



**AURORA UNITED CHURCH
ANNUAL REPORT
2025**



Aurora United Church Annual Report 2025

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IN MEMORIAM

Those hearts that we have treasured, those lives that we have shared, those loves that walked beside us, those friends for whom we've cared, their blessings rests upon us, their life is memory, their spirits are set free.
(Sylvia Dunstan)

Barbara Ann Balfour

Sandra Anne Smith

Margaret Lucille Griffith

John Harley Wilson

Lisa Arlene Hagen Yielding

Gail Elaine Tsallis

Audrey Elizabeth Humfryes

MINISTERS' MESSAGE

**One more step along the world I go.
One more step along the world I go.
From the old things to the new
keep me traveling along with you.
And it's from the old I travel to the new.
Keep me traveling along with you.**

These words kept going through my mind as I prepare this annual report. Aurora United Church is in a time of transition, traveling from the old and moving to the new, with God as our faithful companion in all that we do.

This past year you have said good-bye to a faithful ministry team. Rev Andy Comar and Rev. Lorraine Newton-Comar, who ministered with you for 15 years and accompanied you at AUC through many joys and sorrows in life including the Church fire in 2014. The grief of good-byes take time to move through.

And now in this time of transition, after many years of planning and fundraising, moving into the new church is closer than ever. So, in the not-so-distant future, AUC will be moving into a new sanctuary and hopefully in a not-so-distant future, a new person will take his or her place as minister at Aurora United Church. The Search Team has been faithful in their quest for your new minister. What an exciting time.

October 15th 2025, I joined with Rev. Tim Dayfoot on a six-month appointment as supply ministers. Each of us working half-time and together creating one fulltime ministry position. Over these last few months A.U.C. has discovered that moving from two fulltime ministers to one fulltime minister has required many adjustments. Tasks that were completed by the paid ministers have been taken on by other staff and volunteers.

It has been an honour working with the staff and all the committees in this time of transition. The committees have continued the work of the church in this time. The Council has been keeping things moving while looking toward the future move at the same time. The Trustees have been busy with the Edge committee preparing the new church for our arrival. The dedication and commitment of all the individuals working on each church committee can be recognized in their written reports. Please take time to read every committee's account of the year's activities. You too will recognize all the work that has been faithfully done to keep the ministry at Aurora U.C. moving forward.

Thank you to those of you who worship in person and those of you who worship on line. It has been an honour praying, singing, listening and reflecting with you each week. This faith community has an incredible music program which enriches our Sunday worship. All those who contribute in Sunday morning ministry; Nursery, Funday Sunday, A.V. team, Ushers, Greeters, Coffeetime hosts make Sunday morning a celebration of God's love. And you who gather to worship make a vital contribution with your presence. Thank you.

I give thanks to Tim Dayfoot, Affe Zhao, Margaret Heney, Lisa Kyriakides for making Aurora United Church's staff team a joy to work with.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Linda Wheler

A message from Rev. Tim

When Leta and I moved into Aurora in 2008, we wanted the Town of Aurora to become our home. It was a slow process because soon after moving here we both were working some distance away, and that is where our time and energy and connections were mostly grounded. And a slow process does not always alert you to the big changes that are going on in the background. Sometimes we do not notice how far we have come until we stumble upon a prominent milestone.

One such milestone was in 2021 when I joined Leta in retirement, and we were able to pursue our desire to find a church home in Aurora United Church. But a couple of hurdles still stood in our way. One was the Covid restrictions, necessary to prevent transmission, but it meant we were still unable to gather in person at AUC. A second hurdle was when I was invited to work as a retired short term supply minister in Markham. Finding a church home in AUC would have to wait. In the meantime, however, Reverends Lorraine and Andy made it quite clear that a warm welcome from them awaited us once those hurdles were cleared.

Singing in the Aurora United Church choir, starting in 2023, was a good way to begin feeling more deeply at home here. And now I am learning much more about all the many ways that AUC offers each one of us opportunities to feel like we belong. From Rise & Shine Breakfasts, to Movie Nights and United Church Women; from joining a committee to helping out with the Audio Video tasks; from Study Groups to Nursery and Funday Sunday programs; and so much more. There is still much more for me to learn about Aurora United Church and all of the many opportunities it offers to all who want to feel like this is their church home.

A second milestone experience for me was the 40th Anniversary of my Ordination in June, 2025 and being able to share in the joy of that occasion with all of you.

As you read on through this annual report keep in mind that what is written here only scratches the surface of who AUC is, of what we have been working on over the past year, and of where we are headed. As we grow in faith, it is God who names us, and it is God who invites us to deepen our commitment to the large and varied mission that is being led by God's spirit in this place. It is also God who calls on us to look ahead with vision and with dreams of what we can become as we respond to the grace and love of God in our lives and in this place.

A heart-felt thank you to all those whose dedication and work is reflected in the pages of this Annual Report. Thank you to those who have written these reports which enable us to celebrate the journey we have been on. May it empower us with the spirit for the journey that lies ahead.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Tim Dayfoot

CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT

As we reflect on the life of Aurora United Church in 2025, we do so with gratitude for a community that continues to live faithfully and generously through a prolonged season of transition. While we remain without a permanent church home and await the completion of our new building, this year has been marked by steady leadership, thoughtful discernment, and a deep commitment to sustaining the ministries and relationships that define who we are as a congregation.

Throughout the year, Council met regularly to attend to the ongoing work of governance, stewardship, and visioning. Much of our focus centred on maintaining stability during a time of uncertainty—financially, organizationally, and pastorally. Council approved both the original and revised 2025 operating budgets as circumstances evolved and it became clear that our return to the new building would be delayed until 2026. These decisions were made carefully and prayerfully, with the goal of supporting current ministry while safeguarding the long-term health of the church.

Leadership transitions were a significant part of Council's work in 2025. Most notably, we give thanks for the faithful ministry of Reverend Andy Comar and Reverend Lorraine Newton-Comar, who retired at the end of August 2026 after almost sixteen years of devoted service to Aurora United Church. Their leadership, compassion, and unwavering commitment to this congregation have shaped our life together in profound and lasting ways. Through times of growth and challenge—most especially during the years following the fire and throughout the pandemic—they offered steady pastoral care, inspired worship, and deep love for this community. We are immensely grateful for all that Andy and Lorraine have given to our church and congregation, and we hold them in prayer and thanksgiving as they enter this new chapter of life.

As the congregation moved into a period of transition following their retirement, Council approved the appointment of **Reverend Tim Dayfoot and Reverend Linda Wheler** to serve jointly as **Short-Term Supply Ministers**. Working together, they provided continuity in worship, pastoral care, and leadership, sharing preaching responsibilities and pastoral duties during this interim season. Council is grateful for their willingness to serve, their collaborative approach to ministry, and the care they offered to the congregation during a time of change.

A notable focus in 2025 was strengthening our internal systems and communication. Council supported the introduction of Microsoft SharePoint as a document-sharing and collaboration platform, recognizing the importance of clarity, continuity, and accessibility—especially as leadership and committee roles evolve. This work reflects Council's commitment to good governance and to equipping the church for the future.

The Rising from the Ashes campaign continued to be a powerful expression of hope and generosity throughout 2025. Council was encouraged by the success of donor-matching initiatives, special events, and the steady commitment of the congregation. These efforts speak to a shared belief in the future of Aurora United Church and a willingness to invest faithfully in that vision.

This year also brought changes in Council leadership. With gratitude and care, we acknowledged Nancy Kerswill's decision to step down as Chair of Council due to health concerns. Nancy's leadership, faithfulness, and generosity of spirit have left a lasting mark on Council and on the congregation, and we are thankful that she continues to share her gifts in worship and other areas of church life. I am honoured to have stepped into the role of Chair and deeply appreciate the support of Brian Walter as Vice Chair, along with the dedication of all Council members.

Throughout 2025, Council's work was characterized by respectful dialogue, collaboration, and a shared desire to act in the best interests of the congregation. Even when facing difficult or complex decisions, Council members listened carefully to one another and sought consensus, grounded in prayer and trust in God's ongoing presence among us.

As we look ahead, we do so with both realism and hope. The journey has been longer and more challenging than we once imagined, yet we continue to see signs of renewal, resilience, and grace. Thank you for your patience, your generosity, and your continued support of Council's work.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Hagarty

Chair, AUC Council

The following are some of highlights and decisions made by Council in 2025:

January 13th, 2025

Finance Committee

Council approved the final version of the 2025 AUC operating budget as submitted by the Finance Committee.

Search Committee

Brian Walter, Chair of the Search Committee, announced that they had their first meeting on January 6th, 2025.

Aurora Street Festival

Approved that AUC participate in the Town of Aurora Street Festival on June 1, 2025 and request two spots at a cost of \$70 each.

Nominating Committee

Council approved the nomination of Bill Newman, Paula Hanna, Jackie Catto and Martha Bailkowski to the Nominating Committee.

February 10th, 2025

Search Committee

The Search Team has begun to receive applications and is preparing for interviews.

Archives Committee

AUC council approves the transfer of 1970,1980 to 2024 annual reports excluding 1988 and two copies of Aurora Methodist United Church 200th Anniversary History Book to the United Church Archives in Toronto.

Nominating Committee

Council approved the nomination of Janet Thacker to the Ministry & Personnel Committee, Ernest Ackert to the Finance Committee and George Collins to the Property Committee.

March 10th, 2025

Finance Committee

Brian Walter presented the Revised Financial Budget for 2025. The revision is because AUC will not be moving into its new building until 2026. The three major changes are: (a) rent to Trinity (b) M&P and

(c) Property.

AUC Council approved the Revised 2025 Financial Budget as presented.

AGM

The 2025 AGM will be a hybrid meeting to be held after church on Sunday, March 30th, 2025.

Terms of Reference

A copy of the Terms of Reference form was sent to Council members. Committee Chairs will be asked to complete them by the end of June 2025. “Objectives” and “Responsibilities” are the most important elements of the form.

April 14th, 2025

SharePoint

Bob Kyriakides presented Microsoft 365 SharePoint and One Drive to council. It is a program for document collaboration and file sharing. Bob Kyriakides was given approval to draft the architecture for SharePoint for AUC.

Returning of the Symbols Service

Returning of Symbols service will be held on Sunday, June 22nd. Rev. Lorraine will create a liturgy for the service. There will be many people taking part and lots of music. The 11:15 Anglican service in the Historic Chapel will be cancelled that day. There will be lunch and a reception after the service.

Baptisms

Council approved the following candidate for baptism: Hudson Cooper Tustin, son of Victoria Chapman and Michael Tustin.

May 12th, 2025

SharePoint

Bob Kyriakides presented an initial view of the AUC SharePoint site. He invited Council Members’ input regarding how many Headings will be required. It was suggested that Council could be the initial group for training and this could be done at a separate meeting in June.

Welcoming Arms Meals Plus Program

Rev. Andy got an update from Sally Freitas, Executive Director of Welcoming Arms. The new program would target two groups: single men and single parent families. Meals would be given out frozen after making sure the client was able to cook the meal. There would be a choice of a meat or vegetarian meal. Gift cards will still be given out. Forty-five volunteers are available to make the dinners. Council supported the Welcoming Arms Bridging the Gap Meals Plus Program.

Social Media

Andrea Drost (Chair, Church Community) advised that both Instagram and FaceBook accounts are up and running.

June 9th, 2025

Congregational Meeting June 29th, 2025

This meeting will be held to give the congregation an update on the building of the new church.

Nominating Committee

Council approved the nomination of Suzanne Whitehurst to the Pastoral Care Committee and Brian Walter to the Worship Committee.

September 8th, 2025

Pastoral Charge Supervisor

Rev. Susan Eagle has been appointed as our Pastoral Charge Supervisor from Shining Waters Regional Council. Her relationship with us will be via Zoom. AUC Council needs to have a Minister on Council in order to have quorum.

Trustees

Pat Innes joined Council as the Trustee Representative.

Reading email votes into Minutes

Motion 1: passed 24 July 2025

“That Aurora United Church Council approve the pared down Faith Profile as written so we can send to SWRC for their approval, and then upload it to ChurchHub to search for a Short-Term Supply minister. ”

Motion 2: Passed 13 July 2025

“The proposed decision is that we approve the proposal for Landscape/Handscape from Decimal Group Inc. for \$128,000 + HST”

And

“The proposed decision is that we approve the proposal for Exterior Waterproofing from Aquanorth for \$62,321 + HST”

Motion 3: Passed 18 June 2025

“That Council approves the proposal from G.H. Grassby & Associates for AV infrastructure Installation for \$157,897.50 + HST”

Rising From the Ashes

As of 31 August 2025, there was \$290,014.32 raised. Anne Ella-Arnold is organizing a Euchre Night on Saturday, November 1 in Binions Hall. Cost will be \$25.00 each. Pat Innes, Nancy Kerswill, Janet Thacker and Anne Ella-Arnold will organize the event.

Trinity Anglican Church Rental Agreement Renewal

AUC Council accepted the proposed TAC Rental Proposal.

Ministry & Personnel

Andrea Drost informed Council that both she and Louise Procter Maio will be Co-Chairs of M&P going forward. Council accepted the resignation of Hank Gosar effective June 2025 and thanked him for his service. Council approved the addition of Brian Walter to the M&P Committee. Council approved the Handbell Choir Director Contract for the term of September 2025 to June 2026.

Regional Trust

Nancy Kerswill reviewed the information sent by Jody Maltby (Shining Waters Regional Council) regarding possible transfer of the property into the regional trust.

Leadership Update

Nancy Kerswill informed Council of her decision to step down as member and Chair of Council due to health issues. She will stay on as Worship Chair. Debra Hilliard will be Baptism Assistant. Nancy will also stay on the Rising from the Ashes Committee. Council accepted the nomination of Joyce Hagarty as Chair of Council. Council accepted the nomination of Brian Walter as Vice Chair of Council. Council accepted the nomination of Sue Sue-Ling as Advocate for Proclamation. Council approved the addition of Sue Sue-Ling to the Worship Committee.

October 6th, 2025

Resignation from Council

Alison Backer sent in her resignation as Ministry Advocate for Faith Formation, effective September 30, 2025. Council thanked Alison for her 12 years of dedicated service.

Search Committee

Brian Walter reported that Rev. Tim Dayfoot and Rev. Linda Wheler have agreed to jointly serve as Short Term Supply Ministers for up to a year. They will alternate preaching and will divide up other duties. Each will work 20 hours per week.

Motion: That AUC Council approve the Short-Term Supply appointment of Rev. Tim Dayfoot and Rev. Linda Wheler subject to successful negotiations.

Nominating Committee

Council approved the nomination of Mary Smith to the Membership Committee and Ethan Champagne to the Affirming Committee.

AUC Joint Meeting

A joint meeting was held with members of Edge Property Committee, Finance Committee, Trustees and Council in attendance. Concerns regarding the completion of the new church were discussed. A congregational meeting was tentatively set for October 19th, 2025, after the service. Brian North will give a building update. Steve Crawley will provide the congregation with an operational update.

