

Thornhill United
Church
2025
Annual Report



IN MEMORIAM 2025

*We remember with grateful thanksgiving,
those from our congregation who died in 2025:*

Helga Haslauer	January 8
Norm Martin	January 15
Joan Pehar	January 24
Henry Poutiainen	March 15
Louise Culligan	April 8
Wayne Smith	May 2
Isabelle Sniezek	May 4
John Hinkley	May 26
Lois Atcheson	May 29
Grace Pope	June 22
Fran Welch	June 28
Josie Sagadraca	September 26

Thornhill United Church's Mission Statement:

*Our faith in God's love moves us to celebrate spirituality,
to care with compassion, and to welcome all warmly.*

Thornhill United Church's Vision Statement:

*Thornhill United Church believes in Jesus' message of God's kingdom of love and grace,
which includes all people.*

*We declare our commitment to be fully inclusive in all aspects of our life and work. This
includes, but is not limited to, people of all ages, races, ethnicities, sexual orientations and
gender identities.*

*Thornhill United Church seeks to be a safe place in the eyes of God and of all people, and
to be a growing, vibrant, inclusive, welcoming church.*

Thornhill United Church

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Council, Trustees and Staff for 2025

Council

Chair	Duane Nelson
Vice-Chair	Vacant
Treasurer	Lyle Urquhart
Secretary	Cathy Farrant
Chair, Celebrate Spirituality Pillar	David Fickel
Chair, Celebrate Caring Pillar	Lisa Fickel
Chair, Celebrate Together Pillar	Elizabeth Gartner
Co-Chairs, Assets & Administration Pillar	Linda Mather and Lloyd Mather
Chair, Ministry & Personnel	Vacant
Shining Waters Regional Representative	Margaret Wilson

Board of Trustees

Bob Hill (Chair)
Marion Clark
Manny deSousa
Kathy Camelon

Staff

Coordinating Minister	Rev. T. Leigh Olson
Christian Development Minister	Rev. Mini Choi
Church Administrator	Tanya Melbourne
Director of Music	Ethel Briggs
Voluntary Associate Minister	Rev. Doug Whidden

Council Chair's Report

It is my pleasure to present the 2025 Council Chair's Report and to reflect on a year marked by faithfulness, generosity, and steady commitment to the life of Thornhill United Church.

If 2023 was about returning and 2024 was about momentum, then 2025 was a year of deepening — strengthening relationships, sustaining meaningful programs, and making thoughtful decisions about how we care for one another and for the future of our church.

Strengthening Connection and Welcoming

A central focus of recent years has been growing as a welcoming, connected, and increasingly intercultural community. In 2025, this continued through shared worship, shared meals, and community-facing programs that encouraged people to meet, listen, and belong.

Initiatives such as The Well and TUC Free Hot Dog Tuesdays remained important points of connection beyond our congregation. Intercultural worship moments and gatherings helped nurture relationships across cultures, generations, and backgrounds. While the formal process toward becoming a recognized Intercultural Church remains ongoing and shaped by the United Church of Canada's timelines, the values behind that goal are already visible in how we live and worship together.

Growing Through Shared Leadership

An encouraging sign in 2025 was the continued growth of shared leadership. New volunteers joined the Tech Team, Christian Development leadership, and several Council committees, alongside continued service in Worship and Pastoral Care. This broad participation is one of our congregation's strengths. It reminds us that the life of the church is sustained not by a few, but by many, each offering their gifts as they are able.

Living Out Compassion

Compassion remained central to our ministry. Through the work of our Pastoral Care team, ministry at Glynnwood Retirement Home, and accessible hybrid worship, care was offered consistently to those who needed it most.

Programs such as the Christmas Assistance Program, Friendship Club, and The Well continued to provide practical support and connection. Council also made deliberate choices about where resources could be used most effectively. With the closing of the Out of the Cold Fund, more than \$21,000 was redirected to the Richmond Hill Food Bank — a meaningful response to growing local need.

Stewardship with Care and Responsibility

Financial stewardship in 2025 reflected both generosity and realism. While not every stewardship initiative originally envisioned was completed, the congregation continued to give faithfully, and innovative fundraising efforts helped support our ministry.

One such success was the Dine-About Thornhill initiative, which proved financially strong and relationally engaging. Its success demonstrated the value of well-targeted, relational fundraising and provided an encouraging model that has continued into 2026.

Council remained committed to transparency, prudent financial management, and responsible use of funds. Equally important, we recognized that stewardship is not only about meeting annual targets, but about sustaining ministry over time.

Looking Ahead

As we move into 2026, staffing changes invite us to focus more intentionally on the practical demands of sustaining ministry with fewer staff and shared leadership. Our goals for the coming year reflect this reality: strengthening ministry support, continuing our journey as a welcoming and intercultural community, expanding caring ministries, and practicing faithful stewardship of our people, finances, and facilities.

With Gratitude

I extend sincere thanks to our ministers for their leadership and care — including gratitude for Rev. Mini Choi's ministry among us through the end of 2025, and for Rev. Leigh Olson's continued dedication and guidance. I also thank Ethel Briggs, our Director of Music for her fantastic selections enhancing our worship services and her many other contributions to our church community, and Tanya Melbourne, our Church Administrator for her talents in keeping the church running smoothly. Thanks also to Council, Trustees, and committee leaders for their thoughtful leadership, and the many volunteers whose time and energy sustain the life of this church. Your contributions — seen and unseen — continue to shape Thornhill United Church as a place of welcome, compassion, and faith.

On behalf of Council, thank you for your trust and participation. We look forward to continuing this work together in the year ahead.

Warm regards,

Duane Nelson, Chair of Council

Coordinating Minister's Report

Building on the successes of 2024, 2025 was a year filled with ministry, renewal and continued growth, thanks to the care, concern, inspiration and work of so many of our people. I was glad to help lead and be a part of this momentum in our congregation.

Ministry – One of my core tasks each year as Coordinating Minister is to create our Worship Planner that guides us in our weekly and Glynwood worship services. It has been a pleasure to select our scripture readings, that drive our focus from foundational stories of old, to help us to understand and follow the path of Jesus in his ministry and work. To complement this work, I have been preaching, teaching, offering communion, and visiting in hospitals, at homes and at the office. I also offered pastoral care and support in my work of performing weddings and funerals for our members and others in this local community. It has been a pleasure to build on relationships with our long-standing members and reach out to new people, inviting them into our congregation. Working together with Mini, we tried to offer opportunities for us to grow in our faith and love of God. Thank you to our ministry and pastoral care teams.

Renewal – I was blessed this year to have the opportunity to take a sabbatical during the summer months where I visited gardens across Canada. In preparation, I planned to be away during the slower season, so that Mini would not feel a strenuous impact to her ministry. I also was able to call up support from neighbouring clergy for whom I had done emergency ministry support in past

years. There was much study and planning for the summer and I was thrilled to see different species of flowers just in time for their blooming. I worked, weeded and planted in my own garden too. In the gardens, I found strength, beauty, healing, rest, refreshment and renewal. In my studies on gardens and gardening, I discovered that there are now countries that have discovered that gardening is good for your mental health. They are now writing prescriptions for certain patients to garden to improve their mental health, instead of chemical medications. To see, be immersed in and meditate upon and in God's creation brought me great renewal and joy. I was so pleased to share about this time away in nature with the congregation at the end of September. I plan to continue to reflect on this time and to share with the congregation the lessons that I learned.

This was my third year of being a member of the Flourishing Advisory Team for our Shining Waters Regional Council as part of my work as a clergy member. It has been a real growing experience to work with the other members of the team as we attempt to create events that can help our area clergy to feel connected, supported and encouraged. I was pleased to take part in and attend three of these events this year.

I was thrilled to attend a national church Flourishing event with our Moderator Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne. It was an excellent day of learning and growth and I have started to use some of the learning from the workshop.

I continue to be an active member of our local Thornhill Ministerial Association.

Growth – We not only experienced continued growth in The Well, TUC Free Hot Dog Tuesdays, Friendship Club and Chair Yoga programming, but we tried an evening Bible Study in the spring. Mini and I led membership studies for six people. We studied what it meant to be a part of the United Church of Canada and for some also offered introduction to the Bible and Christian faith. It was such a pleasure to get to know these new members better, to learn more about who they are, their loves, professional training and their interest in following Jesus as their Lord.

Thank you to our excellent staff for their care and support of the ministry of this church, and thank you to all the people of our church, who have been involved in leadership, who have rolled up their sleeves participating in the work and ministry and who have followed the call to reach out with the care of God for our local community, our country and our world.

Rev. Leigh Olson, Coordinating Minister

Christian Development Minister's Report

My very first speech at Thornhill United Church, after arriving from Vancouver, was about Moses standing before the Red Sea. Moses did not know what would happen next. What Moses had was trust in God. The sea parted, and the miracle happened.

After I announced my resignation, many of you shared kind words, hugs, and tears. Those moments touched me deeply. "You are so brave," and "You've changed the church. You've changed me." They reflected God's love through the memories we created together and the miracles that unfolded in our ordinary lives.

What follows is a reflection on what we did together and how God's work was made visible in our shared experience in 2025.

Worship and Services

Throughout 2025, I regularly participated in and led Sunday worship, offering preaching, prayers, and liturgical leadership shaped by scripture and the experiences of our community. Guest speakers were invited to share messages and lead worship, and I am grateful for each person who offered their voice and presence.

We continued to use Focus Time Video, a video-based worship element that facilitated live conversation and interactive engagement across ages.

Special Sundays and Seasonal Celebrations

A highlight of the year was the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the United Church of Canada. Youth, children, and adults created 100 bags filled with love and care. These were displayed during the June 1 celebration service and later shared with others beyond the congregation.

On December 7, children and youth led a special Christmas play service, blending live performance with prerecorded video, creating an interactive worship experience.

Youth, Children, and Intergenerational Life

Intergenerational gatherings included pottery painting in February, strawberry picking in June, and apple picking in October. These outings created opportunities for connection and conversation.

