

# **Comox United Church**

## **Annual Report**

**Jan. 2025 – Dec. 2025**

Our Values: Spirituality, Openness,  
Care for the Common Good, Radical Love



**Annual General Meeting March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026**



## Mission Statement

Comox United Church, an Affirming Ministry: centred in God, followers of Jesus Christ and called to radical love.



## Vision Statement

Embraced by a loving God, guided by the Holy Spirit, inspired by the life of Jesus, and open to the revelation of Scripture, as an affirming faith community we:

- celebrate diversity and welcome those of all sexual orientations, gender identities, ethnicities, ages, marital status, social or economic circumstances, and abilities;
- commit to justice, peace, and hospitality;
- engage in proactive stewardship of the environment, people, and other resources;
- embrace authenticity and encourage critical thinking;
- include all at God's table, sharing sacred time and sacred space.

With spirits, minds, and hearts nourished and enlarged, we go out to serve the world with intention, passion, and compassion.

# Comox United Church Governance

## Updated Jan. 2026

**Human Resources Group**  
**Ministry and Personnel Team**  
**Nominations and Volunteer**  
**Appreciation (NoVA)**

**Property Group**  
Buildings and Grounds  
Facilities  
Venue Team

**Social Justice**  
**Social Justice Team**  
Mission and Service promotion  
Social Justice programming  
Local outreach initiatives  
SAGE (Sustainability Action Group for  
the Environment)

**Pastoral Care Group**  
**Pastoral Care Team**  
Small Group Ministries  
Prayer Chain  
Prayer Shawl Ministry

### Church Council

Minister  
Finance Management Group Coordinator  
Congregational Life Group Coordinator  
Pastoral Care Group Coordinator  
Social Justice Coordinator  
Faith Exploration Group Coordinator,  
Worship and Sacraments Group Coordinator,  
Property Group Coordinator  
Trustees  
Regional Reps.  
Ad Hoc Committee representatives  
Joint Liaison Ctte. with CV Unitarians  
Members at Large

#### Note:

Council members must be members of Comox  
United Church  
Chair of M&P Team must also be the  
Coordinator of the Human Resources Group  
The Minister must be in attendance, as required  
in the UC Manual (nonvoting)  
Quorum: ½ members not including Minister  
plus 1

### Council Executive

**Chair**  
**Vice-Chair**  
**Past Chair**  
**Secretary**  
**Treasurer**  
**Chair of M&P**  
**Finance**  
**Trustees**  
**Minister**

**Finance Management Group**  
**Finance Team**  
Treasurer, Counters,  
Givings Administrator  
Ad Hoc Fundraising  
**Memorial and Archives Team**  
**Stewardship Team**  
**Trustees**

### Worship & Sacraments Group

**Worship Planning Team**  
Greeters  
Power Point Team  
Choir  
Sanctuary Care  
Alternative worship services

### Congregational Life Group

Affirm Team  
Annual Church Picnic  
Coffee & Conversation  
Congregational Retreat  
Knitting Group  
Sunday coffee & tea  
Soup and Bun Lunch  
Men's Group  
Social Singles  
United Church Women group  
(UCW)  
Walking Group  
**Communication**  
Website, Face Book Group,  
Newsletter

### Tech Team

Service Streaming

# MILESTONES ON OUR JOURNEY



## ***The founding churches...***

**1876** - Two church buildings planned in the Valley: St. Andrew's Anglican at the bottom of Mission Hill and St. Andrew's Presbyterian at the top (Sandwick)

**1877** — (Oct. 8) St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church built at the top of Mission Hill

**1900** — The Bay Church (Presbyterian) built in Comox on Church Street

**1914** — St. George's Presbyterian Church built in Courtenay on Fitzgerald Street

## ***The beginning of the United Church in the Comox Valley...***

**1925** — The three churches (Bay - Com, St. George's, Courtenay, St. Andrew's, Sandwick) joined the United Church as a three-point charge.

**1940** — The Bay Church becomes Comox United Church

**1949** — First female nominated to the Session; lych gate built over entrance

**1954** - Sunday School hall addition at Comox United Church - dedicated.

**1957** - lot adjacent to church purchased for expansion.

**1961** — Amalgamation of St. Andrew's United Church and Comox United Church

**1962** — St. George's United and Comox United become two separate pastoral charges

## ***Comox United Church on Beach Drive...***

**1966** — Three lots bought on Beach Drive and new church is built

**1968** — March 31 - First service held in the new Comox United Church

**1970-1976** — Building shared with St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic congregation

**1982** — Christian Education wing added above the Fellowship hall

## ***New beginnings...***

**1988** — Divisive vote following the 1988 General Council decision to ordain gays and lesbians; majority of congregation left and became the Bay Community Church

**1989- 1999** Rev. Bob Stiven, Minister

**1991** — Paul Colthorpe hired as choir director.

**1990-2000** — Upgrading of facilities: new roof, painting, new floor for fellowship hall, new office computer. Whole People of God Curriculum.

**1999 - 2015** Rev. Maggie Enwright, Minister

**2001-2002** — Ministerial Intern — Tim Lissimore

**2002** — The Comox Valley Unitarian Fellowship began sharing our building

**2005 -2009**— Christine Welch Staff Associate minister

**2006** - Gloria Heraf hired as Accompanist

**2008- 2015** — Saturday Evening Worship Services

**March 2009**—Comox United Council makes the decision to explore becoming an Affirming Ministry endorsed by congregational meeting in May 2009

**May 2009 to May 2011**—exploration and education regarding Affirming ministries

**June 12, 2011** — Comox United becomes an Affirming Ministry of the United Church of Canada

**2010- 2018**— Cathie Talbot Lay minister for Children, Youth and Family Ministry

**2013** — Chancel renovated

**2015 - 2021** Rev. Keltie van Binsbergen, Minister

**2017** — hall and sanctuary audio systems updated

**2018** — renovations/updates to upper and lower levels of the church

## MILESTONES ON OUR JOURNEY – continued

**2018 (August) – 2019 (June)** - Rev. Ted Hicks Interim Minister of Pastoral Care and Outreach  
**2019 (August) – 2020 (Jan.)** Rev. Ted Hicks Pastoral Minister  
**2019 (Oct.) – 2019 (Dec.)** Rev. Trevor Malkinson in a .75 position (Interim Minister)  
**2020 (Feb.)** – Wayne Hughes hired as part time Minister of Pastoral Care and Congregational Life  
**2020 (March)** – in person meetings and services stopped due to COVID19 pandemic  
**2021 (September)** – In person services resumed with safety protocols still in place  
**2021 Oct. – June 2022** – Visioning Process facilitated by Rev. Deb Bowman  
**2021 (Oct. – Dec)** – Rev. Phil Spencer and Rev. Deb Bowman led worship.  
Rev. Keltie on extended medical leave.  
**2022** Rev. Keltie van Binsbergen resigns  
**2022 (Jan. – June)** - Rev. Phil Spencer and Rev. Deb Bowman led worship.  
**2022 (Feb.)** - Began Livestreaming Services  
**2022 (September)** – heat pumps installed in church offices  
**2022 (October)** – began a partnership with Care-A-Van (Comox Bay Care Society)  
**2022 (January)** – Wayne Hughes retires  
**2023 (January)** - Hired Rev. Karen Hollis, Congregational Minister  
**2023 (January)** – heat pump installed in Sanctuary  
**2023 (August)** – Participation in Courteny’s first Gay Pride Parade  
**2024 (September)** – 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday afternoon Taizé Services  
**2026 (January)** – 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Friday morning Centering Prayer Services  
**2026 (January)** – entered into a partnership with BC Men’s Shed



# ANNUAL REPORT for Jan. – Dec. 2024

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# Annual General Meeting Minutes March 2, 2025

1. Welcome and Call to order 11:29 am

2. Opening Prayer – Karen Hollis

3. Establish Quorum (20 full members) Quorum was met.

4. Election of Officers for the AGM

**Motion:** That Andrew Black, Chair of Council, preside over this meeting and that Jane Wilson be the recording secretary for this meeting.

**Moved by Scott Curry; Seconded by Merrilee Cameron**

**Carried**

5. Voting Privileges

**Motion:** That members and adherents present at this meeting be allowed to vote as provided for in section B3.7.2 of the United Church Manual.

**Moved by Bruce Curtis; Seconded by Amy Yakimyshyn**

**Carried**

6. Voting Method

**Motion:** That voting at this meeting will be done by a show of hands.

**Moved by Evelyn Keith; Seconded by Patty Forbes-King**

**Carried**

7. Agenda

**Motion:** To accept the Agenda for this meeting with the following changes: Joan Gillies will run the election instead of Alan Brown; the position of treasurer is vacant for next year.

**Moved by Marni Fisher; Seconded by Joan Gillies**

**Carried**

8. Previous AGM Minutes

**Motion:** To approve the minutes of the February 25, 2024 Annual General Meeting.

**Moved by Patty Forbes-King; Seconded by Merrilee Cameron**

**Carried**

9. Annual Report

**Motion:** To accept the Annual General Report of January 2024 – December 2024 as distributed to the congregation via email February 2024.

**Moved by Bruce Curtis; Seconded by Noreen Robertson**

**Carried**

10. Treasurer's Report – Gisele Plouffe

a) Financial Report for 2024, including Giving Coordinator's Report.

**Motion:** To accept the Financial Report for 2024, including the Giving Coordinator's Report, as published in the Annual Report.

**Moved by Ken Newman; Seconded by Arlene Bell**

**Carried**

The increased rental of our facilities provided more revenue as well as our fundraising efforts.

Gisele Plouffe reviewed the expenditures for 2024. There was a question about the Canoe investment; it was clarified that it was set aside for roofing.

b) Budget for 2025

**Motion:** To accept the Budget for 2025 as published in the Annual Report.

**Moved by Bruce Curtis; Seconded by Joyce Wagland**

**Carried**

Gisele Plouffe introduced our new Bookkeeper – Lilia Pohlid who will help the treasurer by doing all the reports.

Property committee has no chair so their budget is the same as last year.

The Budget shows a deficit but the investment income will help to reduce this deficit.

Concern was expressed that the Have a Heart production provides a large portion of our income.

We should be not so dependent on that income in the event that the production ceases.

Doug Forbes-King reviewed the books for 2023 and offered some helpful advice.