November 10th, 2025

Finance Committee

Stephen Crawley (Finance Chair) joined Council and outlined the current financial situation with the 2026 operating budget. He advised us that recent emphasis has been on the Capital Budget, but AUC needs to focus on the Operating Budget. It was decided that a stewardship campaign was needed.

Reading Email Votes into the Minutes

On October 14, 2025, the following Motion was passed by Council:

“That Council approve the awarding of the Short-Term Ministers’ contract as negotiated by the Search Committee in accordance with the guidelines of the United Church of Canada “Minimum Salaries for Ministry Personnel (2025) and Notables, including continuing education, travel and telephone, for a six month period commencing no sooner than October 15, 2025”.

Andrea Drost and Louise Procter Maio, as Co-Chairs of Ministry and Personnel will be drafting a ‘welcome letter’ for both Revs. Linda and Tim that confirm their terms of employment, including salary and ‘notables’ so that documentation exists of the negotiated terms. Those details will also be included in the Church Hub

official contract as well.

On October 23, 2025, the following Motion was passed by Council:

“That AUC Council accept the nomination of Colleen Abbott as Elder at Large”

Rising From the Ashes

The total amount now raised for Rising from the Ashes is \$400,912.23. The Euchre Night made just over \$800.00.

Faith Formation

The Pageant will be December 14, 2025.

Nominating Committee

Council approved the nomination of Jennifer Kenwell and Nancy Kerswill to the Membership and Communications Committee.

Act of Covenanting

Rev. Tim Dayfoot and Rev. Linda Wheler will have a covenanting service on Sunday November 30, 2025. The Ministers will work with the Worship Committee on the ceremony.

Transfer of Trusteeship

Motion: That AUC Council directs the AUC Board of Trustees to enter into the letter agreement and associated agreements between Shining Waters Regional Council of the United Church of Canada and the AUC Board of Trustees to transfer the trusteeship of the church property to the Shining Waters Regional Trust.

Moved by: Andrea Drost

Seconded by: Brian Walter

Disposal: Carried

December 8th, 2025

Finance

Brian Walter reported the 2026 budget is a survival budget. The “Securing Our Ministry” stewardship campaign is for immediate financial shortfalls. \$32,000 has been raised so far.

Reading Email Motions into the Minutes (4)

“That AUC Council approve giving Bill Newman SharePoint Access to Trustee information”

Passed on 11 November 2025

“That Council approves the Faith Formation Committee access to SharePoint including both Rev. Tim Dayfoot and Rev. Linda Wheler”

Passed 17 November 2025

“That Council approves access to the SharePoint platform for the following AUC Committees:

Ministry of Church Community, Ministry of Congregational Resources, Ministry of Faith Formation, Ministry of Proclamation, Ministry of Serving, Board of Trustees, Ministry and Personnel Committee, Accessibility Committee, Lay Representatives to the Meeting of Shining Waters Regional Council, EDGE Property Committee, Affirming Committee, Nominating Committee, Search Committee, Stewardship Committee, Elders at Large, United Church Women, Council Members”

Passed 18 November 2025

“That Council accepts the nomination of Kathryn Yearwood as Advocate Elder for Faith Formation”

Passed 25 November 2025

Nominating Committee

Council accepts the resignation of Nancy Kerswill from the Membership and Communication Committee with regret and Council accepts the resignation of Tracey Keffer Lyon from the Faith Formation Committee with regret. Council accepts the nomination of Rod Kyle to the Finance Committee and Caroline Gulbranson to the Membership and Communications Committee.

Aurora Community Café

Andrea Drost reminded the Council about the purpose of the Community Café. All are welcome to come for lunch on Wednesdays from 10-2 at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. Martha Bailkowski and Brian Walter agreed to donate cakes for the Christmas lunch.

Annual General Meeting

AGM date March 22nd, 2026.

**Aurora United Church
Annual General Meeting
Sunday, April 6, 2025
12:40 pm
Trinity Anglican Church Sanctuary Hybrid
(In-person & Zoom Video Conference)**

MINUTES

Attendance: Rev. Andrew Comar, Rev. Lorraine Newton-Comar, 67 people present, 7 on Zoom (see attendance below)

Welcome and Call to Order: Joyce Hagarty

Joyce Hagarty sent a special blessing and thanks to Nancy Kerswill, who is unable to be here today.

Lighting of the Christ Candle: Joyce Hagarty

Acknowledgment of Territory: Joyce Hagarty

As we begin our meeting this afternoon, we acknowledge that we worship and reside on the traditional lands of the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation and recognize their stewardship of the land throughout the ages.

Prayer: Rev. Lorraine Newton-Comar

Meeting Protocols: Rev. Andy Comar

Motion: That Adherents of AUC may vote.

Moved by: Martha Bailkowski
Seconded by: Brian Walter
Disposition: Carried

Omnibus Motion #1

Motion: That the AUC congregation take the following actions:

- a. That the agenda be accepted as circulated.
- b. That Martha Bailkowski be appointed as secretary for this AGM.
- c. That the Minutes of the AGM of March 17, 2024 and the Minutes of the Congregational Meeting held September 29, 2024 be approved as circulated.
- d. That the printed/online 2024 Annual Report be accepted as circulated and amended (excluding 2024 Income/Expense statement and 2025 Budget).

Moved by: Brian Walter
Seconded by: Laurie Bentolila
Disposition: Carried

In Memoriam: Jackie Catto – Past Chair, Pastoral Care Committee

Finance Committee Presentation: Brian Walter (on behalf of Stephen Crawley)

2024 Income/Expense Statement:

Overview:

- Operating Funds financial performance in 2024 was as planned in the Annual Budget

2024 Review – Revenue:

- Total revenue in 2024 was \$585.7K, up 17% vs 2023, this was due to increased requirement to draw on funds from the interest on our insurance payout from Trustees
- We continue to have a significant operating deficit and in 2024, revenue fell short of operating requirements by about \$292K; this is slightly less than budget forecast but \$39K higher than 2023. This was covered by the insurance interest on the insurance payout
- In 2023, we required \$250,000 from insurance interest and in 2024, we required \$300,000
- Determining factor in last 3 years regarding revenue was due for the most part to the variability of the Endowment Fund revenue
- Total congregational offerings of \$238.2K were \$5.7K (2.4%) higher than 2023 and \$2.6K (1.1%) above our 2024 budget
- Over the last few years (including 2024), congregational givings have been very stable, a

testament of the resilience of the congregation

2024 Review – Expenses:

- Expenses in 2024 were \$578.2K, \$67.1K (13.1%) more than 2023 and \$11.2K (1.9%) below budget due to decreased amount allocated to Project Phoenix and the excellent cost control of the Committees (\$578.2 vs budget of \$589.4)
- Operating expenses (taxes, phone/internet and Committee programs) decreased by
- -11.8% in 2024 All financial obligations were met in 2024, including UCC Assessment, M&S, Welcoming Arms, Rise & Shine etc
- Other than M&P expenses, rent with Trinity (+ external storage) is biggest expense at \$96.8K in 2024

Fund Accounts:

- Future Fund: \$11.9K as of 31 December 2024; \$179.6K invested by Trustees
- Earmarked: \$10.1K as of 31 December 2024; \$31.1K invested by Trustees
- Operating Account Bank Balance: 40.2K as at 31 December 2024

2025 Budget Revenue:

- Budgeted non-insurance revenue in 2025 expected to decline by about 15% or about \$42.7K
- Operating Deficit in 2025 anticipated to be \$248K vs \$292K in 2024
- Operating deficit will decline by about 15%; this is a significant concern as we move into our new building; this deficit is still fully funded by the insurance interest but this is likely the last year for this as Trustees will need the fund to pay for the construction of the new building
- Insurance interest expected to comprise 48% of our total revenue in 2025 vs actual of 49% in both 2024 and 2023
- AUC is working on options to address operating shortfalls in future years

2025 Budget Expenses:

- 2025 will see an 11% decrease in spending to \$518.9K from \$586.1K in 2024 partially due to the completion of the fundraising spending in 2024 and the changes to our M&P requirements in 2025
- Rental costs at Trinity is biggest non-M&P expense but 2025 should be last year (\$90.0K)
- Outside storage portion of that spending should be finished in May 2025
- All Outreach programs will continue to be fully funded in 2025
- 2025 Budget will be a balanced budget

2024/2025 Snapshot

	<u>Full Year</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>%</u>
	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>change</u>
REVENUE	\$613,356	\$518,650	-15.4%
EXPENSES	\$586,101	\$518,895	-11.5%

Question: Why is the 2025 Budget presented today different from the original 2025 Budget?

Answer: This is due to the fact that AUC will not be moving into the new building in September 2025 as anticipated.

Motion: That the 2024 Income/Expense statement be accepted as presented.

Moved by: Lloyd Kerswill

Seconded by: Susan Sue-Ling

Disposition: Carried

Motion: That the 2025 Budget be accepted as presented.

Moved by: Lloyd Kerswill

Seconded by: Susan Sue-Ling

Disposition: Carried

Motion: That Roberts & Company Professional Corporation provide our accounting services for 2025.

Moved by: Lloyd Kerswill

Seconded by: Susan Sue-Ling

Disposition: Carried

Nominating Committee Report:

Omnibus Motion #2

MOTION: That the AUC congregation take the following actions:

a. That the Congregation re-elect the following individuals to the incoming Council of Aurora United Church:

Laurie Bentolila – Elder at Large

Nancy Kerswill – Ministry Advocate, Proclamation

Louise Procter Maio – Elder at Large

b. That the Congregation appoint the following individual to the Board of Trustees:

Grant Hilliard

c. That the Congregation authorizes Council to appoint further members to Council

Committees in-year as warranted.

- d. That the Congregation authorizes Council to elect members to the Nominating Committee, which will report to the 2026 Annual General Meeting.
- e. That the Congregation receives the report of the Nominating Committee (including appendices A & B).

Moved by: Martha Bailkowski

Seconded by: Bill Newman

Discussion: Bob Kyriakides requested that his name be removed from Ministry of Church Community – Communications Committee

Omnibus Motion #2 (amended)

Moved by: Martha Bailkowski

Seconded by: Bill Newman

Disposition: Carried

EDGE Property Committee: Brian North

Brian North has served as Chair, EDGE Property Committee for 11 years. The EDGE Committee, Trustees, Council and invited guests toured the building in December 2024. Unfortunately, weather has not been on our side and this has slowed progress. Drywall now installed, elevator and siding will be installed soon. Glazing has been held up. Misinformation has circulated and the Committee asks that any questions come to Committee members. Brian North thanked his Committee, the Trustees, Council, Rev. Andy Comar and Rev. Lorraine Newton-Comar for their ongoing support.

Board of Trustees: Rev. Andy Comar

In addition to the Trustee Report in the Annual Report, Rev. Andy Comar advised us that MAS (Management Advisory Service), a company that works with non-profits, will be working with Stephen Crawley (Chair, Finance) and Denyse Slack (Treasurer, Trustees) to look at and amalgamate all the finances of AUC. The Trustees have also approached TUCC regarding help with potential debt that may be incurred with the new build. They will look into potential rental revenue possibilities. Partnerships with other United Churches are also being looked into.

Question: Was Trinity Anglican Church one of the churches that was being approached regarding a potential partnership?

Answer: No

Rising From The Ashes Capital Campaign: Pat Innes

In 2024, the Rising from the Ashes Capital Campaign was born. The Committee consists of Rev. Lorraine Newton-Comar, Rev. Andy Comar, Pat Innes, Janet Thacker, Nancy Kerswill and Laurie Irwin. The Committee was setup to oversee and coordinate the fundraising. On March 5, 2025, an application for a Trillium Grant for \$62,000 was submitted. This money would be used to complete the café on the main floor of the new church. A response is expected in July or August of 2025. To date, \$234,047.76 has been raised.

Question: Where is the ‘Rising From the Ashes’ money?

Answer: It has been deposited into the “Future Fund” and “In Trust” account

Search Committee: Brian Walter

Brian Walter gave an update on the Search Committee progress to replace Rev. Lorraine and Rev. Andy. Potential candidates include those who apply as well as those who are currently on ChurchHub. Initial interviews are being conducted but the Committee remains open to further expressions of interest. Although the Committee aims to have a replacement by September 2025, it is taking a deliberate approach and will not rush the decision. If necessary, an Interim Minister may be considered if the ‘right’ fit isn’t found.

Staff Appreciation: Andrea Drost - M&P Committee Interim Chair

Deep appreciation was expressed to the AUC staff: Rev. Lorraine, Rev. Andy, Affe Zhao, Margaret Heney, Lisa Kyriakides and Suzanne Whitehurst. Andrea thanked them for their commitment, hard work and amazing talents – all to the benefit of Aurora United Church.

Message from Rev. Lorraine & Rev. Andy

Rev. Lorraine talked about their history at AUC from the time they arrived until now. They felt the ‘call’ to AUC in 2010 and wondered what the call was going to entail. They soon realized that they had been called to lead us through complicated and difficult times. She commented that it has been an incredible journey – not an easy one, but a fulfilling one. Their last Sunday will be August 31. On June 22, 2025, there will be a special ‘de-covenanting’ service. Trinity Anglican is invited. There will be a special worship service, communion and lunch.

Rev. Andy invited us to read his note in the Annual Report and commented that it has been ‘a wild and wonderful’ time.

Closing prayer: Rev. Andy Comar

Time of Adjournment 1:42pm

Joyce Hagarty, Chair

Martha Bailkowski, Secretary

Aurora United Church
AGM Attendance
April 6, 2025

Rev. Lorraine Newton-Comar
Rev. Andrew Comar

Adherents:

Bonnie Ginther, Bruce Miller, David Hanna, David Pilkey, Josh Szakal, Ken Whitehurst, Leslie Stoangi, Margaret Heney, Nancy Newman, Patti Lennox, Suzanne Whitehurst

Members:

Alison Backer, Alison Heffer, Allyson Mitchell, Alvan Sutton, Anne Ella-Arnold, Bill Newman, Bob Kyriakides, Brian North, Brian Walter, Charles Truax, Craig Arnold, Crawford Heritage, Doreen Hiltz, Doren Sutton, Don Bailkowski, Don Stevenson, Ep Damstra, George Collins, Heather Collins, Helen Roberts, Henry Tutt, Jackie Catto, Janet Thacker, Janice Nolan, Jean Heys, Jennifer Hanna, Jennifer Kenwell, Jennifer Schafer, Joan Martin Brownlow, Joan Stevenson, Joyce Hagarty, Kathie Blackman, Laurie Bentolila, Linda Longhurst, Lisa Kyriakides, Lloyd Kerswill, Louise Procter Maio, Martha Bailkowski, Mary Munro, Mary Smith, Myles Heney, Myrtle Truax, Nettie Damstra, Pat Innes, Paula Hanna, Peter Drost, Andrea Drost, Ruth McBride, Susan Eaton, Susan Sue-Ling, Susan Tutt, Timothy Dayfoot, Tracey Keffer-Lyon, Yvonne Speck, Marilyn Zsebik, Peter Zsebik

Attended on Zoom:

Colleen Abbott, Blair Boyd, Bruce Corbett, Christine Chong, Elizabeth McNally, Ernest Ackert, Nancy Kerswill

**Aurora United Church
Congregational Meeting
Sunday, August 3, 2025
12:00 pm**

MINUTES

Rev. Lorraine Newton-Comar, Rev. Andrew Comar and 35 people attended the meeting (see the attached attendance sheet).