Sunday School and Children's Ministry

Sunday School welcomed new teachers and new children. Activities included origami workshops, the Origami Crane Project for Hiroshima, baking activities, greeting card sales, and a Halloween craft gathering. The 1st Thornhill Scout Group joined us for Sunday School and the Baden Powell Service. Graduation Sunday celebrated youth and children who participated throughout the year, with appreciation expressed to youth volunteers; a picnic followed the service.

During Lent, we studied "Witnesses of These Things: Faithfulness Here and Now" by Rev. Aaron Miller, concluding with an opportunity to meet the author.

TUC Free Hot Dog Tuesday

This new tradition welcomed nearly 4,000 student visits, supported by more than 30 adult volunteers, generous donors, and community sponsors. Through this outreach, we built relationships with youth and their families, welcoming many into church worship, community activities, youth group gatherings, and ongoing faith formation. What began as a shared meal became a bridge into deeper connection and belonging. As this ministry is passed on, it will continue as a sign of welcome and generosity beyond our church walls.

Intercultural Engagement

We continued to explore the opportunity of becoming an intercultural church. The workshops were postponed to the fall of 2026, as more churches expressed interest in participating.

We give thanks for our special guests who participated during Black Heritage Month, Asian Heritage Month, and Intercultural Sunday. Shared meals included the Welcome Back Barbeque, a potluck dinner, Noodle Night, and Shrove Tuesday, with youth actively volunteering at these events.

The Well

This initiative aimed to foster growth in language, friendship, and life. Rooted in John 4:7–15, The Well welcomed around 20 participants at each gathering for meaningful conversation and connection. The gatherings created a supportive space for newcomers to practise English with native speakers, build confidence, and form relationships. I am grateful to the team that led these sessions and helped create an environment of openness and learning.

Wider Church and Ecumenical Engagement

I collaborated with the General Council Office of the United Church of Canada and the Presbyterian Church in Canada to co-design worship services for a national camp gathering, which was expected to welcome approximately 500 participants from across the country.

I also had the privilege of preaching on behalf of Thornhill United Church at the Lenten Ecumenical Service at St. Luke's Roman Catholic Church.

We signed up for the 100 Tables initiative and were given a budget to purchase a picnic table to encourage conversation and engagement within our neighbourhood. This initiative is anticipated to take place in 2026.

Pastoral Care and Life Events

Regular individual pastoral visits continued throughout the year. I led coffee-time worship and communion at Glynnwood, offered Celebration of Life services, weddings, and pastoral care, and celebrated six baptisms.

Conclusion

Looking back on 2025, I witnessed God at work through you and through the life of the congregation. I trust that the doors opened during our time together will continue to flourish and grow in 2026 and beyond.

Thank you for your trust and for the blessing of walking together, as we continued crossing the Red Sea with trust and hope, guided by the way of Jesus.

Rev. Mini Choi, Christian Development Minister

Shining Waters Regional Council Report

Shining Waters Regional Council (SWRC) is one of sixteen regional councils within the United Church of Canada. Each council provides service, support and oversight for the communities of faith within their own geographical area. Thornhill United Church is one of the 165 Communities of Faith within the Shining Waters region. SWRC has multiple commissions and committees, which work on assorted areas of ministry such as social and ecological justice, intercultural diversity, disability justice, affirming ministry, right relations, community of faith support and pastoral support.

As the lay representative for our church, I act as a conduit for information back and forth between the region and our church. Each month, newsletters and announcements from SWRC are forwarded to appropriate folks within our church, so that they are kept up to date on regional training webinars, regional newsletters about social justice issues and right relations, special church events in

our region and celebrations of milestones in regional churches such as ordinations, new minister calls, church amalgamations and new affirming ministries.

There was a broad variety of training webinars during 2025, most of which were jointly run and attended by both Shining Waters and Canadian Shield regions (our neighbouring region to the north of us). Topics ranged from administrative (Church archives, leasing arrangements) to interpersonal development (community connections, how to help your congregation work through change, conflict resolution, rural ministry work) as well as some specific sessions for church lay leaders on Ministry & Personnel teams (M&P). We had TUC folks present at nearly all of these webinars,

Shining Waters Region also provides informative support for children's programming through seasonal resources (Lent, Easter, Summer, Advent programming planning) as well as by hosting open roundtable sessions on children's ministry several times a year.

A Festival of Faith weekend was held in the summer of 2025 in Sudbury, jointly with the Canadian Shield region, which encompassed multiple guest speakers, including John Bell as the keynote speaker and lots of music and uplifting worship. This occurs every two years and was an in-person event.

The Shining Waters Annual Meeting was held on Zoom this year and was well attended with multiple guest speakers on the theme "Sanctuary –Towards a Kingdom of Peace, Justice and Reconciliation." There was also a second meeting held later in the year to review the regional financial report and the updated proposed granting structure.

- Submitted by Margaret Wilson, Shining Waters Lay Representative

Board of Trustees Report

Members of the Board of Trustees include Marion Clark, Kathy Camelon, Manny DeSousa and Bob Hill (Chair).

The main activity during the year has been a comprehensive review of some furniture and the cataloguing of kitchenware and related equipment used during banquets and other activities. Some chairs were sold and others given away. Other items were photographed for easier access. This project is ongoing but should be completed in 2026.

One report was issued to Council relating to our review of use of space contracts and the monitoring of our tenants' compliance.

- Submitted by Robert Hill, Chair of Board of Trustees

Roll Clerk's Report

For the United Church of Canada 2025 Yearbook Statistical Report

Confirmed members as per 2024 Annual Report **285**

Received by certificate of transfer	1
Received by baptism/confirmation	<u>6</u>
Subtotal	292

Removed by death	7
Removed by transfer certificate	5
Removed by Council	<u>0</u>
Total Removed	(12)
Total confirmed members as of December 31, 2025	280

Total number of households under pastoral care for 2025 (member and adherent)	189
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Number of baptisms (over 12 yrs. of age)	5
Number of child (under 12 yrs.) baptisms	1

Received by confirmation (under age 18)	0
Received by confirmation (over age 18)	0

Number of marriages performed	5
Number of funerals/memorial services	12

Number of identifiable contributors to General Funds	178
Number of financially supporting households	176
Number of identifiable givers to the M & S Fund	60

- Submitted by Tanya Melbourne, Church Administrator

Treasurer's Report

GENERAL FUND			
	FY DEC 2024	FY DEC 2025	BUDGET 2025
Receipts			
Envelopes/PAR/Seasonal	269,412	300,251	283,000
Use of Space	163,400	173,742	164,000
Fundraising	32,533	16,429	11,000
All Other	32,679	38,723	25,300
	498,024	529,145	483,300
Expenses			
Salaries & Benefits	323,872	332,872	333,500
Pillars----BCU	131,727	152,342	151,000
All Other	3,284	4,226	5,350
UCC Assessment	17,872	19,800	19,820
Council	7,817	7,853	8,700
	484,572	517,093	518,370
Transfer From Visionary Fund	-	-	35,070
Operating Surplus (Deficit)	13,452	12,052	-

Notes:

- 2025 Contributions exceeded Budget by \$17K.
- Use of Space receipts exceeded budget by almost \$10K.
- Fundraising revenues were significantly lower than 2024. That year was marked by the tremendous success of the Hymn-A-Thon.
- Despite a number of surprises, BCU costs were only \$1.3K over budget.

- Submitted by Lyle Urquhart, Treasurer



INDEPENDENT PRACTITIONER'S REVIEW ENGAGEMENT REPORT

To the Members of Thornhill United Church

We have reviewed the accompanying financial statements of Thornhill United Church (the Organization) that comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2025, and the statements of operations, changes in net assets, and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's responsibility for the financial statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Practitioner's responsibility

Our responsibility is to express a conclusion on the accompanying financial statements based on our review. We conducted our review in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements, which require us to comply with relevant ethical requirements.

A review of financial statements in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements is a limited assurance engagement. The practitioner performs procedures, primarily consisting of making inquiries of management and others within the entity, as appropriate, and applying analytical procedures, and evaluates the evidence obtained.

The procedures performed in a review are substantially less in extent than, and vary in nature from, those performed in an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion on these financial statements.

Conclusion

Based on our review, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial statements do not present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Organization as at December 31, 2025, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Toronto, Ontario
February 11, 2026

Cappit Solutions Professional Corporation
Authorized to practice public accounting by
the Chartered Professional Accountants of Ontario

Thornhill United Church
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
As at December 31, 2025

	General Fund	Visionary Fund	Externally Restricted M & S and Healing Funds	Internally Restricted Funds Incare Funds	Capital Fund	December 31, 2025	December 31, 2024
ASSETS							
Current Assets							
Cash	72,833	10,951	-	-	-	83,784	90,296
HST Recoverable	7,605	-	-	-	-	7,605	14,512
Deferred Expenses	3,316	-	-	-	-	3,316	4,060
Misc Receivable	8,320	-	-	-	-	-	8,320
Investments (Note 5)	-	294,667	22,774	26,104	-	343,545	331,870
Total Current Assets	83,754	305,618	22,774	26,104	-	438,250	449,058
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 83,754	\$ 305,618	\$ 22,774	\$ 26,104	\$ -	\$ 438,250	\$ 449,058
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES							
Current Liabilities							
Accounts Payable & Accruals	29,610	-	-	-	-	29,610	14,639
Deferred Revenues (Note 7)	13,295	-	-	-	-	13,295	12,421
Other Liabilities	1,010	305,618	-	26,104	-	332,732	975
Payable to United Church of Canada	-	-	22,774	-	-	22,774	4,578
Total Current Liabilities	43,915	305,618	22,774	26,104	-	398,411	32,613
CONGREGATIONAL EQUITY							
Unrestricted Fund Balance	39,839	-	-	-	-	39,839	353,643
Restricted Fund Balance	-	-	-	-	-	-	62,802
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES	\$ 83,754	\$ 305,618	\$ 22,774	\$ 26,104	\$ -	\$ 438,250	\$ 449,058

The attached notes 1 to 9 are an integral part of these financial statements.

