

Laidlaw Memorial United Church

Hamilton, Ontario, Canada

2025 Annual Report

Celebrating our 113th Year



**Our Mission: With respect, cooperation and joy,
through acts of love that build each other up,
we seek to share the light of Christ
as a Beacon from our corner in East Hamilton**



2025 Annual Report
Laidlaw Memorial United Church

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In Memoriam 2025

'Bob' Robert Williamson Fyfe

Died January 7, 2025, Aged 90 Years

Ethel Isobel Cook, Née Enderwick

Died January 10, 2025, Aged 97 Years

Darlene Ann Mather, Née Graves

Died January 22, 2025, Aged 64 Years

David Stewart Bell

Died January 28, 2025, Aged 81 Years

George Henry Pare

Died February 11, 2025, Aged 69 Years

Cynthia 'Cindy' Jean Charles

Died February 22, 2025, Aged 55 Years

Joanne Nicole Tamosiunas

Died February 23, 2025, Aged 46 Years

Mary Jean Myke, Née Montour

Died February 27, 2025, Aged 95 Years

Penelope Elizabeth Moses, Née Bates

Died March 3, 2025, Aged 84 Years

Ralph Victor Kenny

Died March 31, 2025, Aged 75 years

Stephen Randall 'Randy' Turner

Died April 5, 2025, Aged 66 Years

Guenter Berhard Klonikowski

Died April 7, 2025, Aged 85 Years

"Barb" Dorothy Barbara Prendergast, née Turner

Died April 17, 2025, Aged 99 Years

Edward Rumpel

Died April 5, 2025, Aged 95 years

Heather Luanne Blazek, Née Shorten

Died September 29, 2024, Aged 64 Years

Sylvia Marie Parry, Née Woodworth

Died May 17, 2025, Aged 63 Years

Beverly Jane Acciaroli, Née Harasen

Died June 16, 2025, Aged 83 Years

Brian David Barlow

Died June 16, 2025, Aged 66 Years

Terrance 'Rick' Pollington

Died June 20, 2025, Aged 73 years

Victor 'Vic' Morgan Stanley

Died June 20, 2025, Aged 90 Years

Ann Rhonda Peters

Died November 30, 2024, Aged 56 Years



Mindy Marilyn Homes

Died July 12, 2025, Aged 43 Years

Melvin Lenmuel Bonnar

Died October 27, 2020, Aged 74 Years

Carol Catherine Bonnar, Née Harrington

Died July 15, 2025, Aged 80 Years

Michael Allan Laufman

Died August 5, 2025, Aged 71 Years

Joseph Rolland 'Marc' Thivierge

Died July 12, 2025, Aged 58 Years

Trinity Lisa Hope Fitzsimmons (Massi)

Died August 2, 2025, Aged 5 years

Maria Josefa Mota Gonzolez (Ramirez)

Died August 11, 2025, Aged 77 Years

Brenda Lee Wood, Née Goddard

Died August 15, 2025, Aged 60 Years

Mara Pavlica, née Vukelic

Died August 26, 2025, Aged 98 Years

Lorna Marie Perrins, née Clarke

Died August 29, 2025, Aged 87 Years

Roxanne Nicole Mahony, Née Franklyn

Died August 29, 2025, Aged 49 Years

Clarence Hughie Deveau

Died August 18, 2025, Aged 65 Years

Marlene Francis Sandwell, née Smith

Died February 1, 2022, Aged 84 Years

Dennis Walter Bailey

Died August 2, 2025, Aged 78 Years

David Brian Osterback

Died September 27, 2025, Aged 73 Years

Suzanne Ida "Sue" Maye

Died September 30, 2025, Aged 64 Years

James 'Jim' Stanley Wood

Died October 12, 2025, Aged 92 Years

Beverly Kathleen Double

Died October 27, 2025, Aged 88 Years

Ronald Roy Hansen

Died November 10, 2025, Aged 80 Years

Engelinus 'Edward' 'Ed' Douwe Van Minnen

Died: October 2, 2025, Aged 79 Years

Todd Shaun Allen

Died: December 13, 2025, Aged 46 Years

Jodi Kathleen Zimmerman, Née Chontos

Died December 16, 2025, Aged 52 Years



Minutes of Annual Meeting 2025

Sunday, March 2nd, 2025

Executive Members Present: Rev. Douglas Moore (Minister), Alan Finlay (Chair), Ben Moore (Recording Secretary), David Crown (Finance and Property), Andrew Walker, (Christian Development), Matthew Saunders (Worship), Kathi Austin (Outreach), Carol Courtney (UCW President)

Total Members Present: 25 members and adherents present.

Opening: Alan Finlay (Chair) calls the meeting to order and welcomes everyone at 12:53pm.; Rev. Doug opens the meeting with prayer.

Moment of Silence: A moment of silence is observed in memory of members and adherents who passed away this year.

Approval of the Minutes: Moved by: Kathi Austin. Seconded by: Matthew Saunders. All in favour, CARRIED.

Church Council Chair's Report: As written. The Chair gave members a moment to look at his report (pg. 5) and to ask any questions.

