



SOUTHAMPTON
UNITED CHURCH

Annual Report

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Minister: Rev. Heather Davies

Prepared By :

Southampton United Church

Reporting Period:

**January 1st 2025 -
December 1st 2025**

2025

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MINISTER'S REPORT

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28

2025 was a year of significant transition and discernment for Southampton United Church as we navigated changes in our ministry partnerships and continued to seek God's direction for our future.

At the end of February, we concluded our collaborative ministry arrangement with Central Westside United Church. This was not an easy decision, particularly given the financial implications, but it was ultimately the right one. Sometimes partnerships, despite best intentions, don't unfold as hoped, and we recognized that continuing would not serve either congregation well. We parted with grace and gratitude for what we learned through that experience.

Throughout the year, we continued our valued partnership with our Rural Connect HUB congregations. In March, we warmly welcomed Ryerson United Church as a satellite congregation, and they remained with us through the remainder of the year.



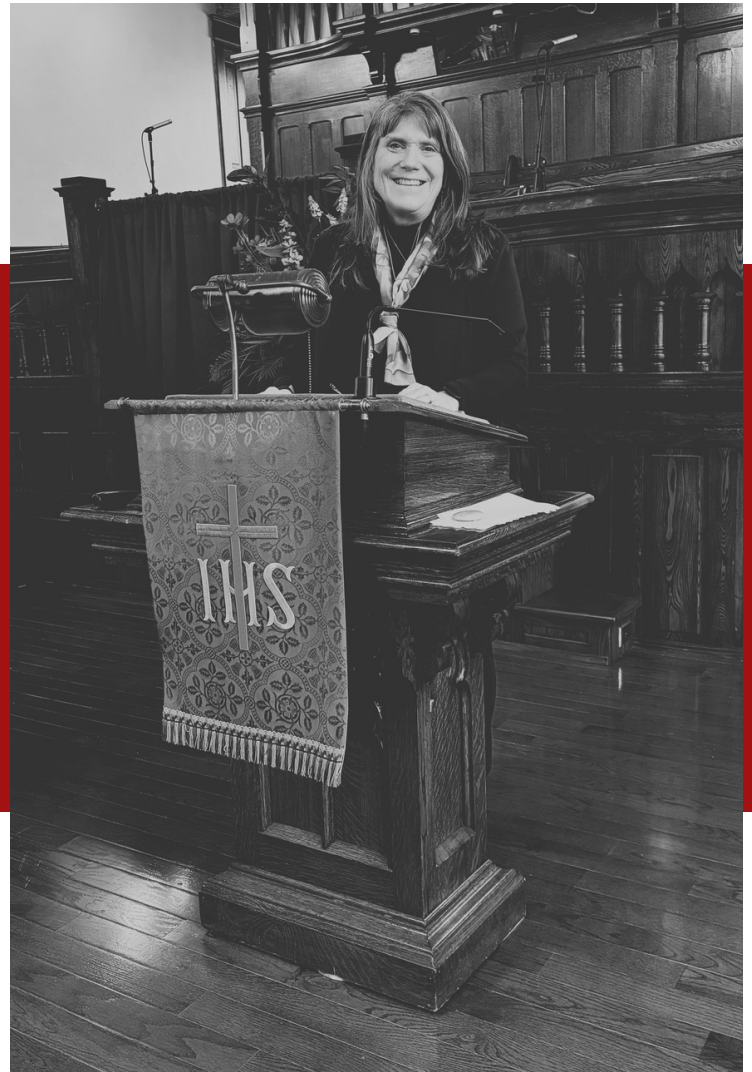
These connections have enriched our worship life and reminded us of the strength we find in working together.

Our Lenten journey was marked by daily poetry reflections shared on Facebook from Ash Wednesday through Holy Saturday, offering our community meaningful spiritual nourishment during this season. We celebrated Easter with both a sunrise service and traditional worship, gathering as a community to proclaim resurrection hope.

The Advent and Christmas season brought opportunities to reflect on themes of waiting, hope, and transformation as we prepared our hearts for Emmanuel—God with us—in the midst of transition.

In the summer, we welcomed Shalayna as our new office administrator. Her presence and contributions have been a gift to our congregation and church operations.

In December, I shared with the congregation my decision regarding a change in pastoral relations, effective July 2026, as my family and I prepare to move to Almonte. Even as we face this transition, I remain confident that God continues to be at work among us, bringing new life even when we cannot yet see what is emerging.



Throughout 2025, this congregation has demonstrated resilience, faithfulness, and openness to where God is leading us. I am grateful for the privilege of journeying alongside you.

In hope and gratitude,

Rev. Heather Davies

Minister

Southampton United Church

MINISTER'S REPORT

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

December 31 st , 2024	Resident Members	123
	Non-Resident Members	10
	Total Members	133
Changes in 2025	Members Transferred Out	0
	Non-Resident Members Removed	0
	Inactive Members Removed	0
	Members Deceased	2
	New Members by Transfer	2
	New Members by Profession of Faith	0
	New Members of Reaffirmation	0
December 31 st , 2025	Resident Members	127
	Non-Resident Members	11
	Total Members	138

MINISTER'S REPORT

BAPTISMS, IN MEMORIUM, AND MARRIAGE

Baptisms

None.