Call to Order: Nancy Kerswill (Chair of Council)

Motion #1: That Paula Hanna be appointed as secretary for this meeting.

Moved by: Martha Bailkowski

Seconded by: Helen Roberts

Disposition: carried

Motion #2: That Adherents of Aurora United Church may vote.

Moved by: Paula Hanna

Seconded by: Colleen Abbott

Disposition: carried

Motion #3: That we accept the following resignations from the Board of Trustees:

- a. Dave Snelgrove effective June 2, 2025,
- b. Blair and Karen Boyd effective August 31, 2025, and
- c. that the congregation expresses its deep appreciation to Dave, Blair and Karen for their years of faithful dedication and service to Aurora United Church.

Moved by: Brian North

Seconded by: Brian Walter

Disposition: carried

Motion #4: that Bill Newman be appointed as a member of the Board of Trustees.

Moved by: Brian Walter

Seconded by: Brian North

Disposition: carried

Closing Prayer: Rev. Andrew Comar

_____ Nancy Kerswill (Chair)

_____ Paula Hanna (Secretary)

**Aurora United Church
Congregational Meeting
Sunday, August 3, 2025**

ATTENDANCE

Alison Heffer
Allyson Mitchell
Alvan Sutton
Andrea Drost
Bill Newman
Bob Kyriakides
Bonnie Ginther
Brian North
Brian Walter
Bruce Miller
Colleen Abbott
Debby Schieck
Doren Sutton
Elizabeth Ramsell
Evert Vandenbrink
Helen Roberts
Henry Tutt
Jean Heys
Jean Vandenbrink
Joanne Banfill
Jules Pastoor
Kathie Blackman
Ken Whitehurst
Linda Wheler
Lisa Kyriakides
Lloyd Kerswill
Louise Procter Maio
Martha Bailkowski
Nancy Kerswill
Nancy Newman
Paula Hanna
Peter Drost
Susan Sue-Ling
Susan Tutt
Suzanne Whitehurst

CHURCH COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

AUC CHURCH COUNCIL

- Ministry Advocates (5)
- UCW Rep (1)
- Ministry Personnel (2)
- Elders at Large (6)
- M & P Rep (1)
- Trustee Rep (1)

SERVING MINISTRY

- Pastoral Care
- Outreach
- Mission & Service Fund

CONGREGATIONAL RESOURCES MINISTRY

- Finance
- Property
- Archives
- Information Technology

PROCLAMATION MINISTRY

- Worship
- Music
- Audiovisual & Livestreaming
- Sanctuary Decorating

CHURCH COMMUNITY MINISTRY

- Membership & Communications
- Stewardship

FAITH FORMATION MINISTRY

- Vacation Bible Camp
- 3rd Aurora Scouts
- Children & Youth Programs
- Adult Faith Formation

COUNCIL STATISTICS 2025

Baptisms	1
Weddings	2
Funeral/Memorial Services	10
New Members by Transfer	1
New Members by Profession of Faith	nil
Members Removed by Death	2
Members Removed by Transfer	2
Members Removed by Personal Request	nil
Members Moved to Non-Resident List	nil
Resident Members 12/31/2024	545
Resident Members 12/31/2025	542
Households under Pastoral Care	245

AFFIRMING MINISTRY COMMITTEE

The Affirming Ministry Committee continued its work throughout 2025 with a strong focus on visibility, education, worship leadership, and community engagement. Guided by the values of public, intentional, and explicit inclusion of 2SLGBTQIA+ people, the committee supported the congregation in living out its affirming commitment through worship, events, and outreach.

Leadership and Committee Life

As we bid farewell to Rev. Lorraine, Josh Szakal and Lisa Kyriakides were welcomed as new co-chairs of the Affirming Ministry Committee, with continued support from Joyce Hagarty, Jay Madore, Mary Munroe, Debby Schiek & Noah Comar. We were also overjoyed to welcome Ethan Champagne as our newest member. The committee met monthly following worship, maintaining momentum across planning, delivery, and evaluation of affirming initiatives.

Worship and Congregational Life

A highlight of the year was **Pride Sunday**, held on May 4, 2025. The service emphasized the theme “*Affirming is a Verb*” and incorporated multiple voices from the committee, congregational participation through a word-cloud activity, and intentional affirming symbolism and music. Feedback from the congregation described the service as “beautiful and progressive,” with strong affirmation of the committee’s leadership and the congregation’s commitment to equity and inclusion.

The committee also worked to integrate affirming presence into weekly worship life through visible displays at the welcome table, affirming signage, etc., reinforcing that affirming is an ongoing practice rather than a single event.

Education and Events

In March, the committee hosted its first **Affirming Movie Night**, featuring *Will & Harper*, combined with Affirm United’s PIE (Public, Intentional, Explicit) campaign. The evening included discussion, shared pie, and educational resources, and the committee committed to making this a recurring event.

The committee also planned and delivered a **Lunch & Learn on Allyship** in October, featuring guest speaker David Hall. The event was well attended and sparked discussion about allyship, respectful dialogue, and the need for protocols to address non-affirming comments in community settings.

In December, the committee hosted **Carols & Cookies**, a seasonal event combining fellowship, music, and partnership with PFLAG. This event emphasized hospitality, intergenerational participation, and community connection beyond Sunday worship.

Community Outreach

The Affirming Ministry maintained a visible presence beyond the church walls through participation in the **Aurora Street Festival** and the **York Pride Parade**, collaborating with other United Church congregations in the region. These events emphasized conversation, welcome, and solidarity.

Looking Ahead

Throughout 2025, the committee identified priorities for the future, including deeper congregational education, expanded community partnerships, and intentional integration of affirming practices in the life of the church. The committee remains committed to ensuring that affirming work continues to be visible, relational, and rooted in faith.

Respectfully submitted,
Josh Szakal

EDGE PROPERTY COMMITTEE

At the start of 2025, with over 10 years as a committee, we were hoping we would have been settled in our new building. With all the challenges that we continued to face and deal with, and although disappointed that we weren't farther along, I am proud to say our committee continued to work together to get Aurora United Church to the final stage.

By the end of January, the flat roofs were waterproofed and construction on the interior was moving ahead. Curtainwall glazing continued to be a challenge throwing our schedule off but the team continued to work to resolve all the issues. The skylight was changed through value engineering with the top now being the same as the towers rather than glass with a savings of over \$100,000.00. The Edge Property Committee continued to press for financial solutions and were assured that the Trustees and Council were working on it and having conversations with Shining Waters Council and the Toronto United Church Council. The last week of February I was asked to join members of the Trustees to meet with Toronto United Church Council at their offices and discuss the possibility of financial assistance and update them on our progress. We were well received and left with a positive feeling.

In February we were informed that the Teachers' Pension Fund would be selling their shares in Amica and the Trustees contacted our lawyer and confirmed that this move should not affect our relationship with Amica. The construction on the mechanical and electrical were well underway allowing the drywall installation to begin.

By May, we were still working with the glazing issue thinking we would have this completed by summer's end. Also, although we had no budget for the AV/IT equipment, we needed to have the infrastructure in place so we could close in the walls and ceilings. We solicited the help of G.H. Grassby and associates. Council and trustees continued to meet with other congregations in our area to welcome them to join our congregation.

We continually reached out to the Bereaved Authority of Ontario (BAO) both directly and through government officials using whatever means necessary to put the remains to rest but to no avail. In June we received an email from the BAO asking for answers on their open file, we replied once again pleading our case. On July 9th I received a call from a representative of the BAO and after a lengthy very positive discussion, she agreed to allow us to move forward with a mass burial plot. I headed directly to the manager of the Aurora Cemetery and they jumped on it immediately. On Tuesday July 15th, less than a week after the call, Bill Newman and myself along with the cemetery staff, a cemetery board member, and Baker Vaults, moved the remains from storage and reinterred them in two concrete vaults generously donated by Baker Vaults and placed in a double plot donated to us by the Aurora Cemetery Board. We had all the remains put to rest by midday. The ministers then reached out to Thompson Funeral Home who offered their assistance and donated the headstone. This whole process was at no cost to us thanks to the generosity of many. On August 24th, a committal service was held at the cemetery site led by Reverends Andy and Lorraine with our church choir performing and many of our congregation and community members including some from the cemetery board in attendance.

In August we also received news that our site manager William Dobson from Dalton would be moving on to another project and we would now have someone new appointed. At the same time, Reverends Andy and Lorraine retired by month end, both a huge part of our Edge team. Shortly after Nancy, chair of Council stepped down due to health reasons. These were huge changes in a short time and we owe them all a debt of gratitude to their dedication to our team.

We were very fortunate to have Bill Newman step up as a trustee and fill Andy's shoes as our trustee representative on the construction team.

Amica approached us to ask if they could use the parking spots along the west side of the church as dedicated parking for their shuttle as they were having trouble with their original plans. In return they would allot us an additional six dedicated Aurora United Church spots along our north wall in the underground parking. The Edge committee gave their approval to be confirmed on the reciprocal agreement.

In September I heard that our lifelines were not to be and immediately became worried as we were quickly running out of funding with so much still to be done. We didn't have enough money to get us through the next couple of months. We had no choice but to inform Dalton of our situation as well as the Amica Management team regarding our dilemma. Dalton had no choice but to shut the project down if we couldn't come to a solution, giving us to the end of October. We quickly met with business leaders to try and resolve our situation fast. A group was created headed by our new chair of Council, newest trustee, myself and a group of dedicated AUC members. October 1st our group met with Shining Waters, TUCC, Kindred Works, United Property Resource people onsite with the Dalton management team and openly pleaded our case. On October 8th an emergency meeting of Council, Trustees and Edge all met together to share this news of our dilemma. On October 19th we then shared the news with the congregation after the church service. In the meantime, we continued to look for solutions.

It was with great relief when we received the news that Shining Waters and their team were stepping up to help us through this.

With this news, our construction team consisting of two of us from AUC, our Architects, and the Dalton Management team continue to meet every Thursday with the addition of representatives from Kindred Works representing Shining Waters/TUCC. They are truly a welcome team with tremendous insight and qualifications.

With these changes has come changes to our Edge Property Committee role. As we no longer are in a position to make changes and recommendations, we have stepped aside on a hiatus until further direction from Aurora United Church Council. I can't begin to thank this team for all their many long hours spent trying to get this project completed with so many hurdles and roadblocks in the way. I would be remiss to not mention the contributions and leadership of Reverend Andy and Reverend Lorraine and wish them happiness in their retirement.

Finally, to summarize just some of the hurdles we faced throughout the years;

- Clearing the Bell Easement across the property
- The Archeological work including the removal of the remains and their final interment
- The demolition of the houses on the property and dealing the Ontario Municipal Board after pushback from neighbors regarding both demolition and the project overall
- Legal Costs
- COVID increasing costs in some cases by more than double at the same time as slowing down construction
- Construction issues such as developer changes and glazing as well as other too numerous to mention

Respectfully submitted

Brian North (Chair of EDGE Property Committee)

Committee Members: Brian North (Chair), Holly Todd-Williamson, Pat Innes, Scott Sinclair, David Snelgrove, Crawford Heritage, Doug Gilpin and Bill Newman.

OAKWIL NON-PROFIT HOMES CORPORATION

Background

Oakwil Non-Profit Homes Corporation, a non-profit Ontario corporation and an incorporated ministry of Aurora United Church, is an extension of AUC's community outreach and partnership programmes. Operating as Oakwil Seniors Homes, the non-profit owns and operates a 28 townhouse complex in Oakridges with a mandate to provide rent geared-to-income housing for seniors. Originally founded in 1988 by the members of St. Paul's United Church, oversight responsibility for Oakwil was assumed by AUC when the two church congregations amalgamated in 2008.

Governance

By the provisions of Oakwil's corporate bylaws, the members of AUC Council constitute the "membership" of the corporation. Council appoints a Board of Directors to exercise direction and fiduciary responsibility over the operations of the corporation. The Board of Directors in turn contracts with a professional property management firm, currently Richmond Community Management Services (RCMS), to manage and maintain the complex on a day-to-day basis, including tenant relations.

The current members of the Oakwil Board of Directors are:

- President – Bill Newman
- Vice President – Christine Zarebski
- Secretary – David Hanna
- Treasurer – Susan Sue-Ling
- Director – Heather Collins
- Director – Suzanne Whitehurst
- Resident Representative – Bernie Meagher

Oakwil's bylaws authorize a maximum Board membership of seven. One director position is currently vacant.

Financial Structure

Oakwil is financed through a housing services agreement with York Region under which Oakwil receives an annual operating subsidy and capital funding to maintain and improve the complex. The rents charged to Oakwil tenants are based on a rent geared-to-income formula determined by York Region. The income from rents, combined with the funding received from York Region, is applied to the ongoing maintenance of the complex, the undertaking of capital repairs and replacements, the repayment of debt and the building of a capital reserve fund. Oakwil paid off the remaining balance of its mortgage in June, 2023. The Corporation has a non-interest-bearing loan from York Region with an outstanding balance of \$171,578.00 which is being repaid over time from operating surpluses. The Board is grateful to York Region for its continued funding support.

2025 Financial Results

Operating & Maintenance – The Oakwil Board is required to submit an annual budget to York Region covering the operation and maintenance of the complex. The 2025 budget was based on total forecasted income of \$355,744.99 and total forecasted expenses of \$354,636.72 for essentially a balanced budget. Actual year-end income was less than projected at \$345,250.82. Even though expenses were also less than forecast at \$351,274.80, the net result was an operating

deficit of \$6,023.98. The deficit was principally attributable to loss of rental revenue from unit turnovers and the time lag between tenants.

Capital – Through its Social Housing Innovation Fund, York Region approved funding in the amount of \$11,115.00 for projects related to the upgrading of the accessibility of the townhouse units and to improving the quality of life for the residents:

- Installation of automatic entrance door operators on two accessible units
- Conduct of an art therapy programme for seniors
- Completion of a seniors' yoga and wellness programme

As part of its ongoing capital repair and replacement programme, Oakwil expended \$20,368.15 from its Capital Reserve for items such as unit turnover renovations and the replacement of cupboards, countertops, floors and appliances.