Unaudited - See Review Engagement Report attached and dated February 11, 2026

Chair of Council *Duane Nelson*

Treasurer *Lyle Urquhart*

Lyle Urquhart

Thornhill United Church

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2025

	General Fund	Visionary Fund	Externally Restricted Funds	Internally Restricted Funds		<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
			M & S and Healing Funds	Incare Funds	Capital Fund		
RECEIPTS							
Contributions by Congregation	300,751	4,778	22,774	8,400	1,368	338,071	337,614
All Other	228,394	-	-	23,541	-	251,935	220,759
TOTAL RECEIPTS	529,145	4,778	22,774	31,941	1,368	590,006	558,373
EXPENDITURES							
Salaries, Benefits & Ministers' Expenses	332,872	-	-	-	-	332,872	323,872
Building Care and Use	152,342	-	-	-	-	152,342	131,727
Mission & Service and Healing	-	-	22,774	-	-	22,774	21,578
Capital & Visionary Funds	-	25,327	-	-	10,930	36,257	57,239
UCC Assessment	19,800	-	-	-	-	19,800	17,872
Other	12,079	-	-	58,765	-	70,844	43,215
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	517,093	25,327	22,774	58,765	10,930	634,889	595,503
EXCESS (DEFICIT) OF RECEIPTS OVER EXPENDITURES	12,052	(20,549)	-	(26,824)	(9,562)	(44,883)	(37,130)
FUND BALANCE							
Interfund Transfer		311			(311)	-	
Beginning of year	27,787	325,856	-	52,929	9,873	416,445	453,575
End of year - Unrestricted Fund balance	\$ 39,839	\$ 305,618		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 345,457	\$ 353,643
End of year - Restricted Fund balance			\$ -	\$ 26,105	\$ -	\$ 26,105	\$ 62,802

The attached notes 1 to 9 are an integral part of these financial statements.

Unaudited - See Review Engagement Report attached and dated February 11, 2026

Thornhill United Church
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
As at December 31, 2025

	General Fund	Visionary Fund	Externally Restricted	Internally Restricted	2025	2024
			M & S and Healing Funds	Incare Funds		
EXCESS (DEFICIT) OF RECEIPTS OVER EXPENDITURES	\$ 12,052	\$ (20,549)	\$ -	\$ (26,824)	\$ (9,562)	(\$44,883) (37,130)
Change in non-cash working capital	6,907	-	-	-	-	6,907 (7,643)
HST recoverable	744	-	-	-	-	744 744
Prepaid Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	8,320 (8,320)
Miscellaneous Receivables	14,971	-	-	-	-	14,971 (5,258)
Accounts payable & accruals	874	-	-	-	-	874 598
Deferred revenue	35	-	-	-	-	35 -
Other Liabilities	-	-	18,196	-	-	18,196 (19,803)
Payable to United Church of Canada	-	-	-	-	-	- -
Bank Indebtedness	-	-	-	-	-	- -
Cash from (used in) investing activities						
Investments	\$ -	\$ (25,599)	\$ (22,774)	\$ 26,824	\$ 9,873	(11,676) 81,336
Interfund Transfer		311			(311)	-
CASH BALANCE AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	28,930	56,788	4,578	-	-	90,296 85,772
CASH BALANCE AT END OF YEAR	\$ 64,513	\$ 10,951	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 83,784 \$ 90,296

The attached notes 1 to 9 are an integral part of these financial statements.

Unaudited - See Review Engagement Report attached and dated February 11, 2026

THORNHILL UNITED CHURCH
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2025

(Unaudited)

1. Nature of the Organization

Thornhill United Church is a pastoral charge of the United Church of Canada. It strives to be a welcoming, Christ-inspired community that celebrates, worships, and nourishes within a caring family of faith. It shares its members, resources, and facilities within the local community, while working together within the global community for the betterment of all. Thornhill United Church is a registered charity under the Income Tax Act of Canada, #89831-2731.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations published by the Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada using the restricted fund method of reporting revenues and include the following significant accounting policies:

a) Revenue Recognition

Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue of the general fund or the visionary fund in the year received, unless stipulated by the donor in which case these amounts are recorded as deferred revenue. Contributions to Restricted Funds are recognized as revenue of the appropriate fund, and all are recognized as revenue in the year received.

Other receipts are comprised primarily of the use of space, \$173,742 (2024- \$163,400).

b) Capital Expenditures

Capital expenditures are financed out of specific funds provided for that purpose and are not capitalized. During the year, equipment was purchased, and renovations were made for a total cost of \$36,257 (2024- \$57,239) and expensed at the time of acquisition.

c) Contributed Services

Volunteers contribute their time and effort in carrying out various activities within the Church. Due to the difficulty in determining the fair value of such assistance, contributed services are not recognized in these financial statements.

d) Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenues and expenditures during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from management's best estimates as additional information becomes available in the future.

e) Financial Instruments

The organization's financial instruments consist of cash, investments, accounts receivable, sales tax refundable, accounts payable, accrued expenses and unremitted funds to United Church of Canada. The organization measures its financial instruments at cost or amortized cost.

3. Description of Funds

- The General Fund reports unrestricted contributions and accounts for the organization's program delivery and administrative activities.
 - The Visionary Fund is an unrestricted fund. Bequests to the Church that did not indicate a specific purpose are allocated to this fund. Essentially, this is a reserve fund which is available to support the General Fund, each Restricted Fund or other initiatives which may be undertaken by the Church subject to Council's approval.
 - Restricted Funds
 - The Mission & Service and Healing Funds support worldwide missionary and other activities of the United Church of Canada.
 - Incare Funds support various activities carried out within the Church focusing on the care of others in need such as Club Handi, Christmas Assistance Program and Out of the Cold Program.
 - The Capital Fund is used for capital asset funding projects within the Church. During 2025, the Capital Fund was closed and the balance of \$311 was transferred to the Visionary Fund
-

4. Restricted Fund Balances

The balances in all restricted funds are held in trust on behalf of the United Church of Canada.

5. Investments

Investments consist of:

- Guaranteed Investment Certificates from major Canadian banks, and are shown at cost plus accrued interest, which approximates market values. Interest rates range from 2.82% and 4.48% and have maturity dates ranging January 2026 to December 2026. Interest earned in 2025 was \$11,675 (2024-\$18,665)

The GICs are not exposed to any significant interest rate risk.

6. Land and Buildings

These financial statements do not include United Church of Canada assets at Thornhill United Church, which were valued in 2025 as follows.

Building	\$6,910,000
Stained Glass	788,000
Organ	832,000
Other Contents	<u>160,000</u>
Total Capital Assets	<u>\$8,690,000</u>

7. Deferred Revenue

Deferred revenue is comprised of the last month's rent paid by a major tenant and funds received as prepayment for interment in the church's Memorial Garden.

8. Commitments

- a) The Church has a lease on its photocopy machine. It is required to pay \$3,592 +HST per year until 2027.
 - b) The Church is obligated to pay an annual United Church of Canada assessment 2026-\$23,487 (2024-\$19,820).
-

9. Financial Instruments

The organization is exposed to various risks through its financial instruments, without being exposed to concentration of risks.

It is management's opinion that the organization is not exposed to significant interest or credit risks arising from financial instruments.

Proposed General Fund Budget – 2026

	FY DEC 2024	FY DEC 2025	BUDGET 2026
RECEIPTS			
Envelopes/PAR & Seasonal Offerings	269,412	300,251	292,000
Use of Space	163,400	173,742	175,000
Fund Raising	32,533	16,429	12,000
Investment Income	18,664	11,675	9,400
Donations, Weddings & Memorial Garden	10,110	23,402	11,000
Loose	3,904	3,645	3,500
	498,023	529,144	502,900
EXPENDITURES			
Salaries, Benefits & Ministers' Expenses	323,872	332,872	305,000
Building Care & Use	131,727	152,342	157,703
All Other Pillars	3,284	4,225	5,500
UCC Assessment	17,872	19,800	26,097
Council	7,817	7,853	8,600
	484,572	517,092	502,900
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	13,451	12,052	-

- Submitted by Lyle Urquhart, Treasurer

Pillar Reports

Celebrate Spirituality Pillar

The Celebrate Spirituality Pillar is responsible for the support, exploration and growth of our Christian faith journey, through all aspects of the worship experience, congregational life, music and choirs, and youth and adult educational activities.

Worship

Worship is a core activity of our faith life at Thornhill United Church. Each week we share time together, in person and online, to give praise and thanks to God for the grace in our lives, as well as God's abiding presence through trying personal times and challenges in the world around us.

Some highlights from the worship services held in 2025:

- The hybrid service continues to evolve and is supported by a dedicated team of audio-video and Zoom volunteers.
- Lay volunteers led Prayers of the People and scripture readings.
- Village Groups arranged for Greeters.
- Communion was served virtually and in-person on Lent 1 – March 9, Easter Sunday – April 20, United Church 100th Anniversary – June 1, Summer Communion – July 13, World Communion Sunday – October 5, Advent 1 – November 30, and Christmas Eve – December 24 at 7 p.m.
- Guest speakers: Rev. Dr. Alydia Smith, Black Heritage Month; Rev. Warren McDougall, Pride Sunday; Carma Steenkamp, Rev. Calin Lau, Rev. Cathy Zhou, and Rev. Warren Ball, Anniversary Sunday.
- The Well participants gathered on the last Sunday of each month for conversation, discussion and the opportunity to grow in their faith and relationships.
- There were six baptisms and six new members.
- A memorial service was held on March 25 for our former minister, Rev. Henry Poutiainen.
- The Thornhill Ministerial Lenten Ecumenical Series 2025: "One Body, Many Parts" took place on March 9, March 23, and April 6.
- Rev. Leigh Olson was on sabbatical from June 1 to August 31.
- A new "Joy of Christmas" concert was held on November 22, with participation by the Thornhill church choirs, in support of the Christmas Assistance Program.
- A youth-led Christmas play was presented on December 7 under the direction of Rev. Mini Choi.
- The TUC Symphonie led the congregation in a time of singing carols ahead of the services on December 14 and 21.
- A service of Lessons and Carols was held on December 21.
- A service of "Songs of Christmas" was held on December 28 at which members of the congregation suggested carols and gave personal Christmas memories.
- During the year colleagues shared their talents playing bagpipes, violin, percussion, ehru, oboe, flute, bassoon, guitar, piano, trumpet, handbell tree solo and handbell choir.