Finance and Envelope Secretary's Report (pg. 6): As written. The Chair gave members a moment to look at the report and to ask any questions. Motion to thank Keith Greeniaus for taking on the role of Envelope Secretary from 2020-present, and to thank George Redburn for taking on the role of Envelope Secretary moving forward, as well as for his annual auditing of the bookkeeping. Moved by: David Crown. Seconded by Peter Banting. All in favour, CARRIED.

Finance Report : We had a surplus over expenses. The deficit has dropped from \$7100 to \$2500. Expenses were what we were hoping they would be. In some places, we spent more than budgeted. This was in terms of improvements to the building, and these donations often came in as Gift in Kind. There was a lot of generosity from a lot of different people to make it work. We have another year to go with full-time expenses.

Rev. Doug turns 65 this year and begins to receive other pensions. Rev. Doug is thinking of going to work part-time at the end of this year, which would reduce the expenses. If Rev. Doug were to retire from Laidlaw and take his United Church Pension, he would have to sever the relationship with Laidlaw, which he is not inclined to do at this time. At 71, they must give him his pension, whether he working or not. It makes more sense for Rev. Doug to go part-time, as this would allow him to continue working at Laidlaw and maintain the relationship with the congregation, but also dramatically reduce the expenses.

Total Fundraising: \$29,359.00. Our fundraising was up by about \$1000. We have made some adjustments to the price of Penny Sale Tickets, Bingo Ticket Prices, and Food Table, which should also make the fundraising go up.

We are also getting more miscellaneous rentals, particularly from movie crews. Some of the groups that use the building regularly have been encouraged to increase the amount that they are paying.

The budget looks like it's been increased substantially, but it looks bigger because we've received a grant from the Hamilton Presbytery Mission Council in the amount of \$28,000.00. Utilities: budgeted \$7200, spent \$5027. Work has been done to fix the flappers on the toilets to save water.

Motion to Approve the Financial Report. Moved by Peter Banting. Seconded by Barb Hebert. All in favour, CARRIED.

Chair of Trustees Report (pg. 9) - Rev. Doug Moore. The Accessible Entrance is now complete. The maintenance now costs about \$1000 per year. Some work on washrooms to make them more accessible is necessary. We also need to replace some of the exterior doors to make them more wheelchair friendly. Last year, we received a \$7500 Anti-Hate grant in order to update the cameras and door entry in the parking lot. We received more money from the Anti-Hate grant again this year in order to complete the camera work. Due to the gardens, we are going to put in more cameras so that we can see what's going on all around us.

GreenVenture is coming on April 27th to celebrate the garden and do some replanting. We will have cameras looking at the gardens, so that you can log in from the website and see how the gardens are doing at Laidlaw. The more people we have who are watching what's going around outside the church, the safer we are. The police also have access to our cameras because they will often use them to observe what's going on around Ottawa Street. It allows them to monitor more closely what was going on.

The Hood over the parking lot door: Given all the ice this year, the hood over the parking lot door is a great improvement.

364 Subscribers on YouTube (we continue to grow).

We have managed not to have an operating deficit and have even cut into some of the deficit. Other than that, we are broke. We have nothing in reserves or endowments. This year, we are at an \$2343 operating deficit. This is the money in the Memorial Fund or other funds, which is essentially being borrowed. The Memorial Fund. Some of the security went over budget due to the break in. We bought hoses, etc., for the garden. We bought a debit machine out of Memorial Funds.

The Benevolent Fund has done outreach. Roof Mortgage sits at \$80,500.00. The \$8,000.00 we received from the Mission Council in order to update the Electrical Panels. The Loan is now \$82,000.00. We have \$11,031.27 (all assets). In the Bank Account is about \$7700.00. We will have to run this way for about another year, and then the Finances will be easier to run. We've had a full-time Minister for 21 years and counting. The building is also in the best shape that it's ever been. Many congregations face what's called "Deferred Maintenance." Something major will happen and then there isn't any money to address the issue. The \$28,000.00 in addition to creating a space for musicians and performances, will also update the windows and electrical upstairs. Open Mic Event: we're receiving feedback from musicians that we have a lovely space here for performing.

Removed Trustees: Keith Greeniaus. New Trustees: Barb Hebert, Carol Courtney, Kathi Austin, David Crown. Remaining Trustees: Shirley Bowers, Hinson MacMillan, Don Wood.

Motion to Accept the Balance Sheet and the Trustee's Report : Moved by: Carol Courtney. Seconded by: Wilson Rogers. All in favour, CARRIED.

Christian Development Report: As written. Moved by: Merrily Ferguson. Seconded by: Wilson Rogers, All in favour, CARRIED.

Outreach: Kathi Austin thanked everyone for their help throughout the years and reminded members that we have another Penny Sale coming up on May 31st. Moved by: Wilson Rogers. Seconded by: Dan Levinson. All in favour, CARRIED.