2025 Highlights

- **Board Meetings** – The Board met seven times over the course of the year for the conduct of its normal business.
- **Annual General Meeting** – The Oakwil Annual General Meeting was held on June 9 at Trinity Anglican. The members approved the the 2024 audited financial statements and the reappointment of Andrew T. Vahrmeyer Professional Corporation as Oakwil's auditors for the 2025 fiscal year.
- **Renewal of RCMS Management Agreement** – The Board exercised its renewal option in RCMS' management agreement to extend the term for a further two years commencing July 1, 2025.
- **Meeting with the Mayor of Richmond Hill** – Through the good efforts and connections of David Hanna, a meeting was arranged with David West, the Mayor of Richmond Hill. The on-site meeting gave the Board the opportunity to discuss social housing issues with Mayor West and to familiarize him with Oakwil's operations and challenges.
- **Landlord & Tenant Board** – Adjudication hearings were held on September 9 and November 7 in relation to a tenant's claim for damages resulting from a flood in the basement of the tenant's unit. The adjudicator's decision is pending. Oakwil maintains that the tenant was fully compensated for any lost personal property and inconvenience at the time of the incident and is due no further payments.
- **Resident Events** – On September 7, the Board sponsored its annual summer barbeque for the residents which provided an ideal opportunity to enjoy food and conversation together in an outdoor setting. A Christmas luncheon, featuring a full turkey dinner, was held on December 7. To add to the festive atmosphere, AUC's EmBellished Handbell Ensemble entertained the group with the unique sounds and harmonies of the handbells.
- **End of Mortgage** – Coincidental with the full discharge of Oakwil's mortgage indebtedness in June 2023, the housing services agreement between York Region and Oakwil came to an end. Discussions continued with York Region Housing on the terms and conditions of a new housing services agreement, including the continued provision of operating and capital funding based on a five-year financial plan. It is hoped that the new agreement will be in place before the end of 2026.

Looking Ahead to 2026

The Board's leading priorities for 2026 will be:

- The conclusion of a new housing services agreement and funding levels with York Region to ensure Oakwil's long term viability and sustainability .

- The updating of Oakwil’s bylaws to conform with recent changes to provincial legislation governing non-profit entities.
- The investigation of additional sources of funding to upgrade Oakwil’s facilities (e.g., energy conservation and efficiency) and provide seniors’ programming for the residents.

As part of ongoing succession planning, the Board is looking to recruit an additional director to complete the full complement of board members. If you have experience in property management, finance, social housing or the non-profit sector and an interest in supporting seniors housing, we would welcome your expression of interest in joining the Board.

The Board is deeply appreciative to AUC for its continuing sponsorship of Oakwil. We also thank RCMS for its capable management of the complex and in particular, Janet Huang, Senior Property Manager, and Sandra Izurieta, Junior Administration Manager, for managing day-to-day functions at the site and building effective and respectful relations with the residents.

Respectfully submitted,
The Oakwil Board of Directors



MINISTRY REPORTS

MINISTRY OF FAITH FORMATION

In 2025, the Faith Formation Ministry purchased three quarters of the *Simply Loved* curriculum, which was used to support faith formation programming throughout the year.

Many beloved traditions continued. Children, youth, and families participated in a Palm Sunday parade, celebrated Nature Sunday in June, and enjoyed a pre-summer ice cream party. In the fall, Funday Sunday resumed after Labour Day. We welcomed new families, formed new friendships, and shared many meaningful experiences through crafts, games, and time together.

The Faith Formation Ministry played an active role in planning and coordinating this year's Christmas pageant. A hybrid format was used, with families recording short videos at home while the congregation brought the story to life in person.

The Woman's Spirit group had a long and successful time under Rev. Lorraine Newton-Comar's leadership and held a closing celebration in June. A small group planned to continue Woman's Spirit, but after three meetings in the fall of 2025 and prayerful discernment, the decision was made to end the group, to give thanks for Rev. Lorraine's past leadership and wait to see the new minister's plans for adult faith development.

The nursery continued throughout the year with the support of dedicated volunteers, and there were opportunities to bring the nursery and older children together for shared activities, including a Christmas party where treats were shared and ornaments were created for trees at home.

We offer our heartfelt thanks to Alison Backer, who stepped away this year as Chair and Ministry Advocate, for her many years of faithful leadership, dedication, and care for this ministry. We are also grateful to Tracey Keffer-Lyon for her time and contributions to Faith Formation as she stepped away from the ministry this year. Kathryn Yearwood has since assumed the role of Chair and Advocate Elder.

Looking ahead to 2026, the Faith Formation Ministry looks forward to continuing to nurture spiritual growth within our church community. We are deeply grateful to the volunteers who generously share their time and gifts in support of this ministry.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathryn Yearwood

MOVIE NIGHT

2025 was another busy year for AUC Movie Night! As Reverend Lorraine would say, it's the largest gathering of our church members and friends outside of Sunday worship service. Thanks to all for your interest and participation. We certainly appreciated the leadership and enthusiasm of Reverends Lorraine and Andy for the first half of the year, building on 11 years of Movie Night.

Our movies featured in 2025 were Conclave, Judy, Miss Potter, The Banshees of Inisherin, Chariots of Fire, The King's Speech, The Malta Story, and A Christmas To Remember. For the King's Speech movie, we said goodbye to Reverends Lorraine and Andy and enjoyed strawberry shortcake. At Christmas, a number of moviegoers dressed up in fancy attire.

The AUC Movie Night meets on the second Tuesday of the month at Trinity Anglican Church in Binions Hall and we are looking forward to transitioning to showing movies in our own building later this year. If you have movie suggestions, please let us know.

A special thanks to all of our helpers in setting things up and organizing the refreshments to enjoy during the movie.

Brian and Penny Elliot, Movie Night Chairpersons

BOOK CLUB

The AUC Book Club meets on the third Tuesday of the month (Sept.-June) at 7 pm either in person in the Minister's Office or on Zoom during the winter months.

We discuss a variety of books, chosen and presented by members of the group. Videos of interviews with the authors are often included followed by lively, often wide-ranging discussion. Book club is an open group – all are welcome to participate.

Books we read in 2025:

The Frozen River (*Ariel Lawhon*)

The North Star: Canada & the Civil War Plots Against Lincoln (*Julien Sher*)

Dominion: The Railway and the Rise of Canada (*Stephen Bown*)

Under Development: A Journey Without Maps (*Ian Smillie*)

There Is No Ethan: How Three Women Caught America's Biggest Catfish (*Anna Akbari*)

The Phoenix Crown (*Janie Chang/Kate Quinn*)

Careless People (*Sarah Wyn Williams*)

My Friends (*Frederik Backman*)

Respectfully Submitted,
Helen Roberts & Bill Newman

3RD AURORA SCOUTING

2025 was a year that saw 3rd Aurora continue to grow with new and exciting opportunities and experiences for our youth membership, a continued increase in number of older youth and Scouter participants.

Scouting in 2025

Scouts Canada continues to operate member registration on a January to December calendar year (2025). Operation wise, the 3rd Aurora Scout Group chooses to continue to maintain the traditional "school year" programming schedule of September to May, with children who age out of Beavers in the Spring of the year they turn 8, being provided the opportunity to join Cubs that Fall. The same practice is used for Cubs (year they turn 11), and intended to continue for Scout members when they become eligible (year they turn 15) to "move up" to Venturers. Currently 3rd Aurora is not operating a Venturers Section, but are looking to re-establish one for Fall 2027, when our oldest current Scouts would be eligible.

Active youth members of 3rd Aurora who had been registered for 2024 were provided an extended 4-week "early bird" window to re-register during August of 2025 to retain their place in the Group. The general registration window for the 2025 calendar year opened in September 2024 for new members, on a first come first serve basis. Those 2024 youth members who did not

re-register for 2025 retained their place with the Group until the end of December 2024. Those children who registered to start with the Group in January 2025 were provided the opportunity to start early in the Fall where space availability permitted.

The 3rd Aurora Scout Group continues to report directly to the Shinning Waters Council, following Scouts Canada dissolution of the South Lake Simcoe Area level of administration.

Programming

3rd Aurora was able to continue to secure the use of a gymnasium at Regency Acres Public School on Monday nights for Beavers, Wednesday nights for Scouts and gymnasium at the next door St. Joseph's Catholic Elementary School on Thursday nights for Cubs. In 2025 meetings ran January to mid-May and started again from early October-mid December. 3rd Aurora did not offer programming between June and mid-September 2025.

Notable Scouting Events in 2025:

- In March, the 3rd Aurora Scouts joined the Newmarket Scouts for a winter camp at Woodland Trails Scout Camp in Whitchurch-Stouffville (in cabins).
- In May, 3rd Aurora Scout Group hosted the annual South Lake Simcoe Area Rally for Beaver Buggy, Cub Car, Scout Trucks and Adult Racers at the Aurora Legion, with approximately 140 participants.
- In May members of all Sections of 3rd Aurora, and members of the 4th Orangeville, 2nd Innisfil and Newmarket Scout Groups, participated in a shared sleep over at the Ripley's Aquarium,
- In June, 3rd Aurora Cubs participated in a Japanese themed Cuboree at Camp Samac Scout Camp in Oshawa (tents).
- In August, youth members Henry and Peter Munro and Scouter Kyle Munro participated in the South Lake Simcoe week-long Algonquin Canoe Trips for Scouts and Cubs.
- In October, members of all sections of 3rd Aurora participated in the Annual Apple Day fundraiser, with a booth at the Aurora Farmer's market for the two final weeks of the market's season.
- In October, 3rd Aurora Scout participated in a "build your own shelter" camp in Cavan, Ontario, with Scouts from around southern Ontario.
- In November, members of all sections of 3rd Aurora participated in both the annual Aurora Remembrance Day Parade and Ceremony and the Aurora Santa Under the Stars Parade"

Sections Growth

2025 ended with 3rd Aurora's group population at 10 youths in the Beaver Section (boys, aged 5 to 7, including 6 new members) and 12 Cubs, (boys and girls, aged 8 to 10, including 5 new members and 3 "moved up" members from 3rd Aurora Beavers) and 10 Scouts (boys and girls aged 11 to 13, including 2 new members and 4 "moved up" members from 3rd Aurora Cubs).

Volunteers

3rd Aurora Scouters in 2025 included Scouters: Oxanna Chawen (Cubs and Scouts, new Fall 2025), Jeffrey Graves (Beavers), Ken Kosowan (Cubs), Kevin Krille (Beavers, moved to Cubs in the Fall), Liz Layton (Cubs, moved to Scouts in the Fall), Ian MacPherson (Beavers), Krista Miller (Cubs), Kyle Munro (Cubs and Scouts, moved to only Scouts in the Fall), Greg Scott (Cubs and Scouts, moved to only Scouts in the Fall).

Kyle Munro continued to act in the roles of Group Commissioner/Contact Scouter

Scouts/Registrar, Jeffrey Graves remained as Contact Scouter Beavers Ken Kosowan took over as contact Scouter for Cubs. Mid-2025 Kelsie Vink stepped away from as the Group's Treasurer role, to be taken over by Liz Layton in 2026..

Any adults wishing to join the group are invited to contact Scouter Kyle Munro to discuss their interests. While the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts sections are currently closed to new member enrollment at this time, new Scouters are guaranteed spaces for their youth family members to join immediately as a result of the adult completing Scouts Canada Training and joining the Group. We are forecasting a particular need for new Scouters to join the Beavers Section before the Fall of 2026 to ensure stability for the Section to be able to weekly meetings in case of occasional Scouter absences.

It remains a goal of the group to recruit additional Scouters and Group Committee representatives in order to move forward with expanding the size and programming capabilities of 3rd Aurora Scout Group for years to come. The continuing physical, financial and spiritual support of Aurora United Church for 3rd Aurora Scouting Group remains very much appreciated.

In July 2025 the 3rd Aurora Scout Group transferred all stored equipment from the Apple Storage locker in Newmarket, that had been graciously provided by the Aurora United Church, into the new Church building, thereby eliminating that expense.

We look forward to exploring more opportunities to strengthen our relationship with the Aurora United Church congregation. 3rd Aurora Scout Group looks forward to taking part in opportunities to “do a good turn” for members of our community. Due to the group size, the age of participants and their physical abilities, single-day, weekend-based volunteer opportunities appear best suited for our youth members at this time.

We look forward to the opportunity to return “home” to the New Aurora United Church building when the opportunity allows for it.

Yours in Scouting,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kyle M.', on a light-colored rectangular background.

Kyle Munro

Scouter and Commissioner,
3rd Aurora Scouting Group

MINISTRY OF CONGREGATIONAL RESOURCES

FINANCE COMMITTEE

In 2025 the AUC Finance Committee consisted of Stephen Crawley (Chair), Brian Walter (Advocate Elder), Lloyd Kerswill, Susan Sue-Ling, Rev. Tim Dayfoot, Bill Newman, and the AUC Treasurer/Bookkeeper Affe Zhao. The Finance Committee meets every month (except July & August) to ensure that AUC's finances are managed and monitored in the most effective way possible, and the team does significant work outside of these monthly meetings to ensure the smooth management and planning of AUC's resources. This includes the Annual Operating Budget process as well as participation in the Stewardship Committee. With the construction on Yonge Street in full swing in 2025, the available capital has been spent, and the completion of the building will now be operated and financed by the United Church of Canada through Shining Waters and Kindred Works. 2025 is the last year the Operating Budget will receive funds from the interest on the insurance proceeds. **AUC's Operating Budget will need to be fully self-funding in 2026**, and the Finance Committee has been working hard toward this goal in 2025 to prepare for this.

Our congregation continued meeting in person at Trinity Anglican in 2025, with regular collection taking place at our Sunday services. The Operating Funds financial performance in 2025 was essentially as planned in the Annual Budget. While our **Total Revenue in 2025** was down slightly (-1.3% versus 2024), that reflected our higher draw on funds from the interest on our insurance payout in 2024. In 2024 we required \$300,000 from insurance interest, and in 2025 we required \$250,000. If you remove this variable revenue source of insurance interest, our Total Revenue was up 14.5% versus 2024 (approx. \$42K), driven almost entirely by the fantastic congregational response to our year end Stewardship campaign, but also stronger holiday donations at Easter and Christmas. This is the second year in a row of a total revenue increase when not including the insurance interest. But the important story on the revenue side came from our congregation, which continued its tradition of support throughout the year. Despite the challenges that we face as a congregation, **Total Offerings in 2025** from the congregation (incl online donations, excluding Stewardship) finished down by only -1.2% versus 2024, (or approx. \$2.9K) and slightly above our budget by about 1%. We should continue to be proud of the financial commitment our congregation makes to the ongoing operation of AUC. AUC's congregation is making a big difference!

Total Expenses in 2025 declined as expected versus 2024 but was higher than budget (\$543.5 versus budget of \$518.9), due to slightly higher rental costs and operating costs versus budget. Spending in 2025 was 6.0% versus 2024, with the one-time spend on the Capital Campaign in 2024 finished, and also slightly decreased staff costs with the departures of Rev Andy and Rev Lorraine. Operating Expenses, things such as taxes, phone/internet and a number of Committee programs, increased by 42.3% in 2025, driven by an unexpectedly large, one-time utility payment at the new property. Payroll, benefits and pension payments historically account for approximately 60% of our annual operating budget, and 2025 was consistent with that at 58.4%. See the full detailed budget in this Annual Report for information on both expenditures and revenue.