## Annual General Meeting minutes continued

11. Election of Council – Joan Gillies

**Motion:** To elect the following people on the indicated committees to the Church  
**Moved by Ross Griffith-Cochrane; Seconded by Joyce Wagland**

**Carried**

Council:

Chair – Joanne Wiens

Vice-Chair – Andrew Black

Secretary –

Treasurer –

Ministry & Personnel – Karen Spencer

Trustees – Andrew Black

Worship – Marni Fisher

Property –

Pastoral Care – Noreen Robertson

Congregational Life – Fiona Curry

Faith Exploration – Wayne Wilson

Social Justice – Dave Talbot

Pacific Mountain Regional Reps - Ken Newman, Karen Spencer

Members at Large – Bev Agur

A reminder that Council meetings are open. Stewardship is looking for people to serve and is not all about money.

**Motion:** To allow Council to appoint volunteers to Council and its committees during the next year, except where National or Regional rules require a congregational vote.

**Moved by Ross Griffith-Cochrane; Seconded by Evelyn Keith**

**Carried**

12. Council Chair Remarks – Andrew Black

Andrew Black acknowledged Jane Wilson and Gisele Plouffe who are finishing their terms on Council. Andrew also thanked the congregation for attending the meeting. Church is more than giving by contributing to make a positive community.

Closing prayer.

Ross Griffith-Cochrane thanked Andrew Black for his role as chair.

13. Adjournment 12:24

**Motion:** To adjourn this Annual General Meeting.

**Moved by Joan Gillies**

**Carried**

## MINISTER'S REPORT

The end of 2025 marks 3 years that we have been journeying together through church life and ministry! This has been a year full of great stuff!

In worship this year we have explored some different sermon series, from a journey through light and shadow in Epiphany with the help of The Acts of Paul and Thecla (from A New New Testament) to a summer pilgrimage through the parables of Jesus, and a series on Grief and Loss in the fall. We did some further exploration of Open Space, a time in the service where people are invited to move around the sanctuary to different stations to pray and personally engage the theme of the day. In the fall we tried including this in worship once a month.

I led (and attended) my very first Hanging the Greens service on the Friday before the first Sunday in Advent. I invited those gathered to think about what the greens represent and why we have this practice.

We collaborated with Comox Valley Hospice again on the Blue Christmas service. Our theme this year was Journey/Pilgrimage. We welcomed 4 different musical groups, invited people on a pilgrimage of images around the sanctuary, and offered affirmation cards for the journey. The service was very well attended, and all of us organizers continue to find the collaboration a heart-felt and rich experience.

In the afternoon on the third Thursday of the month, I can be found Berwick, leading a worship service with Bible study. Sandra Garrow plays the piano and we sing together well-loved hymns of the past. We usually study a lectionary reading from the coming Sunday. The small group of attendees are grateful for the gathering and come from a mixture of United Church and other denominational backgrounds.

The Affirm Committee continued with our pattern of offering services with an affirming theme on a quarterly basis. Each service has a learning or engagement component – this year these included the pride parade, PIE day, and Queer History. I tried a similar model with reconciliation this year, as well. We had an Indigenous themed service near Indigenous People's Day and showed a film at the church called: The Story of the Coast Salish Knitters, which is about the knitters of Cowichan sweaters. Near Truth and Reconciliation Day, we had a reconciliation themed service and showed the film: Sugarcane. We had 60 people from the community attend the film.

I started thinking differently about the Land Acknowledgement this year. Instead of simply acknowledging the land, I decided to teach about the land. I started with a short history of the K'ómoks First Nation, called K'ómoks First Nation: Amalgamations and Mergers. Each week I would share a 1-2 minute piece of history. When we came to the end of that document, I went to the KFN website for more resources and found a longer history, which I began to tell in short pieces each week. The history took us through to the end of the year and beyond.

Queer Bible Study continued this year with texts from the first and second century that were not included in the Bible. The source of most of the texts we study is A New New Testament. This year we studied The Gospel of Truth, a text that is written in a kind of stream of consciousness that celebrates the role of Jesus in teaching us about God; The Letter of Peter to Philip, which talks about the importance of unity among the apostles and sharing the message of Christ, no matter the danger; a few Odes of Solomon, which are like Psalms, but written in the Christian tradition; and The Gospel of Thomas, which is a collection of sayings of Jesus, some of which are familiar to us and some of which are new. We finished the year about half way through the Gospel of Thomas. We learned about theological reflection along the way, which is the process of unpacking a text in the context of our lives and the world today.

2025 was the Centennial year of the United Church of Canada. I was on the planning committee for the celebration in the Comox Valley, which took place at St. George's United. The Rev. Ingrid Brown (Weird Church Cumberland) and I coordinated and led the worship service in collaboration with a number of active and retired church leaders. It was a rich celebration, which lifted up both our history and our path into the future.

## MINISTER'S REPORT – continued

I served the wider church in a couple of additional ways this year. I continued as the Pastoral Charge Supervisor for Campbell River United as they wrapped up their search for a new minister. We ended our formal relationship in March, when their new minister started. In the summer, I was asked to serve as a mentor for the United Church's pilot mentorship program. In the fall, I was connected with 6 clergy people who are newly ordained and in their first call. I lead them in a monthly gathering of mutual support and learning.

I was delighted to help out with Have a Heart again this year by being the Master of Ceremony . . . which means I get to introduce the show! It's such a joy to interact with the cast and crew and do my small part.

In the fall we welcomed a new couple to our congregation who had recently experienced a house fire and were in need of help getting back on their feet. The council decided to invite the congregation to do a food, clothing, and housewares drive for them. The community really came around the couple in a good way and are in a much better place than they were before. I'm so grateful for all of your generosity and care. Thank you!

I presided at 2 weddings this year and 2 memorials. The weddings were both off-site and beautiful celebrations. We lost Cal Nixon and Jodi Voakes (non-member) and remembered them well with services in the sanctuary. They continue to be well loved and missed.

I continue to do continuing education behind the scenes. This year I took a class on complexity online through Harvest Moon Consulting (Bowen Island). It was a fantastic experience that I think I'll be unpacking for the rest of my life. After spending years thinking about visioning and strategic planning, complexity is giving me a new lens for leading an organization in an intentional way. For instance, instead of goals and objectives, I tried on the idea of setting a direction of travel and taking iterative steps in that direction. I continue to meet monthly online with other faith leaders in the class to explore complexity in our contexts.

When my class was over, I became more aware of all the ideas and thoughts about the church knocking around in my brain with nowhere to go. So, Karen Spencer (M&P chair) and I put together an "Incubation" group in the fall, which is basically a sounding board for me to share thoughts and ideas about the church. Without a colleague in the building, this is a very helpful group for me to talk with – I save up my thoughts and talk with the group quarterly.

I was grateful when Joanne stepped back into the role of council chair this year. She and I meet a few times a month to talk about the direction of the church and how to close the gap between how we operate on paper and in practice.

While the stuff of the world has been a real challenge this year, I walk through the threshold between this year and the next with hope . . . hope in God, hope in us, hope for the world . . . "hope that defies expectations, hope that questions what we have known, hope that makes a way where there is none" (Jan Richardson). I am so encouraged by the life I see in this place. While we're all getting older and the life of the church is shifting and changing, people are showing up for one another and continuing to shape Comox United into the future. What a joy it is to journey with you all.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rev. Karen Hollis



## PASTORAL REPORT Jan.1, 2025 - Dec. 31, 2025

**Confirmed Membership:** 31 Dec. 2023 179 resident 9 non resident = 188  
31 Dec. 2024 176 resident 5 non resident = 181  
31 Dec. 2025 170 resident 8 non resident = 178

added by Re-Affirmation of faith - 0  
added by Transfer – 2  
removed due to death - 1  
removed by Council - 0  
removed by transfer – 4  
removed by request - 0

**Those received by re-affirmation of faith:**

**Those received by transfer:** Charlene Stanway, Dale Stanway

**Those who have died** (\*members): Bill Drug, Eva Swanson\*

**Community members:** Jodi Voakes

*Saints by the power of God are kept 'till their salvation comes:  
We walk by faith as strangers here; but Christ shall call us home*

**Commitment Ceremony:** Andrea Smith to Shawn Woodcock



# COUNCIL CHAIR

2025 was a year of energy at Comox United Church. Please take the time to read the full Annual Report to learn about the accomplishments of our dedicated teams. Every person mentioned in this Annual Report deserves a huge round of applause for stepping up and enriching the community of Comox United Church (CxU) with their gifts of time and talent. Thank you so much!

The following summary highlights many of the events and projects undertaken this year. Look for all the ways we are living our values of Spirituality, Openness, Radical Love and Care for the Common Good.

## Reconciliation:

- Marie Wilson, a Truth and Reconciliation Commissioner, spoke to members of the congregation and the public in September. Her book “North of Nowhere” chronicles the TRC process that happened in Canada from 2010 to 2016. Thanks to Elaine Stewart for arranging this visit by Marie, and also for following up in 2026 with discussion groups focused on the book and what we can do to improve the relationship between Indigenous people and settlers.
- Also in September the movie “Sugarcane” was shown. The movie documents how an investigation into abuse and missing children at an Indian residential school ignited a reckoning on the nearby Sugarcane Reserve (near Williams Lake, BC). Thanks to Dave Talbot and everyone who made that happen.
- Every Sunday morning Rev Karen continues to teach us a little more about local Indigenous history and the K’omoks First Nation.

## Relationships:

- The Affirming group continued its monthly Rainbow Gatherings in support of Comox Valley LGBTQ2S+ individuals and their allies.
- We-Can Shelter was a focus of Special Appeals in the fall of 2025. We heard from a woman who had been homeless and was now living in one of these sea-can renovated homes, and the positive effect of having a warm, safe place to live.
- Two speakers educated us on the relationship between Palestine and Israel.
- In May the Pastoral Care group, assisted by Marni Fisher and Karen Hollis, hosted the Caregiver Retreat at Ocean Resort. Our immense thanks to Noreen Robertson for continuing to organize this much-needed rejuvenating retreat.
- Our congregation provided over-whelming support to two men who recently moved to the Comox Valley and were struggling with jobs and housing.
- Thanks to Ken Newman for keeping the plight of the homeless in our community at the forefront of our consciousness. Council has been discussing the possibility of CxU becoming an Extreme Weather Response (EWR) Shelter. Ken, Karen Hollis and I have been talking with local homelessness agencies, the Town of Comox, and BC Housing about how this might look at Comox United. We’ve learned a lot. A meeting to discuss the possibility of an EWR at CxU will be scheduled with the congregation soon.
- Our covenant relationship with the Comox Valley Unitarian Fellowship (CVUF) continues. CxU and CVUF held a joint picnic at Kin Beach Park in June with food and games enjoyed by all.
- Our building continues to host the Comox Bay Care Society, its Care-A-Van, and its donation sorting hub.
- Our SAGE group (Sustainability Action Group for the Environment) offered two thought-provoking TED Talk videos after Sunday worship. The SAGE bulletin board in the hall continues to be updated with ideas for fighting the climate crisis and healing our relationship with the planet.