- Members of the Committee include Ethel Briggs, Rev. Leigh Olson, Rev. Mini Choi, Susan Armstrong, Lorry Colangelo, Jeff Whittington and David Fickel (Chair).

- Submitted by David Fickel, Chair of Celebrate Spirituality Pillar

Sanctuary Choir

This past year we have shared joyful and meaningful music with our congregation, both in person and online. Music continues to enrich our worship and strengthen our sense of community.

We were pleased to welcome new choir members: Jeff Zhang, Grace Law and Alina Mathews. Summer service music was enhanced by gifted soloists: Alexa Ball (flute), Lori Ball (piano), Malcolm Bayoc (piano), Chris Vishy (oboe) and Jeff Whittington (bass guitar).

On May 10 the Sanctuary Choir hosted the Thornhill Community Band “Spring Fling” concert, raising \$1,750 for the Church General Fund. We were honoured by the attendance of Markham Mayor Frank Scarpitti.

On November 22, we presented the “Joy of Christmas” concert, featuring over 70 singers from six churches, in support of the Christmas Assistance Program. Planned by Greg Benoit, Gloria Stafford and Ethel Briggs, this new concert raised \$3,122.

The TUC Symphonie once again led our annual Christmas Carol Sing on December 14 and 21.

We remain grateful for the gift of music and for the support and fellowship shared among our choir and congregation.

- Submitted by Lorry Colangelo, Sanctuary Choir President

Handbell Choir

The Handbell Choir is a dedicated group of six players who meet each Wednesday evening at 7:30 p.m., from September to June. They performed at worship services in March, May, October and December.

As we are a small ensemble, we appreciate those players who regularly ring many handbells, especially Anita Crump and Steven Unger. If you have some ability to read music and are interested in joining the handbell choir, please speak to any member or to Ethel Briggs.

- Submitted by Ethel Briggs, Director of Music

Worship Technical Support

Membership in the Technical Support Team (Tech Team) for 2025 included Duane Nelson, Graeme Jannaway, Lyle Urquhart and Jeff Whittington, and regular volunteers Mahdi Alem Manesh and Mahed Alem Manesh. Responsibility for hosting the Sunday services on Zoom and in-person was rotated on a weekly basis between Graeme, Duane and Mahdi with Lyle, Jeff and Mahed providing soundboard support. Margaret Wilson was Zoom co-host, assisting those online. Graeme resigned the group mid-year.

A packaging team consisting of Duane and Mahdi packaged the PowerPoint, video and audio recordings into a form that could be used in the services, after receiving the weekly PowerPoint from

Tanya Melbourne. Each member of the team uses the editing tools that they prefer to do their work, before uploading the service-ready files to Dropbox. Packaging responsibilities are rotated on a monthly basis.

The video system that was installed in the summer of 2022, continues to provide a live video stream to those on Zoom. Feedback on the worship experience for those who can't attend in person continues to be positive. Having Margaret as the 'eyes and ears' of the Zoom attendees has been very helpful to the team in presenting the services through Zoom.

Enhancements through the year included replacing a failed choir monitor, and cleanup/rerouting of cables/antennae around the sound console (all through the assistance of Building Care and Use). A number of the earpieces for the Hearing Assist devices had failed and have been replaced along with refreshing the rechargeable batteries. Reliability of the wireless headsets has improved with the requests to put cell phones into airplane mode – especially the ministers and those who sit around/near the sound console.

Finally, I'd like to thank the team for their dedicated technical support of the worship services in 2025.

- Submitted by Jeff Whittington, Technical Support Coordinator

Christian Development

The Christian Development Committee is responsible for coordinating and promoting the Christian Development and Spiritual Nurture programs at TUC. Currently these programs fall under five areas: Sunday School, Youth, Family Life, Adult Faith Development, and Outreach to families in the community. The members of the committee are Jennifer Hunter (Chair), Rev. Mini Choi and Jackie Argue.

- Sunday School: Sunday School classes were held each week with all ages (Kindergarten to Grade 8) in one class. The high school students met bi-weekly. We used the curriculum "All Together Now". In June we had our Sunday School graduation and teacher recognition. In September we collaborated with Council and helped organize the Welcome Back Barbeque by providing youth volunteers and craft activities to keep the children entertained. In December the children and youth did a Christmas play that was accompanied by a video.
- TUC Free Hot Dog Tuesday: We hosted seven hot dog lunches throughout the school year and have served close to 4,000 hot dogs since this initiative began. Thanks to our volunteers and contributors, their donations covered the costs of serving the students. This connection with the high school students helped us build relationships and they actively joined our youth group activities and volunteered at various church events.
- The Well: The Well is a new gathering for those whose first language is not English to come together and communicate in a welcoming space. It's a chance to practise conversational English, but even more, it's a time to build relationships through shared stories, experiences, and simple refreshments. As we gather, we create a community of mutual support where everyone is encouraged to express themselves and to listen with openness. This group met once a month after worship.
- Baptisms: Zohreh Behzadinejad, Akram Keshavaraz, Hamidreza Naserinejad, Ali Rabiee, Elsa Rabiee and Setayesh Poppy Saba were baptized.

- Confirmations: There were no confirmations this year.
- Weddings: Four wedding ceremonies were performed (April, October, November and December).
- Youth: Youth Group, for grades 5 and up, typically met once a month on a Friday night or Sunday afternoon. Our youth designed greeting cards for Easter and sold them on Palm Sunday. They also baked and served cookies.
- Intergenerational Events: We held paint your own pottery (February), strawberry picking (June), apple picking (October) events. In May, children, youth and adults from the congregation were invited to take part in creating 100 bags to mark the 100th anniversary of the United Church of Canada. These bags were displayed on June 1 during our centennial service.
- 100 Tables Initiative: We received an invitation to participate in the 100 Tables initiative. Through this, we received a gift card from the United Church of Canada to purchase a picnic table, which we plan to use next year to engage with the neighbourhood by placing it in front of our church.
- Book Study: A book study was held in April. The group read the book “Witnesses of These Things: Faithfulness Here and Now” by Rev. Aaron Miller. At our final gathering we had an opportunity to meet the author.

- Submitted by Jennifer Hunter, Chair of Christian Development

Library Administration

The library is open to Church members even if staff are not at the desk. There are instructions on the desk on how to sign out a book. On Sundays, you may ask any of the library staff – Cathy Farrant, Lucina Fraser, Pat Fukunaga or Marie Burrows – for help.

The books go out for a period of four weeks.

- Submitted by Marie Burrows, Librarian Coordinator

Celebrate Caring Pillar

The mandate of the Caring Pillar is to encourage care and compassion within our church family, our neighbourhood, and the wider community. We seek to reflect Christ’s love through practical support, prayer, and presence, responding to needs with kindness, respect, and generosity.

The following groups fall under the umbrella of the Caring Pillar: Mission and Service Fund, Pastoral Care, Prayer Shawl Ministry, Christmas Assistance Program, Foster Child Program, Friendship Club, and 1st Thornhill Scouting Program.

Our members include: Barbe Carruthers, Pat Fukunaga, David Rawcliffe and Lisa Fickel.

Mission & Service

Locally, Mission & Service helps people by supporting homeless shelters, food banks, community kitchens, and refugee programs. We help young people on campuses and through

camping outreach. We help people who are sick or at the end of life by supporting addiction, mental health, and counseling services, and hospice care.

Globally, we support people to access clean water, food, and medical care. We support skills training and economic development. We help with peace-making and sustainable agriculture efforts. We provide disaster relief and advocate for the rights of those who all too often don't get a say, like children and migrant workers.

Over the past year, TUC has donated \$17,000 to the Mission & Service Fund in support of these goals.

- Submitted by Lisa Fickel, Chair of Celebrate Caring Pillar

Pastoral Care

The Pastoral Care Committee is made up of a group of members from the church who volunteer their time to maintain a connection between the church and members who are no longer able to attend church or have needs that would benefit from support of the church.

The members include Rev. Leigh Olson, Rev. Doug Whidden, Rev. Mini Choi, Tanya Melbourne, Heather Morris, Catharine Montgomery, Linda Mather, Ann Louise Ross, Barbara Carruthers (Chair).

Reverends Leigh, Doug and Mini provide pastoral care support to all members of the congregation as needed. Their support is all-inclusive dealing with members in hospital or dealing with illness, loss and grief. They are very involved with individuals who are facing various crises be they physical, emotional, or financial. Mini and Leigh are involved in planning weddings, baptisms, funerals, celebrations of life and memorial services.

Ann Louise, Linda, Heather and Barbe have members of the church that they visit on a regular basis. These members are in long-term care, retirement residences, or in their homes, and are unable to attend church or need support. There are about 32 members (includes couples) that are visited on a regular basis and a variable number that are contacted on an as-needed basis.

Heather will visit members that are at Mackenzie Richmond Hill Hospital.

There is a TUC coffee hour at Glynnwood the first Thursday of each month. Glynnwood provides coffee/tea and cookies. Leigh or Mini and Ann Louise host this event. Mini or Leigh guide the group in spiritual reflection. Ann Louise will read scripture, help with the singing of hymns, assist with communion and help members get to the lounge. Often there are up to 18 in attendance including more than just members of TUC.

Catharine is in charge of sending cards to acknowledge significant birthdays, anniversaries, illness, bereavement and other discretionary needs. Seasonal cards are sent at Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter. Many of the cards are sent to people no longer able to attend church, and also to the bereaved or chronically ill. About 50 cards are sent a year although it can vary between 30 and 80.

All committee members personally deliver seasonal cards to their residents.

Tanya is the curator of information. She updates records (i.e. birthdays, address changes, updating next of kin/emergency info and information about congregational activities. She is also the first point of contact for many phone calls/email messages from family members about any changes in status.

As pastoral care providers, members serve the needs of many different people: the sick and homebound, lonely, grieving, marginalized, those suffering from a traumatic event or facing a personal crisis.

Leigh, Mini and Doug connect with all members who would benefit from their support.

Linda has a reputation for delivering amazing cookies at Christmas.

Ann Louise delivers lovely flowers from her garden in the spring.

Sadly, we had 12 members of the church pass away in 2025.

If anyone knows of a member who is in need of pastoral support or who is in hospital, please advise a member of the committee.