Worship and Pastoral Care: As written. *Question: Is there a plan to contact families who are having baptisms to encourage them to begin attending church?* Answer from Rev. Doug: we used to have a heavy-handed approach. We required attendance for 4 Sundays. That this did not encourage attendance at church. We have also stopped baptizing children simply because their parents want them to go to Catholic School. We also have members who have baptized their children who live far away, and cannot attend every Sunday, but who attend online every Sunday. The room at the back, which used to be the cry-room has transformed into a Sensory Room. Heavy-handed approaches to baptism and attendance are no longer effective.

Supplemental Comment from Matthew Saunders (Chair of Worship): We've been seeing a lot of new faces and children at events, such as Movie Night. Supplemental Question: Is anyone following up via telephone to call? Answer: No, nothing formal at a committee level.

Motion to accept the Worship and Pastoral Care Report: Moved by: Wilson Rogers. Seconded by: Drew Walker. All in favour, CARRIED.

Property Committee: (David Crown) As written. Comments from Elizabeth Chontos and Dorothy Lawrence: David and the Committee are doing a wonderful job. Motion to approve the Property Committee's Report: Moved by: Elizabeth Chontos. Seconded by Dorothy Lawrence. All in favour, CARRIED.

Access Project: Reported in the Trustee's Report. Ministry and Personnel Committee. As written. Questions: None. Motion to approve the Ministry and Personnel Report: Moved by: Dan Levinson Seconded by: Wilson Rogers. All in favour, CARRIED.

U.C.W. President's Report : The ladies do a wonderful job working together! The rest, as written. Questions: None. Motion to approve the UCW Report: Moved by: Matthew Saunders. Seconded by: Drew Walker. All in favour, CARRIED.

UCW Financial Report. Please note that proceeds of Raffle Event going directly into the Lottery Trust account, so although the money is raised by UCW, it does not go into the UCW Bank Account; rather, it goes into the General Fund as a donation from the UCW. Questions: None. Motion to approve the UCW Financial Report: Moved by: Wilson Rogers Seconded by: Kathi Austin. All in favour, CARRIED.

Minister's Report : As written. Questions: None. Motion to approve the Minister's Report: Moved by: Barb Hebert. Seconded by: Matthew Saunders. All in favour, CARRIED.

Motion to Approve all the Reports: Moved by: Merrily Ferguson, Seconded by: Elizabeth Chontos, All in favour, CARRIED.

Proposed Slate of Officers for 2025, The members of the Executive are declared elected by acclamation.

Closing: Rev. Doug ends the meeting with a prayer, 1:56pm.

Alan Finlay, Chair, Benjamin Moore, Recording Secretary

Congregational Meeting

Sunday, September 28th, 2025

In Attendance: 38 members and adherents. Minister: Rev. Doug Moore. Chair: Drew Walker, in lieu of Alan Finlay. Recording Secretary: Ben Moore

Purpose of the Meeting: To discuss what we should do when Rev. Doug turns 65 in November.

Proposal: to go to part-time Minister starting in January. Rev. Doug would be at the church less frequently starting in January. Rev. Doug will still be around for pastoral care.

Motion: Be it resolved that as of January 1st, 2026, the pastoral relationship between Laidlaw Memorial United Church and Rev. Doug Moore shall continue uninterrupted, with the stipulation that Rev. Doug will work half time, with reduced duties. Moved by Carol Courtney. Seconded by Kathi Austin.

Rationale: We are not making budget. In the summer the Minister would work about 25-30 hours, rather than 60. Contributions to CPP and UCC Pension will continue. It will reduce expenses (salary) by at least 40,000 dollars a year. Right now, it costs us about \$160 000 to run the church for a year. It used to cost us about \$120,000. This shift will assist us catching up; we need to begin building reserve funds once again.

Question: Is Rev. Doug still going to be on call? **Answer:** Yes, but if the pastoral relationship is ended, Rev. Doug can't come back and continue a pastoral relationship. Full retirement would mean no Rev. Doug for 2 years. All in favour, CARRIED.

Drew Walker, Acting Chair, Benjamin Moore, Recording Secretary

Church Council Chair's Report – 2025

It has been another eventful and event-filled year here at Laidlaw United Church, as we seek new and improved ways to gather and grow as a community of faith. We are entering into 2026 with great optimism. Thank you for being who you are, for giving generously your time, your skills as well as financially. Thank you for showing up and showing others who we are and encouraging each other along the way.

Thank you to all members of the Church Council, past and present, for your support, contribution, and ideas. We could not function without you. We are grateful for the work George Redburn is doing for us as our new Finance and Envelope Secretary. Thank you!

Fundraising for 2025 was wonderful. We were blessed to have a lot of people from our community at our events, like our Penny sale, BINGO, Movie Night and more. Special thanks go out to our kitchen crew for all the amazing food, especially the Meat pies. Thanks to our food crew of Ben, Drew and Matthew, who work hard to keep us happy and fed during all events. Thank you, Kyle, and James, for all your hard work with keeping the church clean and respectable. Fundraising requires many hands; any help is welcomed and appreciated.

Thanks to David and Dennis, for all your continuous hard work repairing and constructing much needed facilities in and around the church. The Church looks amazing. Any help, physically and financially, is always welcomed.