## Property:

- Due to the lack of a Property chairperson in 2025, coordination of building maintenance and repairs fell to Lorna and me. Many large and small projects were willingly completed by members of CxU including Jim Whitehead, Scott Agur, Doug Hoon, Steve Thiessen, Gord Kilarski, Howard Robertson, Ken Newman and others, as well as Men’s Shed members.

## COUNCIL CHAIR continued

- During the summer the floors in the hall and main level washrooms were stripped and re-waxed.
- The standard of cleanliness has fallen during the past year so Karen Spencer and Bev Agur took up the challenge of finding new cleaners. New cleaners will start effective March 1, 2026.
- In 2027 a cracked window will be replaced and roof repairs will be required.

### Revenue Initiatives:

- Thanks to Elaine Brown for her wonderful fund-raising ideas like “Comox United University” and the on-going “444 Project”. Not only has money been raised but our community has become more connected through these activities. We also appreciate how these initiatives reach out to involve people who do not attend CxU.
- Thanks to Alan Brown for leading two Stewardship Campaigns in 2025. These initiatives increased the Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR) offerings that CxU relies on for operating our ministry.
- The Venue Team, thanks to the leadership of Howard Robertson, continued to improve the physical appearance of the church, which contributes to increased rentals. These physical changes were made possible by funds from the Frances and Mel Thomas Bequest. We are grateful for their legacy gift.

### Policies:

- Council revised the **Rent Reduction Policy** and application form. Renters requesting a reduction in rental fee must now re-apply to Council every August. The regular Rental Form was also updated to specifically prohibit audio and video recording of renters’ events, in order not to violate Canadian Copyright law or potentially make CxU responsible for SOCAN fees.
- Council also made a small clarification to the **Communication Policy**.

### Leadership Changes:

- Gisèle Plouffe resigned as Treasurer in May and moved to France! In February we hired Lillia Pohlid as our bookkeeper, and in June we welcomed Laurel Erhart as our new Treasurer. It has been a learning curve for all of us, and our finances are in very capable hands.
- Jane Wilson retired as Council Secretary and took up the role of Library coordinator, working long hours this summer and fall to organize and declutter the library.
- Ross Griffith-Cochrane became the Council Secretary in June.
- After several years, Cheryl McMahon left the role of Givings Administrator, took a break, and then joined the Pastoral Care team.
- Debra Monk became our new Givings Administrator and also joined the Worship committee.
- Robin Giles became a member of the Trustees.
- Andrew Black shifted from Acting Council Chair to Vice-Chair in the spring, and continues as a Trustee and member of the Finance team.
- Some volunteers retired from their positions and we thank them for their service: Don Silman, Wendy Stewart-Fox, Trevor Fox.

### Council:

I am so grateful to be sharing church leadership with these members of Council – Bev Agur, Andrew Black, Fiona Curry, Laurel Erhart, Marni Fisher, Ross Griffith-Cochrane, Karen Hollis, Ken Newman, Noreen Robertson, Karen Spencer, Dave Talbot, and Wayne Wilson. Thank you for showing up, for enthusiastic engagement and thoughtful, respectful discussions. We’ve been trying various meeting formats to make our meetings as productive as possible, and keep our four values top-of-mind as we perform our governance and operational tasks. Thank you for your flexibility.

### Volunteers:

Comox United Church could not exist without the many volunteers who fill big and small roles in our organization. You will see their names scattered throughout this Annual Report. Thanks to each of you, and to those whose names are not mentioned and also appreciated.

## COUNCIL CHAIR continued

On Sunday mornings a PowerPoint slide reminds us of the *“Life and Work of the Church”*. Many of us participate in the *“life”* of the church by attending worship, Bible and book studies, Taizé and Centering Prayer services, and special interest groups. It’s wonderful to have so many options that meet various needs of the congregation.

What about the *“work”* of the church? There are many opportunities to get involved with this *“work”*. Every working group (aka committee) is looking for volunteers to share the workload.

Here are just a few of the benefits of volunteering:

- ✓ Meet new friends
- ✓ Develop new skills
- ✓ Boost your mental and physical health
- ✓ Increase your sense of purpose
- ✓ Build confidence and experience
- ✓ Make a difference

In particular, we are looking for people interested in **property stewardship, worship planning, support for those in our congregation (aka Pastoral Care), and staffing (aka Ministry & Personnel)**.

Specialized action groups are also looking for additional volunteers – **SAGE climate action group, Extreme Weather Response (EWR) Shelter working group, and Affirming LGBTQ2S+ group**.

These groups actively live out our values of Care for the Common Good, Openness, and Radical Love. You are welcome to attend one of their meetings to learn what they are all about. Contact the group/committee coordinator or the church office to confirm meeting dates and times.

Relationships, connection, exploring ideas, and taking action for a better world are all ways to expand our personal and communal spirituality. Yes, 2025 was a year of energy. Together may we harness all the positive energy of Comox United and share this open, loving, spiritual community with our world.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joanne Wiens, Council Chair



## **Joint Liaison Committee Comox United (CxU) – Comox Valley Unitarians (CVU)**

Members: Greg Olynyk (CVU) (Chair), Liz Gooder (CVU), Lynn Armstrong (CVU), Bruce Curtis (Secretary), Mike Stewart, Rev. Karen Hollis

The Joint Liaison Committee is mandated by Comox United Church Council to liaise with the Comox Valley Unitarians concerning matters arising under the Covenant between our two congregations. It is composed of three members of each congregation, appointed annually. The Comox United reps report directly to Council.

The Committee usually schedules 3 – 4 meetings per year (January 16, April 4, August 28, November 13). At each meeting we share updates on the congregations, what they're doing, special activities, and emerging concerns and issues. This has included:

- Sharing notices of each congregation's special services that may be of interest.
- Activities that may be of interest to both congregations
- Swapping ideas about remediating declining attendance

This year the work of the JLC included:

1. Sponsored and hosted the Harold Rosen course: Justice: Its Global Development and offered it to the member congregations of the Comox Valley Multi-faith Council. Average attendance over the four weekly sessions was 18 – 24. The series ran on March 21, 28, April 4, and 11.
2. Organizing the Annual Joint Picnic at Kin Beach Provincial Park, June 22 with Dave Ashwell leading some singing following lunch; Howard Robertson band played during lunchtime.
3. Nautical Days service offered by the Multi-Faith group which was asked to organize the event this year. We shared space with the Unitarians and provided some space for St. George's United.
4. Marched in the Pride Parade and shared tent space at Pride in the Park in August.
5. Both congregations were encouraged to participate in Part 2 of the Queer History workshop Nov 23<sup>rd</sup>.
6. Joint worship services became somewhat difficult to plan when the Unitarian part-time minister accepted a new job with another congregation. As an alternative, each congregation specifically invited participation in: Comox United's Orange Shirt Day service about Indian Residential schools on Sept. 28, and the Unitarian's Winter Solstice Service on Dec. 21.
7. Initiated CWEO - Connecting With Each Other by organizing Monthly joint activities (mostly board games nights) but could also include: film nights, potluck dinners, etc. Individuals will be encouraged to plan group dinners inviting members from each congregation (none held yet).

### **Plans for 2026:**

8. Renewal/revision of the Covenant which ends on December 31<sup>st</sup>.
9. Development of an Afternoon film series with important films, discussion following, with tea and crumpets. Committee members will suggest titles to include.

## CONGREGATIONAL LIFE GROUP

2025 was another busy year at Comox United! We enjoyed many ways of getting together and getting to know one another throughout the year.

Several soup and bun lunches were hosted and were well attended. Not only do we enjoy delicious nourishing soups and conversation, but we also raise money for various local charities and Comox United Church. Thanks to all who provide soup and buns, to those who help with set up and clean up too.

In March, we enjoyed an evening celebrating Pie Day with, of course, delicious pie! We watched an eye-opening documentary about the discriminating ways the LGBTQ community, both in the Canadian and American Armed Forces, were discriminated against. Several people came to speak about their firsthand experiences, and we had meaningful discussion after the speakers and film. We learned of inherent destructive biases in the military, the way peoples' lives turned upside-down because of long standing discrimination and the how determination and effective support helped them to overcome. The evening was very well attended.

With a beautiful cake, we celebrated Gloria Hereaf's dedication to the arts, to our church and the wider community with the many Have A Heart productions she has written and produced over the years. Many faithful community members, including many talented church folk, spend countless hours practising, singing, dancing, costume changing and set painting until the presentations are perfect. Performances are well attended and over the years, thousands of dollars have been raised. Monies raised are given to charities in the Comox Valley and Comox United Church. THANK YOU, GLORIA!

With more cake, we celebrated Florence's 103<sup>rd</sup> Birthday! Congratulations!

In November, we enjoyed the Hanging of the Greens potluck and service that heralded in the Advent season. The sanctuary was lovingly decorated and all in attendance enjoyed the varied dishes and desserts offered. Rev. Karen led the service after our dinner together.

In December, we offered a tea after the Blue Christmas service. This is such an important ministry to the wider community involving both CxU and Hospice. We all enjoyed the fourth Sing a long that Gloria facilitated, those in attendance enjoyed singing favourite Christmas carols and money raised went to support CxC. Once again, thank you so much, Gloria!

The weekend and monthly offerings of Congregational Life are ongoing and offer their own ministries to all people who attend. These include Social Singles, the knitting group, Men's breakfast, Coffee and Conversation on Tuesdays, Bible study on Wednesday mornings, the walking group and Men's Shed. Please refer to the website if you are interested in attending any of these weekly and monthly offerings.

Keep an eye on events happening at the church by both professional and amateur musicians. Throughout the year there are solo performances, choirs, and ensembles of all musical genres many of which are advertised on the bulletin board on the way into the hall.

I give my grateful thanks to all who help lead and offer their time to make Comox United Church a welcoming faith community from the greeters to the coffee makers, to those who set up tables and wash dishes at the end of an event ....**Thank you all!**

We give grateful thanks to Margie V. for her organizational skills of our faithful coffee volunteers. Thank you, Margie! Bev S. has stepped up to fill her shoes and is doing a great job, thanks Bev! If you'd like to help with setting up and making coffee and tea on Sunday mornings, please reach out me. I encourage you all to wear your **name tags**, if you would like to have one made for you, please leave your name in the narthex, reach out to a greeter and they will help you find the sheet.