Marriages

Groom: Terrance Paul Arnold

Bride: Sarah Ann Hanmer

Location: Kitchener, Ontario

Date: July 12th, 2025

Groom: Roben Matthew Worling

Bride: Julia Yungblut Kinahan

Location: Southampton, Ontario

Date: August 30th, 2025

In Memorium

In Memorium (Members):

- Jean Luella Robertson
- James Robert Barbour

The following services were entered into Southampton United Burial Registry 2025:

- John William Eagleson
- Herbert (Gary) Johnston



MINISTER'S REPORT

AGENDA OF THE 2026 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

1. Opening Prayer - Rev. Heather Davies
2. Call to Order and Enabling Motions - Ann-Marie Collins
3. Approval of Minutes
4. 2025 Annual Meeting (Sunday, April 27th, 2025)
5. Reports
6. 2025 Financials - Brian Frook
7. Proposed Budget for 2026 - Brian Frook
8. Team Reports
9. Mission and Service Commitment for 2026
10. Nominating Committee Report
11. In Memorium Video for 2025
12. Other Business
13. Question Period
14. Motion to Adjourn

MINISTER'S REPORT

MINUTES FROM 2025

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday, April 27th, 2025 | 11:30AM

In Attendance:

Jane Kramer, Ross Ecelestere, Connie Melidy, Laurel Silenzi, Karen Plaskett, Brian Froom, Karen Friis, David Armchuk, Helen Armchuk, Shirley Marnoch, Marlene Ische, Angela Richards, Francis Richards, Sue Havitz, Mark Havitz, Heather Davies, Ann-Marie Collins, Anne Marriott, Doris Longe, Alida Cameron, Audrey Trelford, Anne Roberts, Donna Connell, Dennis Connell, Joan Cunningham, Bill Cunningham, Jean Beaton, Chuck Beaton, Ken Harlock, Jane Harlock, Wayne Bossenberry, Gayle Bossenberry, John Tate, Ruth White, Kathryn Forsyth

On Zoom:

Tim Andersen, Nancy Andersen

Call to Order: Ann-Marie Collins welcomed everyone.

Opening Prayer: Rev. Heather provided an opening prayer.

Enabling Motions:

Motion:

- That Ann-Marie Collins Chair this meeting;
- That Karen Friis be the recording secretary;

- That all those present in person or by video or phone be given voting privileges for this meeting.

Moved by: Angela Richards; Seconded by: Anne Marriott. Carried.

Approval of Minutes from 2024 Annual Meeting:

Motion: To accept the Minutes of the 2024 Annual Meeting as printed in the Report.

Moved by: Helen Armchuk; Seconded by: Jean Beaton. Carried.

Motion: To accept the Minutes of the December 1st, 2024 (still looking for copy).

Moved by: N/A; Seconded by: N/A. Not-Carried. (will be voting on at next AGM)

Trustee Reports:

Members of Trustees' Committee: Meryl Gillmore, Heather Davies, Dave Armchuk, Trudy Peirson, John King

Dave Armchuk gave report on insurance - we have decided to retain 100% insurance on the building.

The Church currently has 4 GICs at CIBC totaling \$120, 000.00 - interest is used to offset costs.

The sum of \$20, 000 has been used to help finance the removal of pigeons from the Church.

Brian reiterated that Trustees and Endowment funds are dispersed if necessary in time of need. The balance of funds will be maintained.

Financial Reports:

2024 Financial Report

Motion: To approve the Statements of Income and Expenses of the General Fund and Special Purpose Funds on December 31st, 2024 as included in the Annual Report and presented.

Moved by: Laurel Silenzi; Seconded by: Dave Armchuk. Carried.

Proposed Budget for 2025

Brian Froom presented the 2025 proposed budget. Brian outlined expenses and revenues budgeted for 2025. Brian expressed his appreciation to the Board for their work on preparing the Budget and specifically thanked outgoing Finance Committee Chair Ken Harlock for his help and assistance. No questions were posed.

Motion: To approve the Budgeted Statements of Income and Expenses of the General Fund and Special Purpose Funds for 2025 as presented.

Moved by: Anne Roberts; Seconded by: Mark Havitz. Carried.

Motion: To accept Team Reports as printed in the Annual Report.

Moved by: N/A; Seconded by: N/A

Mission and Service Fund Commitment for 2025

Motion: That the Mission and Service target for 2025 be \$15, 000.

Moved by: Ken Harlock; Seconded by: Laurel Silenzi. Carried.

Motion: Approval of Special Interest Budget.

Moved by: Audrey Trelford; Seconded by: Angela Richard. Carried.

Nominating Committee Report

Motion: To accept the proposed Board Members as printed in the Report.

Moved by: Helen Armchuk; Seconded by: Alida Cameron. Carried.

Members of the Executive Board for 2025:

Chair: Ann-Marie Collins

Vice Chair: Vacant

Finance: Dennis Connell

Outreach: Karen Plaskett

Worship: Christina Edwards

Property: Dave Armchuk

Stewardship: Laurel Silenzi

Ministry and Personnel: Ridley Gillmore

Trustee: Trudy Peirson

Member at Large: Anne Marriott

Member at Large: Vacant

Minister: Heather Davies

Treasurer: Brian Froom (non-voting member)

Recording Secretary: Helen Armchuk (non-voting member)

Office Administrator: Karen Friis (non-voting member)

Ann-Marie asked the Congregation if there were any further nominations.

Motion: That Dennis Connell be nominated to sit on the Finance Committee. Dennis accepted the position.

Moved by: Jean Beaton; Seconded by: Dave Armchuk. Carried.

In Memorium Video for 2024

A video of those who passed away in 2024 was presented.

Other Business

Brian Frook explained new methods for donating to the Church that have come available including the possibility of making electronic transfers. Brian encouraged anyone interested to get in touch with the Church Administrator.

Chuck Beaton thanked all the volunteers who stepped up to keep the Church going over the past year. Chuck also thanked Heather for her ministerial services and her dedication to the Church as Minister. The congregation expressed its heartfelt thanks for Reverend Heather's dedicated and creative ministry amongst us. wished her all the best and pledged their support for another year in our midst.

Owen Sound Central Westside United Church will no longer join the Southampton Church for Services in 2025. The Board is actively seeking a new HUB Church.

Heather discussed the 100th anniversary of the United Church (June 10, 2025). A Joint worship service is scheduled for Sunday, June 8, 2025. A Service will be held at Georgian Shores' United Church in Owen Sound for anyone interested in attending. A Service will also be held locally in Southampton.

Motion to Adjourn:

That the meeting be adjourned at 12:40 pm.

Moved by: Dave Armchuk; Seconded by: Alida Cameron. Carried.