The Ontario Provincial Government has given us a \$7,500.00 Anti-Hate Group Grant which went to the security of our building, and another \$7,500.00 was granted in 2025, which has allowed additional cameras, and upgrades to the security and clarity of the church windows. A Mission Council Grant allowed for the replacement of all the windows on the third floor.

The ArtWord Studio at Laidlaw has made amazing progress, with donations and labours from Ron and Judith, and a great many volunteers. This will encourage community members to enjoy some of the benefits Laidlaw has to offer.

Rev. Doug, we appreciate your commitment, resilience, and arduous work. It does not go unnoticed, so thank you. We are blessed to have you as our Minister and friend.

Yours Truly,

Alan Finlay

Council Chairperson



LIDLAW MEMORIAL UNITED CHURCH, Hamilton, Ontario
Finance Report as of December 31, 2025 and Proposed Budget for 2026

| INCOME | 2024 Actual | 2025 Budget | 2025 Actual | 2026 Budget |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| RECEIPTED OFFERINGS | | | | |
| General Fund Envelopes | \$ 36,849.35 | \$ 37,000.00 | \$ 25,498.65 | \$ 25,500.00 |
| Monthly Maintenance, including PAR | \$ 1,371.45 | \$ 1,400.00 | \$ 1,075.75 | \$ 1,100.00 |
| Initial Offering | \$ 184.00 | \$ 200.00 | \$ 142.00 | \$ 200.00 |
| Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR) General Fund | \$ 15,145.00 | \$ 14,000.00 | \$ 12,590.00 | \$ 10,000.00 |
| Mission and Service Donations, including PAR | \$ 410.00 | \$ 100.00 | \$ 60.00 | \$ 60.00 |
| Bulletin Covers/ Memorials Sponsored | \$ 912.00 | \$ 1,000.00 | \$ 840.00 | \$ 1,000.00 |
| Gift in Kind Donations | \$ 6,109.31 | \$ 6,200.00 | \$ 6,966.50 | \$ 6,500.00 |
| Ash Wednesday and Good Friday Offerings | \$ 729.10 | \$ 750.00 | \$ 533.60 | \$ 500.00 |
| Easter Offerings | \$ 2,210.00 | \$ 2,200.00 | \$ 1,527.88 | \$ 1,500.00 |
| Thanksgiving Offerings | \$ 192.00 | \$ 500.00 | \$ 215.00 | \$ 250.00 |
| Anniversary Offerings | \$ 185.00 | \$ 500.00 | \$ 200.00 | \$ 250.00 |
| Summer Offerings | \$ - | \$ 500.00 | \$ - | \$ - |
| Christmas Offerings | \$ 2,066.00 | \$ 2,500.00 | \$ 830.00 | \$ 1,500.00 |
| Canada Helps Offerings (received by Canada Helps) | \$ 2,629.50 | \$ 2,700.00 | \$ 2,367.71 | \$ 3,500.00 |
| Miscellaneous Direct Deposit Donations | \$ 10,190.00 | \$ 11,000.00 | \$ 15,339.50 | \$ 16,000.00 |
| Total Receipted Offerings | \$ 79,182.71 | \$ 80,550.00 | \$ 68,186.59 | \$ 67,860.00 |
| Ontario Anti-Hate Grant | | | \$ 7,500.00 | \$ - |
| Horseshoe Falls Region, Grant for Legal retainer | | | | \$ 3,500.00 |
| Hamilton Presbytery Mission Council Grant/Loan | \$ 8,000.00 | \$ 28,000.00 | \$ 28,000.00 | \$ - |
| FUNDRAISING EVENTS | | | | |
| Loaves and Fishes Lunches | \$ 962.95 | \$ 900.00 | \$ 750.55 | \$ 750.00 |
| Coin Boxes | \$ 398.90 | \$ 400.00 | \$ 239.92 | \$ 300.00 |
| Movie Night Food and Popcorn Sales | \$ 2,503.80 | \$ 2,650.00 | \$ 2,267.51 | \$ 2,500.00 |
| Other Food Sales | \$ 8,224.75 | \$ 8,250.00 | \$ 9,289.21 | \$ 9,500.00 |
| Market Place Events | \$ 3,623.48 | \$ 3,600.00 | \$ 2,036.19 | \$ 2,000.00 |
| Ladies of Laidlaw | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 1,370.45 | \$ 2,000.00 |
| Bingo (Lottery Trust Account) | \$ 2,708.00 | \$ 2,900.00 | \$ 2,392.50 | \$ 2,500.00 |
| Penny Sales (Lottery Trust Account) | \$ 12,062.50 | \$ 12,400.00 | \$ 13,337.00 | \$ 15,000.00 |
| Coffee Fund (Sunday Coffee Hour) | \$ 714.95 | \$ 700.00 | \$ 779.70 | \$ 800.00 |
| Miscellaneous, including Book Korner | \$ 207.00 | \$ 200.00 | \$ 806.37 | \$ 650.00 |
| Total Fundraising Events | \$ 31,406.33 | \$ 32,000.00 | \$ 33,269.40 | \$ 36,000.00 |
| OTHER INCOME | | | | |
| Loose Offerings | \$ 1,921.86 | \$ 1,900.00 | \$ 2,541.16 | \$ 2,500.00 |
| United Church Women General Fund Donations | \$ 12,167.59 | \$ 11,000.00 | \$ 11,609.93 | \$ - |
| TWSE, CEWS, CEBA, Federal, re COVID-19 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| HST Refunds | \$ 5,482.05 | \$ 5,000.00 | \$ 6,542.00 | \$ 5,000.00 |
| Interest Paid on Investments | \$ 406.77 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| Micellaneous Income | \$ 988.28 | \$ 1,500.00 | \$ 86.29 | \$ 500.00 |
| Total Other Income | \$ 20,966.55 | \$ 19,400.00 | \$ 20,779.38 | \$ 8,000.00 |
| USE OF FACILITIES/PROPERTY | | | | |
| Thursday Al Anon Group | \$ 1,200.00 | \$ 1,200.00 | \$ 1,200.00 | \$ 1,200.00 |
| Income from Solar Panels | \$ 5,546.34 | \$ 6,500.00 | \$ 4,733.97 | \$ 5,000.00 |
| Weddings, Use of Sanctuary | \$ 200.00 | \$ 600.00 | \$ 200.00 | \$ 400.00 |
| Miscellaneous Rentals | \$ 22,725.00 | \$ 23,000.00 | \$ 31,976.91 | \$ 20,000.00 |
| Total Facilities/Property Income | \$ 29,671.34 | \$ 31,300.00 | \$ 38,110.88 | \$ 26,600.00 |
| BUDGET SURPLUS FROM PRIOR YEAR | \$ - | \$ 4,245.25 | \$ 18.28 | \$ 385.88 |
| BALANCED BUDGET EFFORT | \$ 15,200.93 | \$ 11,000.00 | \$ 13,755.55 | \$ 10,000.00 |
| TOTAL INCOME | \$ 184,427.86 | \$ 206,495.25 | \$ 209,620.08 | \$ 152,345.88 |