We welcome any member that would like to join our committee.

- Submitted by Barbara Carruthers, Chair of Pastoral Care

Prayer Shawl Ministry

We have had another busy year knitting and crocheting prayer shawls. The group started in the fall of 2018 and from then until December 31, 2025 we have completed **431** shawls for distribution. A big thank you to our knitters and crocheters for their time and talents. Also thank you to the congregation members who have supported us by distributing the shawls, donating wool, and the occasional cash contribution. We appreciate your ongoing support of our group efforts.

Prayer shawls are **free**. You do not need to sign them out as we do not keep track of who takes them or who receives them.

Any member of the congregation is welcome to take a shawl to give to someone close to them who is in need of a hug or a reminder that they are in our prayers such as: those who are ill or grieving or celebrating a special occasion. The recipient does not need to be a TUC member.

The shape of the shawl is written on the plastic bag for example: rectangle, triangle, crescent and there is a gift card included with each shawl. The pictures on the cards vary but the verse is the same for all cards.

We mainly rely on donations of wool, although we have on occasion received cash donations which have been used to purchase yarn. Any wool donations may be left with Tanya in the office.

Anyone interested in joining our group to knit or crochet shawls is welcome. We meet the first Friday of the month in the Gathering Place from 10:30 a.m. until noon.

- Submitted by Marg Stainsby, Coordinator

Christmas Assistance Program

2025 was another successful year for the Christmas Assistance Program. We were able to support 123 families (313 individuals) which included ten families from Yellow Brick House. We were blessed once again with donations from our Thornhill churches, local businesses, community groups and Baythorn Public School. Members of TUC donated \$6,890 this year. On December 13, drivers from the different churches delivered beautifully decorated envelopes containing gift cards to families living in our Thornhill Community. All the recipients were extremely grateful.

Our committee is made up of members from local churches as follows:

- Holy Trinity - Linda Gould
- Thornhill Baptist - Gloria Stafford and Lynn Donahue
- Thornhill Presbyterian - Sharon Miron and Rev. Dr. Heather Vais
- Thornhill United Church - Tanya Melbourne and Gabi Blair

Behind the scenes, we would like to thank Lyle Urquhart who kept track of our finances, Cathy Farrant who helped us with our mailings, and the drivers that delivered the envelopes that were beautifully decorated by the students.

- Submitted by Gabi Blair, Coordinator

Foster Child

For many years, TUC has sponsored a foster child through Plan International Canada. Our current child is Alexis, who is now 7 years old. He lives on the island of Lembata in Indonesia. Alexis attends primary school, where his favourite subject is Phys. Ed! The sponsorship not only helps Alexis but also helps his village.

- Submitted by David Rawcliffe, Coordinator

Friendship Club

In 2025, the Friendship Club (formerly known as the Handicapable Ministry, and Club Handi) ran for 8 months (January - May; October to December). We met on the third Wednesday of the month from 7 pm to 8 pm. Our guests and caregivers came from various Homes and Programs, along with community members. We had a theme for each meeting (e.g. Valentine's Day, Halloween). We sang songs, prayed, did crafts, told a story, and generally made sure that the participants had something that they looked forward to.

Volunteers are always welcome; please contact Tanya Melbourne at TUC.

- Submitted by David Rawcliffe, Coordinator

1st Thornhill Scouting Program Sponsorship

Thornhill United Church sponsors a vibrant Scouting program that supports youth development through hands-on learning, outdoor experiences, leadership, and service. Beaver, Cub, and Scout sections meet regularly in the church auditorium and take part in activities that build practical skills, confidence, teamwork, and community responsibility.

- Beavers: This group is for youth aged 5 to 7 and consisted of 8 youth and 3 leaders. Beavers focused on creativity, cooperation, and early outdoor skills. Highlights included an all-sections camp at Lake St. George with canoeing and hiking, learning compass and map skills on hikes and scavenger hunts, preparing skits and songs for campfires, building and racing Beaver Buggies, sewing winter toques, rock-wall climbing, and learning about cold-weather safety. Beavers also participated in Apple Day, assisted at the Remembrance Day service with a pancake breakfast, and participated in the all-sections holiday potluck.
- Cubs: This group is for youth aged 8 to 10 and consisted of 29 youth and 7 leaders. Cubs developed life skills, teamwork, and community awareness. Activities included emergency first aid, building and racing Cub Kars, home repair skills, bike safety, winter and spring hiking, and wilderness survival at spring camp. Cubs also participated in musical theatre, museum

sleepovers, environmental learning, and Scouting Discovery Day. Service projects included yard cleanup around the church for Easter and assisting with World Scout Day worship and a pancake breakfast. Several Cubs earned major awards, including the Ian MacLeod Award (environment and leadership) and Seeonee Award (highest Cub award).

- Scouts: This group is for youth aged 11 to 14 and consisted of 24 youth and 7 leaders. Scouts focused on leadership and advanced outdoor skills. They attended a large camporee with 3,000 youth, competed in skill challenges, explored prehistoric caves at Warsaw Caves, and learned safe use of camping stoves and axes. Scouts also participated in the all-sections camp and continued to build confidence, resilience, and teamwork.

In summary, Scouting remains a meaningful part of Thornhill United Church, offering youth opportunities to grow as capable, caring, and responsible individuals. We are grateful for the congregation's ongoing support to make this program possible.

- Submitted by Daniel Van Tassel, Group Commissioner for 1st Thornhill Scouts

Celebrate Together Pillar

The Celebrate Together Pillar is responsible for promoting fellowship, belonging, and hospitality among new and established members, adherents, and visitors, through social gatherings and activities that embrace welcoming, inclusivity, and fun.

Village Groups

The responsibility of greeting worshippers and collecting the offering is shared by the five in-person Village Groups (VG) through a rolling roster moving thorough the months in numerical order with VG2 through VG6, worked well again. This rotation allowed for each group to cover different months than the previous year. VG leads were responsible for finding two people to volunteer as Sunday Greeters each week. An additional two people were either scheduled or asked on Sunday morning to assist with collecting the offering. VG1 is on Zoom, hence is not included in the rotation. Margaret Wilson, VG1 lead, greeted those who joined on Zoom each Sunday.

Tanya posted the VG Greeter Lists monthly on the bulletin board across from the north entrance.

Elizabeth acknowledged the need for more assistance to distribute and assign newcomers to a VG. It was identified that not all information was up to date. Cathy Farrant volunteered to assist and started verifying the data, while Elizabeth has been contacting individuals who have completed the newcomer forms to ensure that they wish to remain connected to TUC.

Village Group leads are as follows:

- VG1 - Margaret Wilson
- VG2 – Leslie Benson
- VG3 – Elizabeth Gartner and Joan Elliott
- VG4 – Madeline West
- VG5 – Terri Baker and Joan Honsberger
- VG6 – Rita Hafeman and Cathy Farrant

Co-leads are needed for VG1 (Zoom), VG2, and VG4. Please let Elizabeth know if you have any suggestions of people to approach to fill these vacancies.

- Submitted by Elizabeth Gartner, Coordinator

Intercultural Working Group (IWG)

Black Heritage Month began on February 2, featuring Black clergy and volunteers from across Canada, as well as the Union United Church in Montreal. Lucina Fraser and Persis Penfound prepared 13 poster boards which were displayed in the narthex each Sunday in February. Rev. Dr. Alydia Smith was our guest preacher on February 9. Special music based on spirituals was performed by Anita Crump (handbell tree soloist) and Jeff Whittington (bass guitar).

On Sunday, March 16 several TUC members attended the “Interfaith Iftar” (breaking of the fast dinner) at the Jaffari Community Centre in Richmond Hill.

Our theme in Asian Heritage Month (May) was “Ethno-culture in Parts of Asia”. We showed slides and short videos of pop music in Hong Kong, Japan, Korea and Bollywood. Ali Alidoosti (haegeum) and Claire Sin (piano) performed solos of Korean music. TUC members provided Asian snacks each Sunday.

We celebrated Indigenous Day of Prayer on Sunday, June 22. Rev. Mini Choi showed art from her indigenous friends in British Columbia.

On November 16 we celebrated our diverse heritages with a slide show of over 55 photos contributed to Joan Elliott by TUC members. Mahed and Mahdi Alem Manesh gave a short video presentation about their Persian heritage. After the service, 56 people enjoyed a pot-luck lunch of foods from many cultures.

The Intercultural Working Group continues to learn about our congregation becoming an Intercultural Church.

Members of the IWG include Leslie Benson, Ethel Briggs, Rev. Mini Choi, Joan Elliott, Lucina Fraser, and Persis Penfound.

- Submitted by Joan Elliott and Leslie Benson, Co-Chairs

Welcome & Affirming Working Group

This year Welcome & Affirming Working Group (WAWG) began working on our new responsibility for the church’s Accessibility Policy under the leadership of our member, Pan (Gordat) Mathews, as Accessibility Liaison. Prior to the church service on Mental Health Day in October, Pan showed a short video as a way of raising awareness to this important topic. In addition, they have been working on icons for the bulletin and e-blast which will make it easier for the deaf and also for anyone just learning English.

Our Welcome Hosts who serve at the Welcome Cart each Sunday continue to work to make all feel welcome, accepted and included in the life and work of TUC. They provide a friendly greeting to visitors and help newcomers navigate a new church experience. Many return. Welcome Hosts facilitate contact with the minister who also follows up with a warm welcome.

Support for those of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community consisted this year of special services and events important for that group. For P.I.E. Day in March, the congregation was welcomed, after the

special service, to slices of various different and delicious pies at Coffee and Conversation. In June we recognized the importance of Pride Sunday and also had four people from our congregation march in the York Pride Parade in Newmarket. This family-friendly parade is growing each year. We now march under the banner of “York Region United Churches” which includes Trinity United in Newmarket, Richmond Hill United, and St. Matthew’s United in Richmond Hill as well as TUC.

In October, we celebrated our third anniversary of becoming an Affirming Church. Rev. Olson preached a lovely sermon, reflecting our group members’ feelings as to why they believe it is important to them to be an Affirming Church. Afterward a rainbow cake was served with Coffee and Conversation.