CHAIR OF THE BOARD **REPORT**

This report is being written on Transfiguration Sunday, and the message today stayed with me long after the service ended. The story reminded me that moments of change are not interruptions to the life of faith, they are part of it. We glimpse where we are going, even if the path forward is not always clear.

Change has truly become our new normal. In truth, even before I became part of Southampton United Church, change was already woven into this congregation's story. Over the past years we have continued to experience transition in many forms — leadership structures, ministry approaches, finances, communication, and how we gather and care for one another.

As Chair, with the support of Heather and the Board, we have helped guide the congregation through some of these changes.

Some have felt encouraging and energizing. Others have been difficult and, at times, uncomfortable. We have not always known the right answers immediately, and occasionally we have learned by trying, adjusting, and trying again. Yet through it all, we have remained committed to moving forward together.

Change does not come without challenges. It asks patience. It asks trust. It asks grace — both offered and received. What we continue to love so deeply about Southampton United is the way this congregation responds: not by stepping back, but by leaning in. We support one another. We talk honestly. We pray for one another. And we keep showing up.

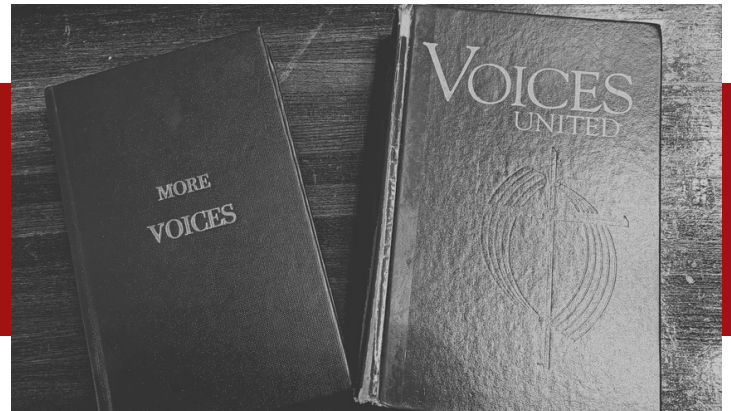
At the same time, many important things remain steady. In the midst of change, we continue to celebrate weddings and gather to grieve at funerals. We share fellowship before and after worship with hot beverages and delicious treats, strengthening the relationships that sustain us. We also continue caring for our building and maintaining our technology so that this space and our ministry can serve both present and future generations.

We want to express our sincere gratitude to Heather for her many years of dedicated service to Southampton United Church. Her steady leadership, thoughtful guidance, and forward-thinking vision have helped prepare us for the realities we face today. Much of where we stand now - our willingness to adapt, our openness to new ideas, and our readiness to embrace change - has been shaped by her commitment and care for this congregation. We thank her for the time, energy, and heart she has shared so generously and we wish her all the best at her new church in Almonte starting in July 2026.

We would also like to extend heartfelt thanks to the volunteers of the Green Boutique. Through many hours of sorting, organizing, welcoming customers, and building relationships, they provide both an important outreach ministry and meaningful financial support to the life of the church. Their dedication, teamwork, and hospitality make the Boutique not only a successful venture but also a visible expression of our care for the wider community.

We have also continued to explore a variety of collaborations with other United Churches. To date they have been limited-term and experimental, and each has offered learning along the way. Not every attempt has looked the way we first imagined, yet each has helped us better understand how we can share ministry, leadership, and resources. We remain committed to seeking another partnership and will continue to try again, trusting that working together is an important part of the church's future.

Our Board, committee members, volunteers and staff have given countless hours, often quietly and without recognition. Thank you all. Your dedication reflects a shared commitment not just to maintaining a building or an organization, but to being church — in worship, in care, and in community presence.



Our ministry continues to extend beyond Sunday mornings. Pastoral care, outreach, music, technology, and volunteer service remain central to who we are. We have adapted how we gather and connect while holding onto the heart of our faith: welcoming all, caring for neighbours, and offering hope in uncertain times.

We are learning that faithfulness today does not always look like faithfulness in the past. Sometimes it looks like trying something new. Sometimes it looks like letting go of something familiar. Often it looks like trusting God is already present in the next chapter before we fully understand it.

We are grateful for the resilience of this congregation. We are grateful for the willingness to have conversations that matter.

We are grateful for the respect shown in moments of disagreement and for the laughter shared in moments of joy. Most of all, we are grateful that even in uncertainty, we continue to choose community.

As we move into another year, we will continue discerning together: how we serve, how we gather, and how we live out our call in this place and time. The future may not look exactly like the past, but our purpose remains steady — to be church, faithfully and courageously, wherever God leads.

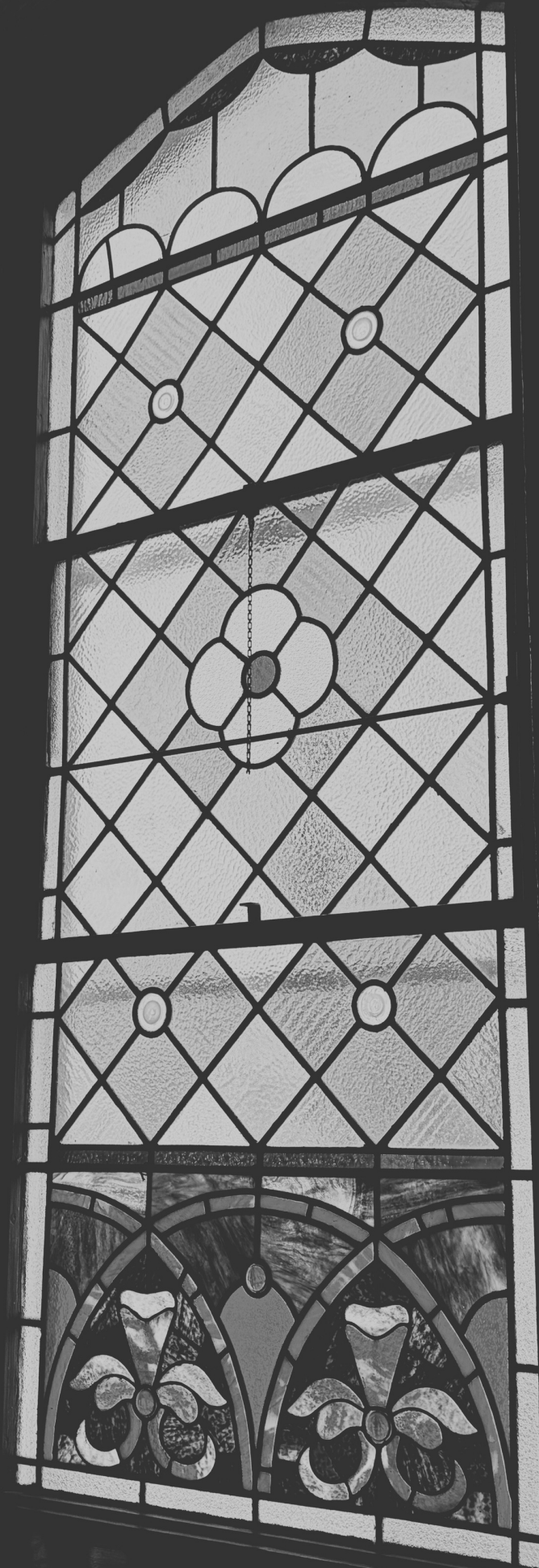
Thank you to everyone who contributes their time, gifts, prayers, and presence. Your commitment makes this ministry possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann-Marie Collins

