pickleball Night, Coldest Night of the Year Walk for The Refuge

March - Annual Congregational Meeting, Winter Wellness presentation about Sickle Cell Anemia, Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner, Youth Card Making

April - Holy Week services including Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday, Eggstravaganza, Westminster Dinner Social, UCW's Giant Indoor Yard Sale

May - Hymn Sing Sunday, Newcomers Pot Luck, Mother's Day Tea, Estate and Will Planning Information Session

June - 100 Years of the United Church of Canada celebration service, Confirmation Celebration, Church Family Picnic, Pride Parade and Multi-faith Pride Service, Great Heart Youth Ensemble Guest musicians

July/August - Summer Students working at the church, God's Amazing Wonder Lab Vacation Bible School, 100 Tables Project, Backpack Project

September - Welcome Sunday, Stroke/Cardiac Rehab workshop, Children and Youth Mental Health workshop, Orange Shirt Sunday

October - Queer Space Chat group, Card making for Friendly Visitors, UCW Fall Gathering, New Members and Inquirers Group

November - Westminster Dinner Social, Snowflake Christmas Bazaar, Youth Cookie Baking Activity, Stewardship Celebration Potluck, Family ADVENTure Day

December - Advent Bible Study, Lessons and Carols service, Christmas Hampers donations collected and Hampers delivered, Child Led Christmas Eve Services, Candlelight Communion, Scarf, Hat and Mitts Drive collected warm clothes for local groups and schools

Your Ministry Team



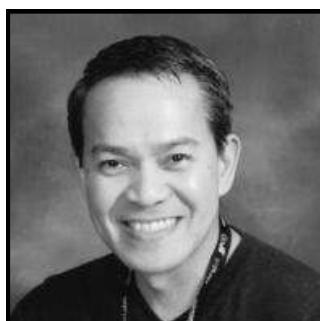
Rev. Michelle Robinson
Lead Minister of Word,
Sacrament and Pastoral Care



Linda Moroziuk
Children, Youth, and
Family Ministry Leader



Dr. Benjamin Stein
Minister of Music



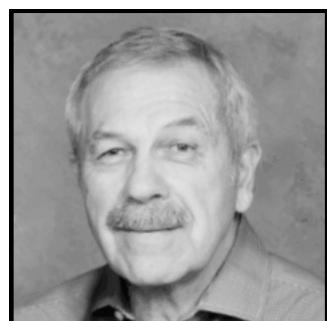
Ronell Paguio
Custodian



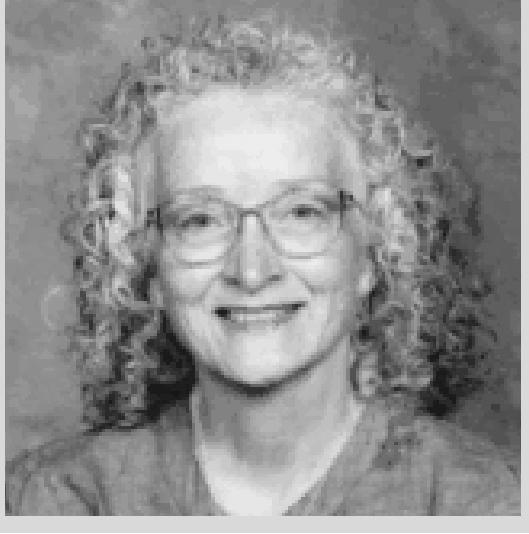
Amy Medlock
Ministerial
Administrative Assistant



Rev. Sue Genge
Voluntary Associate Minister



Rev. Dan Yourkevich
Voluntary Associate Minister



Chair of Council

One of the learnings that has stuck with me from the 2025 Advent season is the phrase – “Fear not”. I have been thinking about what I am afraid of – the future?; that someone may laugh at me?, that I may forget something?, that I may be risk averse? It is during these times that I remember - I am a beloved child of God. I have nothing to fear, God is always with me.

For me, it means I need to put effort and thought into my activities and God will walk with me on my journey.

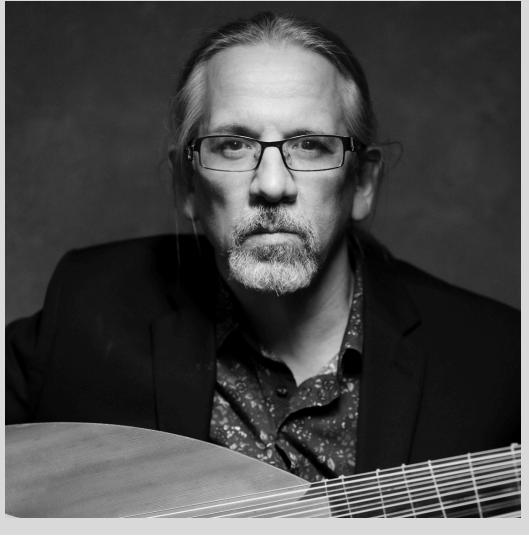
I have also been thinking about volunteers. I sometimes ask myself “why does anyone volunteer?” My Dad used to say – “one volunteer is better than 10 pressed men” (this was when the dishes needed doing!). This saying goes back to when men were “pressed” or forced into military service – a volunteer worked harder and accomplished more than a pressed man/woman. I’m so thankful that we have a history of volunteering at Westminster. Volunteers are so important in all the work that we do here. Volunteers support the work of God in the church and in our community.

I’m also writing this letter as I consider that I’m half way through my term as Chair of Council. What a learning experience the first 18 months have been.

Here are some of the Council priorities from 2025:

- Over this past year we have continued to follow the plan that was created last year. This is the 2025 to 2027 Westminster United Plan.
- Council has started to track all action items from our monthly meetings to ensure that they are completed and/or closed.
- In September 2025, a retreat was held where we discerned the values held by Westminster. A congregational survey was sent out in January 2026 to ask for input on these values. Work is continuing to finalize WUC values so that we can begin to use them in our worship and decision making.

Thank you again for your love and support.
Respectfully, Ava Tomlinson



Minister of Music

Westminster United Church musical activities, 2025

WUC choir/ Salt

- Two new WUC congregants joined both WUC choir and Salt
- Paula Laycock retired from choir - grateful thanks to Paula for her many years of contributing to the musical life of Westminster United Church

Good Friday service

- Augmented by hired instrumentalists
- Members of congregation involved in service music

Easter

- Salt praise band collaborates with WUC choir for Easter anthem

Summer music: July-August

- Members of congregation sing solos throughout summer
- Jane and Ivan's band lead worship in August

Children's music

- WUC kids take part in services in winter/spring 2024
- WUC kids compose original songs for Children's Christmas service

Youth music

- WUC youth take part in Good Friday, Children's Christmas Service
- Great Heart Youth Ensemble from Metropolitan United Church of Toronto performers for special Pride service in June

Children's Christmas Service

- Strong participation from children and youth in songwriting, performing, scripture reading and liturgy, video interviews

Other notes

- Piano humidifier, sheet music, hymn books purchased, musicians hired for special services - grateful thanks to Westminster United Church for financial support for these resources and enriching elements

Thanks and congratulations to the Westminster United Church congregation for very strong and committed support of, and participation in, all aspects of regular music making - ensembles, sound and tech support, children's activities.

Respectfully submitted, Dr. Benjamin Stein

From the Office



It has been a full and exciting year at Westminster! Our big project over the summer was to refresh our church website with a new design to make it more user-friendly as well as giving the content an update that reflects our ministry, outreach initiatives, and fellowship groups.

We were also lucky to welcome two wonderful summer students, Lexi and Prunellie. Lexi worked in the office and Prunellie worked with the Christian Education Committee. Their enthusiasm and contributions were truly appreciated. There has been a great sense of excitement for new projects and ideas from our committees. It has been my pleasure assisting with the various new endeavours as well as treasured traditions that are lovingly maintained. I'm grateful to be amidst wonderful people every day - talented, enthusiastic, vibrant souls from the congregation and my colleagues alike.