| EXPENSES | 2024 Actual | 2025 Budget | 2025 Actual | 2026 Budget |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL | | | | |
| Minister's Salary and Housing | \$ 75,384.96 | \$ 77,646.00 | \$ 77,646.00 | \$ 39,832.56 |
| ADP Payroll Processing Fees | \$ 407.58 | \$ 430.00 | \$ 382.59 | \$ 400.00 |
| Musician's Contract | \$ 11,494.80 | \$ 11,000.00 | \$ 9,539.45 | \$ 12,000.00 |
| Continuing Education/Study Allowance | \$ 1,640.04 | \$ 1,689.00 | \$ 1,689.00 | \$ 1,731.00 |
| Travel Allowance | \$ 4,800.00 | \$ 4,800.00 | \$ 4,800.00 | \$ 4,800.00 |
| Telephone Allowance | \$ 600.00 | \$ 600.00 | \$ 600.00 | \$ 600.00 |
| Pension/Group Insurance, Employer Portions | \$ 14,303.76 | \$ 15,149.64 | \$ 15,149.64 | \$ 7,959.84 |
| EI Employer Portion | \$ 1,468.75 | \$ 1,508.47 | \$ 1,508.51 | \$ 900.00 |
| CPP Employer Portion | \$ 4,055.50 | \$ 4,034.10 | \$ 4,388.01 | \$ 2,300.00 |
| Total Ministry and Personnel | \$ 114,155.39 | \$ 116,857.21 | \$ 115,703.20 | \$ 70,523.40 |
| CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT | \$ 344.68 | \$ 370.00 | \$ 369.76 | \$ 355.00 |
| OFFICE ADMINISTRATION | | | | |
| Insurance | \$ 4,376.05 | \$ 7,700.00 | \$ 7,647.84 | \$ 7,900.00 |
| Supplies and Ink | \$ 1,605.27 | \$ 1,700.00 | \$ 1,960.43 | \$ 1,900.00 |
| Website Hosting Fees | \$ 450.87 | \$ 611.76 | \$ 611.76 | \$ 611.76 |
| Postage | \$ 239.11 | \$ 800.00 | \$ 420.36 | \$ 500.00 |
| Photo Copier Contract | \$ 1,822.18 | \$ 2,000.00 | \$ 2,651.60 | \$ 2,700.00 |
| Total Office Administration | \$ 8,493.48 | \$ 12,811.76 | \$ 13,291.99 | \$ 13,611.76 |
| STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE | | | | |
| Accounting Expenses | \$ 67.80 | \$ 70.00 | \$ 67.80 | \$ 70.00 |
| Bank Charges | \$ 532.25 | \$ 540.00 | \$ 513.95 | \$ 550.00 |
| Offering Envelopes | \$ 610.89 | \$ 625.00 | \$ 1,060.26 | \$ 615.00 |
| PAR Service Charges | \$ 60.00 | \$ 60.00 | \$ 55.00 | \$ 55.00 |
| Total Stewardship and Finance | \$ 1,270.94 | \$ 1,295.00 | \$ 1,697.01 | \$ 1,290.00 |
| UTILITIES | | | | |
| Natural Gas | \$ 5,027.07 | \$ 7,500.00 | \$ 5,189.26 | \$ 5,500.00 |
| Hydro | \$ 3,456.57 | \$ 3,500.00 | \$ 3,925.09 | \$ 3,900.00 |
| Water and Sewer | \$ 1,237.60 | \$ 1,225.00 | \$ 1,371.55 | \$ 1,400.00 |
| Telephone | \$ 1,274.64 | \$ 1,325.00 | \$ 1,421.32 | \$ 1,600.00 |
| Internet | \$ 871.83 | \$ 980.00 | \$ 1,078.43 | \$ 1,150.00 |
| Total Utilities | \$ 11,867.71 | \$ 14,530.00 | \$ 12,985.65 | \$ 13,550.00 |