AUC's General Operating Fund continued to rely on interest from the insurance capital to balance our budget in 2025, the last year this will be true. In 2025 the net funding requirement from insurance interest was \$250,000, \$2,000 more than the budgeted amount of \$248,000. Insurance interest continued to be a significant percentage of our overall revenue. In 2022 36.8% of our Total Revenue was insurance interest, in 2023 it was 49% of our revenue, in 2024

50.9% and in 2025 43.0% came from there. Aside from this 43% interest revenue in 2025, the remaining 46.6% came from Total (congregational) Offerings, and 10.4% from all other sources. We have been blessed to have the insurance interest at our disposal to cover our short-term requirements as we go through this period of transition in our history. Over the years, we have never used any of the principal capital Trustees received from the insurance payout to fund our operating deficits, we used only the investment income generated by the principal. We are now in a position going forward where AUC must be completely self-funding, between congregational giving's and other sources of revenue. Historically, including 2025, our operating deficit has been roughly the amount we draw from insurance interest every year. Between Stewardship campaigns and other initiatives, the AUC Finance committee will continue to carefully monitor our revenue streams and pre-emptively work with Council and Trustees to manage any financial issues that arise in 2026 as we anticipate the move into our new church.

All of AUC's financial obligations were met in 2025, including Presbytery Dues, Mission & Service, Welcoming Arms, Rise & Shine and many other programs. Other than our M & P expenses, our required rent with Trinity (plus external storage) is still our biggest expense, at \$100,602 in 2025. Expense management is a key area of responsibility and emphasis for Finance, and we successfully managed spending in 2025 with the support of the many Ministries and Committees at AUC. Our thanks go out to everyone who helped with the careful cost management at AUC!

Donations for the rebuild have largely been reinvested by Trustees for use during construction. We currently have separate accounts for this purpose:

- first, our Future Fund, which on December 31, 2025 held \$20,431 in the bank plus \$134,400 that has been invested by Trustees;
- our Earmarked donations account (donations made for specifically designated purchases) has \$1,191.81 investment income and has \$32,561.92 in the bank.

At the end of 2025, our Operating bank account balance was \$106,261, which is larger than typical due to the highly successful Stewardship campaign in November/December, and this will start us off well in the first quarter of 2026.

The Finance Committee is also charged with creating the Annual Operating Budget of AUC for input and approval from AUC Church Council, as well as input from the many committees that run programs at AUC. This year we have again been able to complete the task and approval process in time for the 2025 Budget to be included in this Annual Report, subject to the congregation's approval at the Annual General Meeting. Affe Zhao worked closely with Finance in 2025 to provide the necessary reports for informed decision making. Affe deserves our gratitude for her considerable work and support of AUC's financial health.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Finance Committee,

Stephen Crawley, Chair

BOOKKEEPER'S REPORT

As we reflect on 2025, I am grateful for the opportunity to share my second annual report as Bookkeeper of Aurora United Church. I am thankful for the continued support of the Council, Finance Committee, M&P Committee, staff and volunteers I work with throughout the year. I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Rev. Lorraine and Rev. Andy as they entered retirement in 2025. They were always supportive and encouraging in my role, and I truly appreciated their guidance and collaboration. I wish them both a joyful and well-deserved retirement.

I also extend a warm welcome to Rev. Tim and Rev. Linda, who joined us during this interim period. As retired ministers, we are especially grateful that they stepped in to support our congregation during this time of transition.

From a financial operations perspective, 2025 was a challenging year, particularly with cash flow planning and projections. Delays in moving into the rebuilt church building added uncertainty and required close monitoring of income and expenses. I am very grateful for the strong support of the Finance Committee in helping us navigate these challenges.

Looking ahead, I will continue to work closely with the Finance Committee and Council to monitor cash flow, manage expenses, maintain accurate financial records, and support clear and timely financial reporting.

Thank you to the congregation for your continued financial support. The Stewardship Campaign in Dec 2025 played an important role in helping the church meet its financial commitments and provided greater stability as we move into 2026. We continue to receive donations by cheque and E-transfer, and we have also seen increased use of Canadahelps.

While Canadahelps is convenient, it does involve service fees. During this challenging financial period, I gently encourage regular members, where possible, to consider donating by e-transfer or cheque, which helps reduce additional costs. PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance) is another valuable option that provides steady and predictable income and greatly supports cash flow planning. If you are interested in joining or increasing your PAR, please contact me at **bookkeeper@auroraunitedchurch.ca** or **905-727-1935 ext. 24**.

I would also like to thank the volunteers and committees who support our financial and staff-related processes:

- Steve Falk for organizing and leading the 2025 Stewardship Campaign, and for continuing to lead our stewardship efforts into the new year
- The M&P committee, with special thanks to Louise Procter Maio and Andrea Drost, for their ongoing support with staff-related matters
- Nancy and Bill Newman and Lloyd Kerswill for counting the offerings each Monday morning
- Susan Sue-Ling, Bill Newman, Lloyd Kerswill, Denyse Slack and Stephen Crawley for signing cheques
- Bob Kyriakides for ongoing IT support related to our financial systems

As always, I am here to help. If you have any financial questions, concerns, or suggestions, please feel free to reach out.

Thank you once again for your continued support. I am honored to be part of this journey with you and look forward to serving Aurora United Church as we move toward an exciting new chapter in our rebuilt home.

Affe Zhao
Bookkeeper, Aurora United Church

BEQUESTS AND MEMORIALS

We are thankful that people continue to support the work of our church through their bequests and memorials.

This past year we have received donations in memory of:

Ross Procter
Sandra Smith
Lisa Arlene Hagan Yielding
Blair Gillies
Beth Humfryes
John Wilson
Margaret Griffith
Joyce Gill
Al North
Barbara Balfour
Dominic Fera

2025 Financials and 2026 Budget

GENERAL FUND BUDGET	2025 Budget	2025 Actuals	2026 Survival Budget
REVENUES			
Identifiable Givers	\$ 225,000.00	\$ 239,090.40	\$ 275,000.00
Loose	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,113.35	\$ 3,000.00
Initial Offering	\$ 100.00	\$ 113.00	\$ 120.00
M&S Givings over and above	\$ 3,300.00	\$ 2,700.00	\$ 3,500.00
Online Donations (incl in 2023 actuals)	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00
Other Givings (United Way etc)	\$ 500.00	\$ 966.00	\$ 1,000.00
Appeals	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 7,644.50	\$ 15,000.00
Stewardship Campaigns	\$ -	\$ 39,355.13	\$ -
Total Offering	\$ 235,400.00	\$ 292,982.38	\$ 299,620.00
Fundraising			
Musical Special Events Revenue	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 3,836.80	\$ 4,000.00
AVGEN	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,575.00	\$ 2,000.00
Total Fundraising	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 5,411.80	\$ 6,000.00
Program Revenue			
Poinsettias	\$ 750.00	\$ 645.00	\$ 750.00
Faith formation	\$ 300.00	\$ -	\$ 500.00
Broadview Subscriptions	\$ 500.00	\$ 530.00	\$ 5,000.00
Other program revenue			
Total Program Revenue	\$ 1,550.00	\$ 1,175.00	\$ 6,250.00
Investments			
Interest/Capital Gains from Endowment & Flower Fund	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 31,851.75	\$ -
Interest on Insurance Capital	\$ 248,000.00	\$ 250,000.00	
Total Investments	\$ 273,000.00	\$ 281,851.75	\$ -
Other			
UCW Donation	\$ -	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 1,000.00
HST Rebate	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 4,743.37	\$ 5,000.00
Memorials, Bequests & Planned giving	\$ 300.00	\$ 630.00	\$ 300.00
Rise & Shine Donations	\$ 400.00	\$ 1,464.33	\$ 1,500.00
Total Other Revenue	\$ 5,200.00	\$ 9,337.70	\$ 7,800.00
TOTAL ALL REVENUE	\$ 518,650.00	\$ 590,758.63	\$ 319,670.00

EXPENSES				
CHURCH COMMUNITY MINISTRY				
Communications		\$ 250.00	\$ -	\$ -
Website		\$ 600.00	\$ 486.44	\$ 400.00
	Total Communications	\$ 850.00	\$ 486.44	\$ 400.00
Membership				
Soup Lunches		\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ -
Coffee & Juice		\$ 75.00	\$ 276.37	\$ 100.00
	Total Membership	\$ 175.00	\$ 276.37	\$ 100.00
CHURCH COUNCIL				
External Events Fundrasiers Expenses		\$ -	\$ 47.98	\$ -
Committee Expense		\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,252.72	\$ 400.00
Affirming Committee		\$ 500.00	\$ 459.02	\$ -
Shining Waters AGM expenses		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Rental Expenses includes Trinity Storage		\$ 90,000.00	\$ 100,532.51	\$ 46,000.00
	Total Church Council	\$ 91,700.00	\$ 102,292.23	\$ 46,400.00
CONGREGATIONAL RESOURCES MINISTRY/FINANCE				
Archives		\$ 100.00		\$ -
Committee Expense includes Envelopes		\$ 900.00	\$ 380.58	\$ -
Banking Service fees		\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,085.04	\$ -
Insurance		\$ 3,100.00	\$ 3,507.84	\$ -
Church Land Taxes		\$ 4,150.00	\$ 8,235.79	\$ 4,100.00
Accountant service & support		\$ 5,500.00	\$ 5,222.96	\$ 2,000.00
UCC Assessment		\$ 13,249.00	\$ 13,249.00	\$ 14,200.00
	Total Finance	\$ 28,199.00	\$ 31,681.21	\$ 20,300.00
Property Committee				
Office Expense		\$ 4,000.00	\$ 3,694.43	\$ 2,500.00
Contracts		\$ 1,400.00	\$ -	\$ 850.00
Utilities		\$ 6,360.00	\$ 32,753.41	\$ 8,000.00
Maintenance & Repairs		\$ 4,700.00	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00
IT- Computer Hardware/AUC File Share		\$ 15,000.00	\$ 4,801.36	\$ 5,000.00
	Total Property	\$ 31,460.00	\$ 41,249.20	\$ 18,350.00
Faith Formation Ministry				
Adult Education		\$ 150.00	\$ 230.67	\$ -
Committee Expense		\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ -
Broadview subscription		\$ 600.00	\$ 554.00	\$ 500.00
Teen confirmation		\$ 400.00	\$ -	\$ -
Youth Events(Camp. Meetings)		\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ -
Vacation Bible Camp		\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ -
Sunday School + Childrens Education		\$ 600.00	\$ 744.20	\$ -
Nursery Coordinator		\$ 1,260.00	\$ 888.75	\$ 1,600.00
	Total Faith Formation	\$ 3,810.00	\$ 2,417.62	\$ 2,100.00
M&P(Ministry & personnel)				
Committee Expense-ADP costs		\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,129.70	\$ 1,000.00
Salaries(Fulltime & Casual)		\$ 236,197.00	\$ 259,855.61	\$ 215,000.00
Benefits/ WSIB		\$ 69,104.00	\$ 56,410.87	\$ 40,400.00
Travel Expenses		\$ 2,500.00	\$ 1,881.47	\$ 300.00
Continuing education		\$ 3,600.00	\$ 392.64	\$ 1,895.00

Staff Development(All-Recognition)	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 573.77	\$ 300.00
Total M&P	\$ 314,401.00	\$ 320,244.06	\$ 258,895.00
PROCLAMATION MINISTRY			\$ -
Audiovisual	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,012.00	\$ 500.00
Music	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,681.09	\$ 2,000.00
Music-Handbells	\$ 1,050.00	\$ 953.98	
Sanctuary Decorating	\$ 750.00	\$ -	
Worship Committee	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,060.45	\$ 500.00
Online Services	\$ -		
Total Proclamation	\$ 7,300.00	\$ 5,707.52	\$ 3,000.00
SERVING MINISTRY			
M&S Remittances Church	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
M&S Over & Above-PAR	\$ 3,300.00	\$ 3,300.00	\$ 3,300.00
Total M&S	\$ 18,300.00	\$ 18,300.00	\$ 18,300.00
Outreach			
Special Appeal	\$ 1,350.00	\$ 2,580.00	\$ -
Welcoming Arms	\$ 13,200.00	\$ 13,200.00	\$ 8,400.00
Rise & Shine Breakfast	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 5,203.42	\$ 5,500.00
Total Outreach	\$ 20,550.00	\$ 20,983.42	\$ 13,900.00
Pastoral Care			
Seniors Lunch/Advent Service	\$ 150.00	\$ -	
Committee Expense	\$ 100.00	\$ 59.96	\$ -
Poinsettias	\$ 600.00	\$ 337.80	\$ 750.00
Correspondence postage & Cards	\$ 250.00	\$ 23.90	
Prayer Shawl	\$ 1,050.00	\$ 661.54	
Total Pastoral Care	\$ 2,150.00	\$ 1,083.20	\$ 750.00
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ 518,895.00	\$ 544,721.27	\$ 382,495.00
VARIANCE TO REVENUE	\$ (245.00)	\$ 46,037.36	\$ (62,825.00)

CASH CARD COMMITTEE

When you purchase gift cards for everyday items you are buying anyway - like groceries, gas, coffee, etc. - the church benefits because the vendor offers the cards to us at a discount. For example, if you purchase a \$100 Loblaw's gift card, Aurora United Church makes \$4.00.

The Cash Card program at AUC raised \$1,575 for the General Operating Fund in 2025 against a budget of \$1500.

Typically, cash card orders are taken on the second Sunday of each month, for delivery the following Sunday. A core group of regulars continued to order cards every month - some providing us with standing monthly orders and post-dated cheques for their card purchases. In addition, Welcoming Arms purchases cards to be used as part of their community outreach; sharing the savings offered by the vendor in partnership with AUC.

Thanks to everyone who participated in this effective way to raise funds to assist the life and work of AUC. It is our hope that you will consider to do so again in 2026.

*Respectfully submitted,
Lloyd and Nancy Kerswill
Cash Cards Committee*

2025 Cash Card Financials

collected	94218.00
paid to vendor	-92059.32
float drawn	
down	-564.00
total	1594.68
bank fees	-31.50
opening balance	28.57
total	1591.75
transfer out	-1575.00
closing balance	16.75

ARCHIVES

On June 10, 2025 the United Church of Canada celebrated its 100th Anniversary.

A series of articles were printed in the AUC Sunday bulletin over several weeks preceding this date with a special focus on the Aurora churches and surrounding communities. Articles from the Aurora Banner (courtesy Aurora Museum & Archives) described the changes that occurred in both the former Aurora Methodist Church (now AUC) and St. Andrews Presbyterian Church where the majority of the congregation voted to remain outside the union. Articles from the front page of the Toronto Star newspaper were also reproduced with information about the special service in Toronto.

The Archives files continue to grow as donations are received. Items kept in storage are waiting for their new home as we anticipate the opening of the new church.