Respectfully submitted,  
Fiona Curry, Congregational Life chair

## CONGREGATIONAL LIFE GROUP – continued

### United Church Women (UCW)

*Mission Statement: Love God, Foster Christian commitment, faithfulness, and spirituality. Promote respect and love for all God's creation.*

Our Comox UCW had a great 2025 living out our mission and fostering increased connection within our group and with the greater church community! Meetings were chaired by Brenda Cairncross, vice-chair was Elaine Brown, and the treasurer was Leslie Fraser. We met once a month on the second Monday at 1:15 in the Board room. Our meetings included a business portion where we reviewed correspondence, allocated funds to charities, and planned upcoming events, followed by a social time with tea, goodies and the sharing of stories.



The year was filled with fun activities for the members of the group, and the church. May was our yearly *Spring Bake Sale and Bazaar*, and in June we held our *Church Ladies Luncheon* which included a wonderful fashion show of creative clothing manufactured by UCW members using recycled materials. Narrated by

Isobel McLeish, models Marj Barteaux, Lucia Brodie, Elaine Brown, Leslie Fraser, Joan Hanson, Heather Holm, Gisele Plouffe, Noreen Robertson and Reta Walls put on quite a show which was greatly appreciated by the over 40 women attending.



In November, we held our Christmas Tea and Bazaar. We were pleased that Comox Road was open, and there was a very good turn-out. This year we benefited from musical accompaniment by 'Swing Duo' which kept visitors entertained as they shopped and ate cookies. December, we hosted our Christmas Ladies Luncheon. We had about 45 join us for this event.



Gloria Herauf provided Christmas music joined by a few women vocalists after dessert. There was a speaker from Transition House, and attendees brought donations for that group.

Memorial teas are an important part of our mandate. When a loved member of our congregation passes away and their family wishes to hold a memorial gathering at the church, the UCW will coordinate and serve the tea and goodies that the family provides. In 2025, we looked after two memorial teas, one for Jody Voakes and one for Cal Nixon.



In January we allocate the funds raised throughout the year at the above-mentioned events, to various charities. In 2025 we gave to: Child Haven--\$235, Doctors without Border--\$300, Santa's workshop--\$300.00, Covenant House--\$300, Dawn to Dawn Action on Homelessness--\$300, L'Arche--\$300.

Our group was happy to welcome Brenda Walls-Baker to our group this year. We hope to attract more members in 2026, as age and illness have reduced our numbers over the last couple of years.

Respectfully submitted, Brenda Cairncross

**The Walking Group:** meets on the last Sunday of the month for a walk of about an hour with an average attendance 8 - 10 people. The group has explored a variety of trails throughout the Comox Valley and always welcomes new walkers.

Respectfully submitted, Bev Agur

**Social Single:** We are a group of 12 people who would normally eat alone. We meet the second Friday of every month for a potluck meal. We meet at 12 noon in the winter or 5:00pm in the summer. We meet in each other's homes if there is room or at the church. Summer months we meet at Marine Park with a packed meal or use the food trucks (great fish and chips). This is a good way to socialize and support each other. For more information call Alison Scott at 250-650-1723

## CONGREGATIONAL LIFE GROUP – continued

**The Knitting Group:** The knitting group meets weekly throughout the year. During the summer months we met outdoors and the rest of the time we met at the church.

The group has about 12 members.

Members of the group knitted and crocheted a variety of projects – slippers for the Comox Valley Transition House, items for the church bazaar, prayer shawls and socks as well as projects of their own. The socks are given to the “Sock it to Em” program – a project run by a Comox Valley woman who sells handmade socks and uses the proceeds to buy heavy duty socks and other items for the disadvantaged in our community.

Proceeds from the bazaar were used to purchase 10 of the new Then Let Us Sing hymn books for the church and to purchase yarn for prayer shawls.

Not only do the members enjoy knitting and crocheting together but they also provide companionship and support for those living alone.

New members are always welcome to join us, whether they are wanting to learn to knit or crochet, experienced, or somewhere in between. Come for community and friendship – lively discussion guaranteed!

Respectfully submitted, Bev Agur



### **Affirming committee**

*Committee Members: Dr. Serena Patterson, Rev. Scott Agur, Brooke Kennedy, Rev. Karen Hollis, Bruce Curtis, Patty Forbes-King, Bobby and Lawrence Bowes*

One of the important ways in which we orient ourselves and others to what we do and who we are as the Affirming Committee of Comox United Church in Comox BC is to remember and to repeat our Mission Statement:

*“Our mission is to serve the development of an Intergenerational Queer community, through such activities as planned monthly Intergenerational Friday evening events, offered off-site to the Queer and Allies communities and to educate the Comox United Congregation on affirming ministry, through various engagement activities like Pride Parade and Pride in the Park, Pie Day film night, three Affirming Ministry services per year, workshops (Queer History and Culture, Queer Bible Study), and worship, including Queer Vespers”.*

Throughout the year we remind ourselves that we are an Affirming congregation by celebrating four Affirming-themed Worship Services. They are usually associated with particular community events or dates such as PIE Day held each year on March 14<sup>th</sup> (to celebrate and Publicly, Intentionally and Explicitly affirm the 2SLGBTQIA+ community); May 17 honouring elders (May 16<sup>th</sup> is Honour Our LGBTQ Elders day) and challenging and responding to queer phobias (May 17<sup>th</sup> is International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT)); Pride Festival in late August; and November featuring a topical theme (this year it was allyship).

This year we also offered to our own congregation, as well as the broader community, two sessions led by Dr. Serena Patterson on the history of Gay Culture Part 1 from Antiquity to Stonewall and Part 2 from Stonewall to the present day. These sessions followed worship and included a free lunch. Attendance was about 40 people, with a nice balance of church folk and non-church folk. It was a powerful and insightful sharing by Serena.

On the Nautical Days Weekend, we participated in the first Multi-faith worship service as the new mode for Nautical Days worship services. This was a worship service that emphasized the diversity of worship in our community. The service was inclusively themed around ‘meeting your neighbours’ with tents by different religious denominations and a conversation pit in the centre with an invitation to those attending to speak with each other and come to learn something about other faith communities in the Valley. There were particularly enjoyable conversations, some with folk who had not previously met.

## Affirming Committee continued

Also in August we walked with our pride banner along 5<sup>th</sup> Street in Courtenay with rainbow boas and flags and handed out rainbow skittles to excited children. Drums were played. There were many folk lining the streets waving and cheering us as we walked in impressive numbers. Our booth in a local park offered several promotional materials about Comox United as an Affirming congregation and invited folk to the Affirming Service the next day at Comox United Church.

As we continue to reflect on 2025, we are happy to report that the Affirming Committee of Comox United Church hosted seven Rainbow Gatherings on the third Friday of the month at a local coffee shop, the Bayside Bistro. We gathered in numbers ranging from 25 – 40 folk with good representation from the straight and queer communities. Over coffee and delicious cakes, we enter into dialogue and friendship. Each evening has a different theme/activity which this year included: Karaoke, Spinning Love Stories, Living Queer in the Comox Valley, a softball game in Lewis Park, Queer Trivial Pursuit, Board Games, an evening of Improv, and a film exploring the lived experience of Queer Hindus “coming out” in Surrey/Vancouver in celebration of Diwali in October.

The year ended successfully for the Affirm Committee with the wonderful news that Pacific Rocky Mountain Region’s ProVision Committee had awarded a Grant of \$10,800 to fund several of our planned activities for 2026.

Globally, LGBTQ issues are increasingly visible, with growing social acceptance and legal rights like marriage equality in many countries. And yet, many other countries still criminalize same-sex relationships, sometimes with severe penalties, creating ongoing challenges for LGBTQ and individuals seeking safety, rights and acceptance.

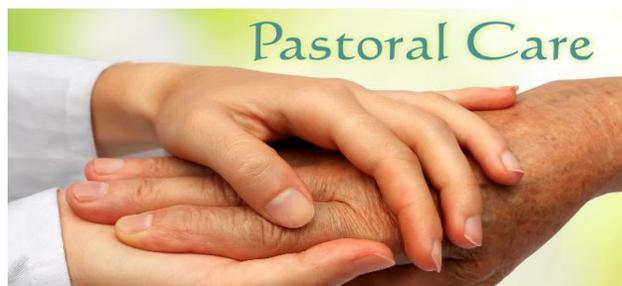
Younger generations, especially Gen Z, identify as LGBTQ+ at higher rates and are more likely to know someone who is LGBTQ+ compared to older generations.

The work of the Comox United Church Affirming Committee is crucial to achieving the dialogue that is necessary to advance the rights of our LGBTQ++ friends. Our committee is formed with a wonderful balance of gay and straight individuals, all of whom value the friendships that we have made in our mutual journeys. The financial support given by Comox United to the Affirming Committee facilitates both an engagement with the forces of darkness and a hope that there will be more and more gatherings, such as our Affirming Services of Worship, public lectures and Friday nights at the Bayside Bistro where we come to know and love one another as we embark on the journey of life and faith.

The Committee is always open to new members who wish to engage in this special outreach activity, shaping the hearts and minds of our congregation and the broader Comox Valley community. If you are interested in exploring this possibility, please contact a committee member to discuss the options.

Faithfully, The Affirming Committee





The Pastoral Care Committee continues to care for the needs of members of Comox United. We thank members who quietly continue to support others in our congregation with visits, rides to church events and caring concern for other congregation members.

We also thank you for bringing attention to the committee when cards or visits are required as we cannot all be personally connected to each member of the church. We are especially thankful for the pastoral ministry that Rev. Karen Hollis brings to the congregation.

The present committee is made up of Carol Jennermann, Mae Pagdin, Heather Flint, Diane Davies, Cherly McMahon, Valetta Nixon and Noreen Robertson. We also have a small prayer team of Joan Gillies, Elaine Burnell, Trevor Fox and Noreen Robertson.

The team have been visiting those who are unable to attend church. We also do hospital visits. Please let us know if you are aware of someone who would like a visit.

Carol Jennerman continues her leadership in bringing a monthly , Septemeber to June service, on the third Sunday of the month. Carol has been part of this ministry for 30 years. We thank Carol and those members who kindly offer their help in turning pages and singing with the residents. Please let Carol know if you are willing to help out in this regard or just turn up at Glacier View for the service from 1:30 - 2:00 on those Sundays. Reminders are posted in the Grapevine Newsletter. It is a joyful way to volunteer.

Rev. Karen with the assistance of Elaine Burnell and Sandra Garrow on keyboard leads a monthly devotional discussion at Berwick.