Membership By the Numbers

- 542 people are listed in the Westminster Historic Roll
- 9 new members were received by Certificate of Transfer
- 5 new members were received by Profession of Faith
- 6 new members were received by Confirmation
- 5 baptisms, 0 adult and 5 children
- 2 marriages
- 2 members removed by death
- 5 members removed by Certificate of Transfer
- 14 memorial/funeral services
- 432 people are in our contact/telephone list
- 486 email addresses that receive our weekly email blast

Marriages

- Shannon Chandrasegaram & Felix Odigie - July 12
- Shelby Vice & Adam Kell Cullen - October 3

Baptisms

- Avery Walsh - February 23
- Charles Walsh - February 23
- Laya Hejazifar - June 15
- Iris Caspary Grant - July 13
- Louisa Sabourin - September 21

In Memoriam

The following names are listed in the Westminster Burial Register for 2025:

- Thomas White
- Arthur Allen
- Mary Bradnock
- June Phillips
- Nina Calback
- Shirley Fallow
- William Widdecombe
- Mary Beckett
- Audrey Coukell
- Vernon Cooper
- William McEachen
- Valerie Gooderham
- Edward Langford
- Gordon Rospond
- *Maria Van Leeuwen
- *Roy Weldon
- *Andy Woodside
- *Maureen Keeping

**These names are not listed in our burial register*

*"I am the resurrection and the life.
Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live,
and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die."*
John 11:25-26

Respectfully submitted by,
Amy Medlock - Ministerial Administrative Assistant



Worship Committee

Our worship committee continues to actively support Reverend Michelle and the Westminster community by being responsible for the weekly Sunday service and other special services throughout the calendar year. Actively we reach out to the wider church family to help with greeting people when they first

enter the church, to reading scripture during the service, to serving coffee, tea and juice during fellowship. Our team is responsible for arranging communion and baptism Sundays as well as changing the colours and Paraments to follow the liturgical calendar. Joanna is lead with the sanctuary committee, which is a subgroup. The worship committee also arranges for LLWLs when Reverend Michelle is away and organizes the Lessons and Carols service with the Choir in December. We meet as a committee every other month, with the Worship Chair attending monthly Council Meetings. If you are interested in learning more, please reach out to one of us on Sundays. We are always looking for help, especially with the sanctuary group.

Respectfully, Heather Von Zuben

Christian Education



The committee learned to pivot and adapt this year. There was sadness and joy as Cathy Shaw retired early in the year. We are looking forward to working with Linda Moroziuk, our new Children, Youth, and Family Ministry Leader in 2026. In the spring, Michelle A retired as CE chairperson and the committee nominated Susan P as Chairperson.

We continue to use the Spirit and Truth curriculum for all ages (Nursery through Just Jammin' and the Summer JaM program) which is a narrative-based curriculum. Additional Story book bibles and age-appropriate bibles were purchased for use in the JaM and Just Jammin' classes. A new updated inventory supply list is being worked on for the teachers' use. Our JaM classroom has been moved from the room 1 to the Youth Room.

To our Nursery, JaM, and Just Jammin' teachers and helpers – we are truly blessed – thank you for sharing your time, energy, and yourself with our children and youth. We truly appreciate your commitment and care of our children and youth. The C. E. Committee continued looking for Youth Group leaders although a CE Youth sub-committee provided monthly activities for the youth.

One of our summer students (Prunellie) took on the challenge of developing and providing a vacation bible school program (Being God's Light) for a small group of children who participated and learned various biblical stories through story, dance, crafts, cooking and games.

Games Night happened semi-monthly throughout the year, Easter Eggstravaganza was a success - our heartfelt thank you Ava and Michelle A. and their helpers who organized the event this year. The church picnic was a big hit - a big shout out to the Food Guys who served up the wonderful lunch and to Michelle A and Heather VZ who organized and ran the delightfully fun games. Summer JaM was well attended - our deep gratitude to our summer student Prunellie and summer JaM teachers who provided leadership), and the 'Advent'ure Day lunch and activities was a successful way to start Advent.

All these regularly scheduled programs, groups, and special events and activities could not happen without a multitude of people in the background and to those people – our heartfelt gratitude for your belief in the spiritual growth for all ages, faith-based programming for all ages, building community, providing opportunities for connecting with others and your willingness to help at a moment's notice.

Respectively submitted, Susan Pleasance



Book Club

On the 4th Wednesday of January, March, September and November, a group of 12 to 15 people met from 1 to 3pm to discuss and reflect on how faith and life intertwine in our chosen book of the month. In 2025, we read and discussed the following thought-provoking books: Tom Lake by Ann Patchett, Lessons

in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus, Braiding Sweetgrass by Richard Wall Kimmerer, and The Guncle by Steven Rowley. All are welcome to join the group for each of the monthly book discussions, whether for one or all of the gatherings.

Respectively submitted, Susan Pleasance



Westminster Library

Thank you to all who have generously donated reading and media materials to our library located in the Founder's Room. At the present time, we are not accepting any donations as we try to process and catalogue the backlog of donated material.

It is very simple to check out material. To check out any library material: simply enter your name, phone number and book title in the Blue Sign-out book provided. Book "Return" containers can be found in the library or you can drop them off at the church office.

Respectively submitted, Susan Pleasance



Outreach

Westminster's Outreach team met throughout 2025. In January we met to talk about all our programs and what we wanted to keep, stop and what we might like to add. The only change we made was to not have a season of service as had been done for several years, but to keep the backpack program and the Thanksgiving food drive which had been part of that

program. Susan Pleasance also continued to do the handmade cards which Outreach supports. We took on two new projects which you will see in the spring of 2025 of having a lending library outside the church entrance for our community and to start growing some produce for our Pantry clients.

Thanks to Kirsten Grant who has taken on the role of chairing the Parish Mosaic team this fall after Don Fry moved out of the area. Many thanks to Don for all his years of work with Parish Mosaic, other affirming churches and many agencies around Durham region.

Beth Sheyan will be heading up the Prayer Shawl ministry in 2026, taking over from Kirsten, thanks Kirsten for your work on this program. A special thanks to the AbZolutely Choir Durham who held their spring concert at Westminster in June and donated \$1730.81 to our Outreach ministry, how wonderful of them to give back in this way. As you read the individual reports here, you see that there are many needs in our community and with the support of our congregation and beyond we have helped many again this year. Your spirit of generosity and kindness makes a lasting difference.

Thank you to the Outreach team: Maureen D., Joanne Y., Susan P., Kirsten G., Ashley E., Debbie J., Beth S., and all of the other volunteers who help with all our projects.

Respectfully submitted by,
Joanne MacPherson

The Pantry Food Bank

Every Tuesday, Westminster United Church opens its doors to those facing food insecurity. This year, 2025, we served 2,728 clients, 5,516 adults, 4,669 children and fed 10,175. These special individuals have become our friends and extended family.

We wanted to share with you all, that we have had donations from children in our Church and our local community. Hudson and Mirah donated from their lemonade stand; Spencer donated from his allowance; Opaline donated from her birthday party food drive! These children were smiling from ear to ear and so happy to help their friends in need.

Special thanks to Glen Hill Terrace, the Scouts and Embers, Taunton Mills, a local Bridge Club, Superstore, Starbucks, our Cooking Class, Sobeys', Williamsburg Public School, Whitby Rotary, and those individuals from our Church and local community who gave turkeys and made birthday cake kits. Again we participated in presentations to the Embers who meet at our Church and went to meetings with other food banks in Whitby at the Mayor's roundtable.

The Pantry monthly cooking classes continue to be a success under the leadership of Susan P., who finds nutritious and economical recipes for the cooks to follow.

In July we held our first Pantry Picnic for our clients, we served Halal sausages, salads, cold drinks and treats for the kids. All who attended had a great time of fellowship and we plan to do it again in 2026. Thanks to Susan Peters for organizing and all the volunteers who helped.

Thanks also to Qais's No Frills in Whitby who lets us make large grocery orders to streamline our shopping, this has been a great help.

Our Thanksgiving food drive was well received again this year with close to 100 bags of food returned to us by our neighbours.

Our Pantry Team gives of their time so kindly and handles new surprises with tact and humour! We had many student volunteers in the summer so some of our regulars could have some Tuesdays off. We also welcomed 2 new volunteers this past year.

Thank you everyone for caring for your neighbour. It is an honour to represent Westminster United Church in this ministry.

Blessings, Joanne Yourkevich

Christmas Hampers

Thank you to everyone for who contributed to our yearly tradition of Westminster Christmas Hampers. With your overwhelming generosity, we supported a record 112 families, comprising 414 people, in our community. This included gifts for 222 children. We were overwhelmed with the generosity of our community of faith, both in selection of tags, financial donations, donations of toys and time (driving for delivery).