The work of WAWG is expanding with our new responsibility for Accessibility Policy and a few of our members have, for very valid reasons, not been able to continue with the group. We invite anyone interested in this work to join WAWG and help with the various aspects, such as Welcome Hosts, events for Affirming support or Accessibility Policy.

Current members are Rev. Leigh Olson, Linda Mather, Jennifer Wilson, and Pan (Goordat) Mathews.

- Submitted by Heather Morris, Chair

Coffee and Conversation

Stephanie Bell continued to coordinate the volunteers for coffee and conversation. With the help of many hands, the team ensured we were welcomed into the Gathering Place after Sunday services with the smell of coffee (and tea) and treats each week. During the summer we shifted to having ‘Lemonade on The Lawn’, yet due to challenging weather conditions (too hot, too windy) it was more often served inside. New volunteers are always welcome to sign up to help make and serve these refreshments. Experienced people are available to orient you to this volunteer position, a valuable contribution to fellowship at TUC.

- Submitted by Stephanie Bell, Coordinator

TUC Together on Zoom

TUC Together on Zoom continued with sessions during the first half of the year. Margaret Wilson coordinated this Zoom gathering with guest speakers speaking on various topics related to TUC. 2025 included engaging presentations by Rev. Mini Choi about Christian art, Margaret about Shining Waters Council and being the Lay representative, and David Rawcliffe about Sunday School. The format included opening with a prayer, then a speaker, followed by time for questions and conversation.

TUC Together on Zoom has been on hold since the fall. Please stay tuned and we will let you know if this unique fellowship will resume or not in 2026.

- Submitted by Margaret Wilson and Elizabeth Gartner, Coordinators

Hobbyists Group

Our Woodcarvers group is seasonal in nature. Many of our carvers head south for 3 to 4 months in the late fall and winter. They come back and then the next group goes to the cottage. So our group fluctuates. In the fall, we invited people who just wanted to knit instead of working with wood. We welcome all hobbyists. Due to insurance issues, our group now reflects more of a woodcarvers

than woodworkers group. We have encouraged people to bring their craft projects to work on during our time slot of Tuesdays 1 to 3 pm. The group will now be known as the Hobbyists group. It is a congenial group that enjoys each other's company. Come join us. All levels invited.

- Submitted by Joan Honsberger, Coordinator

Winter Potluck

On Saturday February 8 we gathered for fun, food and fellowship with a pot luck dinner. The terrific variety of food offerings were provided by many excellent TUC cooks. Set-up and clean-up was managed efficiently with TUC and student volunteers helping out. Overall, a successful event.

- Submitted by Elizabeth Gartner, Coordinator

Winter Arrangement Workshop

This year our theme was "It's Snowing Cats and Dogs". We had 29 participants and in addition, four extra arrangements were made by Sandra, head florist at Toronto Florist.

It was a mix of returning participants and new ones. It has become a lovely group that incorporates many family groups like mother-daughter or mother-in-law – daughter-in-law and even a grandchild.

Christmas music blares. Tacky Christmas gear is worn and some treats are eaten. All in all, it is a fun atmosphere and wonderful arrangements are made. A donation of over \$1,600 was made to the church from this event. See you next year if you sign up quickly!

- Submitted by Joan Honsberger, Coordinator

Thornhill Ministerial Lenten Ecumenical Series

Thornhill churches have been meeting during Lent for over 50 years. A minister from one church will preach in another church. Joan Honsberger is the TUC member on the committee. There are also members from Thornhill Presbyterian, Holy Trinity Anglican, St. Luke's Catholic, and Thornhill Baptist churches, with Rev. Paul Gibbon from Thornhill Baptist Church as the head of the committee.

There were three ecumenical services in 2025; the finale was at St. Luke's Catholic Church with Rev. Mini Choi preaching, along with a massed choir consisting of individuals from all the churches. It is a meaningful way for our community of Thornhill to come together to celebrate Lent.

The proceeds from the services are divided between Blue Door and Hospice Thornhill.

- Submitted by Joan Honsberger, TUC Representative

Assets & Administration Pillar

Under the governance structure implemented in 2021, this Pillar includes financial, administrative, and property functions. The Pillar is co-chaired by Linda and Lloyd Mather. This report will cover the make-up and work of the sub-committees.

Property

The Building Care & Use Committee is responsible for the ongoing upkeep of the facilities we are entrusted with. The committee members include David Argue (Chair), Doug Alder, Tanya Melbourne (TUC Administrator,) and Brian Jackson (Envelope Steward and Insurance). Edi Naserinejad has helped with general maintenance.

During 2025 the following significant events occurred:

- The TUC Community Garden at the east end of the parking lot went through its 13th year. It was a very successful season, thanks to the fine co-ordination by Nobue Khan.
- Miscellaneous maintenance aspects (HVAC repairs, lighting installations, thermostats checked, parking lot patched, pest management, eavestrough) were accomplished.
- Painting of the interior of the church started with the ministers' offices, Gathering Place, Upper Room, and the hallway outside of the ministers' offices was completed. Part of the library and Tanya's office have been painted.
- Dream Tree Montessori School placed new vinyl tiles and upgraded the countertops in the downstairs washrooms that they use. This has been a major improvement in the appearance within the washrooms. This was done at their expense.



- Two of our air conditioners failed during the first hottest week of summer. Both units were repaired including replacement of one of the compressors.

- New subdrain/weeper and sump pump was put in along the north wall of the auditorium to address water coming into the auditorium. The stairs at the auditorium exit were rebuilt. Window wells and final grading will occur in the spring of 2026.



- Based upon a tour of our property, York Region Police prepared a Safety Review report for TUC. The report has been received with a few recommendations. A security task force has been set up to review the recommendations and will report back in 2026 about priorities. Thank you to Hilary Jacob, Graeme Jannaway, Ethel Briggs, Sandra Weir and David Argue, who have volunteered to undertake the review.
- Dream Tree Montessori School undertook to rebuild the steps at the front that provide access to their entrance. This was undertaken at their expense and improves the safety of using the steps.



- The City of Markham replaced the sidewalk and curb and gutter at the driveways to the church, which has resulted in a smoother entrance and exit from the parking lot.
- For 2026 we are planning the following:
 - Completing the window wells and grading along the north side of the auditorium,
 - Continued painting of the interior, and
 - Ongoing facilities maintenance.

Thanks to the committee members this year for all that they accomplished.

Special thanks to: Doug Alder for all the maintenance tasks (too many to list) he undertakes for the church, Diane McLeod and Lucina Fraser for their efforts to keep the gardens looking beautiful, Tanya Melbourne for managing the users of our space, and the outside service providers that keep the church running (e.g. elevator, furnace, fire protection, cleaning service among others). Their work helps us to present a welcoming appearance to the community,

Financial

Renters

The Tree of Life Presbyterian Church has renewed their agreement to use the Sanctuary on Sunday afternoons, as well as Friday evenings.

The Dream Tree Montessori School completed its second full year of operations. As identified above, they rebuilt the steps along the front of the church and made improvements to the downstairs washrooms at their expense.

Pedalheads rented the parking lot and auditorium space during the summer months. Opera York has been renting the auditorium for rehearsal space for several sessions during the year. Two yoga instructors have been offering classes in the church.

Stewardship

Members include Lyle Urquhart (Treasurer), Brian Jackson (Envelope Steward and Insurance liaison), Duane Nelson, David Fickel, Margaret Wilson, and Lloyd Mather. Cathy Farrant, Bob Fukunaga, Tricia Irons, Lana Steenkamp, and Jennifer Copeland are our counters.

This sub-committee promotes Christian Stewardship of finance and resources through regular givings, as well as fundraising. In 2025 the committee received another unique offer of a fundraising initiative involving dining out in the area at different styles of restaurants. Over \$5,000 was raised through this program and it will be continued in 2026.

Many thanks to several members who independently organized fund-raisers that helped to make up for the lack of a Countrye Faire that was not held in 2025. Many thanks to Jeff Knowles for his years of leadership of the Countrye Faire. Thank you to Catherine Stuart and Ann-Louise Ross who organized a yard sale on Labour Day weekend, Hilary Jacob and Carolyn Jackson for their bake sale on October 11 and Joan Honsberger for the Winter Arrangement workshop.

Trustees

Trustees are Bob Hill, (Chair), Marion Clark, Kathy Camelon, and Manny deSousa.

The Trustees' report is separate from this pillar report. They are included in the pillar make-up because of their responsibilities for church assets. They are consulted and requested for approval of

issues relating to our land and building. The Trustees are our signatories on the agreements with Tree of Life Presbyterian Church and Dream Tree Montessori School.

Treasurer

The Treasurer, Lyle Urquhart, is included in this pillar as a key member. His report appears along with the financial statements.

Miscellaneous Responsibilities

Technology

Members include Duane Nelson, Graeme Jannaway, Lyle Urquhart and Jeff Whittington, and volunteers Mahed Alem Manesh and Mahdi Alem Manesh.

We continue to enjoy working with this fine team of dedicated volunteers and staff in our roles of Co-Chairs of Assets & Administration. We believe that the new structure continues to meet the objectives of speeding up communications and reducing the time spent in meetings.

- Submitted by Linda and Lloyd Mather, Co-Chairs of Assets & Administration Pillar

Ministry & Personnel Report

2025 was a year of transition for the M&P Committee. Hilary Jacob and Darlene Macartney concluded their work as committee members early in the year, when the 2024 performance review process was completed. Michael Hafeman carried on with handling our responsibilities and was very pleased to be joined by Kate Dewhurst in October. We work collaboratively, without a Chair, sharing the task of representing the M&P Committee at Council. Efforts continue to recruit additional members.

Responsibilities

- Be available for consultation and support for matters involving the staff.
- Oversee the relationship of the staff to each other and to people in the congregation.
- Regularly review the working conditions, responsibilities, and compensation of all staff.
- Make any recommendations needed as a result of these reviews to Council.
- Revise position descriptions of staff as needed.
- Conduct annual performance reviews of the staff.
- Ensure staff make use of opportunities for continuing education that they have been given.
- Maintain close contact with the Shining Waters Communities of Faith and Pastoral Relations Minister.