We continue to support those taking treatments for cancer with Healing Touch and Reiki. These treatments are held in the lower level of the church in the early afternoons on Tuesdays. We thank Hospice for their support in continuing this program. Appointments can be made by phoning Hospice at 250-871-0696. The feedback has always been positive. We see that those who receive treatment, connect and become a support to each other.

Our gifted card writer, Mae Pagdin, sent out 32 cards. Please contact Heather Flint or myself if you know someone who should receive a card.

Valetta Nixon facilitates the prayer shawls. Four prayer shawls were given out this year. Please contact Valetta if you know someone who would benefit from one. You can deliver it yourself or request that one of the team make the delivery. The person receiving the shawl does not have to be a member of the congregation. Thank you to the knitting team for their assistance in knitting these.

Caregiver Retreat: We were fortunate, once again to receive a grant from the Pacific Mountain ProVision Fund Committee. The retreat was held in early May with twelve participants. The event was held from Friday dinner until Sunday morning at 11 a.m. It is a time when caregivers are able to find space to breathe without responsibilities. Rev. Karen joined the group on Saturday. morning and opened a discussion about caregiving. The afternoon offered an opportunity for those interested to have a chair healing We were also able to offer an art project for a couple of hours in the afternoon. The feedback from this retreat is always very positive.

We welcome new members to the committee. Please feel free to speak to one of us if you are interested in joining us.

Respectfully submitted by Noreen Robertson

## WORSHIP and SACRAMENTS GROUP



**Worship Leaders:** Reverend Karen conducted almost all of the services this past year except for a Stewardship Sunday in February conducted by Joanne Weins and Alan Brown; Elaine Stewart and Karen had us celebrating Earth Day on May 4 with the Awakeners; Joyce Wagland led two services in May and June; Keith Simmonds led a service in August and did a video presentation on his 3 week experience in Palestine as an Observer in the hall after the service – he is a passionate speaker. Trevor Malkinson led two services in the Fall – it was good to see him again. We shared services with Comox Valley Presbyterian, St. George's United and St. Peter's Anglican in the month of July as well as on December 29<sup>th</sup>. It is always a joy to see what have become more familiar faces since we began sharing services over the last several years.

**Music:** Paul Colthorpe has been the music director at Comox United Church for 30+ years – and he still teaches music full-time as well as leading the North Island Choral Society! We are blessed with his energy and enthusiasm leading the choir and congregational singing. Gloria Herauf plays for most services and we so appreciate her selections for prelude, meditation and postlude music. We currently have 2 congregation members who fill in.

**Easter Sunrise Service:** was held at Goose Spit again this year with several people from the Comox Valley community along with congregation members. Buns and fish were provided by volunteers despite no response to a newsletter plea for a Coordinator.

**Blue Christmas:** service was held in the church in December. Rev. Hollis worked with CV Hospice planning the service and congregation members supplied coffee/tea and goodies after the service.

**Hanging of the Greens:** Fiona Curry and Karen Spencer took on planning for this service on Nov. 28 along with a potluck supper. Those who attended were pleased and the rest of the congregation was pleased to see the church decorated for the first Sunday of Advent.

**Christmas Eve:** we welcomed congregation and community members to one Christmas candlelight service at 7 p.m. (rather than 8) so those bringing children might attend. A special thanks to the ushers and helpers preparing for this service.

**Taizé:** We conducted Taizé services twice a month since September 2024 and had a core group of 8-10 people attending – which was dwindling in the last quarter. We have some community members who worship with us as well as some congregation members.

**New Member Liturgy:** Karen worked with the committee to make this liturgy more reflective of the values of Comox United.

**Sanctuary Care:** We, the “Mighty Mice”, have been keeping our sanctuary tidy with our quiet service for the last year. Taking turns in a four-to-five-week rotation, we tidy the candles, trim wicks, fill the prayer stone bowls, check that the linens at the front are straight, the hymn books are in their place and that the seat cushions are replaced in the cupboards. We refill the envelope boxes with the new beautifully designed Welcome pamphlets. On Sunday we open the piano, ensure the minister has a glass of water and turn on the lights. Occasionally we tidy or replace the flower arrangements and change the fly traps on the front windows. Any service is made lighter by many hands. If you think you might be interested in joining us, please contact me at [celtic-heron@telus.net](mailto:celtic-heron@telus.net)

Submitted by Heather Flint.

January 2026

**Greeters:** Carol Jennerman continues to organize greeters and ushers for all services and we are so grateful for the smiling, helpful faces as people enter the church for services. We also thank this group for their patience as we occasionally ‘mix things up’ with the way we take care of the offering.

**Budget:** Approximately 40% of the total budget costs are related to worship and sacraments (for example: the amount of time the minister spends on services; the cost of heating the sanctuary for services; cost of decorative elements; and time spent by the music team for worship).

Respectfully submitted by Marni Fisher

## FAITH EXPLORATION GROUP

The Faith Exploration group continued to provide several book studies and opportunities to explore our faith of Christianity as well as other faith/philosophical traditions. The library in the fellowship hall is a vital resource for exploring faith through books and video DVD's. The group's activities are limited only by a paucity of individuals willing to take the lead in organizing an activity. Anyone interested in a new faith exploration activity need not be a committee member, only someone with an idea or a question about faith. We do have funds available in the budget to support new activities.

**Committee Members:** Wayne Wilson (chair), Peggy Zimmerman, Elaine Stewart, Jane Wilson (library).

### 2025 Activities:

- Ongoing weekly Bible Study (currently Secret Book of John from New New Testament): Karen Hollis, 10 to 11 participants.
- Study of non-canonical texts (e.g., Gospel of Thomas): Peggy Zimmerman, about 14 participants, ongoing every two weeks. Note: while this group is not closed it does require previous knowledge of the evolving "new" Christianity.
- Book study of *North of Nowhere*: Elaine Stewart, about 20 participants. Note: this study is under the auspices of Social Justice Committee.
- Summer Youth Camp support: funds provided to Camp Spirit via St. Georges United/Weird Church to support summer youth camp.
- The library contains resources on a wide variety of faith exploration topics. The content is being reviewed to ensure resources are current and relevant.
- Broadview: the church continued to offer the congregation a group subscription. Announcements were made in the church newsletter to renew or start a subscription to the magazine.

The committee welcomes any ideas for congregational education, and especially anyone willing to initiate or present an educational experience: committee membership is not necessary and some funds are available (within budget).

Respectfully submitted, Wayne Wilson

## MINISTRY & PERSONNEL (M&P) COMMITTEE

The 2025 M&P Committee is proud of its accomplishments and attention in offering oversight and support to ministry personnel and lay staff. Noteworthy is the completion of updated job descriptions as well as the execution of timely annual performance reviews, encompassing a revised process and templates. The review process proved to be an excellent opportunity to dialogue with personnel about goals and mutual support strategies while ensuring the maintenance of a healthy work environment.



The committee's regularly scheduled tasks were completed on time including the review of annual compensations to ensure alignment with United Church guidelines, the overseeing of the use of continuing education time and funds to maximize staff development and the monitoring of vacation time and study leave to ensure staff well-being.

There were no permanent staffing changes in 2025 however M&P did recruit and hire a temporary office administrator, Laurel Walton, to backfill for Lorna's vacation in October.

In the fall, the M&P Committee accepted the resignations of two longstanding members: Trevor Fox and Wendy Stewart-Fox. The committee wishes to express gratitude to both Trevor and Wendy for their many contributions over the years. At the time of this publication, the M&P Committee is looking for two additional committee members.

I would like to personally thank the members of the M&P Committee, namely Bev Agur, Dale Erhart, Mike Stewart and Marion Brydon for their commitment to supporting the needs of our ministry personnel, staff and congregation in 2025. Your efforts are well noted and deeply appreciated.

Karen Spencer, M&P Chair

## THE TRUSTEES

The trustees of Comox United Church are tasked with the responsibility of holding the property of Comox United Church for the benefit of the Comox United Congregation. In practice, this means that we ensure that the insurance is paid for and the application for exemption from municipal taxes is submitted in a timely manner. On occasion, the trustees may work with the church council in order to ensure that church funds, such as those resulting from bequests, are invested responsibly in accordance with the wishes of our Christian community. The current trustees are Les Herauf, Leslie Fraser and Andrew Black.

Respectfully Submitted, Andrew Black

## VENUE TEAM

The Venue Team was formed in 2023 and approved by Church Council as a sub-committee of the Property Committee.

Our goal is to increase rental revenue for the church through the increased use of the principal event spaces, namely the Sanctuary and the Hall.

We are using two primary strategies to accomplish this goal:

- 1) Improve the experience of audiences and performers/facilitators through improvements in the space, and
- 2) Develop stronger relationships with the performers/facilitators through more direct contact and support for their events.

We have accomplished the following actions in 2025 regarding the first strategy:

- New entry doors have been installed. An outdoor notice board has been installed at the front door, and soon-to-occur events are posted there, managed by the office.
- With office help, new numbered keys have been issued and a complete list of key-holders has been initiated.
- New door numbering system has been fully implemented, and number signs have been attached to interior doors. Some painting and repairs of doors has been done.
- Discussions with the CV Piano Society were ended when the CVPS decided not to pursue moving their piano to Comox United.

We have accomplished the following actions in 2025 regarding the second strategy:

- An Event Host program continues, where each event has a host from the church to make contact with them, and provide support as required. Groups have expressed appreciation for this.
- Rental groups continue to be actively encouraged to book or continue to book their events with us, and make CxU their “concert home” in the Comox Valley.
- Christmas Thank You cards were sent out to rental groups.

We have identified the following actions for 2026 and beyond:

- Some acrylic notice holders will be posted to interior doors as suggested by the office.
- An outdoor notice board will be attached to the lower exterior door.
- The outside door to the sanctuary will be painted to match the front doors.

The following financial results have been accomplished:

Rental Revenue 2023: \$26,730.25

Rental Revenue 2024: \$38,000.00 (approx.)

Rental Revenue 2025: \$34,000.00 (approx.)

The Venue Team is very pleased to see that our efforts have been rewarded financially, and we have made a contribution to the financial stability of the church. In addition, many performers and facilitators anecdotally report that their experiences at Comox United are very positive. Many plan to continue or return in 2026. Our church is a key rehearsal and performance venue in the Comox Valley, where such spaces are at a premium, and as such, we contribute to the value of Care for the Common Good in the community.

Respectfully submitted, Howard Robertson and Ken Newman

## TECH TEAM



Who is “the Tech Team”? Our team currently consists of Dale Erhart, Ross Griffith-Cochrane, Ken Newman, Ken Vaux, Joyce Wagland, Julie Whitman, and Joanne Wiens.