We would also like to thank the “Westminster Shoppers” who took remaining tags and were able to shop for kids using the significant financial donations we received. Thanks to Susan P and other volunteers who made 96 Christmas cards, many of which were put into each of the hampers.

It was wonderful to see and feel the Christmas spirit alive and well amidst our community, as gifts were dropped off at the gym, picked up (in drive thru fashion) and delivered. We heard first hand from hamper recipients the impact of this outreach ministry, gratitude for not only grocery gift cards and gifts, but also community - the care of neighbours supporting one another.

In closing, we would like to share an excerpt from a thank you email we received from a hamper recipient; they wrote: “Your support and compassion reminds us of the true meaning of Christmas sharing love, hope and kindness. Please know that your generosity has made a real difference in our lives, and we sincerely appreciate all that you do for families in the community”. Thank you for your generous support of the Westminster United Church Christmas Hamper Outreach Ministry.

Submitted by Ashley Edwards

Living Alone Luncheons

This year, our membership increased to 60 seniors who are living alone. Each month, each person is contacted, given the menu, and invited to attend. Our monthly average attendance is about 40 diners, who are served a delicious 2-course meal for a reasonable price. These tasty meals are prepared by the UCW Catering Committee. This Outreach program offers an opportunity for people in our community and our congregation to enjoy a time of fellowship over a hearty lunch on the first Wednesday of every month (from September to June).

Our thanks to the hard-working volunteers who prepare and serve the food, set up the gym so invitingly, and clean up. If you would like to know more about this monthly event, or become a diner or a helper, please contact Bev Crumb.

Respectfully submitted by Bev Crumb

Advent Winter Wear Drive

The Outreach Committee held their annual “ mitts and socks” appeal in December. Wintertime can be a difficult time for many and warm socks, toques, mitts and scarves are welcomed by the agencies we partner with.

This year Westminster again generously donated many items which we delivered to the Muslim Welfare Centre, The Refuge, Gate 3:16, the Back Door Mission, Bobby Orr Public School and Village Union Public School. As a result, many socks, mittens, toques, and scarves were collected for men, women and children.

Submitted by Maureen Dingman

The Backpack Project

With your help we had another successful backpack initiative. We had 78 children register. We had 22 walk-ins that we were able to help with supplies and some of them got backpacks because we had a few extra backpacks so that brings the grand total of the 2025 backpack project to 100! We had many children this year pick up their own backpacks and were so excited. Thanks to all who continue to contribute to this program.

Submitted by Leslie Good

Prayer Shawl Ministry

As well as prayerfully knitting, receiving, and giving prayer shawls, this year, the prayer shawl ministry undertook an organization project where volunteers helped carry all of the accumulated yarn in the church attic down, sort it, and divide it by use. Some yarn was donated to church knitters for the UCW table, some yarn was packaged to use as prayer shawl yarn, and some was donated. At the moment, there is no more accumulated yarn in the attic. However, the prayer shawl ministry has a large number of knitting needles and crochet hooks should anyone need some.

Joanne and Kirsten also reorganized the prayer shawl cupboards, carefully refolding all of the shawls.

Kirsten has resigned as chair of the prayer shawl ministry at the end of 2025. Thanks to Beth Sheyan who will take over in the new year.

Submitted by Kirsten Grant

Durham Outlook for the Needy (DOFN)

Durham Outlook, founded in 1990, operates the only 365-days-a-year soup kitchen, serving the most vulnerable members of Durham Region. Clients include folks in primarily Oshawa (as well as Whitby) --- living mostly in rooming houses or unhoused. Others may also reside in apartments or homes - but are challenged to provide themselves with daily food requirements.

Westminster has been providing volunteers to Durham Outlook (formerly St. Vincent's Kitchen) since the 90's. Our monthly team includes 8-14 Westminster volunteers, as well as 1-3 from Faith United and other community volunteers. Our shift is on the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 3:30-6:30pm. We are responsible for serving the meals and kitchen cleanup/closing. Contact Paul Kneebone (paul.kneebone@rogers.com) if you would like to join the Westminster team of volunteers

Submitted by Paul Kneebone

Coldest Night of the Year

On February 22, 2025, The Westminster United Church Team walked in The Coldest Night of the Year event. Approximately 35 walkers (28 registered), trudged through the deep snow along 2km and 5km routes. This family friendly event raised \$7735.50 for The Refuge Youth Outreach Centre in Oshawa. Westminster was one of the top teams again in fundraising.

Submitted by Judy Collard

Faith and Fellowship

This group continued to meet on the 2nd Wednesday of the month (except July and August) in 2025. Devotion is led by Debbie Joyce which includes a timely scripture reading, an opening and closing prayer and great discussion and fellowship. Refreshments are also served and anyone is welcome to attend any session.

Submitted by Debbie Joyce

Parish Mosaic (Subcommittee of Outreach Committee)



In 2025, the Parish Mosaic Committee experienced a period of change and renewal. Sadly, the former Co-Chair of the Committee, Gail Brimbecom died in November of 2024, which sparked a change of leadership. As well, shortly thereafter, longtime Co-Chair Don Fry moved away to Aurora. As the former Chair of

the Parish Mosaic Committee, he was responsible for overseeing a great number of projects, not only within the church, but also leading Affirming Worship Durham and the Multi-Faith Pride Service. Both Gail and Don will be greatly missed.

Kirsten Grant volunteered to be Chair of the Parish Mosaic Committee, starting in September. As well, the Committee welcomed a new member, Dan Keats, who volunteered to take the minutes for the committee when Kirsten became chair.

In June, we had an excellent turnout for the Pride Parade. Many members of the congregation attended as well as Rev. Michelle and representatives from the Parish Mosaic committee.

In the fall of 2025, the Parish Mosaic committee began some new endeavours. Firstly, the committee led Queer Space Chat (QSC); this is a small group book club/bible study specifically for the LGBTQ+ community at Westminster. Led by Rev. Michelle, the QSC was a success, with 5 attendees who attended regularly over 5 weeks.

Secondly, the committee took on addressing accessibility of the Chancel. Headed by Larry Laycock, the Parish Mosaic committee has spent the last few months of 2025 working to ensure that the Chancel area of the Sanctuary is fully accessible. This included clearing a large number of items in storage in the electrical room, ensuring the ramp in the choir room was fully accessible, running new cables under the floor of the Chancel, and moving some of the video equipment and seating in the Sanctuary.

We have many goals for 2026, including reviving the Affirming Worship Durham email list, creating a video showing the congregation and the public how to access the Chancel via wheelchair, developing a recent partnership we have begun with another affirming church: All Saints' Whitby, and celebrating PIE Day (Public, Intentional, Explicit – representation of LGBTQ+) on March 15th.

Submitted by Kirsten Grant

Bridge To A New Home (BTANH)

- Bridge To A New Home (BTANH) is dedicated to the settlement of refugees and is composed of volunteers from Brooklin, Columbus, Kingsview, and Westminster United Churches and the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Durham. We still have about 10 active members involved from the original 5 United churches.
- We continue to help all of our sponsored families as needed with things such as medical appointments and renewal of documents such as health cards and permanent residency. We have certainly learned that one year is not enough to resettle anyone.
- Sut, our first sponsored person, continues to work at his full-time job in a restaurant in Oshawa close to his home. He does some English work on-line and is planning to apply for Canadian Citizenship in 2026.
- Modar, his wife Rasha and their children moved from Bowmanville back to Oshawa in 2025. In December, Rasha and Fareeza became Canadian citizens and this makes them the second and third refugees sponsored by BTANH that have become Canadian citizens.
- Freweyni and her children continue to thrive. The two younger children played soccer again this past summer. Jirom is now in his second year of an auto mechanics program at Durham College and will complete the program in the spring of 2026. Frtuna will complete high school in the spring of 2026 and is applying to post-secondary programs in several colleges. Tmnit and Sammy continue to make good progress with their studies.
- Mebrahtom, Freweyni's brother, continues to work at the same restaurant in Oshawa as Sut.
- Mebrahtom and Jirom both passed their G2 driving tests in 2025 and are now able to drive by themselves. In December, they purchased a used car which already has provided the family with more freedom in getting around without asking for assistance.
- Mebrahtom, with BTANH's support and through the United Church, has applied to Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) to help get his wife and daughter to Canada as refugees. Early in 2025, IRCC indicated that they had completed all of the necessary interviews but we are still awaiting their arrival in Canada.