| PROPERTY MAINTENANCE/IMPROVEMENTS | | | | |
| Janitorial Supplies | \$ 1,724.66 | \$ 1,700.00 | \$ 1,704.46 | \$ 1,800.00 |
| Building and Equipment Repairs/Improvements | \$ 7,091.09 | \$ 2,000.00 | \$ 5,586.06 | \$ 2,000.00 |
| Electrical Repairs/Improvements | \$ 953.39 | \$ 1,000.00 | \$ 247.90 | \$ 1,000.00 |
| Plumbing/HVAC Repairs/Improvements | \$ - | \$ 1,000.00 | \$ 1,106.27 | \$ 1,000.00 |
| Fire/Buglar Alarm Monitoring Contract | \$ 1,039.60 | \$ 1,200.00 | \$ 881.40 | \$ 900.00 |
| Fire Alarm Inspection and Repairs | \$ 1,559.85 | \$ 1,550.00 | \$ 1,235.77 | \$ 1,250.00 |
| Pest Control Contract | \$ 1,073.34 | \$ 1,100.00 | \$ 1,166.56 | \$ 1,200.00 |
| Roof and Solar Panel Loan Payments | \$ 6,000.00 | \$ 6,000.00 | \$ 6,000.00 | \$ 6,000.00 |
| Wheelchair Lift Inspections | \$ 1,592.85 | \$ 1,600.00 | \$ 2,680.70 | \$ 2,700.00 |
| Total Property Maintenance and Improvements | \$ 21,034.78 | \$ 17,150.00 | \$ 20,609.12 | \$ 17,850.00 |
| WORSHIP | | | | |
| Supplies/Communion | \$ 263.96 | \$ 400.00 | \$ 821.40 | \$ 800.00 |
| Organ and Piano Maintenance | \$ 631.40 | \$ 650.00 | \$ 400.00 | \$ 800.00 |
| Pulpit Supply | \$ - | \$ 800.00 | \$ - | \$ 800.00 |
| CCLI Licences | \$ 683.27 | \$ 700.00 | \$ 262.00 | \$ 350.00 |
| Total Worship | \$ 1,578.63 | \$ 2,550.00 | \$ 1,483.40 | \$ 2,750.00 |
| PASTORAL CARE AND MEMBERSHIP | | | | |
| Membership Expenses | \$ 105.58 | \$ 200.00 | \$ 551.40 | \$ 500.00 |
| Seasonal Gifts for Shut Ins | \$ - | \$ 100.00 | \$ - | \$ 50.00 |
| United Church of Canada National Dues | \$ 5,860.00 | \$ 5,363.00 | \$ - | \$ 13,048.00 |
| Total Pastoral Care and Membership | \$ 5,965.58 | \$ 5,663.00 | \$ 551.40 | \$ 13,598.00 |
| OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATION | | | | |
| Fundraising Expenses | \$ 6,752.37 | \$ 7,000.00 | \$ 8,730.60 | \$ 5,000.00 |
| Mission and Service Fund Donation | \$ 600.00 | \$ 250.00 | \$ 250.00 | \$ 250.00 |
| Total Outreach and Communication | \$ 7,352.37 | \$ 7,250.00 | \$ 8,980.60 | \$ 5,250.00 |
| Total Spent Ontario Anti-Hate Grant | | | \$ 7,666.92 | |
| Total Spent, Mission Council Grant 2025, UP RMS | | | \$ 24,395.15 | \$ 3,604.85 |
| Additional (24 Elec Pnls)(25B Up Rms)(25A/26B Legal Retainer) | \$ 8,119.05 | \$ 28,000.00 | \$ 1,500.00 | \$ 3,500.00 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | \$ 180,182.61 | \$ 206,476.97 | \$ 209,234.20 | \$ 142,278.16 |
| NET INCOME OVER EXPENSES | \$ 4,245.25 | \$ 18.28 | \$ 385.88 | \$ 10,067.72 |