M&P's Activities in 2025

M&P has continued to focus on strengthening communications and working relationships within the staff team. This included participating in meetings with our ministers and the Office of Vocation Minister and a communications workshop for the staff team, which was led by Hilary Jacob. We also participated in M&P training sessions organized by Shining Waters Regional Council to augment our skills and knowledge.

Little work was needed on TUC policies, which were comprehensively updated in 2024. However, the Funds and Investments Policy was amended to reflect the discontinuance of the Capital Fund. All

policies are available on the TUC website, along with the UCC policies on which many of them are based.

Council decided to discontinue the Salesforce project, so the Realm system will continue to be used by staff and volunteers to help organize the work of the church and communicate with the congregation.

We also held periodic meetings with staff members, completed the updating of the Church Administrator's position description, and communicated with staff and Council on a wide range of issues. This included developing and monitoring the completion of an action plan related to the transition of our ministerial team at the end of the year.

Ministerial Staff

- Our ministers continued to focus on optimizing communication and teamwork, while building their capabilities through continuing education.
- Rev. Leigh Olson continued her role as Coordinating Minister. She took a sabbatical in the summer and shared her learnings through a presentation to the congregation.
- Rev. Mini Choi served as Christian Development Minister and took the lead in covering ministerial duties during Leigh's sabbatical. Mini resigned effective the end of 2025 to accept another call.

Lay Staff

- It was another successful year for our committed and dedicated Director of Music, Ethel Briggs. Her input from a musical perspective is a most valuable contribution to the overall wellbeing of TUC.
- Tanya Melbourne plays a valuable role in coordinating TUC activities as our Office Administrator. This is a very busy and demanding position given the breadth of her responsibilities, which include overseeing church service preparation, special meetings and activities, parking lot and building use renters, as well as overall care of the building.

A huge thanks to our ministers and staff for their efforts and commitment to TUC!

- Submitted by Mike Hafeman, M&P Representative

Thornhill United Church
Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting
Held on Sunday, March 2, 2025

1. Welcome and Review of Agenda

The meeting opened at 11:29 a.m. with a welcome from Chair of Council Duane Nelson, who then reviewed the agenda for the meeting.

2. Opening Prayer and Remembrances

Rev. Leigh Olson led an opening prayer and a time of remembrance for those members of the congregation who passed away in 2024.

3. Land Acknowledgement and Congregational Covenant

Rev. Mini Choi led the congregation in an acknowledgement of the land and in a recitation of our congregational covenant.

4. Call to Order and Review of Voting Procedures

Duane Nelson called the meeting to order, and reviewed the voting procedures in place for this hybrid meeting, which had members attending in person and via Zoom. The ministers (who are members of Shining Waters Region and not of Thornhill United Church) will be deemed to abstain from all congregational votes and will not be counted in any abstentions below.

5. Appointment of Chairperson and Secretary

On a motion duly made by Duane Nelson and seconded by Elizabeth Gartner, it was

RESOLVED that Diane McLeod and Cathy Farrant be elected as Chair and Secretary, respectively, for the meeting.

The motion CARRIED unanimously.

6. Extending Voting Privileges

On a motion duly made by Joan Honsberger and seconded by Pat Fukunaga, it was

RESOLVED that adherents who contribute regularly to the support of Thornhill United Church be entitled to vote on temporal matters that come before the meeting, and are entitled to enter into any and all discussions.

The motion CARRIED unanimously.

7. Approval of Minutes

On a motion duly made by Manny deSousa and seconded by Lana Steenkamp, it was

RESOLVED that, as the minutes had been distributed to the Congregation in the Annual Report, the reading of the minutes be deemed unnecessary and the minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting of March 3, 2024, be approved as a correct record.

The motion CARRIED unanimously.

On a motion duly made by Lloyd Mather and seconded by David Rawcliffe, it was

RESOLVED that, as the minutes had been distributed to the Congregation in the Annual Report, the reading of the minutes be deemed unnecessary and the minutes of the Congregational Meeting of April 28, 2024, be approved as a correct record.

The motion CARRIED unanimously.

8. Nominations and Review of Appointments

Duane Nelson thanked Council members, committee members, and Trustees for their commitment. He then described the main duties of the vacant Chair of Ministry & Personnel and Vice-Chair of Council positions, and asked for nominations for that position, but there were none.

To summarize, the members of the Executive Council for 2025 are:

- Chair of Council: Duane Nelson
- Vice-Chair of Council: Vacant
- Treasurer: Lyle Urquhart
- Secretary: Cathy Farrant

The following persons will serve in the specified positions for 2025:

- Chair of Celebrate Spirituality Pillar: David Fickel
- Chair of Celebrate Caring Pillar: Lisa Fickel
- Chair of Celebrate Together Pillar: Elizabeth Gartner
- Co-Chairs of Assets and Administration Pillar: Lloyd Mather and Linda Mather
- Chair of Ministry and Personnel: Vacant
- Regional Representative: Margaret Wilson

The following persons will serve as members of the Board of Trustees for 2024:

- Bob Hill (Chair)
- Kathy Camelon
- Marion Clark
- Manny deSousa

As per our constitution, Trustees will be called upon as needed by Council.

As ministers, Rev. Leigh Olson and Rev. Mini Choi are necessary members of both the Thornhill United Church Council and the Board of Trustees.

9. Financial Report

Lyle Urquhart presented the 2024 financial results. He advised that while the Church's official financial statements for 2024 are included in the Annual Report, his objective today is to drill deeper into the numbers to provide a clearer picture of what the church did with the congregation's money.

Lyle first provided a brief review of all funds other than the General Fund:

- The Visionary Fund received donations of \$3.0K.
- Capital Fund expenditures of \$57.2K were comprised of completion of the water infiltration system along the east wall of the building plus complete painting of the exterior of the church.
- All outstanding balances in the Mission & Service Fund and the Healing Fund were sent to the United Church of Canada head office in January 2025.
- The Club Handi Fund has been renamed the Friendship Club Fund.
- The Hot Dog Lunch fund was created in 2024; receipts were \$2.4K while expenditures were \$1.6K, leaving a balance of \$0.8K.
- For the Christmas Assistance Program, receipts from participating churches plus members, businesses, and individuals in the community not affiliated with any church totaled \$31.9K. Expenditures of \$30.0K were primarily purchases of gift cards which were distributed to needy families in the community.
- Activities related to the Out of the Cold Program were suspended in 2020 at the onset of COVID-19. There has been no activity since, and there will likely not be going forward. David Rawcliffe made a recommendation to Council in February 2025 that the balance of \$26.3K be donated to the York Region Food Bank. Council agreed with the recommendation. David is now awaiting approval from the other participating churches.
- For the Youth Group, expenses of \$0.5K were to cover materials for the creation of greeting cards. Proceeds of \$390 were not received until the latter part of January 2025 when the books for 2024 had already been closed.

Lyle then reviewed the General Fund. He compared 2024 actual results with 2023 actual results and with the 2024 budget:

- Givings for 2024 were \$269.4K, only \$0.6K less than budget.

- Use of Space receipts exceeded budget by \$9.2K due to an increase in parking fees (for new parkers only) plus a number of unexpected occasional users renting space in the church.
- Lyle also presented a slide summarizing all fundraising initiatives throughout the year. Fundraising initiatives of \$32.5K far exceeded the budgeted amount of \$6.7K due primarily to the incredible success of the Hymn-A-Thon, which generated \$18.6K in proceeds for the church. He expressed thanks to all who participated in our various fundraising initiatives.
- All other income exceeded budget by \$2.2K. Components of this are Donations, Loose, Interest Income, Weddings, and Memorial Garden Fees.
- Salaries & Benefits costs were \$1.4K over budget due to the unexpected use of casual labour.
- Building Care and Use costs were \$0.3K less than budget. Lyle noted that 2024 was the first time in recent years that the church did not incur any surprise maintenance and repair expenditures.
- He then produced a slide providing more detail of the BCU expenditures:
 - Costs for cleaning exceeded budget by \$2.2K. Our cleaning contractors started in 2016 and had not received any increase since, so an increase was approved in the fall of 2024.
 - Costs for office supplies exceeded budget by \$2.2K. This was due to purchases of stationary which will extend over the next two years or so.
 - Insurance costs exceeded budget by \$2.2K. This is misleading because in 2024 the church received a \$2.5K rebate of insurance premiums paid in 2023.
 - Elevator costs exceeded budget by \$0.8K due to unplanned repair costs incurred in the spring of 2024.

As in prior years, Lyle acknowledged the support our church receives from David Argue, Doug Alder, and Bob Shortreed of the Building Care & Use committee. Every year, they undertake a wide variety of repairs in the church. While we reimburse them for the materials needed for these repairs, they do not charge us for the time they spend. Without their knowledge and skill sets, our annual maintenance costs would be considerably higher.

There were no questions about the 2024 financial report.

On a motion duly made by Lyle Urquhart and seconded by Ian McLeod, it was

RESOLVED that the 2024 Financial Statements be accepted.

The motion CARRIED unanimously.

Subsequently, on a motion duly made by Lyle Urquhart and seconded by Mike Hafeman, it was

RESOLVED that Cappit Solutions Professional Corporation be appointed to conduct the 2025 Review Engagement.

The motion CARRIED unanimously.

10. Proposed Budget

Lyle Urquhart presented the proposed budget for the General Fund for 2025, noting the following:

- Givings are targeted at \$283K, which is a 5% increase from 2024. The primary reason for this increase is that with the success of the Hymn-A-Thon in 2024, Council felt that with no major fundraising initiatives planned for 2025 the congregation could absorb this increase in Givings.
- Projected Fundraising revenues of \$11K represent a significant drop from 2024 since no Hymn-A-Thon or similar event will occur in 2025. Lyle also noted that the budget includes \$5K for the Countrye Faire despite the fact a coordinator has yet to be identified.
- With the significant market interest rate decreases in 2024, we are expecting interest income of \$11.3K, which is a decrease from \$18.7K in 2024.
- Donations, Weddings, and Loose are difficult to predict at the best of times, so they have been set at levels that are consistent with 2023 and 2024 actual amounts.
- With respect to Salaries, Benefits & Ministers' Expenses, Lyle advised that each year UCC Head Office sends out recommended percentage increases for staff and that TUC generally follows these recommendations.
- Building Care & Use costs are expected to increase significantly in 2025:
 - As noted earlier, our cleaners were given a pay increase in September of 2024 and this will carry forward into 2025.
 - Lawn maintenance fees will increase since Bob Campolin and Ian McLeod (who looked after mowing our lawns for the last number of years) are stepping down. Ian did not charge for his time, and Bob was paid a small stipend to cover commuting costs plus gas and maintenance of his mowers. We now need to source a third party to do this, and it is expected to cost us approximately \$10K.