Bridge To A New Home (BTANH)

- Freweyni and Mebrahtom also want their nephew Haftom to be brought to Canada. A second and separate application through the United Church to IRCC was made for Haftom. He continues to reside in Yemen under tough conditions with limited contact. Yemen still does not have direct access to Canadian consular services which makes it more difficult to reach refugees located there. This is problematic because it further complicates the ability to fulfill the necessary Canadian documentation requirements for his entry into Canada. As far as we know, not much has changed with his situation over the past year related to his living conditions and his entry into Canada.
- As noted earlier in this report, we applied to IRCC through the United Church to sponsor Mebrahtom's wife and daughter as well as his nephew (Haftom) for entry into Canada as refugees. After helping these individuals get into Canada, we will not take on any new refugees as we do not have enough volunteers to support the work involved in sponsoring additional refugee families.
- Approximately \$40,000 is needed to bring these family members to Canada. While Mebrahtom has been able to save some of this money, BTANH will help financially as well. It may still be one to two years before these individuals arrive. While we expect that they will need less help from our group as their family members will be able to assist them with their transition into Canadian society, we anticipate that members of our group will still have some involvement.

Westminster's members of this group are Maureen Dingman, Barbara Beaton and Joanne MacPherson

Respectfully submitted, Joanne MacPherson

Wellness



Since 1996, the congregation of Westminster has supported the principles of this committee with their mission statement: “Following the ministry of Jesus, we are called to promote physical, mental and spiritual health within our Christian family and the community we serve.” Our goals have not changed. We continue to strive to meet them.

This past year, we were able to facilitate our annual series “Winter Wellness” on a variety of topics that we hoped to educate and share information.

- Sickle Cell Disease by Sickle Cell Awareness Group of Ontario
- Dementia Friendly Communities by the Alzheimer’s Society
- Stroke Survivor Presentation

The Friendly Visitors team is crucial to our welcoming congregation. In 2026, Westminster will expand this team's mandate beyond only visiting homebound individuals, whether in their own homes or long-term care facilities. Maureen Dingman will become the new Coordinator, as Paul Kneebone steps down from this role. There are presently 7 team members who contact 20-25 congregants on a regular basis. This also includes making/delivering 50-60 Christmas cookie bags, with an accompanying card and note. As well, they participated in the Easter flower distribution program.

In May 2025, there was a successful Newcomers Mix 'n Mingle Potluck Luncheon after Sunday service. Personal cards are regularly sent to congregants & family members suffering from loss, undergoing health procedures, etc. In 2026, Westminster will move to expand this team to more than its present role of simply visiting, with new roles that will vary from cooking meals for families who may be experiencing a crisis, to visiting someone who cannot physically attend church. Sometimes a phone call, an email, or a card may be what is needed. Whatever the act, the intent is to let someone know that they are a part of our church family.

If someone new chooses to visit our church, a Friendly Visitor may be the one to welcome them, answer their questions and invite them to come again. If you are interested, have any questions or just want to know more about what we do, please contact Maureen: m.dingman@rogers.com.

The Caring Cooks is a group of chefs who prepare meals for those needing support after surgery, childbirth, or bereavement. Reverend Michelle advises the team lead, Bev Crumb, who then contacts the cooks when there is a request or need for assistance. This group has been running independently and recently formalized to be part of the Wellness Committee.

The Labyrinth Circle continues to provide access to the built-in labyrinth in the sanctuary once a month and on special occasions. We welcomed Peggy Allen to the Wellness Committee as the representative.

The annual Easter Memorial / Flower Project continued with 100 pots of tulips delivered to friends in memory of the financial donor's loved ones. We expanded the memorial to include photos in the display.

The Automated External Defibrillator (AED) has been replaced with an easier to use version that can be used on anyone over 1 year old. Thanks to our volunteer, Jordyn Lessor for monitoring the AED and the First Aid Kits.

New this year, **Yoga Classes**. Gentle yoga was offered for 6 week periods throughout the year with a small fee that covered the cost of the instructor with the remaining going towards the cost of the new AED and the general fund.

The members of this committee work hard throughout the year, supporting each other and the events that are hosted as well as researching for future events. Thanks to Peggy Allen, Michelle Alston, Bev Crumb, Paul Kneebone, Mike Nicholson, and Olivia Wild for being a part of our team.

Submitted by Crystal Smith and Carol O'Neil, co-chairs

Communications



Our goal continues to be facilitating, promoting and improving COMMUNICATION at Westminster. Our responsibilities include publishing the monthly newsletter – The Westminster World; maintaining the bulletin boards in the hallway; keeping the information on the kiosk in the Narthex current; and overseeing postings to the electronic sign.

Westminster's social media communication (website, Facebook and Instagram) is maintained by the office.

Continued gratitude is extended to Paul K. for handling subscriptions to Broadview (the UCC magazine) and to Mona T., our inimitable newsletter publisher.

Our recent major projects were assisting the office with the updating of the church's website, and improving the entryway signage. Working with the accessibility team, we made clear, colourful signs to inform congregants and visitors: that we have CCTV and hearing assist devices; that we are scent-free; what the office hours are; and when the food bank (The Pantry) is open. And to ensure that everyone entering the building feels truly welcome, we created and installed a WELCOME banner above the main doors.

We would be delighted to welcome new members to our team. I am deeply grateful for the dedication of our long-standing members Mary-Lynn F. and Lori R.

Respectfully submitted by Bev Crumb, Chair

Property



Thanks to the committee members and many volunteers, it was another successful year for the Property Committee in 2025. The project to install three new HVAC units was completed in the spring with little interruption to the activities at the church.

The new units service the areas which are in constant daily use – The Montessori rooms as well as the Youth room and the Pantry.

The company that did the levelling of the exterior sidewalk came back in the spring and reworked some of the areas that had shifted over the winter months. This completed the work using the money received from the Trillium Foundation. The committee also received a grant from the Anti Hate and Security Commission. This money was used to install a video doorbell system for the front door and some exterior lighting.

The committee experienced several water leaks over the year in the custodial room, the bathroom and the kitchen, because of our aging building. The toilets in the main hall washrooms were a constant problem, and they have all been replaced.

The committee completed the organizing and disposal of unused items in several areas of the church. They included the mezzanine, the sound booth, the electrical room and the Youth room. Several improvements were made to the Chancel and the choir room to improve the accessibility to the chancel area.

Many thanks to all those who helped throughout the year to support the various functions at the church as well as maintaining Westminster, inside and out.

Respectfully submitted, King Whitney

MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL

Ministry & Personnel

2025 proved to be a very busy year for the Ministry and Personnel (M&P) Committee. In the spring, Cathy Shaw, our Minister of Faith Formation retired from Westminster. We are grateful to Cathy for her years of service to the congregation. Following Cathy's departure, M&P assisted Council with a review of Westminster's staffing requirements.

This resulted in Council approving two part-time positions: a Congregational Care Coordinator (20-hours per week), and a Child, Youth and Family Ministry Lead (12-hours per week).

After an extensive search we are pleased to welcome Linda Moroziuk as our Child, Youth and Family Ministry Lead.

M&P coordinated and supported two students during their summer employment with Westminster. We are very grateful to Lexi Rajaganapathy and Prunellie Tchakam. Lexi covered the Office Administrator's role while Amy worked on refreshing Westminster's website. Prunellie coordinated the Vacation Bible School and JaM program on Sundays, which culminated in a dance performance for the parents. She also worked on growing our Youth Program.

Our very dedicated M&P volunteers continued to provide ongoing support and coaching to individual members of the Staff team.

Submitted by Lorraine Joynt and Peter Spratt
Co-Chairs,
Ministry and Personnel Committee



Stewardship

We are “Called to be the Church” on a Stewardship journey searching for and learning about “discipleship”. Yet sometimes all we notice is the busyness on the highway, the oncoming traffic, the flashing red lights, the hardships, the missed opportunities, and on and on.