Chair of Trustees Report 2025

The Trustees elected for Laidlaw Memorial United Church are charged with the duty to serve in the present with an eye to the future. Your Trustees in 2025 have been Barbara Hebert (Representative of Trustees to the Council), Carol Courtney, Kathi Austin, David Crown, Shirley Bowers, Hinson McMillan and Don Wood (Emeritus). Rev. Doug Moore serves as Chair of the Trustees, ex officio.

Trustees tend to the Church's investments, oversee our insurance coverage, and act as formal legal representatives for the Church, as well as overseeing major building improvements, meeting as necessary, often in the form of a report to the Church Council meetings.

It has been a busy year with transition and progress. The Lifts, creating an Accessible Entrance are complete, and budgeting for regular inspection and maintenance are in place. The Upper Room Project has included new electric and windows on the third floor, and the ArtWord Studio at Laidlaw is nearing completion, with generous donations of equipment and lighting from Ron and Judith. Anti-Hate Grant funds have allowed for great progress in completing the camera system, and upgrading the acrylic window security coverings. We have begun to repair and repaint those historic windows at Laidlaw. The Gardens will be in their third year this year, with continuing improvements and regular maintenance. Those who help with the maintenance find that task enjoyable, and it includes Laidlaw people, Green Venture staff, and community friends.

We continue to live and grow into the new era of in-person and online, with now more than 394 subscribers on YouTube, 30 more than in 2024! Many things are different; one thing has not changed: We continue to share the light of Christ from our corner in East Hamilton, with respect, cooperation, and joy.

The year has certainly been a challenge, but we have accomplished carrying a full-time minister. That has been accomplished, in part, by delaying paying our National Dues to the United Church of Canada until 2026, but we have budgeted to have all this obligation attended to by the end of 2026. The Balanced Budget Effort this year has exceed expectations. Fundraising efforts also exceeded expectations. We have enjoyed the presence of an extraordinary amount of filming at Laidlaw this year. There are many new people and groups gathering at Laidlaw, and we are seeing the benefit of neighbours becoming friends. We are grateful for the generosity, cooperation, and joy that makes this possible.

There have been no insurance claims this year. The only debts Laidlaw currently carries are the remainder of the Roof and Solar Loan, with a balance of \$76,500.00. A used copier was leased in 2023 and is part of the Administration budget for 2026.

The Trustees met in December of 2025 to address the Church Being Served as a part of a lawsuit alleging abuse in the Scouting Troup that met at Laidlaw in 1992 and 1993. We have retained Legan Counsel, David Thompson, and that case is in good hands. It is Scouts Canada and The United Church of Canada who are the major parties named in the suit. We will continue to ensure the interests of Laidlaw Church are being protected as the suit moves forward. We have paid a retainer of \$5,000.00 to secure that representation.

Expenses for 2025 were \$209,234.20 on a budget of \$206,496.97. There were some additional expenditures, and there were donations to cover those increased expenditures. Income for 2025 was \$209,620.08 on a budget of \$206,495.25. The removal of the Carbon Tax on heating fuel has been a great benefit to the church's budget this year.

We continue to rise to the challenge of inflation, the death of longtime generous members of our congregation, with generous support for a balanced budget. We hope the transition to half time for Ministry Personnel will allow Laidlaw to catch up on National Dues and gather a Reserve that allows the church financial stability and flexibility. We have proposed a balanced budget for 2026, with income of \$152,345.88 and expenses of \$142,278.72. This includes the repayment of the Legal Retainer Loan, and expenditure of the rest of the Upper Room Mission Council Funds.

We are grateful to the Hamilton Presbytery Mission Council. Payments on the Roof and Solar Mortgage incur no interest costs, something of great value and kindness. We have repaid \$6,000.00 of that Loan in 2026. This leaves us with leaving us now with 153 payments of \$500.00 per month left at the end of 2025.

We end the year 2025 with no GICs. The funds in the GICs we set aside to fund various grant and loan projects, and those projects are now complete. See the summary page below for details. All other funds are held in the General or Lottery Trust Accounts.

Insurance costs are now stable. The Cooperators, who now carry the insurance for Laidlaw Church, allow us to pay insurance monthly with no interest or fees, and the insurance will rise no more than 5% per year. This is a great help, and much appreciated.

This has been another exceptional year for repairs and improvements to our facilities, and that is reflected in our property expenses being more than budgeted. The work of volunteers has made the money spent on repairs and improvements, not to mention a large amount of gift in kind offerings of paint and supplies, go an exceptionally long way. We are deeply grateful for all who volunteer and contribute to these efforts. We need help—don't be shy to volunteer!

Gatherings are returning to pre-COVID levels, and in some cases, exceeding them. Penny Sales, particularly, are popular and well attended. Donations for prizes and help with the sales are truly appreciated. We are frequently being approached by groups seeking meeting, rehearsal, and performance space. The new Upper Room Project will increase our capacity for this, and we are grateful to those who are volunteering to make this project possible. We have no desire to be anyone's landlord. We cooperate with other charitable and community groups to make our facilities available on a cost recovery basis. We have enjoyed several cooperative successes in 2025. Various musical individuals and groups are making good use of the space, as well as music studios for recitals, Narc Anon and AA and Al Anon groups. We are also making facilities available for local music teachers. We continue to enjoy the partnership with Green Venture, enhancing community use of our outdoor greenspace.