What does our team do? Well, Julie schedules us to run the sound equipment and live-stream the worship services on Sundays. Some of us do only streaming, others only sound, and a couple do both streaming and sound. In addition, there is the dedicated team of Arlene Bell, Merrilee Cameron,

Sue Newman, Barb Page, and Joyce Relyea, known as the PowerPoint operators, who run the slides on Sunday mornings. Joyce Wagland and her team ensure that the church website and Facebook page are kept current and informative, which are valuable ways of communicating with our community.

We assisted renters with sound, projection, and recording requirements, and believe our services encourage external groups to use our facilities. In addition to the capabilities in the sanctuary, there is a projector and sound system in the Gathering Hall, and a projector and screen in Room 101 (the large lower-level room).

In 2025 we decided to update our live-streaming applications. Unfortunately, we ran into a couple of issues and the company that did the initial installation was unable to help us. Fortunately, the live-streaming still works, though with limited camera angles. If anyone is familiar with Open Broadcast Software or Point-Tilt-Zoom cameras, we’d love to hear from you.

Why bother? All this technology is used to support the spiritual experiences of people within our building and in the broader community outside our walls. If you would like to see how all these pieces work together; you could watch past worship services by clicking on “Virtual Services” on our website [www.comoxunitedchurch.com](http://www.comoxunitedchurch.com) or by going to our own YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@comoxunitedchurch3917/streams> On any given Sunday between 10 and 20 homes are viewing our services live, and an additional 30+ view the service at other times.

These numbers have increased over last year, which is very encouraging. All these on-line views provide folks unable to attend in-person with a weekly spiritual connection.

**Volunteers welcome!** If you are interested in what the Tech Team is doing, please contact one of us or come by the Media Booth on Sunday morning. Training on the live-streaming system and sound is provided for new volunteers. Team members are scheduled for those Sundays that work best for them. We rarely have formal meetings, preferring to connect individually or via email on an as-needed basis.

We continue to look for ways of using technology and communication tools to support the spiritual nurturing of our community. Your suggestions are welcome.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Tech Team  
by Joanne Wiens

## FINANCIAL REPORTS

### Stewardship

(Alan Brown, Joanne Wiens)

Stewardship refers to how we use our personal resources to help care for and further the mission of our church community, not just for one hour on Sunday mornings, but as part of this church community every day of the week.

In 2025 we held two Stewardship events during Sunday worship.

On February 23 we celebrated Stewardship with the theme "We Are Blessed". Using the song "What Can I Do?" we suggested ways to share our time and talents gladly, bring our gifts of treasure with love, pray for our world and ourselves, and sing with joy and gratitude for our abundant blessings.

On November 9 we celebrated Stewardship with the theme "Legacy." We reminded the congregation that, in addition to their gifts of time, talent and treasure, they could leave a gift to the church through a bequest in their will. We recalled one such gift, the Thomas Bequest, made by longtime church members Frances and Mel Thomas, that, over the past decade, has allowed us to install a sound system, padded pews, upgrades to our lower level including three washrooms, live-streaming equipment, heat pumps, blinds, a piano bench, and most recently, the new front doors.

If anyone has questions about leaving a gift to the church, they can speak with either Joanne Wiens or Alan Brown.

Thank you to all who reviewed their annual giving plans, and an additional "Thanks!" to those who were able to increase their givings for 2026.

We are called to be the Church! Thanks be to God.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alan Brown & Joanne Wiens

# FINANCIAL REPORTS – continued

## Fundraising 2025 Annual Report

Fundraising in 2025 brought people together in many ways benefitting Comox United Church financially but also socially with friendships made, contacts deepened, and the doors opened to the public.



Inspired by the Gospel of 1 Peter 4:10 “*Each of you should use whatever gifts you have received to serve others as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms*”, from January until the end of April, congregation members continued to participate in the educational **CUU (Comox United University)** where 14 congregation members shared their talents by teaching classes and workshops and donating the class fees back to the church. 69 hours of education were provided. We received 237 registrations from 143 individuals, 86 of which were from outside of our congregation. This meant that 60% of

the money raised didn’t come from our church members. To make the classes accessible the average cost to attend was under \$10 per class contributing to our goal of openness and inclusivity. Initially begun in 2024, the 2025 portion of CUU raised \$3,545.



In May we launched **the 444 Project (4 People x \$4 x 4 times!)** Inspired by



*Matthew 18:20 ‘Jesus said, “For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”* Congregation members were asked to reach out to friends and invite them (in groups of 4) to join them in an activity. Guests were asked to contribute \$4 to the gathering. Hosts were asked to consider doing this 4 times over the next 12 months. All money raised through these social gatherings was donated back to the church. By the end of December 2025, \$1902 had been raised. This fundraising community building project will continue until the end of April 2026.

Gloria Herauf once again wrote and directed a wonderful cast of volunteers who worked for several months to bring about the February 2025 *Beach Street Players* musical ‘*Now, That’s Entertainment!*’ which donated \$9,500 to the church. Gloria led another public initiative sharing her gift of music by hosting her annual Christmas Carol Sing-along on December 15, 2025, and donated the \$1,153 raised to the church.



Respectfully submitted,  
Elaine Brown, Fundraising Coordinator

# FINANCIAL REPORTS – continued

## GIVINGS ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

Offerings received through numbered envelope sets, Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR), Interac and other identifiable means were as follows:

	<u>2025</u>
General Offerings	220,355.99
Special Appeals	6,747.25
Memorials	0
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$227,103.24</b>

*Please note:*  
 General Offerings and Special Appeals also had “open” donations not recorded by the Givings Administrator in the donations software. See the Treasurer’s Report for final totals.

The chart below breaks out the annual level of giving from identifiable donors towards general expenses of the church. It includes 21 occasional donors (with total gifts of \$8,265.99) and six one-time donors (with total gifts of \$1,160.00) who were not on PAR and who did not give regularly via envelopes, Interac or CanadaHelps.



In 2025, 42 people gave through envelopes

\*To save money, I continue to make up personalized packets rather than ordering boxed sets. This results in a significant savings relative to those envelope holders who give monthly or quarterly, for example.

Sixteen individuals chose Interac as their means of donating to the church.

Eighty-three individuals/families were on the United Church of Canada’s PAR system at the end of 2025, same as the previous year. We lost one PAR donors due to death and three for other reasons, but we gained four new PAR donors during the year; one new, two who switched from envelope-giving and one from interac. Throughout 2025, 16 PAR donors increased their offerings by a combined total of over \$900.00 per month. On the other hand, the monthly amount lost from the cancelled PAR/Direct Deposit deductions totalled \$662.00 per month.

The church gained one new donor who signed up for regular gifts through CanadaHelps.

Forty-seven donors gave generously to Special Appeals in 2025. Please refer to the Treasurer’s Report for totals.

Anyone wishing to receive a packet of offering envelopes, register for PAR or discuss other donation options is invited to contact me by phone at 250-339-4984 or by email at [envelopesecretary@comoxunitedchurch.com](mailto:envelopesecretary@comoxunitedchurch.com).

Debra Monk, Givings Administrator

# TREASURER

## 2025 Treasurer's Report: A Message of Gratitude and Success

We are pleased to begin this year's report with excellent news regarding our community-led initiatives. Our fundraising events continue to be a vital source of income and connection, raising a combined \$16,280.10. This success is a direct result of the vision and dedication of our members. Specifically, we would like to recognize:

- Gloria and Les Herauf, who were responsible for the Beach Street Players (\$9,500.00) and the Christmas Carol Singalong (\$1,153.10).
- Elaine and Alan Brown, who initiated the Comox United University (\$3,845.00) and the 4x4x4 Fundraiser (\$1,782.00).

---

### Financial Strategy & Operations

Our core funding remains strong and predictable, thanks to a robust base of 84 PAR donors. This steady support, combined with an increase in Facility Rentals, has provided a vital cushion for our operating costs.

To address a budgeted deficit from the previous fiscal year, we executed a planned transfer of \$25,000 from our investment portfolio. Notably, we have transitioned our portfolio to Ethical Investment Funds. While this shift resulted in slightly lower interest yields than in previous years, it was a deliberate choice to align our finances with our organizational values and ensure long-term stability.

### Future Maintenance

Looking ahead to the preservation of our building, we are currently in the process of securing quotes for the resurfacing of the flat part of the roof. This project requires a specialized process to ensure durability, and we will provide further updates as we finalize the costs.

---

### Capital Success: The Thomas Bequest

In a wonderful conclusion to our capital projects this year, we successfully completed the replacement of our main doors at a total cost of just under \$20,000.00.

This essential upgrade was made possible by the Thomas Bequest. We are deeply grateful for this legacy gift, which is now commemorated by the plaque located above the new entrance. This bequest allowed us to complete necessary infrastructure upgrades without any further impact on our operating budget, leaving our entrance beautiful and secure for years to come.

Respectfully submitted, Laurel Erhart, Treasurer



## Balance sheet

A	B	C	D	E
1 <b>Comox United Church</b>				
2 <b>Comparative Balance Sheet</b>				
3	As at Dec 31,		As at Dec 31,	
4	2024		2025	
5				
6 <b>ASSETS</b>				
7 <b>Current Assets</b>				
8 CV Credit Union-Chequing	\$30,038.77		\$50,241.82	
9 Savings Account	\$28,150.89		\$679.48	
10 Equity Share Account-CV Cr Union	\$113.63		\$115.66	
11 CCC-GIC's	\$0.00		\$30,000.00	
12 Defensive Global Balanced Fund	\$340,776.04		\$328,727.72	
13 Cash Total		\$399,079.33		\$409,764.68
14 Accounts Receivable	\$2,260.78		\$0.00	
15 Federal Receivable (GST5/12)	\$2,321.93		\$3,610.01	
16 Vendor prepayment	-\$240.00		\$0.00	
17 Sub-Total Current Assets		\$4,342.71		\$3,610.01
18 <b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>\$403,422.04</b>		<b>\$413,374.69</b>
19				
20 <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>\$403,422.04</b>		<b>\$413,374.69</b>
21				
22 <b>LIABILITIES</b>				
23				
24 <b>Current Liabilities</b>				
25 Collabria Credit Card Account	\$850.00		\$0.00	
26 Accounts to Pay	\$2,347.50		\$0.00	
27 Sub-Total Payables		\$3,197.50		\$0.00
28 <b>Total Accounts Payable</b>		<b>\$3,197.50</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>
29				
30 <b>Deferred Specified Funds</b>				
31 SAGE	\$25.74		\$25.74	
32 Choir-Music fund	\$275.10		\$275.10	
33 Congregation Retreat Fund	\$326.20		\$326.20	
34 Contingency Property Reserves	\$5,313.16		\$5,313.16	
35 Fund Raising	\$120.98		\$120.98	
36 Provision Fund-Caregiver Retreat	\$3,842.13		\$0.00	
37 Provision Fund - Art Therapy	\$3,514.00		\$3,514.00	
38 Provision Fund - Vespers	\$5,300.00		\$5,300.00	
39 Thomas Bequest	\$26,210.18		\$26,210.18	
40 Howard Bequest	\$77,846.51		\$77,846.51	