Chair of the Board

Southampton United Church



FINANCE REPORT

General and Special Purpose Funds

CIBC

General and Special Purpose Bank Account Balance	\$15,248.02
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Meridian Credit Union

Savings	\$2,794.80
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Redeemable GIC #28	\$28,803.46	<i>Matures October 19th 2026</i>	<i>3.20%</i>
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Total Investments	\$31,598.26
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Total Cash and Investments General and Special Purpose Funds

\$ 46,846.28

1) General Fund bank account is at CIBC

2) General Fund GIC investments are with Meridian Credit Union

SOUTHAMPTON UNITED CHURCH

GENERAL FUND 2025

ACTUAL AND 2026 BUDGET

INCOME

		2025 Budget	2025 Actual	2026 Budget
1)	Offerings	\$98,500	\$89,248	\$86,000
2)	Green Boutique Revenue	\$50,000	\$56,352	\$59,100
	Fundraising - Other	\$4,700	\$81	\$100
	Trustees - Interest	\$4,000	\$4,500	\$4,000
3)	Other	\$11,400	\$6,731	\$7,750
4)	Collaborative Agreement	\$25,000	\$13,416	\$43,500
5)	HUB Satellites	\$45,000	\$31,420	\$20,000
	Total Income	\$238,600	\$201,748	\$220,450

SOUTHAMPTON UNITED CHURCH

GENERAL FUND 2025

ACTUAL AND 2026 BUDGET

EXPENSES

		2025 Budget	2025 Actual	2026 Budget
	Team Activities	\$4, 820	\$3, 381	\$2, 900
6)	Fundraising	\$10, 200	\$7, 870	\$10, 000
7)	Building	\$16, 824	\$13, 273	\$22, 200
	Administration	\$26, 900	\$28, 312	\$26, 200
8)	Personnel	\$185, 650	\$180, 170	\$158, 775
9)	HUB Expenses	\$19, 400	\$13, 290	\$6, 000
	Total Expenses	\$263, 794	\$246, 296	\$226, 075
	Net Income	-\$25, 194	-\$44, 548	-\$5, 625

SOUTHAMPTON UNITED CHURCH GENERAL FUND 2025 ACTUAL AND 2026 BUDGET

2025 Actual Notes

- 1) General fund offerings decreased 4.0%
- 2) Green Boutique increased 21.9%
- 3) Includes HST rebate \$2, 300, Use of Church \$2, 525, Interest \$1, 355
- 4) CWUC-50% of Heather's salary - 3 mos.
- 5) Usage of HUB platform by Sheffield, Rockton, Lynden, Ryerson, and CWUC
- 6) Includes several donations to local Food Banks and charities from Green Boutique
- 7) Standard utilities and overhead costs
- 8) Includes COLA increase per United Church of Canada
- 9) Repay HUB loan \$6, 000 and Communications and Data \$7, 290

2026 Budget Notes

- 2) Small increase projected for Green Boutique
- 4) Collaborative Agreement starting March 1st, 2026 with Sauble Beach-Hepworth
- 5) Usage of HUB platform by Sheffield and Lynden
- 6) Includes Green Boutique donations to local charities
- 7) Includes Cleaning Contractor
- 8) Includes a 3.0% COLA increase, Social Media Tech (new)
(Pulpit supply-partial year likely)
- 9) HUB loan forgiven in 2026

STATEMENT OF SPECIAL PURPOSE FUNDS AT DECEMBER 31, 2025

1)

Fund	Open Balance	Income	Expense	Closing Balance
Building	\$3, 340	\$1, 305		\$4, 645
Memorial	\$80, 154			\$80, 154
Music Fund	\$2, 000	\$688	\$1, 590	\$1, 098
Stain Glass	\$60			\$60
Accessibility	\$979			\$979
Sunday School	\$558			\$558
Social-Catering	\$4, 563	\$65		\$4, 628
Food Grains	\$ -	\$625	\$625	\$ -
Food Bank	\$ -	\$1, 193	\$1, 193	\$ -

STATEMENT OF SPECIAL PURPOSE FUNDS AT DECEMBER 31, 2025

2)	Fund	Open Balance	Income	Expense	Closing Balance
	Women's House	\$ -			\$ -
	Food For Friends	\$ -	\$535	\$304	\$231
	Habitat for Humanity	\$ -	\$660	\$660	\$ -
	Total	\$91, 654	\$5, 071	\$4, 372	\$92, 353