Your Stewardship/Finance team is asking you to take the time now, to just be still, to go deep, to simply be, and to take a breath. Let us recognize our many accomplishments, the many joys and celebrations along the way, the many friendships we have nurtured, the many times we embarked on another route or took a detour to try something new, to enjoy the sunset, to listen for the loon, to catch the view of the lake, to feed someone, to wave, say hello or to welcome a neighbor...simply being good stewards. Together, we have done all these things and so much more in 2025:

- Raised over \$12,000 at our first ever Valentine’s Day Dinner
- Presented a “Wills and Estate Planning” information session where 17 people attended
- Hosted 3 Dinner Socials to enjoy each other’s company ‘outside’ of church
- Attended an ECORC sponsored day for discussion on the future of the United Church of Canada
- Planned and supported one of our most successful Bazaars, raising over \$11,500;
- Created another Fall Stewardship Campaign with new PAR participants and 75 responses to date
- Combined that with a 100/100/100 campaign celebrating UCC’s 100th and WUC’s 67th anniversaries, inviting 100 families to each donate \$100 in special envelopes
- Celebrated all our successes with a well-attended Potluck luncheon, where all were heartily fed
- And began earnest conversations for education pieces on Drag 101, eventually to co-host with Parish Mosaic, information sessions and panel discussions on the topic.

Along the way, Brian Woodlock regrettably resigned. THANKS, Brian, for your many years of service, your leadership, your wonderful fundraising ideas and mostly your friendship!

We also welcomed Jim Knights and Lisa Stewart to the team.

Paul Pierson and Monica Veenstra, thank you - your guidance and financial finesse truly abound!!

To our amazing staff and to all of you, dear readers, we thank you for your continued support of our endeavors, without which we could not host so many wonderful fundraisers. You have attended and volunteered with enthusiasm and kind financial donations. We always recognize, with deep gratitude, how richly blessed we are at Westminster and we in turn always humbly look forward to serving you.

THANK YOU for showing us what true discipleship really means!!

Respectfully submitted by Margaret Suepaul, Chair Stewardship/Finance.



Trustees

The Board of Trustees, as always, recognizes the staff, the congregation and all the volunteers, without whom Westminster United Church would not be the thriving church that it is.

We assisted various groups to confirm that we had liability insurance coverage for events both at the church and off premises.

From the Board of Trustees, we thank all of you for your time, talent, and financial gifts. Our members: Barb Auchterlonie, Wendy Ekker, Bob Neil, Christopher Pegg, Ed Rosdobutko, Shane Suepaul and Jim Ward.

Submitted by Ed Rosdobutko



Manning Mews Non-Profit Homes Corp.

Manning Mews has 20 one-bedroom units for seniors in 5 pods on Manning Road near Garrard. Currently with the assistance of subsidies from the Regional Municipality 11 of the units are offered as rent geared to income (RGI) at no more than 30% of the tenant's income as reported on their previous year's tax assessment. This Outreach Mission Project of

Westminster United Church in Whitby was begun in 1978 with the approval of The United Church of Canada (UCC). The Corporation was established to reduce the liability to the Church and permit Manning Mews to qualify for CMHC mortgages and subsidies. The Corporation and the many volunteer directors have been providing social housing to the local community for 45 years at no cost or liability to the Church.

Since April 1, 2024, the corporation has operated under a 10 year service agreement with the Regional Municipality of Durham. The subsidy under this agreement for the 11 RGI tenants helps keep the rents well below average for the area while still paying for normal operations and maintenance. Under this agreement Manning Mews qualified to apply for Canada Ontario Community Housing Initiative (COCHI). Three (3) grant applications were submitted in September, but none were successful. With the financial uncertainty, high interest rates and large soft costs for consultants, legal fees and reports, the FCM Greenhouse Gas Emission reduction grant application was dropped. It turned out that the soft costs associated with the application for heat pumps exceeded the 48% grant and with the elimination of the carbon charges on natural gas, the operation costs of the current heating system was financially a much better choice than using only heat pumps.

The previous Treasurer was unable to perform the duties of the treasurer and a new Treasurer, Tim Shkolnik, volunteered to take over this position with the help of an experienced financial administrator (CFO), Rachel Johns (nee Howes), who is now a nonvoting staff member of the corporation. Rachel joins Brad Beer who has been the operations administrator since his dad stepped down from that position.

At the August monthly meeting of Westminster's Council, the annual members meeting of the corporation was held and the audited financials were presented to the members of the corporation who are the members of Westminster Council. The corporation has vacant volunteer outreach positions for 2 individuals who would like to play a substantive role in this important Outreach, providing social housing to the local community.

Submitted on behalf of Manning Mews Non Profit Homes Corporation
by Arthur J. Smith, President

In 2019, The United Church of Canada reorganized the previous Presbytery and Conference levels of decision making into a smaller number of Regional Councils. Along with 170 other communities of faith (aka pastoral charges),

Westminster is part of East Central Ontario Regional Council.

From Westminster, 4 lay members are elected and with the minister, these representatives sit on a variety of teams (aka committees) and attend annual meetings as voting delegates. Any member of Westminster is invited to attend but as nonvoting guests.

These representatives meet at least once a year to do the business of the Regional Council and to elect persons to the 12 Elders who serve for 3 years. In 2025, ECORC met May 23 and 24 in Bowmanville and October 25 in Alderville. Additional sessions and meetings are usually held electronically. These representatives also participate in teams and various subgroups throughout the year, mostly through Zoom meetings.

The ECO regional council shares an Executive Minister with 2 other Regional Councils and has some paid staff to assist the Regional Council and the communities of faith. The Regional Council creates and mandates 6 Teams to undertake the work and oversee the responsibilities of the Regional Council.

1. Covenant Support: Paul Kneebone and Susan Pleasance participate in this team.
2. Mission Through Property and Finance: Arthur Smith participates in this team.
3. Formation Nurture Justice
4. Nominations
5. Equity: Sue Shkolnik participates in this team.
6. Facilitation

Submitted by Arthur Smith



United Church Women

Westminster's UCW (United Church Women), a group of women who met at 2 pm on the first Monday of the month (except for July and August) for a time of worship, entertainment/educational programs, business and fellowship. This year, we recognized and thank Tena Darroch for all her hard work on our behalf at the various church and UCW governance levels and

her many years as our UCW president as she retired in June. During the UCW lead worship service in May, Tena was recognized with a UCW life membership pin.

We enjoyed many informative and entertaining programs and enjoyed lunch out in June and a highlight of the year is the Christmas potluck supper in December at the church. We sent out 98 cards to people within our church family and community (sympathy, thinking of you, Easter, get well, and Valentines and Christmas).

In the past year, we mourned the losses of June Phillips (long time Northminster UCW member) who shared her gift of knitting with us and Maria Van Leeuwen who joyfully worked in the kitchen. They will be truly missed.

Throughout the year we collected and continue to collect used stamps, hearing aids, eye glasses, pop tabs, religious reading materials, and knitted goods that are used to fund worthwhile projects locally and worldwide through the presbyterial and we welcome your contributions of these items. They can be placed in the wooden box in the narthex.

In 2025, we catered: 4 funerals, 1 take out birthday party, 1 wedding reception, 1 church lunch, 10 Living Alone Luncheons, and had 3 Fund Raisers (Yard Sale, Mother's Day Tea, and Fruit Pies). From the monies we raised, we donated to: Westminster United Church's 100-100-100 fund raiser to honour our wonderful staff, Camp Quin-Mo-Lac, Sick Kid's Hospital in memory of Gillian Berthelot, The Refuge, Presbyterial UCW, ECOR UCW, and the National UCW Healing Fund. Over \$16,000.00 was given to Westminster United Church in 2025.

With you and your support in so many ways – together we were and are able to plant seeds of change within our church and within our community. You make and made our success possible.