	A	B	C	D	E
1	<b>Comox United Church</b>				
2	<b>Comparative Balance Sheet</b>				
3		As at Dec 31,		As at Dec 31,	
4		2024		2025	
41	Memorial Fund	\$8,045.47		\$8,045.47	
42	Presbytery Trust Fund	\$2,182.16		\$840.61	
43	Deferred Revenue - RCP	\$6,769.42		\$6,769.42	
44	Moving Expenses	\$7,637.65		\$0.00	
45	Interview Costs	\$1,621.48		\$0.00	
46	Sabbatical Reserves	\$30,000.00		\$39,259.13	
47					
48	<b>Total Specified Funds</b>		<b>\$179,030.18</b>		<b>\$173,846.50</b>
49					
50	<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>\$182,227.68</b>		<b>\$173,846.50</b>
51					
52	<b>EQUITY</b>				
53					
54	<b>Retained Earnings</b>				
55	Retained Earnings		\$210,113.45		\$221,143.58
56	Current Earnings		\$11,080.91		\$18,384.61
57	<b>Total Retained Earnings</b>		<b>\$221,194.36</b>		<b>\$239,528.19</b>
58					
59	<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<b>\$221,194.36</b>		<b>\$239,528.19</b>
60					
61	<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>		<b>\$403,422.04</b>		<b>\$413,374.69</b>

Income 2025 Budget vs Actual

	A	B	C
1	<b>Comox United Church</b>		
2	<b>Income and Expenses</b>	<b>Budget 2025</b>	<b>Actual Dec 31, 2025</b>
3			
4	<b>REVENUE</b>		
5			
6	<b>Facilities Income</b>		
7	Facilities Rental	\$35,000.00	\$30,749.52
8	Funerals/Weddings	\$0.00	\$2,050.00
9	Unitarian Church	\$7,500.00	\$8,750.00
10	<b>Total Facilities Revenue</b>	<b>\$42,500.00</b>	<b>\$41,549.52</b>
11			
12	<b>Offerings</b>		
13	Open Collection	\$3,000.00	\$3,537.03
14	Par Offerings	\$130,000.00	\$150,930.00
15	General Offering	\$55,000.00	\$68,687.00
16	Miscellaneous Offering	\$0.00	\$125.48
17	<b>Total Offerings</b>	<b>\$188,000.00</b>	<b>\$223,279.51</b>
18			
19	<b>Other Incomes</b>		
20	Memorial Funds	\$0.00	\$0.00
21	Broadview Subscriptions	\$450.00	\$180.00
22	Dividend/Interest Earned	\$360.00	\$30.62
23	Investment Income	\$0.00	\$12,951.68
24	Fund Raising Income	\$12,000.00	\$15,580.10
25	Congregational Life, Food & Fellows	\$2,000.00	\$2,299.45
26	Donations Unreceiptable	\$1,000.00	\$299.10
27	Congregational Education Income	\$0.00	\$350.00
28	Worship Income	\$0.00	\$800.00
29	Pastoral Care Income	\$0.00	\$2,450.00
30	Affirm Income	\$0.00	\$100.00
31	Minister's Discretionary Income	\$0.00	\$650.00
32	Financial Management Income	\$0.00	\$500.00
33	GST Income	\$0.00	\$2,294.44
34	<b>Total Other Incomes</b>	<b>\$15,810.00</b>	<b>\$38,485.39</b>
35			
36	<b>Social Justice Offerings</b>		
37	Care-A-Van	\$0.00	\$100.00
38	Comox Valley Food Banks	\$0.00	\$130.00
39	Healthy Babies	\$0.00	\$0.00
40	Misc. Donations	\$0.00	\$4,086.24
41	United Church Healing Fund	\$0.00	\$765.00
42	Sleeping Children	\$0.00	\$1,249.38
43	Soup and Buns	\$500.00	\$1,241.25
44	WeCan Shelter Society	\$0.00	\$3,235.00
45	<b>Total Outreach Offerings</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>	<b>\$10,806.87</b>
46			

	A	B	C
	<b>Comox United Church</b>		
	<b>Income and Expenses</b>	<b>Budget 2025</b>	<b>Actual Dec 31, 2025</b>
47	<b>Social Justice</b>		
48	Dawn to Dawn	\$0.00	\$1,249.37
49	United Church Emergency Response	\$1,500.00	\$1,917.25
50	<b>Total Social Justice</b>	<b>\$1,500.00</b>	<b>\$3,166.62</b>
51			
52	<b>transfer from designated funds</b>		
53	Presbytery Trust Fund	\$0.00	\$1,341.55
54	Provision Fund - Caregiver Retreat	\$0.00	\$7,475.91
55	<b>Total transfer from designated fund</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$8,817.46</b>
56			
57	<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$248,310.00</b>	<b>\$326,105.37</b>
58			
59	<b>EXPENSE</b>		
60			
61	<b>Ministry and Personnel Expenses</b>		
62	Minister's Salary	\$89,293.00	\$89,282.76
63	Secretary's Salary	\$28,654.00	\$29,798.08
64	Minister's Cont. Ed & Resources	\$1,689.00	\$1,710.79
65	Minister's Telephone	\$720.00	\$720.00
66	Fee for Service, Music, Relief	\$12,480.00	\$13,490.04
67	Bookkeeper	\$5,000.00	\$5,303.30
68	Office Relief	\$500.00	\$176.00
69	Wages/Honorarium	\$0.00	\$400.00
70	EI - Employer Expense -	\$1,820.00	\$1,815.70
71	CPP Expense -	\$5,720.00	\$5,930.82
72	UCC Pension Expense	\$9,360.00	\$10,614.36
73	UCC Bens Expense	\$9,880.00	\$11,541.36
74	Nova	\$156.00	\$19.08
75	Staff Appreciation	\$800.00	\$0.00
76	Travel Costs	\$500.00	\$700.13
77	Work Safe BC	\$175.00	\$234.84
78	ADP - Payroll Expense	\$425.00	\$367.86
79	<b>Total Ministry and Personnel</b>	<b>\$167,172.00</b>	<b>\$172,105.12</b>
80			
81	<b>United Church of Canada</b>		
82	Donated Fund - M & S	\$23,579.00	\$20,843.90
83	General Council Assessment	\$12,637.00	\$8,988.00
84	Regional Assessment	\$1,264.00	\$1,198.40
85	PMRC General Meeting	\$0.00	\$1,312.92
86	<b>Total United Church of Canada</b>	<b>\$37,480.00</b>	<b>\$32,343.22</b>
87			


	A	B	C
	<b>Comox United Church</b>		
	<b>Income and Expenses</b>	<b>Budget 2025</b>	<b>Actual Dec 31, 2025</b>
88	<b>Minister's Discretionary Fund</b>		
89	Minister's Discretionary Expense	\$250.00	\$1,277.50
90	<b>Total Benevolent Fund</b>	<b>\$250.00</b>	<b>\$1,277.50</b>
91			
92	<b>Congregational Education Group</b>		
93	Adult Study Resources	\$75.00	\$0.00
94	Summer Day Camp Support	\$250.00	\$250.00
95	Congregational Education Expenses	\$130.00	\$0.00
96	Library	\$300.00	\$136.83
97	Broadview Subscriptions	\$475.00	\$390.00
98	<b>Total Congregational Education</b>	<b>\$1,230.00</b>	<b>\$776.83</b>
99			
100	<b>Congregation Life Group</b>		
101	Joint Liaison Committee	\$1,400.00	\$63.34
102	Congregational Retreat	\$0.00	\$48.18
103	Congregational Life Exp.	\$0.00	\$894.88
104	Friendship and Fellowship	\$500.00	\$1,152.32
105	Congregational Life Expense	\$275.00	\$49.45
106	Affirm Expense	\$600.00	\$1,403.21
107	<b>Total Congregational Life</b>	<b>\$2,775.00</b>	<b>\$3,611.38</b>
108			
109	<b>Finance Management Group</b>		
110	Hydro	\$7,000.00	\$7,755.60
111	Bank and Visa Charges	\$275.00	\$324.84
112	Advertising	\$300.00	\$0.00
113	PAR Service Charges	\$500.00	\$504.50
114	Fundraising Costs	\$0.00	\$41.28
115	Insurance, building	\$12,300.00	\$14,322.00
116	Miscellaneous Church Expense	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
117	Office Expenses	\$2,850.00	\$4,386.24
118	Office Supplies	\$1,200.00	\$901.55
119	Office Expenses, Equipment	\$0.00	\$116.60
120	Photocopier	\$500.00	\$593.53
121	Professional Fees	\$200.00	\$759.93
122	Telephone/Internet	\$1,650.00	\$962.82
123	Water and Sewer	\$1,500.00	\$1,004.52
124	<b>Total Finance Management Group</b>	<b>\$29,275.00</b>	<b>\$31,673.41</b>
125			
126	<b>Pastoral Care</b>		
127	Cards and postage	\$200.00	\$0.00
128	Gifts	\$300.00	\$643.08
129	Pastoral Care Com/Caregivers retrea	\$1,000.00	\$221.33
130	Pastoral Care Workshops	\$300.00	\$0.00
131	<b>Total Pastoral Care</b>	<b>\$1,800.00</b>	<b>\$864.41</b>