1) Soloists paid from Special Purpose Funds

2) Migrant Workers Luncheon

SOUTHAMPTON UNITED CHURCH

STATEMENT OF SPECIAL PURPOSE FUNDS FOR 2026 BUDGET

	Fund	Open Balance	Income	Expense	Closing Balance
1)	Building	\$4, 645	\$3, 000	\$6, 000	\$1, 645
	Memorial	\$80, 154		\$ -	\$80, 154
2)	Music Fund	\$1, 098	\$1, 000	\$1, 500	\$598
	Stain Glass	\$60	\$ -	\$ -	\$60
	Accessibility	\$979	\$ -	\$ -	\$979
	Sunday School	\$558	\$ -	\$ -	\$558
	Social-Catering	\$4, 628	\$ -	\$ -	\$4, 628
	Food Grains	\$ -	\$600	\$600	\$ -
	Food Bank	\$ -	\$1, 200	\$1, 200	\$ -

SOUTHAMPTON UNITED CHURCH

STATEMENT OF SPECIAL PURPOSE FUNDS FOR 2026 BUDGET

Fund	Open Balance	Income	Expense	Closing Balance
Food For Friends	\$231	\$ -		\$231
Habitat for Humanity	\$ -	\$700	\$700	\$ -
Total	\$92, 353	\$6, 500	\$10, 000	\$88, 853

- 1) Eavestrough job paid from Building Fund
- 2) Using up to \$1, 500 for Soloists

Statement of Other Funds at December 31st, 2025

Mission and Services

Opening Balance	\$0
Income	\$12, 093
Expense	\$12, 093
End of Year Balance	\$0

Benevolent Fund

Opening Balance	\$2, 013
Income	\$0
Expense	\$0
End of Year Balance	\$2, 013

SOUTHAMPTON UNITED CHURCH

2025 REVENUE FOR ALL FUNDS

Fund	2025 Income	% of Total
General Fund -Offerings	\$89, 248	40.8%
General Fund -Other Income	\$56, 148	25.6%
General Fund -Fundraising	\$56, 433	25.8%
Mission and Service Fund	\$12, 093	5.5%
Special Purpose Fund	\$5, 071	2.3%
Benevolent Fund	\$ -	0.0%
Total	\$218, 993	100.0%

MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL REPORTS

MINISTRY & PERSONNEL

The role the M and P team of Southampton United Church plays is to look after the needs of the church staff. The team meets several times a year with each staff member to review salaries, set goals, update job descriptions and complete performance reviews. M and P teams, or committees as they are often called, with the exception of hiring a new minister, are responsible for filling staff vacancies by interviewing candidates and recommending them to the church board for hiring.

The members of the M and P team for 2025 were Mary Ann Weickert, Karrie Reich and Ridley Gilmore (chair). In September, Mary Ann resigned her position as a member of the team. Over the years her contribution to the work of the team was much appreciated. The same month, Alida Cameron joined the team.

We are fortunate to have a talented and dedicated staff.

For the challenging year, 2025, our staff members were: Minister, Heather Davies, Shalayna Trelford-Ladd, Office Administrator Treasurer, Brian Frook , Music Director, Christina Edwards, Online Service Co-Ordinator, Meryl Gilmore and Custodian, Dave Wenn.

For the two months following the hiring of Shalayna, Elizabeth Davies was an interim Office Manager.

In January, Dave Wenn took on the role of Event Facilitator acting as a host at events such as Weddings, Funerals and concerts. In the same month a cleaning service took on the role of janitorial work for the church.

The M and P team wants to congratulate all members of the staff for their efforts in coping with the ever changing role they played in keeping the church alive in 2025.

Respectfully,

*Ridley Gilmore, Karrie Reich,
and Alida Cameron*



MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL REPORTS

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The purpose of the Board of Trustees is to focus on the long-term survival of the Southampton United Church. Members of this Board are usually long-standing members of the Church who then must be elected by the Congregation, normally at the Annual Meeting. There is no defined term of office. It has been suggested members remain for a shorter period so that younger members with different ideas can become involved.

The Trustees have two main duties to fulfill. They are entrusted with the responsibility of looking after the Insurance on the Church and its contents. Currently, this insurance is approximately \$8,700 per year and covers amongst other items, fire damage, damage to our stained-glass windows and organ. To pay for the Insurance, the Trustees utilize interest earned on various investments held in trust for this purpose. These investments are the result of legacies left by now deceased members for the preservation of our Church.

As of the end of 2025, our investments at CIBC were as follows:

Savings Account	\$4, 443.26	
Fixed GIC	\$2, 815.48	
Flexible GIC	\$3, 330.27	
Flexible GIC	\$12, 772.92	
GIC (Manse Fund)	\$101, 150.68	<i>(non-cashable)</i>

The above amount is considerably less than previous years due to funds that were used for our pigeon mitigation and eaves trough repair. As a legacy, please consider a bequest to the Trustee Fund to help sustain our Church in future years.

Submitted by,

David Armchuk

Treasurer, Board of Trustees

Members: Trudy Pierson, Meryl Gillmore, John King, Heather Davies

MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL REPORTS

PASTORAL CARE

The Pastoral Care Team met five times in 2025, staying connected with members of the congregation through visits, calls, and cards throughout the year. The team in 2025 included Jean Beaton, Ruth White, Shirley Marnoch, Jane Kramer, Jane Johnston and Lynda Harry. Doris Longe joined our team in December.

Like many volunteer teams in our congregation, the Pastoral Care Team is feeling the reality of an aging membership and shrinking numbers. As we move into 2026, we are discerning a new direction for how pastoral care can continue to be offered in our community.

If you have a heart for caring ministry and would like to be part of shaping what comes next, we would love to hear from you. And if you or someone you know would benefit from a pastoral connection — a visit, a call, or simply knowing someone is thinking of you — please reach out, and we will make it happen.

Respectfully Submitted

Rev Heather Davies



MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL REPORTS

OUTREACH

Through your generosity, we continued to support several local and global charitable organizations in 2025. Donations totaling more than \$25,000 were sent to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, local Food Banks, the Kabaeshewim Women's Respite Shelter, Habitat for Humanity, the Saugeen Memorial Hospital Foundation and the Mission and Service Fund of the United Church of Canada.