Respectively submitted, Susan Pleasance

Westminster United Church

Women Financial Report Jan. 1- Dec. 31, 2025

Income	\$	24,122
Expenses	\$	27,104
Income - Expenses	<u>-\$</u>	<u>2,982</u>
Bank Balance Jan. 1, 2025	\$	5,775
Petty Cash	\$	150
Total	<u>\$</u>	<u>2,943.33</u>

Note:

DUCA Shares \$ 2
UCW Funds donated to Westminster Church \$16075 *

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• \$ 450 Visa/Credit

\$ 50 Donation Tea

§ 375 Speakers. Clean up

\$ 200 100/100 Campaign

Westminster United Church Women Financial Statement for 2025

Westminster United Church Women Financial Statement for 2025

Revenue	Budget	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total	
Caterings	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 2,072				\$ 953	\$ 2,472	\$ 1,580		\$ 4,694	\$ 4,462	\$ 1,888	\$ 2,031	\$ 20,151	
Donations														\$ -	
Mother's Day Tea		\$ 1,700.00					\$ 1,550							\$ 1,550	
Offerings	\$ 100.00													\$ -	
Yard Sale	\$ 2,500.00				\$ 2,422									\$ 2,422	
Total	\$ 19,300.00													\$ -	
Expenses		\$ -	\$ 2,072	\$ -	\$ 3,375	\$ 4,022	\$ 1,580	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,694	\$ 4,462	\$ 1,888	\$ 2,031	\$ 24,122	
Banking/Office														\$ 67	\$ 67
Catering		\$ 75.00					\$ 300								\$ 2,300
Charity Donations		\$ 5,500.00	\$ 135	\$ 577	\$ 344	\$ 122	\$ 1,184	\$ 612	\$ 549	\$ 1,134	\$ 311	\$ 1,079	\$ 1,019	\$ 7,056	
Camp Quin-Mo-Lac	\$ 100.00														
Hearth Place	\$ 100.00														
SickKids	\$ 100.00														
Refuge	\$ 100.00														
Durham Outlook	\$ 100.00														
Westminster Youth	\$ 75.00														
General Fund	\$ 1,000.00				\$ 280	\$ 100	\$ 50	\$ 254	\$ 62			\$ 250	\$ 75	\$ 1,071	
Presbyterian														\$ -	
Bursey														\$ -	
Cross Cultural														\$ -	
Lakeridge														\$ -	
Membership							\$ 300							\$ 300	
UCW Native Fund	\$ 300.00					\$ 300								\$ 300	
UC Mission & Service	\$ 300.00					\$ 5,000								\$ 15,000	
Westminster UC														\$ -	
World Develop. & Relief	\$ 10,000.00													\$ -	
Total	\$ 17,750.00	\$ 135	\$ 577	\$ 624	\$ 1,122	\$ 6,234	\$ 866	\$ -	\$ 611	\$ 1,134	\$ 311	\$ 4,329	\$ 11,161	\$ 27,104	
Surplus/Deficit	\$ 1,550.00	-\$ 135	\$ 1,495	-\$ 624	\$ 2,253	-\$ 2,212	\$ 714	\$ -	\$ 611	\$ 3,559	\$ 4,150	-\$ 2,442	-\$ 9,130	-\$ 2,982	



Treasurer's Report - 2025 Results

Thank you for continuing to share your time, talents, and financial support to ensure that Westminster remains a vibrant community of faith for so many.

This report covers three areas:

- Fiscal 2025 Year-End Update
- Treasurer's Musings
- Forecast for 2026

1. Fiscal 2025 Year-End Update

We ended 2025 with an operating surplus of \$22,000, a significant improvement over the original forecasted deficit of \$38,000.

Revenue

- **Strong December finish:** Local Fund and general revenues exceeded forecast by \$5,200 for the month.
- **Full-year results:**
 - Local Fund contributions exceeded plan by \$8,200
 - Rental income exceeded plan by \$17,000
 - Fundraising exceeded plan by \$10,000
 - Other revenue exceeded plan by \$3,700
- **Total revenue exceeded plan by \$39,000 for the year.**

Expenses

- December expenses were \$10,000 below plan, largely due to lower salary and study/travel expenses.
- Property expenses for December were \$3,000 over plan, driven by heating and cooling costs.
 - For the year, property expenses were \$15,000 over plan, primarily due to higher utility costs, toilet replacements, and unexpected plumbing repairs.
- Expenses included \$9,000 allocated to the J.a.M. Leadership Reserve for 2026 (using the 100/100/100 campaign funds).
- **Excluding the J.a.M. Leadership Reserve, total expenses were \$28,000 below plan for the year.**

Community Outreach (\$100,000+)

- **The Pantry total estimated support: \$75,000**
 - Cash donations exceeded \$37,000
 - Food donations were estimated to be of similar value (not included in the P&L)

- **Christmas Hampers total estimated support: \$23,000**
 - Cash donations of \$8,000
 - Approximately \$15,000 in gift donations (not included in the P&L)
 - 110 hampers distributed; approximately 300 people received gifts valued at ~\$75 each
- **Mission and Service: \$27,000** in donations
- **Coldest Night of the Year: \$5,000+** raised
 - *Note: Donations went directly to CNOY and are not reflected in Westminster's P&L*
- This list does not include other important initiatives such as Living Alone Luncheons, Durham Outlook for the Needy, clothing drives, and more.

Overall

At this time last year, we were forecasting a \$36,000 deficit for 2025. We are instead **closing the year with a \$22,000 surplus**. The primary driver of this improvement was \$40,000 in salary savings. Had those costs been incurred, the deficit would have been under \$20,000, even after accounting for \$15,000 in additional property expenses.

In short: **Thank You! Your commitment and generosity truly made a difference, and it is deeply appreciated.**

2. Treasurer's Musings as We Begin 2026

What I Know That I Know...

- It will be another great - and challenging - year at Westminster.
- We are part of an active, supportive, and generous community.
- 2025 focused on investing in our infrastructure:
 - New HVAC systems with heat pumps
 - Plumbing and washroom upgrades
- 2025 was also about looking ahead, including updating our strategic plan.
- Community remains a core value, supported in many meaningful ways.
- **2026 is about executing our plans.**
- 2026 will **focus on children, youth, families, and overall congregational care**, with two new contract positions being added.
- We are starting the year with adequate reserves to support these positions and manage unexpected challenges.
- Standing still is not an option; we must respond to and anticipate the evolving needs of our community.
- Continued support - both time and financial - is essential.
- We must embrace change, try new things, and let go of activities that no longer align with our strategy.
- We are beginning the year forecasting a deficit, and plans are already underway to address it.

What I Don't Know That I Don't Know...

- There will always be new and unexpected challenges that arise.

3. Forecast for 2026

We are beginning 2026 with a **forecasted deficit of \$41,000**, similar to last year's starting position.

Revenue

- Includes \$9,000 from the J.a.M. Leadership Reserve (100/100/100 campaign).
- Fundraising revenue is budgeted lower than last year as a conservative measure; planning is underway for several events.

Expenses

- Staff costs reflect the addition of **two new contract positions**.
- Not all staff and contract roles were previously covered for injury and sickness.
 - Federal requirements now mandate coverage for summer students.
 - To ensure coverage for all roles, Westminster has enrolled with WSIB Ontario at an annual cost of approximately \$3,700.
- Property expenses are aligned with last year's actual spending and include a new cost for recycling pickup (\$200 per month).

Overall

- The budget is intentionally conservative - a worst-case scenario.
- There are many moving parts.
- Westminster has approximately \$140,000 in contingency and non-allocated reserves, allowing us to continue executing our strategy while actively working to reduce the deficit.
- As reflected in these musings, we remain a vibrant and committed community of faith, one I am very grateful to be part of.
- Many thanks to everyone for making Westminster - Westminster.

Submitted by Paul Pierson, Treasurer

WUC – STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS – LOCAL FUND

ACTUAL 2022	ACTUAL 2023	ACTUAL 2024		ACTUAL 2025	FORECAST 2025	FORECAST 2026
CONTRIBUTIONS & REVENUES						
268,086	297,749	301,124	Local Fund Offerings	319,463	320,000	330,000
0	0	0	100/100/100 Challenge Donations Received in 2025	8,821	0	0
0	0	0	Ja. M Leadership Reserve	0	0	9,000
43,412	49,433	33,212	Donations *	34,981	35,000	35,000
64,341	106,079	107,788	Rentals	128,926	112,000	135,400
3,077	7,954	6,928	NET Fundraising (LF portion)	25,967	15,000	16,000
2,790	3,251	8,478	Other Income	8,632	5,000	5,000
381,706	464,466	457,530	TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS & REVENUES	526,790	487,000	530,400
EXPENSES						
284,239	279,696	306,237	Salaries, Benefits, Supply & Contract Payments	306,958	348,200	373,000
75,150	85,383	85,469	Property Committee	104,093	90,000	105,000
32,040	29,481	25,899	Mortgage Payment (Principle & Interest)	25,899	26,000	26,000
15,470	16,874	16,761	UCC Assessment	20,596	17,500	24,096
7,086	12,499	14,900	Stewardship & Finance Committee	15,563	15,000	16,000
1,320	2,224	1,707	Outreach *	3,527	3,500	2,900
4,752	4,181	4,346	Office	4,226	5,500	5,500
3,694	4,147	2,651	Worship Committee	6,118	5,000	5,000
4,250	4,760	2,146	Christian Education	2,869	4,500	4,200
2,902	1,925	1,768	Bank/PAR Charges	2,345	2,500	4,000
1,324	875	418	Ministry & Personnel Committee	380	500	500
816	1,430	780	Wellness	935	2,000	2,000
175	332	768	Council & Trustees	109	1,000	1,000
25	25	844	Communications Committee	205	150	150
0	0	0	Ja. M Leadership Reserve	9,000	0	0
299	1,345	1,206	Other (Fellowship Event Expenses)	1,661	2,200	2,000
433,542	445,177	465,900	TOTAL EXPENSES	504,484	523,550	571,346
-51,836	19,289	-8,370	LOCAL FUND NET SURPLUS (+) / DEFICIT (-)	22,306	-36,550	-40,946