Compared Budget

	A	B	C
	<b>Comox United Church</b>		
	<b>Income and Expenses</b>	<b>Budget 2025</b>	<b>Actual Dec 31, 2025</b>
132			
133	<b>Property</b>		
134	Property Fixtures and Fittings	\$1,000.00	\$19,347.37
135	Property Maintenance & Repairs	\$1,500.00	\$570.59
136	Property - Other	\$1,000.00	\$1,792.88
137	Cleaning Services	\$24,000.00	\$24,343.77
138	Security	\$1,800.00	\$2,120.97
139	Garbage Pickup & Dump Fees	\$0.00	\$537.00
140	Tech Team	\$700.00	\$482.22
141	Safety	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
142	Snow Clearing and Salting	\$4,000.00	\$1,657.25
143	<b>Total Property Expense</b>	<b>\$35,000.00</b>	<b>\$50,852.05</b>
144			
145	<b>STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE</b>		
146	Stewardship Committee	\$300.00	\$65.10
147	<b>Total Stewardship</b>	<b>\$300.00</b>	<b>\$65.10</b>
148			
149	<b>Social Justice Expenses</b>		
150	Dawn to Dawn	\$0.00	\$0.00
151	Care-A-Van	\$0.00	\$0.00
152	Healthy Babies	\$0.00	\$0.00
153	L'ARCHE Comox Valley	\$0.00	\$0.00
154	St. George's Pantry	\$0.00	\$487.64
155	United Church Emergency Response	\$0.00	\$535.00
156	Calendars	\$0.00	\$235.00
157	Sleeping Children	\$0.00	\$0.00
158	WeCan Shelter Society	\$0.00	\$3,235.00
159	<b>Total Social Justice</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$4,492.64</b>
160			
161	<b>Worship &amp; Sacraments Group</b>		
162	Worship Committee Expenses	\$0.00	\$48.89
163	Candles	\$450.00	\$170.78
164	Easter Supplies	\$150.00	\$0.00
165	Piano	\$600.00	\$170.00
166	Music	\$0.00	\$0.00
167	Communion Supplies	\$120.00	\$19.41
168	Congregational Music, Licensing	\$1,200.00	\$0.00
169	Liturgical Decorations	\$300.00	\$27.89
170	Manuals / Publications	\$350.00	\$217.79
171	Pulpit Supply	\$1,000.00	\$1,572.00
172	Sound System/Audio Visual	\$0.00	\$50.00
173	Funeral Expense	\$0.00	\$450.00
174	<b>Total Worship &amp; Sacraments</b>	<b>\$4,170.00</b>	<b>\$2,726.76</b>
175			

	A	B	C
	<b>Comox United Church</b>		
	<b>Income and Expenses</b>	<b>Budget 2025</b>	<b>Actual Dec 31, 2025</b>
176	<b>Designated Funds Expense</b>		
177	Provision Fund - Caregiver Retreat	\$0.00	\$6,627.19
178	Provision Fund - Vespers	\$0.00	\$305.15
179	<b>Total Designated Funds Expense</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$6,932.34</b>
180			
181	<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$279,452.00</b>	<b>\$307,720.76</b>
182			
183	<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>-\$31,142.00</b>	<b>\$18,384.61</b>

Below is the 2026 Budget as recommended by Council. Note that some line numbers are missing. This is because those items (including donations to other charities) cannot be budgeted or estimated. Therefore, item lines with \$0 are hidden to improve readability. Joanne Wiens, Council Chair

	A	B	C
1	<b>Comox United Church</b>	Budget 2025	Budget 2026
2			
3	<b>REVENUE</b>		
4			
5	<b>Facilities Income</b>		
6	Facilities Usage	\$35,000.00	\$38,500.00
7	Funerals/Weddings	\$0.00	\$0.00
8	Unitarian Church	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00
10	<b>Total Facilities Revenue</b>	\$42,500.00	\$46,000.00
11			
12	<b>Offerings</b>		
13	Open Collection	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
14	Par Offerings	\$130,000.00	\$158,000.00
15	General Offering	\$55,000.00	\$60,000.00
16	Miscellaneous offering		
19	<b>Total Offerings</b>	\$188,000.00	\$221,000.00
20			
21	<b>Other Incomes</b>		
25	Broadview Subscriptions	\$450.00	\$450.00
28	Dividend/Interest Earned	\$360.00	\$360.00
29	Investment Income		
30	Fund Raising Income	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00
31	Congregational Life, Food & Fellowship	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
32	Donations unreceiptable	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
42	GST Refund		\$3,600.00
46	<b>Total Other Incomes</b>	\$15,810.00	\$19,410.00
47			
48	<b>Outreach Offerings</b>		
59	Soup and Sandwich	\$500.00	\$500.00
62	<b>Total Outreach Offerings</b>	\$500.00	\$500.00
63			
98	<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	\$248,310.00	<b>\$286,910.00</b>
99			

	A	B	C
	<b>Comox United Church</b>	Budget 2025	Budget 2026
100	<b>EXPENSE</b>		
101	Joint Liaison Committee	\$1,400.00	\$200.00
102			
103	<b>Ministry and Personnel Expenses</b>		
104	Minister's Salary	\$89,293.36	\$93,168.00
106	Secretary's Salary	\$28,654.08	\$29,389.00
108	Minister's Cont. Ed & Resources	\$1,689.00	\$1,733.00
110	Minister's Telephone	\$720.00	\$720.00
112	Fee for Service, Music, Relief	\$12,480.00	\$12,804.00
113	Bookkeeper	\$5,000.00	\$6,000.00
114	Office relief	\$500.00	\$1,541.00
115	Wages		
117	EI - Employer Expense -	\$1,820.00	\$1,960.09
118	CPP Expense -	\$5,720.00	\$5,930.82
119	UCC Pension Expense	\$9,360.00	\$10,614.36
120	UCC Bens Expense	\$9,880.00	\$11,541.36
122	Nova	\$156.00	\$100.00
123	Staff appreciation	\$800.00	\$800.00
125	Travel Costs	\$500.00	\$600.00
126	Work Safe BC	\$175.00	\$175.00
127	ADP - Payroll Expense	\$425.00	\$367.86
128	<b>Total Ministry and Personnel</b>	\$168,572.44	\$177,444.49
129			
130	<b>United Church of Canada</b>		
131	Donated Fund - M & S	\$20,110.00	\$20,000.00
132	General Council Assessment	\$11,145.00	\$14,633.00
133	Regional Assessment	\$1,115.00	\$1,463.00
134	PMRC General Meeting		\$2,000.00
135	<b>Total United Church of Canada</b>	\$32,370.00	\$38,096.00
136			
137	<b>Minister's Discretionary Fund</b>		
138	Minister's Discretionary Expense	\$250.00	\$250.00
139	<b>Total Benevolent Fund</b>	\$250.00	\$250.00
140			
141	<b>Congregational Education Group</b>		
142	Adult Study Resources	\$75.00	\$75.00
143	Summer Day Camp Support	\$250.00	\$190.00
145	Congregational Education Expenses	\$130.00	\$130.00
146	Library	\$300.00	\$300.00
147	Broadview Subscriptions	\$475.00	\$450.00
148	<b>Total Congregational Education</b>	\$1,230.00	\$1,145.00
149			
150			
151	<b>Congregation Life Group</b>		
152	Congregational retreat		\$50.00
153	Congregation Care giver retreat		

	A	B	C
	<b>Comox United Church</b>	Budget 2025	Budget 2026
154	Congregational Life Supplies	\$275.00	\$400.00
156	Friendship and Fellowship	\$500.00	\$600.00
157	Affirm Expense	\$600.00	\$500.00
158	<b>Total Congregational Life</b>	<b>\$1,375.00</b>	<b>\$1,550.00</b>
159			
160	<b>Finance Management Group</b>		
161	Office Relief		
165	Hydro, Heat, Utilities	\$7,000.00	\$6,500.00
166	Bank and Visa Charges	\$275.00	\$275.00
167	Advertising	\$300.00	\$0.00
168	PAR Service Charges	\$500.00	\$500.00
169	Fundraising Costs		
170	Insurance, building	\$12,300.00	\$16,000.00
171	Miscellaneous Church Expense	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
172	Office Expenses	\$2,850.00	\$2,850.00
173	Office Supplies	\$1,200.00	\$1,000.00
174	Other Office Expenses, Equip.	\$0.00	\$0.00
175	Photocopier	\$500.00	\$600.00
176	Professional Fees	\$200.00	\$2,300.00
179	Telephone/Internet	\$1,650.00	\$1,700.00
180	Water and Sewer	\$1,500.00	\$1,100.00
181	<b>Total Finance Management Group</b>	<b>\$29,275.00</b>	<b>\$32,825.00</b>
182			
183	<b>Pastoral Care</b>		
185	Card and postages	\$200.00	\$200.00
186	Gifts	\$300.00	\$600.00
187	Pastoral Care Committee		
188	Workshops	\$300.00	\$300.00
189	Caregivers retreat	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
190	<b>Total Pastoral Care</b>	<b>\$1,800.00</b>	<b>\$2,100.00</b>
191			
192	<b>Property</b>		
193	Property Fixtures and Fittings	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
194	Property Maintenance & Repairs	\$1,500.00	\$2,000.00
195	Property - Other	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
196	Cleaning Services	\$24,000.00	\$30,000.00
197	Security	\$1,800.00	\$2,200.00
198	Garbage Dump Fees		\$100.00
199	Tech Team	\$700.00	\$500.00
200	Safety	\$1,000.00	\$500.00
201	Snow Clearing	\$4,000.00	\$3,000.00
202	<b>Total Property Expense</b>	<b>\$35,000.00</b>	<b>\$40,300.00</b>
203			
204	<b>STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE</b>		
205	Stewardship Committee	\$300.00	\$100.00
206	<b>Total Stewardship</b>	<b>\$300.00</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>

	A	B	C
	<b>Comox United Church</b>	Budget 2025	Budget 2026
207			
218	<b>Special Appeals</b>		
219	World Development and Relief		
220	United Church Healing Fund		
221	Comox Valley Food Bank		
222	Our Place		
223	<b>Total Special Appeals</b>		
224			
225	<b>Social Justice and Outreach</b>		
226	Outreach expense		
245	<b>Total Social Justice and Outreach</b>		\$0.00
246			
247	<b>Worship &amp; Sacraments Group</b>		
249	Candles	\$450.00	\$200.00
250	Lectionary		
251	Easter Supplies	\$150.00	\$100.00
252	Piano	\$600.00	\$150.00
254	Music		
255	Communion Supplies	\$120.00	\$100.00
256	Congregational Music, Licensing	\$1,200.00	\$575.00
257	Liturgical decoration	\$300.00	\$100.00
259	Manual Publication	\$350.00	\$100.00
260	Pulpit Supply	\$1,000.00	\$1,600.00
261	Sound system Audio/visual		
262	Funeral Expense		
263	<b>Total Worship- &amp; Sacraments</b>	\$4,170.00	\$2,925.00
264			
271	<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	\$275,742.44	\$296,935.49
272	<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	\$248,310.00	\$286,910.00
273	<b>NET INCOME</b>	-\$27,432.44	-\$10,025.49