Respectfully submitted
Helen Roberts, Chair, Archives Committee

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Members:

David Hanna	Dave Snelgrove	Brian Walter
Debra Hilliard	Bob Kyriakides	Rev. Tim Dayfoot
Brian Elliot	Don Bailkowski	Crawford Heritage
George Collins	Alvan Sutton	

Since our 2026 Budget request in November 2025 we were asked by the Finance Committee to submit a revised budget indicating costs for two six-month periods: Jan.- June and July – Dec. which follows with minor adjustments.

	Jan. – June	July – Dec.
Office Supplies	\$1,250	\$1,250
Utilities	\$10,123	\$8,098
Contracts *	\$0	\$850
M. & Repair *	\$0	\$2,000
I.T.	\$2,500	\$2,500

*Dependent on the month AUC opens

Since two utilities are being heavily used – hydro and gas (Alectra & Enbridge), Shining Waters/Kindred Works have agreed to pay for these invoices from November 2025 to when we move into our new building.

IT Report for 2025:

Digital Hero gifted AUC a MacBook laptop for use with Movie Nights. Revs. Andy's and Lorraine's AUC laptops were wiped and reprovisioned for use by Revs. Tim and Linda.

AUC improved its security posture by implementing the use of a password manager. Staff were trained on using it to securely create, store, use, and share passwords.

The current on-premise phone system is the oldest piece of tech in AUC's equipment fleet. At the time this was written (Fri., Feb. 6, 2026) the device has been operating for 11 years and 9 months. That's well over its expected life cycle of 7-9 years for the chassis and 3-5 years for its drives. Given its age, challenge in finding parts, and that equipment failure is now a "when" rather than "if", plans are in the works to migrate the phone system to a purely cloud-based solution. That move is expected to save AUC money with several VOIP (Voice Over IP = internet phone) providers that have emerged who can provide the service for less than Bell Canada.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Kyriakides (Chair, AUC IT Committee)

AUC Contents in two units at Green Storage were recently relocated to AUC Jan. 27, 2026. Lloyd Kerswill has recently resigned from the Property Committee. Many thanks to Lloyd for his many years on our committee. His service and time for AUC were much appreciated!

Respectfully submitted, Crawford Heritage (Property Committee Chair)

MINISTRY OF PROCLAMATION
Worship Committee / Proclamation Ministry

The Proclamation Ministry (*represented at Council by Advocate Elder Susan Sue-Ling*) includes the following:

Worship

Music

AV

Sanctuary Decorating

Throughout 2025, Aurora United Church continued our worship as a hybrid congregation by live streaming in-person services each week for viewing by our members at home. Many thanks to the AV team for making this possible - - Noah Comar, Bob Kyriakides, Brian Elliott, Vic Metcalfe, Grant Hilliard, Bill Newman and Myles Heney.

Also working hard behind the scenes - and in front of the camera - are our Music Director Margaret Heney, our Handbell Director Lisa Kyriakides, our Church Secretary(s) Suzanne Whitehurst and Margaret Heney; and our Church Bookkeeper Affe Zhao.

And, of course, where would we have been without the wonderful leadership of Reverends Lorraine Newton-Comar and Andrew Comar. Andy and Lorraine retired as of their last Sunday with us on August 31st. On June 22nd, we had a special de-covenanting service with them during which they returned the symbols of worship to AUC – the cross, the baptism bowl and jug, the communion trays, the affirming certificate, and the bible. Afterward we all shared a time of fellowship over lunch and, of course, cake; with guest speakers and presentations. Andy and Lorraine will surely be missed.

In September and October, we were led by pulpit supply ministers including Rev. Linda Levin, Rev. Ross Carson, and Rev. Tim Dayfoot. In November, Tim took on short term supply in partnership with Rev. Linda Wheler. We are grateful – and fortunate – to have these familiar faces with us for a few months as our search for a full-time minister continues.

The members of the Worship Committee met on the last Monday of every month; planning and preparing for worship that is inspiring, uplifting and inclusive. Heartfelt thanks to Debra Hilliard for working alongside Reverend Lorraine and I. And to Lori North for her assistance with sanctuary decorating. In the fall, we expanded our committee to include Brian Walter, Susan Sue-Ling, Margaret Heney, Rev. Tim Dayfoot, and Rev. Linda Wheler. Our monthly meetings are now on the second Thursday of each month.

Special thanks to Mary Munro for creating our Advent theme liturgy. As we followed the weeks of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love, lay readers shared introductory poems and responsive readings that drew our attention to how the watching and waiting of Advent really looks and feels. We were reminded that hope stirs in quiet places. That peace is not passive. That joy rises like the sun for all people. And that love comes quietly, without fanfare; asking nothing and giving everything.

As we embark on a new year, may we continue to wonder at all God has done—and always look for the love in our broken, beautiful world. I leave you with the prayer we say together at the close of our meetings ...

May we feel God's love like a gentle breeze when we need inspiration ... may our faith remain strong through all of life's challenges ... and may hope be the light that guides our way.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Kerswill
Worship Committee Chair

MUSIC COODINATOR'S REPORT

The 22-voice Aurora United Church Chancel Choir is a vital and vibrant part of AUC's music ministry, and 2025 was an exceptionally busy year! In addition to singing anthems and introits each Sunday from September-June, the AUC choir and The Aurora Choralis prepared new 5 anthems for our Rising from the Ashes Fundraising concert in May, extended their usual season to sing a new dedicated anthem, "The Road Home" purchased by Reverends Andy and Lorraine at their Returning Symbols of Ministry service, and sang at the Interment of Remains service and the Ministers' final service in August. In December the choir led a carol sing at the Highland Green Condo Christmas party, performed at the Amica Promenade Seniors Residence, and sang at our annual Carols by Candlelight concerts and Christmas Eve service. The choir also sings at Celebration of Life services when requested. This year we honoured two former AUC choir members - Jean Spinney and Barb Balfour.

Other musical highlights for the choir this year were collaborations with the Bellissimo Handbell Ensemble, David Pilkey, Steve Falk and David Price, violinists Joanne Banfill, Mehraeen Safari, and Wesley Bells, trumpeters Tim and Maggie Birtch and Jules Pastoor, and trombonist Myles Heney. Our Carols by Candlelight concerts on December 21st brought in record crowds and subsequent donations and featured performances by the AUC Chancel Choir, handbell ensembles (Faith-a-Peal, Bellissimo and EmBellished), the Albury Gardens Brass Quintet (Tim Birtch and Margaret Wolf, trumpets; Vernon MacDonald, French horn; James Chilton, trombone; Eric Zhang, tuba), violinist Wesley Bells, and trumpeters Tim Birtch and Margaret Wolf.

AUC's worship services were musically enhanced throughout the year by our three wonderful handbell ensembles (Faith-a-Peal, Bellissimo and EmBellished) and their director, Lisa Kyriakides. Thank you to the members of these ensembles who share their joy and musical talents with us!

We are blessed to have singers and instrumentalists sharing their musical talents with us in our worship services. Vocal solos, duets, trios, and quartets were sung by George Collins, David Pilkey, Steve Falk, Janice Nolan, Lisa Kyriakides, Lorraine Newton-Comar, Margaret Heney, Andy Comar, Bob McRoberts, Ursula Ivonoffski, Tim and Leta Dayfoot, and Tracey Keffer-Lyon. Instrumental music was provided by trumpeters Tim and Maggie Birtch, Susan Guido, Margaret Wolf and Jules Pastoor; violinists Mehraeen Safari, Wesley Bells, and Joanne Banfill; keyboardist Brian Pastoor; handbell tree players Jennifer Schafer and Laura Wells, trombonist Myles Heney, bagpiper Kayleigh Johnstone, and baritonist Jules Pastoor. Thank you for sharing your musical talents with our congregation this year!

Rebecca Loo and Lisa Kyriakides led the music and accompanied soloists during my vacation this year. Thank you for sharing your musical gifts with us!

Thank you to the choir for your dedication, and gifts of time of talent, and to our AUC choir executive (Janice Nolan, Colleen Abbott, and Tracey Keffer-Lyon) for your support, wisdom, and help with planning and advertising choir concerts, receptions and socials. Thank you to our choir librarians Laurie Graham and Colleen Abbott for retrieving and refileing our music from the Aurora Public Library, maintaining our choir music database, and generally keeping the choir organized!

Our music program continues to be supported by our AUC Staff. Lisa Kyriakides sings with the choir when we need support from her strong voice as well as sharing her gifts as a soloist, leads the music on my vacation, conducts the choir on special occasions, is enthusiastic about music ideas of many styles and genres, and enjoys collaborations with her handbell ensembles.

Reverends Lorraine Newton-Comar and Andy Comar offered leadership and support for 10 years, both in worship and concert planning and execution, and in musical collaboration with the Chancel Choir for concerts and special services. They have left a lasting legacy of wisdom and musical gifts.

Reverend Tim Dayfoot has moved from the Chancel Choir Baritone section to the pulpit. Though we miss him in the choir, he has been a wonderful Ministerial partner. After working with Reverend Linda Wheler as the minister at Trinity United Newmarket on our Good Friday services, it has been wonderful to have the opportunity to work with and get to know Reverend Linda Wheler at Aurora United. We appreciate the varied ministries and collaborative gifts you both bring to this congregation!

Our Church Administrator Suzanne Whitehurst supported the music program by quickly and efficiently ordering and printing choir music whenever asked until her retirement in October and provided wonderful advice and training to me when I stepped into her shoes this past Fall. Our AUC Bookkeeper Affe Zhao has always provided budget reports and answered financial questions when requested. I have had the opportunity to work more closely with Affe since starting in the Church Office, and appreciate her technical knowledge, sunny disposition and willingness to problem solve any issues that may arise.

We look forward to 2026, and continuing our musical journey, hopefully in our new building!

Respectfully submitted,
Margaret Heney, Music Coordinator

HANDBELL DIRECTOR'S REPORT

2025 was another wonderful year for the ringers at Aurora United Church. We had a strong compliment of 22 ringers. In the winter we were joined by three new ringers – Mandy Campagna, Manfred Ho and Manuel Ho. All three are wonderful additions to our program. Elizabeth Kyriakides and Sue Linley rang with us until the summer break and Anne Ella-Arnold rejoined the Handbell Program in September. Both of our larger ensembles, Faith-A-Peal and Bellissimo spent weekly Wednesday nights preparing to present their musical talents at AUC Sunday services.

In the winter and spring of 2025, 12 of the AUC ringers spent time preparing the music for the OGEHR (Ontario Guild of English Handbell Ringers) Festival in June. We went to the OGEHR Central East Playdate in Lindsay and the Central West Playdate in Mississauga. We held several

extra “festival rehearsals” on Sunday afternoons at AUC. The festival itself was at Mohawk College in Hamilton from June 5-7, 2025 and was a wonderful event!

All three Handbell Ensembles performed at the AUC Concert on May 24, 2025. It was there that we debuted a new handbell technique called “Bell Tree”. Jennifer Schafer performed “A Gentle Presence” on Bell Tree and was accompanied by Bellissimo. Since then both Jennifer and Laura Wells have showcased their Bell Tree talents at several AUC church services.

EmBellished, our handbell quartet, stayed busy participating in AUC services and performing in the community. In the Spring they accompanied Rev. Andy to 4 retirement homes to add music to the Easter services. In December, they performed 4 times in the community in concerts, luncheons and Christmas dinners.

Of course, what would a Handbell year be without some travel! In early August, 5 ringers (Pat Innes, Joyce Hagarty, Jennifer Schafer, Martha Bailkowski and Joanne Banfill) accompanied Lisa Kyriakides to Calgary, Alberta to participate in a 4-day ringing event entitled “Classic Bronze”. Lisa was one of the clinicians for this event. Later in August, 5 ringers (Lisa Kyriakides, Mandy Campagna, Jennifer Schafer, Joyce Hagarty and Pat Innes) flew to Europe to begin a handbell tour that took them to Italy, Slovenia, Croatia and Hungary. It was an amazing experience indeed!

We are grateful for the constant support of congregation and staff at AUC, and we look forward to many more seasons of ringing and friendship!

Musically Yours,
Lisa Kyriakides, Handbell Director

MINISTRY OF SERVING

Pastoral Care Committee



Members: Paula Hanna, Chair
Jackie Catto, Visitors
Marilyn Patterson, Special Events Cards
Mary Smith, Bereavement Cards
Susan Eaton and Nancy Newman, Christmas Cards

Suzanne Whitehurst, Transportation
Peter Drost, Ministry Advocate- Serving Ministry
Rev. Andrew Comar (Jan.-Aug.)
Rev. Lorraine Newton-Comar (Jan.-Aug.)
Rev. Linda Wheler (Sept.-Dec.)
Rev. Tim Dayfoot (Sept.-Dec.)

Lay Visitors: Kathie Blackman, Jackie Catto, Susan Eaton, Paula Hanna, Nancy Newman, Marilyn Patterson, Nels Patterson, and Mary Smith.



Committee Purpose: To provide supportive and caring ministry to specified individuals and families of AUC.

2025 Pastoral Care Visits and Outreach

The Pastoral Care Team at AUC, comprised of committed clergy and lay visitors, dedicated their efforts to providing supportive ministry to members throughout 2025. Their outreach extended as specific needs arose within the congregation, demonstrating a compassionate and adaptable approach. Regular visits, heartfelt cards, and meaningful support were offered during significant occasions such as special birthdays, bereavement, illnesses, congratulations, Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas, ensuring that members—whether residing in private homes, care facilities, or residences—felt the presence and care of the church community.

During Christmas, the Team worked in close collaboration with the congregation to deliver fifty poinsettias along with Christmas cards. These gestures of kindness were made possible by congregation members who donated plants in honour or memory of loved ones, as well as those who assisted with deliveries.

Beyond routine visits, the Team remained attentive to the changing needs within the church community. When members experienced illness, bereavement, or other significant life events, the Team responded promptly, providing additional outreach to offer comfort or congratulations.

During Easter, thirty-three cards were sent out, and a small, stand-up card was made available for the congregation at church, as well as for visitors to leave during their visits. The Team also assisted Rev. Andy Comar in conducting Easter Communion services at several retirement residences, including Chartwell Hollandview Trail, Chartwell Park Place, Sunrise of Aurora, and AgeCare Aurora. At Thanksgiving, similar stand-up cards were distributed, fostering community and connection.

The Team expresses sincere appreciation to congregation members who helped keep them informed about events and needs within the AUC community. The ongoing communication played a vital role in enabling the Pastoral Care Team to serve effectively and compassionately throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted: Paula Hanna, Chair, Pastoral Care Committee



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY—2006 to present

Ministry Coordinators: Anne Ella-Arnold and Jennifer Kenwell

This vital ministry, a subgroup of the Serving Ministry, has continued to thrive in 2025—the twentieth year of our ministry.

The following are some points of note about our ministry in 2025:



This example of Three Fold Blessing Pattern demonstrates how small quantities of different yarns can be creatively composed to produce a shawl.