* excludes Christmas Hampers & Tin Cans

WUC - STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS – OTHER FUNDS

ACTUAL 2022	ACTUAL 2023	ACTUAL 2024		ACTUAL 2025	FORECAST 2025	FORECAST 2026
CAPITAL FUND (aka Building / HVAC)						
5,586	9,726	11,366	Offerings(+)	7,942	15,000	8,000
3,077	7,954	6,928	Fundraising(+)	1,377	5,000	0
0	3,025	3,300	TUCC Loan Repayment (-)	3,300	3,300	3,300
0	0	7,305	Other Expenditures(-)	1,039	0	0
8,663	14,655	7,688	NETINFLOW (+) / OUTFLOW (-)	4,980	16,700	4,700
THE PANTRY						
18,678	20,271	37,657	Financial Donations(+)	37,676	18,000	30,000
18,214	21,029	18,698	Expenditures(-)	35,590	20,000	30,000
464	-758	18,960	NETINFLOW (+) / OUTFLOW (-)	2,086	-2,000	0
MISSION & SERVICE						
28,503	31,066	30,071	Offerings(+)	27,061	33,000	22,000
28,503	31,066	30,071	Disbursement to UCC (-)	27,061	33,000	22,000
0	0	0	NETINFLOW (+) / OUTFLOW (-)	0	0	0
CHRISTMAS HAMPERS & TIN CANS						
8,405	11,204	9,146	Financial Donations(+)	7,895	11,000	9,000
12,147	7,266	9,878	Expenditures(-)	10,762	9,000	9,000
-3,742	3,938	-732	NETINFLOW (+) / OUTFLOW (-)	-2,867	2,000	0

LOCAL FUND DONATIONS BREAKDOWN

ACTUAL 2022	ACTUAL 2023	ACTUAL 2024		ACTUAL 2025
6,123	10,180	10,150	From UCW	15,675
8,990	8,705	9,738	In Memoriams	7,328
269	932	2,260	Freewill Offerings	3,494
2,395	2,335	2,964	Easter Flowers / Memoriams	2,600
1,100	1,085	985	For Bridge to a New Home	927
0	645	330	Backpacks	585
18,500	22,279	1,527	Nickson Bequest	0
927	966	0	Stock Donations	0
5,108	2,306	5,259	Other Donations	4,372
43,412	49,433	33,213	TOTAL LOCAL FUND DONATIONS	34,981

FUNDRAISING BREAKDOWN

	2025 REVENUES	2025 EXPENSES	2025 NET PROFIT
Valentine's Dinner	17,340	4,284	13,056
Bazaar	12,736	1,202	11,534
Loblaws Cards Commissions	1,781	0	1,781
Foodman Group	705	173	532
Poinsettias	1,153	712	441
Amount Transferred to Capital Fund	-1,820	-443	-1,377
TOTAL - LOCAL FUND PORTION	31,896	5,928	25,967

NOTE: Loblaws Cards Commissions are 5% of the Face Value of the Loblaws Cards sold

ALLOCATION OF AVAILABLE FUNDS

	as at Jan 1, 2025	2025 Net Inflow (+) / Net Outflow (-)	as at Dec 31, 2025
RESERVE FUNDS			
Non-Allocated Funds	88,947	21,624	110,572
Contingency for day-to-day operations	30,286	0	30,286
Reserve for J.a.M. Leadership	0	9,000	9,000
Reserve Funds for Sabbatical	30,000	0	30,000
Reserve for Capital Investments	38,022	-1,351	36,671
TOTAL RESERVE FUNDS	187,255	29,273	216,529
RESTRICTED FUNDS			
Anti-Hate Grant	0	0	0
Trillium Grant (for HVAC Project)	73,977	-73,859	118
The Pantry Fund	31,305	2,086	33,391
Capital Fund	34,505	4,980	39,486
Christmas Hampers	2,914	-2,867	47
TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS	142,701	-69,659	73,042
TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS	329,957	-40,386	289,571

LONG TERM LIABILITIES

Mortgage Loan (UCC)

2.5% interest, monthly blended repayments of \$2,158 due July 2034.

Balance as at Jan 1, 2025	\$218,115
Principal Paid in 2025	\$20,682
Interest Paid in 2025	\$5,216
Balance as of Dec 31, 2025	\$197,433

Operating Line of Credit (CIBC)

An operating line of credit in the amount of \$25,000 bearing interest at the rate of prime plus 7% is secured by all general assets of the Church. There is no balance owing on this line of credit as of December 31, 2025.

Toronto United Church Council (TUCC) Loan

A \$33,000 loan was taken out in 2023 to finance the HVAC replacement for the gymnasium. First Term (years 1 to 5) has an interest rate of 0%. The balance remaining unpaid on the 5th anniversary date shall constitute the principal owing for the Second Term. Second Term (years 6 - 10) has an interest rate of 1% per annum, calculated monthly. Repayment commences February 2023.

Balance as at Jan 1, 2025	\$26,675
Principal Paid in 2025 (\$275 x 12)	\$3,300
Balance as at Dec 31, 2025	\$23,375

Westminster 2025 Council and Committee List

Rev. Michelle Robinson	Minister of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care
Dr. Benjamin Stein	Minister of Music
Ava Tomlinson	Council Chairperson
Paul Pierson	Treasurer
Shane Suepaul	Past Chair
Carrie Hunter-Cruz	Council Secretary

TRUSTEES (10 Yrs.)		MINISTRY & PERSONNEL (5 Yrs.)	
(Chair)		Lorraine Joynt (Co-Chair)	2023
Bob Neil	2013	Peter Spratt (Co-Chair)	2024
Wendy Ekker	2019	Joanne MacPherson	2025
Shane Suepaul	2024	Katie Bonikowsky	2023
Ed Rosdobutko	2024	Janet Hendrikse	2024
Christopher Pegg	2024	REGIONAL COUNCIL REPS (3 Yrs.)	
STEWARDSHIP/FINANCE (3 Yrs.)		Shane Suepaul	2026
Lisa Stewart (Chair)	2026	Paul Kneebone (Covenant Support Team)	2012
Paul Pierson (Treasurer)	2022	Susan Pleasance (Covenant Support Team)	2016
Monica Veenstra (Bookkeeper)	2017	Susan Shkolnik (Equity Team)	2025
Jim Knights	2026	UCW (Term varies)	
WORSHIP (3 Yrs.)		Tena Darroch (Past President)	2017
Heather Von Zuben (Chair)	2018	Susan Shkolnik (Co-President)	2025
Benjamin Stein (Minister of Music)	2024	Cecille Willert (Co-President)	2025
Ava Tomlinson	2018	Susan Pleasance (Secretary)	2014
Heather Montague	2015	Shirley Penny (Treasurer)	2018
Ed Rosdobutko (Head Usher)	2018	WELLNESS (3 Yrs.)	
Joanna Coulter (Sanctuary)	2024	Crystal Smith (Co-Chair)	2020
COMMUNICATIONS (3 Yrs)		Carol O'Neil (Co-Chair)	2021
Bev Crumb (Chair)*	2014	Maureen Dingman (Friendly Visitors)	2021
Mary-Lynn Fraser*	2018	Mike Nicholson	2024
Lori Rosdobutko*	2014	Michelle Alston	2024
*until June 30, 2026		Peggy Allen	2025
		Olivia Wild	2025