In addition, we partnered with Port Elgin United Church to provide a combined barbeque and potluck meal for the migrant workers at our local farms.

We collected goods and toiletries for the Living Hope Food Basket through both special food drives and weekly donations to our food hamper. Special thanks to Laurel Silenzi for making deliveries. As well, your gifts to the "birthday box" support the food bank.

During Advent, we filled stockings with personal care and gift items for the women and children of the Saugeen Women's Respite Shelter. They were thrilled to distribute the special surprises.

The Green Boutique special donation days continued. 50% of donations on the first Thursday of each month goes to support one of our sponsored charities. This idea has been very well-received by the community. This year the Green Boutique accounted for over \$7300 of our total contributions.



Throughout the year, our Moments for Mission have tried to keep you informed about the work of the Mission and Service Fund of the United Church of Canada supporting projects both in Canada and abroad. Many people donate regularly through their envelopes or PAR. Our goal for 2025 of \$15,000 was surpassed with the help of 10% of the profits from the Green Boutique.

The United Housing for All group continued to advocate for affordable housing in Saugeen Shores. Please see the full report from Mark Havitz.

So, as you can see, we may be a small community of faith, but we can touch many lives both in our community and throughout the world. We thank you for your generous gifts in 2025 and look forward to working together again to make the world a little better place in 2026.

Your Outreach Team:

*Karen Plaskett, Reverend
Heather Davies, John Tate,
Helen Armchuk, Mark
Havitz, Audrey Trelford*



MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL REPORTS

STEWARDSHIP

Although this year the Stewardship Committee did not have any formal programs, we feel that Stewardship has become a true faith community project.

Do you remember our Living the Faith Sunday, when we talked about *Wild Generosity* and *Lydia*? We all got purple bracelets to remind us of the power of generosity.

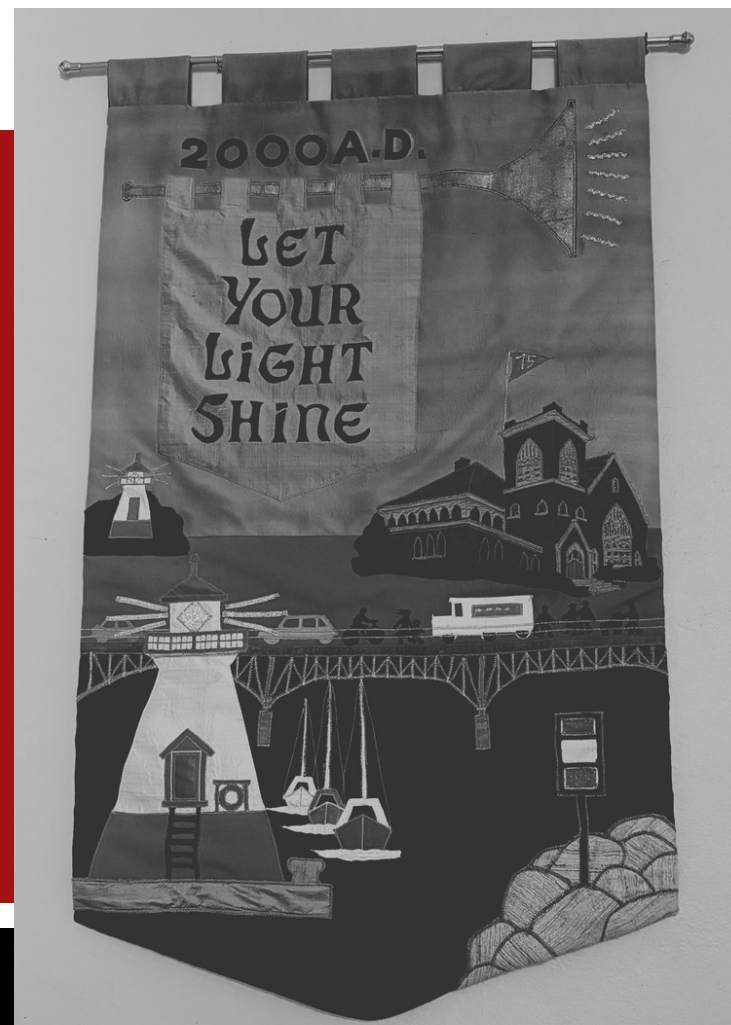
It's not news that we have worked very hard to be good stewards over the years. Due to the giving of time, money, and talents, Southampton United Church continues to thrive.

Seven years ago, we thought we only had a couple years left but our community of faith has been '*Wildly Generous*'. Not just within our community of faith but in supporting our local community, global initiatives, and stewarding our resources to support social justice and Mission and Service.

I encourage us all to be like *Lydia*, and continue to be committed to *wild generosity*! Giving without knowing the outcome, using our gifts and talents, and Gods gifts to be good stewards.

Blessings,

Laurel Silenzi



MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL REPORTS

PROPERTY

The Property Committee is quite small, with Ridley Gilmore and David Armchuk as members. For 2025, there continued to be a myriad of minor maintenance issues requiring attention, with our doors, windows, lights, ceilings, furnaces and washrooms. However, there were two long standing major issues that were completed in 2025:

1) Our Church eaves troughs were finally repaired and gutter guards added by Cushnie Contracting late last October. This now addresses a longstanding issue which may have contributed to water occasionally seeping into our basement Green Boutique storage area (the former Sunday School area). At a cost of just in excess of \$6,000, our “coffee fund jar” has now been repurposed as a “Eves Trough Repair Jar” to raise funds to cover this repair cost. Please consider donating generously to defray this expense while having a coffee and great fellowship during our social time, or perhaps provide an extra donation on our church web site.



2) Our church cleaning has transitioned to a contract firm, Matts Cleaning Service a weekly basis. A contract has been drawn up to carry this service through until the end of 2026 and to date the results have been quite satisfactory.