- Ministry Coordinators:
Elizabeth Ramsell: January – March
Anne Ella-Arnold: January – March and August – December
Martha Bailkowski: March – August
Jennifer Kenwell: March – December
- Many thanks to the following two women who served as coordinators of the A.U.C. Prayer Shawl Ministry and gave up their roles in 2025:
Elizabeth Ramsell from January 2016 to March 2025 and
Martha Bailkowski from March 2025 to August 2025.
- Number of prayer shawls on hand on December 31, 2025 = 30
- Number of prayer pockets on hand on December 31, 2025 = 76
- Number of shawls crafted and donated for distribution from January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025 = 58
- Number of shawls distributed from January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025 = 56
- Number of toques for infants crafted and donated to Southlake Regional Health Centre from January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025 = 30
- Number of prayer pockets crafted and donated for distribution from January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025 = 79

- Distribution of shawls and prayer pockets took place on most Sundays following worship. If shawls were needed during the week, requests were forwarded from the church's office to one of the coordinators.
- Our ongoing work continued to be very dependent on the support of A.U.C. and contributions from individuals. A generous budget was provided by A.U.C. So we were able to make a sizeable yarn purchase from the Spinrite Factory in Listowel and Mary Maxim in Paris.



Some of the yarns purchased at Spinrite's final sale.

- We crafted and presented shawls for each of Rev. Lorraine Newton-Comar and Rev. Andy Comar at the time of their retirement.
- **Crafters' Circle** continued to meet on the first Thursday afternoon of each month in the Nursery at T.A.C.
- There were twelve participants in the group during the year.
- Crafters' Circle gathered twelve times with the average number of attendees at each meeting being six to seven.



Tweed Stitch in sixteen colours.

Report submitted by Anne Ella-Arnold, Prayer Shawl Ministry Coordinator.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

In 2025 Outreach supported four programs. Thank you to the coordinators and volunteers for three of these programs for their faithfulness, commitment and care as they continue to maintain and provide these needed services within our community. Throughout 2024 the Outreach Committee met on Zoom.

Rise and Shine Breakfast Program: Thank you to the Leads, Carol Lever, Carmen Harany, Rosanne Rose and Suzanne Whitehurst for your devotion to the Rise and Shine Breakfast program, which now completes its 16th year of service. Please see Suzanne's report later in this document.

AUC is one of seven churches in Aurora that partners together as *Welcoming Arms*. Thank you to our Welcoming Arms volunteers, Heather Boorn, Linda Longhurst, Nellie Lopez and Denyse Slack. Rev. Andy and Denyse Slack are members of the Welcoming Arms Executive Council. Rev. Andy retired end of August 2025, and it was decided that when a new permanent minister was obtained by AUC they would take this role over. At the end of 2025 AUC did not have a permanent minister.

Throughout 2025 the three main programs provided by Welcoming Arms – Welcome Table (WT) on Wednesday evening, serving 60 in house guests and delivery to 8: Martha's Table (MT) on Thursday lunch, seeing 30-40 in house guests, and Bridging the Gap continued to serve the community. Each of the ministers of the seven provides the grace before meal and support to guests on a rotating schedule.

The Aurora Community Café (ACC) happens every Wednesday from 10 am to 2 pm at St Andrew's Presbyterian Church. The café is a social enterprise partnership, involving local churches and volunteers from non-profit coffee catering and community members. Our purpose is to offer work skill opportunity for adults with differing abilities. This community-based program offers a place for many to gather. We have several school and community groups that attend the café as well as guests from the community. Please speak with the office if you would like to volunteer for this wonderful program. At the café, we continue to provide a welcoming place for all.

Thank you for your continued support, encouragement, and prayers for these ministries. Please check out the AUC website for details about all our outreach programs.

Thanks to all the Ministry Advocates, and countless volunteers who have been an integral part of the outreach ministry here at Aurora United Church over the past 16 years. Your dedication, time, and hard work have been essential to the success of our initiatives, and together, we have made a lasting impact on the community. Your passion for helping others has been inspiring, and it's because of your commitment that we have been able to achieve so much.

Submitted by: Suzanne Whitehurst

RISE AND SHINE COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

Our Rise & Shine Community Breakfast continued faithfully throughout 2025, with the last breakfast before summer break taking place May 10th. The program started up again October 4th. We continued to offer both a sit-in hot meal, and also delivering 9 meals. The deliveries continue to be an initiative of Routes Connecting Communities. As per previous year we greatly appreciated the delivery service Routes is providing.

There are 4 teams that provide breakfast, rotating through the month. Each team has their own menu, that may

be the same for that team each time they are the providers, or may vary. The guests got a variety of healthy delicious meals throughout the month. The meal was serviced between 9:30 to 10:30 and there were guest musicians at most breakfasts, including our very own David Pilkey. A big thank you is sent out to these generous individuals.

There were anywhere from 25 to 39 guests per breakfast, plus the 9 deliveries completed by Routes. The last breakfast before Christmas, December 20th, included turkey, with the fixings, and the guest also received a gift package from the University Women's Association of York Region. The gifts packed contained hygiene items. Thanks is sent out to the University Women.

Thank you to our team leaders (Carmen Harany, Carol Lever, Rosanne Rose, Suzanne Whitehurst), and all the volunteers who made this outreach ministry a success.

Respectfully submitted:

Suzanne Whitehurst
Rise & Shine Coordinator

MINISTRY OF CHURCH COMMUNITY: MEMBERSHIP & COMMUNICATIONS

Members:

Carol Lever (Co-chair)
Caroline Gulbranson (Co-chair)
Jennifer Kenwell (Secretary)
Rev. Tim Dayfoot
Mary Smith
Andrea Drost (Advocate Elder for Church Community)

The Ministry of Church Community brings together the work of Church Membership and Church Communications, fostering a unified effort to connect with and support our congregation. After several years of being on hold as we awaited our new home on Yonge Street, this ministry was revitalized in October 2025 - a milestone marking the start of renewed energy and collaboration within our church community.

Timeline of Milestones

- October 2025: Committee revitalization begins with new leadership and energy.
- November 2025: Membership and Communications Committees formally seek and receive approval from AUC Council to merge into the Membership & Communications Committee.
- December 2025: Combined both Membership's and Communication's Terms of Reference completed to guide the committee's work.
- January 2026: Launch of the Communications Plan, with initial focus on membership, social media, website updates, and preparation of historical handouts.

Focus Areas and Responsibilities

- Social Media Management: The committee is dedicated to enhancing AUC's presence on Instagram, Facebook, YouTube, and our website. Specific committee members will help with the creating and scheduling of engaging content, sharing event updates, and monitoring interactions to foster a welcoming and informative online environment.

- Website Updates: Keeping the AUC website current is a priority. Committee members are in the process of reaching out to AUC's various committees so that they may review and refresh content.
- Membership: Review and update of AUC's Membership Roll.
- Historic Information Handouts: In preparation for moving into our new church, the committee is working with Helen Roberts who is compiling and designing handouts that share AUC's rich history. Members gather stories, organize archival materials, and format these resources to be informative and visually appealing for distribution.
- Coffee Service: We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who faithfully takes care of the coffee service every Sunday. Your kindness and dedication create a welcoming space for fellowship and meaningful conversation, and your efforts do not go unnoticed. Thank you for making our gatherings even more special with your hospitality and cheerful spirit.

Get Involved: Share Your Event

We warmly invite all church members and community groups organizing AUC events to help us feature your activities on our social media and website. To ensure your event is highlighted, please email the committee at socialmedia@auroraunitedchurch.ca and include the following details:

- Event name and description
- Date and time
- Location
- Contact information for follow-up

We will outline next steps to ensure any relevant photos or graphics are then uploaded. Your contributions to AUC's social media help us share the vibrancy of our church life and keep everyone connected and informed. We look forward to working together to make every event a celebration of our community!

Respectfully submitted

Andrea Drost, Elder at Large
Ministry of Church Community

MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Introduction

The Ministry and Personnel (M&P) Committee is pleased to present its annual report for 2025. This document outlines the committee's activities and challenges throughout the year, as well as goals for 2026. The M&P Committee plays a crucial role as a bridge between the congregation, ministry and lay staff, and church leadership, fostering a healthy, respectful, and productive working environment.

Committee Mandate and Membership

As mandated by the United Church of Canada, each congregation is required to establish a Ministry and Personnel Committee. The primary responsibility of this committee is to oversee relationships within the pastoral charge ministry, with a particular focus on the roles and functions of paid leaders and employees. Committee members are elected by the congregation during the annual meeting and maintain accountability to the congregation through the Church Council.

During 2025, the M&P Committee consisted of the following members:

- Co-Chairs: Louise Procter Maio and Andrea Drost
- Warren McClure
- Janet Thacker
- Brian Walter

Special thanks to Hank Gosar. Hank had held a position on the M&P Committee for at least a six-year period and resigned as of June 2025. His insight and contributions during this time is very much appreciated. And thank you to Andrea Drost for agreeing to become interim chair from January to September, until such time that it was decided that having co-chairs for this very busy and important committee would be essential to moving forward successfully in 2026.

Key Activities in 2025

The year 2025 marked a period of significant transition for Aurora United Church.

Transitions: The longstanding ministry and personnel team, consisting of six members, experienced notable changes with the retirement of three key individuals: Reverends Lorraine Newton-Comar and Andy Comar, as well as Church Secretary Suzanne Whitehurst.

Upon congregational approval of a six month contract for short term supply ministers Reverends Tim Dayfoot and Linda Wheler, the M&P Committee assisted with the orientation and onboarding of the new ministers and new Church Secretary, Margaret Heney (in addition to her role as Music Coordinator), and facilitated the integration of the new team with existing staff, Affe Zhao, Bookkeeper and Lisa Kyriakides, Handbell Director. Contracts were drawn up for new personnel and renewals and extensions were developed for incumbent staff. In marking these transitions, the M&P committee hosted a staff appreciation barbeque in June to celebrate the contribution of the existing team, and a staff luncheon and congregational goodbye in the fall to celebrate the retiring secretary.

Staff Support and Evaluation: The committee conducted annual performance reviews with all paid and contract staff, exit interviews with departing personnel, and held regular staff liaison check-ins to offer encouragement and address any concerns. An all-staff meeting was introduced to connect and support the new staff team. Holiday office hours and staff vacations were also coordinated.

Policy Updates: Terms of Reference were drawn up in Council's new template and submitted. The Committee also discussed administrative practices/procedures such as inclement weather, flex time, and professional development.

Operating Budget 2026: Working closely with the Chair of the Finance Committee, multiple budget scenarios were created and revised to assist in the goal of developing a 2026 balanced budget.

Committee Building: New committee members were recruited (4), a new co-chair model was developed, and a revised meeting agenda was created to assist with the work of the committee.

Challenges

- Managing increasing workload due to turnover of ministry and lay staff, and in anticipation of moving to the new church building, and in the absence of a new permanent minister
- Balancing budget constraints with the need for adequate staffing

Looking Ahead: Goals for 2026

- Continue to foster a positive, inclusive work environment for all staff
- Enhance open communications and team building
- Assist with transition to solo ministry

Conclusion

The Ministry and Personnel Committee remain committed to supporting the ministry and personnel staff of Aurora United Church, promoting a supportive workplace, and strengthening the ties between staff and congregation.

We thank the ministry and lay staff, church leadership, and all members of the congregation for their ongoing trust and cooperation. We look forward to an exciting year of growth and service in 2026.

Respectfully submitted by:
 Louise Procter Maio
 Co-Chair
 Ministry and Personnel Committee, Aurora United Church

Andrea Drost
 Co-Chair

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN (UCW)

**Aurora United Church Women
 2025 Annual Report**



Purpose
**To unite women of the Community of Faith for the total mission of the Church
 And to provide a means through which we may express our loyalty and devotion to
 Jesus Christ
 In Christian witness, study, fellowship and service**

2025 A.U.C.W. EXECUTIVE



<p>President: Rotational Leadership Oct. 9, 2024 to Apr. 8, 2025: Paula Hanna Apr. 9, 2025 to Oct. 14, 2025: Jean Heys Oct.15, 2025 to Jan. 13, 2026: Helen Roberts Secretary: Jean Heys Treasurer: Leslie Stoangi Assistant Treasurer: Anne Ella-Arnold</p>	<p>A.U.C. Council Representative: Paula Hanna Grace Unit Representative and Communications: Helen Roberts The Seekers' Unit Representative: Doreen Hiltz Shining Waters Region U.C.W. Contact Person: Anne Ella-Arnold</p>
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Holding in the Light



Beth Humfries 1927-2025



Kay Amos 1920-2025

2025 Unit Organization and Meetings

Executive: A.U.C.W. Executive meetings were held in January, April, July, October and November.

The Seekers' Unit: 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm, first Monday of the month, September to June (alternate date when there is a conflict with a statutory holiday)

- Leader: **Mary Smith**
- Treasurer: **Carolyn Stafford**
- Executive Representative: **Doreen Hiltz**
- 17 members, several unable to attend meetings

Grace Unit: 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm, fourth Monday every month except December.

January: virtual evening meeting and February: in-person afternoon meeting. July and August: Summer evening social get-togethers on the Rectory Lawn. December: potluck dinner on Dec. 9.

- Leader: **Helen Roberts**
- Treasurer: **Anne Ella-Arnold**
- Secretary: **Jean Heys and Jennifer Kenwell**
- Friendship: **Debby Schieck**
- Executive Representative and Communications: **Helen Roberts**
- 27 members, organized into 5 sub-groups for planning and facilitating plus 1 inactive group

A typical UCW meeting includes Opening, Worship and Offering, short Business Meeting and Program along with hospitality and light refreshments.

AUC Invites You to the Annual Christmas Potluck Dinner

Tuesday, December 9th, 2025 - Binions Hall
5:30 Pm Social & 6:00 Pm Dinner

Guest Speaker - Jacky Odish (Manager of Stakeholder Engagement - Women's Centre of York Region.)

Bring your own dishes, cutlery, mug and potluck item.
Everyone is welcome!



2025 AUC Women Christmas Stocking Program



The Women's Centre of York Region supports women and their families to break barriers, overcome challenges of trauma and abuse and build brighter futures. The 2025 Christmas Stocking Program raised \$4,277 for the clients of the Women's Centre of York Region. A big **THANK YOU** to everyone who donated to this worthy cause. We will present Jacky Odish, Manager of Stakeholder Engagement at the Women's Centre of York Region with the cheque at our Aurora United Church Women's Christmas Potluck on Tuesday, December 9th. Jacky will be our guest speaker that night. We are so grateful for the incredible generosity of the AUC community.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!
Martha Bailkowski and Helen Burlanette
Christmas Stocking Program Coordinators

Special thanks to all our guest speakers and facilitators, everyone who chaired a meeting, shared an opening, led a worship, contributed food, managed our offerings and funds, planned our outings, offered encouragement and prayers.

Highlights of 2025

January:

- Mementos.

February:

- **Rev. Vicki Cousins**, "Spiritual Care of Ourselves".
- Soup Lunch

March:

- dinner at the Topsy Goose.
- AUCW provided Lunch for the AUC Annual Meeting.