PROPERTY (3 Yrs.)		OUTREACH (3 Yrs.)	
Bob Neil (HVAC, Electrical, Buds&Shrubs, Weed Wackers Team Lead)	2014	Joanne MacPherson (Interim Chair, Co-Coordinator of The Pantry Food Bank)	2014
King Whitney - (Maintenance Team Lead)	2019	Joanne Yourkevich (Co-Coordinator of The Pantry Food Bank)	2019
Larry Laycock (Maintenance Team Lead)	2018	Kirsten Grant (Chair of Parish Mosaic)	2025
Dave Summers (Water Systems Coordinator)	2009	Beth Sheyan (Prayer Shawl Ministry)	2026
Jack Darroch (Carpentry Coordinator)	2017	Ashley Edwards (Christmas Hampers)	2024
Gary Willert (Security Lead)	2026	Susan Peters	2024
Cecile Willert (Fire System Lead)	2026	Debbie Joyce	2015
Paul Pierson (IT Lead)	2026	CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (3 Yrs.)	
Bob Dingman	2014	Susan Pleasance (Chair)	2015
Dean Mortimer	2014	Linda Moroziuk (Child, Youth and Young Family Leader)	2026
Stewart Pegg	2024	Susan Schkolnik (JaM Liaison)	2014
NOMINATIONS (2 Yrs.)		Crystal Smith (Nursery Liaison)	2024
Paul Pierson	2016	Cheryl Nicholson	2015
CLIMATE DISRUPTION MITIGATION		Michelle Alston	2015
Vacant		Joanna Shaw	2019

Draft Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting

from Sunday, March 3rd, 2024

We Gathered:

1. Ava Tomlinson, our Council Chairperson, called us to order at 12:36 p.m.

Ava thanked everyone for coming to the Annual Meeting either in person or online. Thanks to everyone taking part in the ACM (Amy and Katie for putting the annual report together, the UCW and Foodman group for lunch, Technology Committee people, chair movers etc.) Please consider joining one of the church committees.

2. Rev. Michelle Robinson Opening Prayer

A time of prayer and remembrance was held as we acknowledged the names of those who had passed in 2025 in our congregation, and within our community. We hold them within our hearts.

3. Motion re: voting privileges:

Ava Tomlinson explained that the meeting is taking place on two platforms: in person and on Zoom. In person, please raise your hand to vote. On Zoom, people can type their Approval, Abstention or Nay in the Chat on the side if they so wish with Yes, No or Abstain. Zoom is being monitored by Margaret Suepaul.

Voting will be done by a show of hands. Please be aware of the time lapse between in person and online. Questions will be repeated in the sanctuary.

MOTION: Joanne MacPherson moved that with the consent of the full members of Westminster United

Church, adherents of the church will be permitted to vote on temporal matters. Seconded by Shane Suepaul.

Motion Carried.

Paul Kneebone asked what temporal referred to. Arthur Smith defined it as “matters that deal with church property etc.”- not liturgy or faith/doctrine.

4. Motion to nominate a Chairperson:

MOTION: Heather Von Zuben moved that Cathy Cherwinka be elected as Chairperson of our Annual Congregational Meeting. Seconded by Joanne MacPherson. Motion Carried.

5. Motion to nominate a Secretary:

MOTION: Michelle Alston moved that Carrie Hunter-Cruz be elected as Secretary of our Annual Congregational Meeting. Heather Von Zuben seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

6. Motion to accept the Agenda:

MOTION: Larry Laycock moved that the agenda be approved as circulated. Sue Shkolnik seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

7. Motion to accept Minutes of March 3rd, 2024 Annual Meeting:

MOTION: Sue Shkolnik moved that the minutes of the March 3rd, 2024 annual meeting be approved as presented. Bob Dingman seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

Our Ministry:

8. Minister's Comments: Rev. Michelle Robinson:

Rev. Michelle thanked us all for making Westminster the place it is. Many things go unnoticed, but she wants us to know she notices, and thanks us for it. She mentioned how blessed we are to have new members including some from other churches which have closed. She suggests we create a space where people can truly belong, even as the world rejects us. Our sacred work is not just within the walls of the church, but outside too. What will that look like in the coming year? These are the things on her heart. She has deep gratitude for us all.

9. Minister of Music: Ben Stein

It is almost Ben's first anniversary in May of being at Westminster United. He is grateful to the friendly staff and congregants that welcomed him. It has been a real privilege to work with so many committed folks. It has been personally enjoyable for him to use different genres of songs and music and having diverse material and to use his creativity. He is planning for the Easter celebration and the 100th UCC anniversary on June 1st. He wants to add Canadian content and will donate his fee for building up the choir library.

10. Council Chair Comments: Ava Tomlinson

Ava took over creating a draft plan for Westminster for 2025. It will be given to the congregation to look over and suggest changes/feedback. You are all loved and valued. She thanked people for being committed and for participating despite their busy lives.

11. 2024 Financial Report: Paul Pierson

Thank you everyone for monetary support and volunteerism. Every contribution makes us the congregation we are. We ended the year with a deficit of \$8500 instead of the projected \$20,000. Thanks for your hard work and generosity.

-This year we are looking at a deficit of \$31,000. We discussed at Council how much better our situation is today compared to 15 years ago. We don't give up. Yes, we will get there, but how will we get there? Deficits aren't going away soon so we still need to look for funds. Please come, participate and be active in our church. Being generous, showing hospitality, engaging in social justice, and being curious- This is what Westminster means to him.

-The accountant is still working on financial statements.

12. Motion to Accept Financial Reports for 2024

MOTION: Margaret Suepaul moved to accept the 2024 Treasurer's Report as presented. Sue Scholnik seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

13. Motion to Accept Budget Forecast for 2025

MOTION: Margaret Suepaul moved to accept the 2025 Budget Forecast as presented. Seconded by Ed Rosdobutko. Motion Carried.

-Rev. Dan Yorkevich asked, "what is the mission we want to do, is it what we need to focus on, and then how much will we need?" God will lead us to what we are called to do.

Cathy thanked Paul Pierson for his leadership.

We Offer Ourselves:

15. Motion to accept the 2024 Annual Report as Published

MOTION: Susan Pleasance moved that we accept the Annual Report as published. Seconded by Janice Bortoluss. Motion Carried.

16. Nominating Committee Report - Shane Suepaul

MOTION: Shane Suepaul moved that we accept the names of the people resigning from Committees. Seconded by Heather Von Zubon. Motion Carried.

MOTION: Shane Suepaul moved that we approve and welcome the names of those people joining committees for 2025. Seconded by Joanne MacPherson. Motion Carried.

Addition:

MOTION: Susan Pleasance moved to replace Gail Brimbecom with Sue Shkolnik on the ECORC committee. Seconded by Arthur Smith. Motion carried.

17. Motion to Accept the Resignation of Trustee

MOTION: Ed Rosdobutko moved that the resignation of Trustee Ted Phillips be accepted. Seconded by Shane Suepaul. Motion Carried.

-Larry Laycock asked if there is a replacement for Ted Phillips? The answer is not yet.

-Trustees are members of UCC.

-Arthur Smith asked how many members there were. Shane answered that there are 7 members allowed on this committee.

18. Motion to Approve New Trustees

Shane - bylaw regarding adherents as trustees

B.3.4 Adherents

B.3.4.1 Meaning An adherent of a congregation is a person who contributes regularly to the life and work of the

congregation but is not a member or full member.

B.3.4.2 Application The governing body is responsible for deciding who is an adherent. Many people establish

long-standing, committed relationships with congregations without formally becoming “full members” under

section

B.3.3.3 above. These people are often valued participants in the life of congregations as “adherents.”

G.3.3 Membership

G.3.3.2 Eligibility A majority of the trustees must be members of the United Church. Under secular law, a person must be of the legal age of majority in their province in order to serve as a trustee.

From the UC Trustee Manual 2021

Eligibility requirements A majority of the trustees must be United Church members [G.3.3.2]. The remaining trustees may be adherents or others.

Ron Motum expressed his appreciation to current trustees, with many thanks for the service and support over Ron’s time as Chair of Trustees. Ron offered sincere thanks to Shane Suepaul, Paul Pierson and King Whitney. He commented that they were fortunate to have some new trustees.

19. Outstanding, New or Other Business

No new business was raised.

As We Go into the World:

20. Motion to Adjourn

MOTION: Paul Pierson moved to adjourn our 2024/5 Annual meeting. Motion Carried.

21. Closing Prayer: Rev. Michelle Robinson