No major repair work is planned for 2026, now that the key exterior issues have been addressed. However, there is always the potential for emergency work as the church is old and requires constant attention. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully,

Dave Armchuk

Property Chair

Ridley Gilmore

Property Member

MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL REPORTS

GREEN BOUTIQUE

The Green Boutique continues to be a great asset to our Church not only financially but in many other ways. The dozen volunteers are forging great friendships, the many people who come to shop are using the space to socialize and are making friends with the staff and other shoppers. We have helped several homeless people this year, sent clothing to Jamaica and continue to send items to Safe and Sound.

This year we have updated our look with some new shelving. We would like to thank everyone who was involved in building, installing, painting and transporting our new units. We are also grateful to the many volunteers who bake goods for our Tea room. We now have a "Little Library" out side the church which is well used by both adults and children. Thanks also to Christina and her students for the Staff and Customer appreciation recital.

I think the highlight of the year though has to be Our Christmas shopping day for Children. We invited children to come and buy Christmas gifts for their families. Nyanna Flynn entertained the parents and grand parents with her vocals and guitar, while the Green Boutique Elves helped approx. 50 children choose new or gently used gifts for their parents and siblings. The children then took their purchases into the kitchen where more "elves" wrapped their purchases. Then each child chose a stuffed animal for themselves before proudly carrying their beautifully wrapped gifts upstairs to enjoy a cup of hot chocolate and a candy cane. It was a heart-warming day for sure and one that will definitely become an annual Green Boutique tradition.

Sincerely,

Anne Roberts



MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL REPORTS

WORSHIP

In 2025, multisite worship using HUB technology continued with our satellite partners, Rockton, Sheffield, and Lynden United churches. Our collaboration with Central Westside United Church ended in February leaving space for a new HUB partner. Ryerson United Church from Ancaster joined us in March.

Special services were held throughout the year including a Lenten candle ritual and videos, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday Sunrise services, Camp, Indigenous and Pride Sundays, Thanksgiving and Remembrance Day services, anniversary celebrations, Advent candle lighting and videos, and a Candlelight Christmas Eve service. The latter was very well attended by community members.

Since this year was the 100th Anniversary of the United Church of Canada a special service was held at our own church as well as a combined service at Georgian Shores United in Owen Sound. We also participated in an ecumenical service as part of the Marine Heritage Festival.

We adapted a new Mission Statement to guide our worship and work moving forward. It reads: Weaving worship and community to reveal God's presence in our lives.

Outreach projects from each of the churches as well as Mission and Service Fund partners were highlighted in Moments for Mission.

Learning the Faith continued to be a favourite part of the liturgy. Everyone looked forward to seeing the children from Rockton discover what was in "the box" each week.

We would like to thank everyone who lead worship during Reverend Heather's holiday and study leave absences.

The participation of Scripture Readers and Greeters was also much appreciated. As always, our services were enhanced by the beautiful music provided by our Music Director, Christina Edwards as well as her faithful choir and guest musicians. Ryerson's pianist and vocalist, Simone Caruso, shared her talents whenever Ryerson was participating in services.

A special thank you goes out to Technical Coordinator, Meryl Gillmore, and her faithful tech team.

As she steps back, we would like to acknowledge the long-time commitment of worship team member, Trudy Peirson. Her wisdom and historical memory have been invaluable.

Your Worship Team

*Reverend Heather Davies,
Christina Edwards, Meryl Gillmore,
Lynda Harry, Karen Plaskett,
Trudy Peirson, Karrie Reich,
Alida Cameron*

MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL REPORTS

UNITED HOUSING FOR ALL (UHFA)

2025 brought a mix of progress and frustration with respect to affordable housing in Saugeen Shores. Overall, more positive than negative. With excellent inspired leadership from UHFA Chair Mini Jacques we continued our original ongoing focus on **education** and **advocacy**. Some highlights included:

UHFA sponsored a year-end affordable housing update at Port Elgin United Church that attracted 75 participants and community members. Representatives from Adult Learning Centre, Bruce County Housing Services, Canadian Mental Health Association, Family Y Housing Services, Habitat for Humanity Grey Bruce, Salvation Army, Saugeen Shores Police Services, and United Way – Grey Bruce, gave brief presentations followed by discussion.

Some Local Facts:

- Rental unit monthly averages have come down slightly since peaking several years ago but remain out of reach for about many low to median income households.
- Our affordable housing waitlist has over 600 families on it.
- 40 percent of people in Saugeen Shores' current workforce live outside of our community.

UHFA sponsored a fundraising team in United Way Bruce Grey's annual Coldest Night of the Year event which was hosted last February by the Southampton Rotary Club. Walkers raised more than \$50,000 to fund essential local programs that address food insecurity, utility assistance, homelessness, and the provision of school supplies for students from low-income families. UHFA will again sponsor a team in this February's event in support of the 2026 goal of \$60,000.

The Town of Saugeen Shores was awarded funding of approximately \$3.2 million from the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) Housing Accelerator Fund. The funding will advance the Town's ongoing efforts to expand housing opportunities. The CMHC's Housing Accelerator Fund aims to remove barriers to encourage local initiatives to build more homes, faster. The fund helps boost housing supply, while supporting affordable, diverse and climate-resilient communities.



SUC outreach funds contributed toward construction of five new Habitat for Humanity houses in Saugeen Ojibway Nation in 2025. This brings the SON/HFHGB partnership total to 40 new homes on the Saugeen and Nawash reserves since 2018.

UHFA developed a series of examples that illustrate how HFHGB's "Fund for Humanity" formula allows homeowners to make monthly mortgage payments that are less than half the average monthly rental rates in Saugeen Shores, while building homeowner equity and contributing hundreds of thousands of dollars annually into new Habitat for Humanity construction projects. These examples are designed for use in future public affordable housing forums.

UHFA developed a Minute for Mission focusing on HFHGB's Fund for Humanity "by the numbers." This one-page document is posted on our SUC bulletin board.