April:

- **Leslie, Russ, Theresa and Jason**, from **Climate Action Newmarket-Aurora**.
- Favourite book.
- **Book Sale: \$1583.25 raised.**

May:

- Birdwatching Walk in the Arboretum with **David Eaton**.



July and August: warm summer evenings on the rectory lawn. Bring your own lawn chair.

September:

- **2-Day Retreat at Tonja Kirkpatrick's Haliburton cottage.**

October:

- **SWRUCW Togetherness Day**
- Remembrance Day Craft.



November:

- Planning for 2026.
-  launch of 2025 Christmas Stocking Programme, supported by our AUC congregation and friends.
- Touring Delmanor.

- **Irene Clement**, speaking about the Arboretum.
- Camping supplies: Camp Big Canoe.

June:

- Potluck Supper and Loonie Auction raised \$373, split evenly between the Aurora Food Pantry and the Canadian Red Cross.
- **Sally Carter** and Peter Rabbit



December:

- **Christmas Potluck Dinner**, with presentation of \$4,277 raised in the Christmas Stocking Programme, to guest speaker, **Jacky Odish** from York Region Women's Centre.



Every month:
Companionship and laughter. We invite women of AUC to join us!



- **Revs. Lorraine and Andy**
- **Revs. Linda and Tim**
- **Suzanne Whitehurst**
- **Margaret Heney**
- **Affe Zhao**

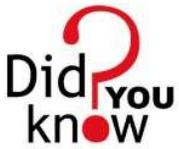
- **Martha Bailkowski and Helen Burlanette:**
2025 Christmas Stocking Coordinators
- **Sharon Corbett, Paula Hanna, Jennifer Kenwell, Leslie and Jerry Stoangi:**



2025 A.U.C.W. Charitable Donations (Details on A.U.C.W. Financial Page)

Aurora United Church General Operating Fund	United Church of Canada: The M & S Fund
Aurora Food Pantry	M & S Fund: The Healing Fund
Blue Door Shelters	Margaret Bahen Hospice
Camping Opportunities Fund	Rose of Sharon Services for Young Mothers
Canadian Red Cross	Sandgate Women's Shelter
Hope House Community Hospice	Women's Centre of York Region
Inn from the Cold	Women's Interchurch Council

L'Arche Daybreak	Yellow Brick House
LOFT Community Services	



Between 2020 and 2025, Aurora United Church raised more than \$26,000 for the Women's Centre of York Region through the UCW Christmas Stocking Programme!





A.U.C.W. Reconstruction Fund:

The growth of this fund, fueled by both donations and investment interest, remains steady. The December 2025 balance of nearly \$22,000 will remain invested until such time as a suitable UCW project can be identified.



Shining Waters Regional UCW

- **Anne Ella-Arnold** serves as Treasurer on the S.W.R.U.C.W. Executive.
- **Debby Schieck** has joined the S.W.R.U.C.W. Executive as a Member Without Portfolio.
- **The 2024 Annual General Meeting**, “Celebrating the Past, Embracing the Future”, was held on May 5, 2025, at Burton Ave. United Church in Barrie, with keynote address by **Rev. Carol Hancock**.
- Camping Supplies for **Camp Big Canoe**, collected and delivered.
- **Togetherness Day 2025**: October 9: in Barrie. “Dreaming of our Future”, with speaker, **Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Cunningham** and entertainment by Thornton/Barrie Fiddlers’ Group. 98 women were in attendance.

This report respectfully submitted by the 2025 A.U.C.W. Executive:

Anne Ella-Arnold, Paula Hanna, Jean Heys, Doreen Hiltz, Helen Roberts, Leslie Stoangi

**AURORA UNITED CHURCH WOMEN
2025 INCOME STATEMENT - DECEMBER 31, 2025
BALANCE: JANUARY 01, 2025**

CHEQUABLE SAVINGS ACCOUNT	1,526.31	
*G.I.C. #66	8,308.20	
*G.I.C. #69	10,125.52	
*G.I.C. #70	2,217.17	
BALANCE		22,177.20

REVENUES: JANUARY 1, 2025 - DECEMBER 1, 2025

FUNDRAISING - A.U.C. RECONSTRUCTION FUND	505.00	
FUNDRAISING - BOOK SALE	1,583.25	
FUNDRAISING - LOONIE AUCTION	373.00	
FUNDRAISING - WOMEN'S CENTRE OF YORK REGION	4,277.00	
INVESTMENT ACCOUNT INTEREST	722.73	
OFFERINGS - IDENTIFIABLE GIVINGS	3,680.00	
OFFERINGS - NON MEMBER GIVINGS	27.28	
OFFERINGS - FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN	15.81	
TOTAL REVENUES		11,184.07
TOTAL BALANCE FORWARD		33,361.27

EXPENDITURES: JANUARY 1, 2025 - DECEMBER 31, 2025

ADMINISTRATION	22.37	
A.U.C. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING REFRESHMENTS	327.64	
A.U.C. GENERAL OPERATING FUND	2,500.00	
CHARITABLE DONATIONS	6,365.81	
FUNDRAISING	42.49	
NATIONAL U.C.W. ASSESSMENT	38.00	
PROGRAMME	263.44	
REGIONAL U.C.W. ASSESSMENT	152.00	
SOCIAL	56.83	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		9,768.58

BALANCE: DECEMBER 31, 2025

CHEQUABLE SAVINGS ACCOUNT	2,250.28	
*G.I.C. #66	8,640.53	
*G.I.C. #69	10,429.28	
*G.I.C. #70	2,272.60	
BALANCE		23,592.69
TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND BANK BALANCE		33,361.27

* These funds are being withheld for an A.U.C. reconstruction project.

** 22,267.41

GIC #66 Includes \$574.32 interest earned but not received

GIC #69 Includes \$303.76 interest earned but not received

GIC #70 Includes \$55.43 interest earned but not received

** This amount includes \$925 not invested but included in Chequable Savings Account

Prepared by Leslie Stoangi

**AURORA UNITED CHURCH WOMEN
2025 CHARITABLE DONATIONS**

AURORA FOOD PANTRY	286.50
BLUE DOOR SHELTERS	100.00
HOPE HOUSE COMMUNITY HOSPICE	100.00
INN FROM THE COLD	100.00
L'ARCHE DAYBREAK	100.00
LOFT COMMUNITY SERVICES	100.00
MARGARET BAHEN HOSPICE	100.00
THE CANADIAN RED CROSS	186.50
ROSE OF SHARON SERVICES FOR YOUNG MOTHERS	100.00
SANDGATE WOMEN'S SHELTER	100.00
TORONTO UCC - CAMPING OPPORTUNITIES FUND	100.00
UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA - THE HEALING FUND	100.00
UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA - M & S	500.00
WOMEN'S CENTRE OF YORK REGION	4,277.00
WOMEN'S INTER - CHURCH COUNCIL	15.81
YELLOW BRICK HOUSE	100.00
TOTAL CHARITABLE DONATIONS	6,365.81

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Responsibility:

The Trustees hold all property and investments in trust on behalf of the congregation and the United Church of Canada. The assets in the care of the Trustees include the church land, the lease agreement between AUC and the Amica Aurora II Limited Partnership, all items in storage facilities retrieved after the 2014 fire, the five stained glass windows also recovered from the fire and undergoing restoration, and the items received from Forest Grove United Church in 2024 and currently stored at York Pines United Church. The assets also include the funds being held in trust and invested by the Trustees.

Membership:

The AUC congregation elects the members of the Board of Trustees.

At the start of 2025, Board of Trustees members included: Blair Boyd, Karen Boyd, Reverend Andrew Comar (Chair), Pat Innes (Secretary), Denyse Slack (Treasurer), Dave Snelgrove and Jamie Thompson. During the year, Blair Boyd, Karen Boyd, Dave Snelgrove and Rev. Comar stepped down as Trustees. The Congregation elected Grant Hilliard and Bill Newman as new members of the Board.

Funds Under Administration:

- **Endowment Fund:**

Endowment Fund interest (less inflation) is returned to AUC for use in the General Fund. Interest earned in any year is forwarded to the church bookkeeper early in January of the following year. At the AGM on March 17, 2024, the congregation decided to use the Endowment Fund capital for the rebuilding project.

- **Flower Fund:**

The Flower Fund generates interest income for the purchase of flowers for worship and special events.

- **Insurance Funds:**

The proceeds received by AUC from the settlement of its insurance claim for the loss of the church have been invested and have been used to finance the costs of building our new church.

For the last number of years, interest earned on insurance investments has been transferred to the General Fund to help offset operating deficits due to the shortfall of income from not having a church building. The amount transferred in 2025 totaled \$250,000. In the latter part of the year, further transfers were terminated as the funds were needed to cover construction costs. By the end of the year, all remaining monies in the Insurance Fund had been applied to the rebuild project.

- **Future Fund/Rising from the Ashes Campaign:**

The generous and substantial contributions made by members of the congregation and others towards the construction of the new church were invested and withdrawn as required to pay for construction costs. Like the Insurance Fund, all remaining amounts in this fund were expended to keep the construction work moving ahead.

- **Earmarked Donations:**

Earmarked donations are those made by donors for specific, identified purposes, e.g., music, bells, organ, piano, IT.

The contributions to and withdrawals from each of these funds, along with the year-end balances, are displayed on the accompanying 2025 Trustees Financial Statement. The overall rate of return on the Trustees' invested funds for 2025 was 4.19%.

Legal:

The Trustees continue to work with the law firm of Fogler Rubinoff regarding AUC's Statement of Defense and Counterclaim with Succession Development Corporation. Examinations for Discovery were held in April 2025. Work is ongoing by AUC and Succession to produce additional documentation and information requested of each other during the discoveries.

AUC Methodist Cemetery Remains:

On July 10, 2025, the Bereavement Authority of Ontario (BAO) at long last granted approval for AUC to reinter the remains removed from the church property to make way for the construction of the new church. The remains had been in storage at the Aurora Cemetery while BAO approval was being sought. With the support of the Aurora Cemetery, the remains were reinterred in two common burial plots on July 15. The burial was followed by a committal service at the Cemetery on August 24 conducted by Rev. Andy Comar and Rev. Lorraine Newton-Comar. A headstone memorializing the final resting place of these pioneering members of Aurora Methodist (now United) Church was put in place in November 2025.

AUC is very grateful to the Aurora Cemetery Board for donating the two burial plots, to Baker Vault for excavating the two plots and for the donation of two burial vaults and to Thompson Funeral Home for creating and donating the beautiful headstone. Special mention also needs to be made of the persistent efforts exerted by Brian North over the course of six years to secure the BAO's approval to reinter the remains and his work with the Aurora Cemetery Board to achieve closure.



Discussions with Shining Waters Regional Council (SWRC), Toronto United Church Council (TUCC) and KindredWorks (KW):

Despite active fund-raising efforts and the exploration of alternative funding sources, it became evident in the early part of 2025 that AUC did not have sufficient capital funding to complete the construction of the new church. Starting in mid-2025, discussions were accelerated with SWRC and TUCC to secure financial assistance to enable continuation of the work. These discussions resulted in agreement to advance \$5 million to AUC in the form of a loan repayable from the Amica lease payments to complete the exterior of the building and the first (main) floor.

To secure the loan, SWRC and TUCC required AUC to transfer title to the property, including the church building and the Amica lease, into the Shining Waters Regional Trust. In addition, KW, acting on behalf of SWRC, would assume overall management of the construction work. Legal agreements effecting the property transfer were signed by the Trustees on November 10. Administrative and operational arrangements for AUC’s occupancy of the new church are still being worked out with SWRC and KW. In the meantime, however, funding is flowing from SWRC to pay for the costs of work as it is completed.

Conclusion:

2025 was a year of significant change and transition for the Board of Trustees. Not only were major financial and property issues addressed, but also the leadership and membership of the Board underwent change.

Our collective appreciation is extended to Rev. Andy for his steady and dedicated leadership as Chair of the Trustees. Our gratitude goes, as well, to Karen and Blair Boyd and Dave Snelgrove for giving of their time and talents in the service of Aurora United as longstanding members of the Board of Trustees.

Respectfully submitted,

The Trustees

Account	Dec 31/24	Additions	General Fund	Withdrawals	Investment Income	Dec 31/25		
Endowment	\$1,018,741.00			\$639,184.35	\$38,436.16	\$417,992.81		
In Trust -Earmarked Donations*	\$31,070.11	\$300.00			\$1,191.81	\$32,561.92		
Future Fund/Rising from the Ashes	\$179,597.21	\$134,400.00		\$325,926.58	\$11,929.37	\$0.00	\$51,687.77	4.19%
Proceeds for Rebuilding	\$3,554,852.69	\$748,312.92	\$250,000.00	\$4,089,256.22	\$36,090.61	\$0.00	\$1,232,841.42	
Flower Fund	\$3,433.10				\$130.43	\$3,563.53		
	\$4,787,694.11	\$883,012.92	\$250,000.00	\$5,054,367.15	\$87,778.38	\$454,118.26		
BMO chequing account	\$144,604.85							
Endowment Funds	\$309,513.41							
Building Fund	\$0.00							
Total	\$454,118.26							

**Report of the Aurora United Church Nominating Committee
March 22, 2026**

MOTION: That the AUC congregation take the following actions:

1. ***That the Congregation elect the following individuals to the incoming Council of Aurora United Church:***

Janice Nolan – Ministry Advocate, Serving
Rob Gulbranson - Elder at Large

2. ***That the Congregation re-elect the following individuals to the incoming Council of Aurora United Church:***

Andrea Drost – Ministry Advocate, Church Community
Brian Walter – Ministry Advocate, Congregational Resources
Martha Bailkowski – Elder at Large
Joyce Hagarty – Elder at Large
Mary Munro – Elder at Large

The resulting Council Membership is appended (A) for information.

3. ***That the Congregation authorizes Council to appoint further members to Council and Council Committees in-year as warranted.***
4. ***That the Congregation authorizes Council to elect members to the Nominating Committee, which will report to the 2027 Annual General Meeting.***
5. ***That the Congregation receives the report of the Nominating Committee (Including appendices A & B).***

Submitted by the Nominating Committee: Martha Bailkowski, Jackie Catto and Bill Newman

**Aurora United Church Council
2026**

Order of Ministry

The Reverend Timothy Dayfoot

The Reverend Linda Wheler

Ministry Advocates (5)

Church Community: Andrea Drost

Congregational Resources: Brian Walter

Faith Formation: Kathryn Yearwood

Proclamation: Sue Sue-Ling

Serving: Janice Nolan

Term Ending

2028 (2)

2028 (extended)

2028 (1)

2028 (1)

2028 (1)

Elders at Large (6)

Colleen Abbott

Martha Bailkowski

Laurie Bentolila

Joyce Hagarty

Mary Munro

Rob Gulbranson

2028 (1)

2028 (extended)

2027 (extended)

2028 (extended)

2028 (2)

2028 (1)

Board of Trustees (1 representative): Pat Innes

Ministry and Personnel Committee (1 representative): Andrea Drost and Louise Procter Maio
(Co Chairs)

United Church Women (1 representative): Paula Hanna