That leaves a projected deficit of \$35.1K. Council is proposing to cover this shortfall by a transfer of \$35.1K from the Visionary Fund. Lyle advised that a policy governing the management of the Visionary Fund was developed in 2024 and approved by Council. The policy included guidelines to avoid overreliance on the Visionary Fund and Lyle indicated that the proposed transfer of \$35.1K is well within the guidelines.

There were no questions about the budget.

Subsequent to the above discussions, on a motion duly made by Lyle Urquhart and seconded by Joan Honsberger, it was

RESOLVED that the 2025 General Fund budget be accepted.

The motion CARRIED unanimously.

11. Receipt of Annual Report

The 2024 Annual Report was tabled.

On a motion duly made by David Rawcliffe and seconded by Lyle Urquhart, it was

RESOLVED that the 2024 Annual Report be received as a record of the year 2024.

The motion CARRIED unanimously.

12. Congregational Goals

Duane Nelson provided an update on our 2024 congregational goals, highlighting some of our most significant achievements:

1. Increased givings by congregants along with better-than-expected fundraising helped us finish 2024 with a surplus.
2. We saw an increase in volunteerism, although more volunteers are still needed.
3. Hosting numerous gathering activities like the Intercultural potluck lunch, pancake supper, Newcomers' Lunch, The Well, and TUC Free Hotdog Tuesdays.
4. Updating of our church policies.

Duane also updated the congregation on our goals for 2025:

1. Build stronger congregational and community relationships by welcoming all warmly, and by working towards formally becoming an intercultural church.
2. Celebrate spirituality by growing as a congregation through training prospective lay leaders to build leadership.
3. Care with compassion in our living and our giving.
4. Ensure our viability into the future through encouraging good financial stewardship and bequests, and running innovative fundraising campaigns.

Congregants had the following questions and comments:

1. A question was asked about whether 2SLGBTQIA+ needs will be taken into consideration as part of the process of formally becoming an intercultural church. Rev. Mini Choi confirmed that the inclusion of 2SLGBTQIA+ needs will be an integral part of the church's ongoing vision and commitment to becoming an intercultural church, and highlighted that an intercultural church embraces diversity in all its forms, including 2SLGBTQIA+ identities.
2. A question was raised about the decision not to proceed with the Salesforce CRM software. Duane clarified that we have reverted back to Realm (the previous software) and this was done with no additional costs incurred.
3. Some suggestions were made from one of our newer congregants about possible fundraisers, such as a gala or a dance or a sporting event (such as a golf day). Duane acknowledged that he will bring these suggestions forward at the next meeting of the stewardship team.

13. New Business

There was no new business.

14. Closing

The Annual Congregational Meeting closed at 12:25 p.m. with a prayer by Rev. Mini Choi. There were 66 people in attendance (54 in person and 12 via Zoom) for the duration of the meeting.

Chair of the meeting

Secretary of the meeting

TUC 2025 Congregational Goals and Accomplishments

2025 saw a mix of successes and changes that presented obstacles to meeting all goals. Reflections are offered below, grouped together if they answer more than one goal.

Goal 1: Build stronger congregational and community relationships by welcoming all warmly, and by working towards formally becoming an intercultural church. By doing this, we will deepen our connections with each other and achieve greater engagement.

- a. Attend workshops by the General Council Office on becoming an intercultural church
- b. Work through the discernment process to determine our readiness for becoming an intercultural church.

There was some footwork for this by Rev. Mini Choi, who picked up the investigation from past work by Rev. Irene Ty. There is also a strong dependency on materials not yet provided by the United Church of Canada. As such, we expect this process to be ongoing, making it a multi-year initiative.

- c. Encourage interactions between members of the congregation who don't know each other.
- d. Involve the community in various activities and programs, such as The Well, TUC Free Hot Dog Tuesday, and intercultural gatherings.

New and old members intermingled at TUC-specific events such as our newer Dine-about Thornhill meal events and a fun baby shower, as well as participated in community-oriented programs such as The Well and TUC Free Hot Dog Tuesdays. These events proved quite popular and are planned to continue, some under new leadership following Mini's departure.

Goal 2: Celebrate spirituality by growing as a congregation through training prospective lay leaders to build leadership.

- a. Determine, understand, and utilize the interests and skills of our congregants to foster connections and increase engagement.
- b. Create opportunities for congregants to lead worship, prayers, and outreach projects, empowering them to share their gifts.
- c. Encourage leadership diversification by inviting newcomers to join our various committees.

There continued to be many opportunities for members to participate in worship services and beyond. We welcomed new members to our Tech Team, Intercultural Working Group, M&P, and Sunday School leadership in 2025, and continued adding a few in early 2026. We plan to offer more opportunities for growth as reflected in this years' goals.

Goal 3: Care with compassion in our living and our giving.

- a. Establish a benevolent fund and/or an emergency food bank to help others in times of need.

This goal was parked in favour of supporting higher priority local food bank needs. It is revisited in the 2026 goals. Additionally, with the closing of the Out of the Cold Fund, \$21,163 was donated to the Richmond Hill Food Bank.

- b. Connect with congregants to understand their needs, and to help them obtain the resources they need.

Initiatives such as The Well, the Christmas Assistance Program, Newcomers' Lunch, and the Friendship Club were forums for offering services and resources to our congregation and the broader community.

- c. Provide support through our pastoral care team and caring team for individuals going through difficult times.

Our tireless pastoral care team provided visitations and calls to those in need. Glynnwood services continue to be popular, and our Zoom services are well attended.

Goal 4: Ensure our viability into the future through encouraging good financial stewardship and bequests, and running innovative fundraising campaigns.

- a. Participate in stewardship training and offer stewardship education to the congregation.

A stewardship training session was attended in early 2025, after which the Stewardship team turned attention to fundraising to capitalize on a unique opportunity with Dine-about Thornhill initiative as a potential replacement of Countrye Faire. Thus, the congregational education was postponed, and is reflected in our 2026 goals.

- b. Conduct a planned givings and bequests session to encourage members to consider TUC in their wills.

Unfortunately, we did not meet this goal, as there were competing priorities. It will roll over as a consideration in the fourth 2026 goal, as the Stewardship team spends less time focusing on fundraising in favour of stewardship.

- c. Launch project-driven fundraising, using a thermometer to help track progress against specific costs.

Due to the success of other fundraising activities, no specific projects were considered in 2025. Project-driven fundraising will continue to be opportunistic, as reflected in 2026 goals.

TUC 2026 Congregational Goals

Goal 1: Sustain and Strengthen Our Ministry for the Future

Theme: Leadership, staffing, care for staff, and succession planning

Primary owners: Ministry & Personnel, Assets & Administration

“The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.” — Luke 10:2

Objectives:

- Ensure **sustainable support for our current minister**, including preaching assistance, youth support, and realistic workload boundaries.
- Implement **temporary ministry solutions** in early 2026 (lay preaching, student or volunteer youth leadership) while assessing longer-term needs.
- Develop a **clear staffing and succession plan** for late 2026 and beyond, recognizing the multi-year timeline for recruiting ordained leadership, potential need for a formal search process and job description change as clarity emerges.
- Foster a culture of **respect, gratitude, and accountability** in staff relationships, following agreed-upon processes when concerns arise.

Goal 2: Grow as a Welcoming, Intercultural, and Connected Community

Theme: Belonging, celebration, hospitality, and intercultural identity

Primary owners: Celebrate Together, Intercultural Working Group, Welcome and Affirming Working Group, Village Groups

“I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you...” — John 13:34–35

Objectives:

- Continue the journey toward becoming a **formally recognized Intercultural Church**, building on past years’ discernment and learning.
- Strengthen **relational connections** through quarterly gatherings centered on food, storytelling, and shared activities.
- Sustain successful community-facing initiatives such as **TUC Free Hot Dog Tuesdays** and **The Well** under new leadership.
- Celebrate diversity through **intercultural worship, meals, and shared leadership**, including Intercultural Sunday.
- Encourage participation across generations and backgrounds, reducing isolation and deepening congregational engagement.

Goal 3: Live Out Compassion Through Care, Service, and Pastoral Presence

Theme: Caring ministries, volunteerism, and community response

Primary owners: Celebrate Caring, Pastoral Care Team

"I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink..." — Matthew 25:35–36

Objectives:

- Maintain and expand **existing caring ministries**, ensuring no one is overlooked.
- Establish an **Emergency Food Cupboard** to respond to immediate local needs.
- Organize at least one **seasonal drive** supporting a local charity such as Yellow Brick House.
- Strengthen and expand **Pastoral Care and volunteer teams**, addressing the growing need for trained, supported caregivers.
- Foster a culture where **acts of compassion are shared, encouraged, and sustained**, not carried by a few.

Goal 4: Practice Faithful Stewardship of Gifts, Finances, and Facilities

Theme: Stewardship, sustainability, transparency, and readiness

Primary owners: Assets & Administration, Treasurer, Trustees, Stewardship

"Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much." — Luke 16:10

Objectives:

- Encourage **faithful, informed stewardship** by helping congregants understand how their gifts support ministry, mission, and long-term sustainability.
- Maintain **responsible financial oversight and planning**, including budgeting, reserves, and transparency in reporting.
- Deliver **stewardship education and communication**, including the introduction of regular "Minutes for Stewardship" that connect faith, finances, and shared responsibility.
- Complete **priority building and grounds projects** (painting, grading, window wells) to preserve and enhance shared assets.
- Appoint and support **at least two new Trustees** to strengthen oversight and continuity.
- In addition to preserving successful fundraising initiatives, consider **opportunistic, project-based fundraising** when specific needs arise, ensuring any such efforts are clearly scoped, time-bound, and purpose-driven.