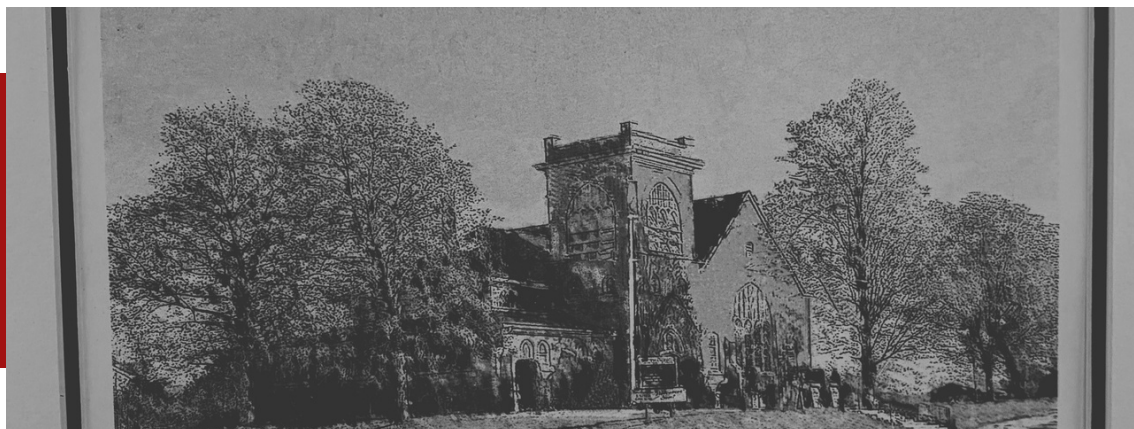
Check out the numbers, which are guaranteed to shock you in a good way!

As 2025 ended, we had yet to see shovels in the ground for the long-awaited up to 30-unit housing partnership for which a Memorandum of Understanding was signed in 2024. The Town of Saugeen Shores will provide surplus town land, Habitat for Humanity Grey Bruce will sell five of the units to partner families, and Wilson Developments will build the project. In addition to HFH, Wilson will transfer two units to the municipality to support affordable housing goals.

But wait! Early this winter, ground was broken on this north end of Port Elgin project between the Concession 10 and Vanderwerf's Independent grocery store, and behind Three Sheets Brewery and the Dominos/China8/Guac Mexi Grill plaza.

This game-changing project will provide a model not only for future endeavours in Saugeen Shores but also for small communities throughout Ontario and Canada. A second, much larger, project on surplus land in Port Elgin is currently in the planning stage.

The SUC Outreach team and United Housing for All are grateful for the continued support of affordable housing initiatives in our community.



MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL REPORTS

MUSIC

2025 was a year indeed! We were so fortunate to enjoy musical offerings from a variety of talented individuals at Southampton United, especially Liam Nicoll on violin, Liz Coates, voice, as well as our blessed Cydney Morris, voice, and Grace Rooyaakers, voice, drums, piano! As well, we had some excellent subbing by Jim Mondry when the music director was down and out, enough thanks cannot be given. As always apologies for anyone missed in this list, I am thankful for all our soloists.

We had a lovely time with HUB worship each week, sharing musical offerings with Ryerson United. We wished them farewell in the new year, but we very much enjoyed our time listening to Simone's beautiful voice and piano offerings.

We could not do anything as musically lovely as we do without the loyalty and talents of our choir: they may not all be around EVERY Sunday, but they are 100% when they are, and it makes my job much more enjoyable making music with all (or some) of them! Our core team: Jean Beaton, Trudy Pierson (when she could), Gayle and Wayne Bossenberry, Anne and Mike Mariott, Helen Armchuk (and on special occasions Dave Armchuk), and Rosemary Irwin. We also are blessed to have Meryl Gillmore join in when needed (when she is free to leave her Tech Booth) with her powerful voice and/or incredible flute stylings and musicianship. Thank you to all of you!



It is a true joy to make music with these delightful people, and we are ALWAYS looking for more people to join this special group! I often hear 'oh, you don't want to hear me sing, let alone join choir'; however, I am here to tell you YES! I would LOVE to hear you sing, even if you think you cannot! Come see me for any musical offerings you may wish to share – I'm certain we can find a spot for you! Singing/making music is a wonderful opportunity to not only share your gifts, but to be part of a group which in turn uplifts and brings joy to all.

I feel very blessed to be part of Southampton United in the role of Music Director, and am so thankful for such a kind, supporting congregation, staff, and fellow musicians with whom to share each Sunday! Thank you everyone!

Christina Edwards

MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL REPORTS

TECHNOLOGY

During 2025, we continued to Live-stream services to Facebook and YouTube. Our viewership online was an average of 37 views per week on YouTube. Facebook is accessed less on a weekly basis. We ran 44 Sunday services, two Funerals during the year and several concerts which were not live-streamed.

We consistently had three partnering churches for the first seven months of the year: Central Westside (January and February), Ryerson United (March to July), Rockton and Sheffield. In September, Ryerson joined us once per month, ending their partnership in January of 2026. Lynden United continued to access our YouTube stream for their services.

In the fall of 2025, Rockton informed us that they had voted to join with another church by the end of February 2026 being their last service with us. We miss their participation and the children.

Our team remains loyal to the tech corner. We were joined in the summer of 2025 by Saoire Johnson who is assisting with tech which allows Meryl to take some time off.

At this time, the technology remains stable and is operational. In December, we learned that The United Church is forgiving the rest of the loan and the equipment is now ours. However, now we are responsible for maintenance and upkeep.

We are looking for new partners and have two spaces on the HUB available. We are seeking assistance from the Region and advertising to get future partners.

Thank you to the team who are faithful to commit to operating the tech each Sunday.

Team: Meryl Gillmore, Karen Plaskett, Laurel Silenzi, Karrie Reich, Lynda Harry, Erica Straby-Davies, Saoirse Johnson.

Meryl Gillmore



*With grateful hearts, we
give thanks for the life we
share as a church. Over
the past year, your
kindness, generosity, and
commitment have made a
meaningful difference in
our community and
beyond.*

*As we move forward, we do
so together with hope,
trusting that our shared
efforts will continue to
bring light, care, and
connection to all we serve.*