We continue to be asked to help with community weddings and funerals, often with the addition of livestreaming. With the Access Project now complete, we continue to adjust events to be friendlier to wheelchair access. It has been noticed that improvements to accessibility in our washrooms and improving door access at the ramp and lift doors is a next step for us. We continue to ensure our facilities become even more useful to our ourselves and our neighbourhood.

We will continue to cooperate with local Arts and Community Groups in making Laidlaw a part of the wider community, and we appreciate the cooperative relationship with L.G. Wallace, sharing our parking with each other when there is overflow.

It is heartening, given the challenges of the year, to have a balanced operating budget. We are also grateful to those who express confidence in our ministry with grants that allow us to enhance our capacity and improve safety and security. It is a credit to everyone, our congregation, all our community friends and partners. The 2026 budget calls for a balanced budget, and though we know there will be challenges this year, we are also in a place we can enjoy each other's company, cooperate, share the light of Christ, find joy, and accomplish more than we imagined.

We take joy this year in the many people who have chosen to be part of Laidlaw Church. We are amazed to see a significant increase in YouTube Subscribers over the year, and, even with increased in person attendance, we often have fifty hits or more on worship videos. Attendance at worship, by any reasonable measure, is at least stable. Our great challenge is to work together, keep in touch, and informed, and act in love, so that we can tackle the challenges we face together, and find the joy God intends for us all. With confidence, generosity, hard work, and great fun, welcoming each other and our community partners, we will, I believe, have another exceptional, successful, and blessed year at Laidlaw.

The operating surplus for 2025 was \$385.88. The net deficit from 2023 was \$6,588.25, which means we now have an unfunded operating deficit of \$1,957.12. Income for 2025 was \$209,620.08, expenses were \$209,234.20. At year end, there is a Legal Retainer Loan Balance of \$3,500.00, budgeted to be repaid in 2026, and a remaining Balance of \$3,604.85 of the Upper Room Project Mission Council Grant, budgeting to be spent in 2026. We have also budgeted to have our United Church of Canada National Dues paid in full by the end of 2026.

The Endowment Fund began 2025 at nil, no donations in 2025, ends the year at nil.

The Bequest Fund began 2025 at nil, with no donations in 2025, ends the year at nil.

The Reserve Account was nil at the beginning of 2025 and ends the year at nil.

The Monthly Maintenance Fund seeks to accumulate funds toward major building repairs through weekly offerings. This fund began the year cashed out from 2007, and donations to this fund in 2025 were \$1,075.75. All these funds were transferred to the General Fund this year to defray the cost of Church repairs; and will be again in 2026.

The Accessibility Fund was wound up and closed in January of 2024.

The Miscellaneous Fund began 2025 at nil. The Fund received \$7,500.00 in grant from the Anti-Hate Provincial Grant. Camera improvements cost \$4,678.20, Acrylic and supplies for the Windows cost \$2,988.72, for a Total of \$7,666.92. The Fund received \$28,000.00 in grant from the Mission Council. The Upper Room Project spent \$11,016.11 on Electrical Upgrades, \$10,678.50 on new windows for the entire floor, \$1,045.18 on new lighting, \$835.94 on Paint and supplies, and \$819.42 on Window Blinds and misc. improvements, for a total of \$24,395.15. There is \$3,604.85 still available, and that has been assigned to the 2026 budget as Upper Room Project Expense. **Miscellaneous Fund ends the year at Nil.**

The Easter and Christmas Flower Fund has now been made a part of Envelope Giving in the General Fund Budget, under the line item: *Bulletin Covers/Memorials Sponsored*. In 2025, \$840.00 was donated in this way, and reported in the General Fund Finance Report.

The Memorial Fund receives memorial donations at funerals and other times. The Memorial Fund also receives the donations made at the Memorial Candle Stand each week. These funds are used on the recommendation of the Church Council. **The fund began the year with \$2,228.12 in it. Memorial Fund income this year was 1,483.75.** Memorial Fund projects in 2025 were: Sound Equipment, Piano Move, Wii Replacement, \$587.57, Candle Supplies, \$90.81, Sideboard for Sanctuary, \$301.48, and Décor, \$38.65. **Purchases totalled \$1,018.52. The Memorial Fund ends the year with \$2,681.36.**

The Benevolent Fund is reported in the Outreach Reports. Donations received and disbursed for Outreach Projects, including Special Appeals, Mission and Service, and Wesley Urban Ministries through the General Fund are reported in the Outreach Committee Report. **Mission and Service Fund donations and disbursements are part of the 2025 Financial Report and 2026 Budget.**

The summary below lists all Funds and Monetary Assets and Liabilities of Laidlaw Memorial United Church. All our Accounts and Investments are held at the Royal Bank of Canada at the Centre Mall.

As we begin our 114th year together, we give thanks to God for the provision that is being made for ministry in our community. When we gather and work together with Respect, Cooperation and Joy, we can be a Beacon of the Light of Christ as we worship, work, and play with each other, and our community. *Glory to God in the highest!*

Rev. Douglas C. Moore, Chair of Trustees

Summary of Fund and Investment Activity at Laidlaw Memorial United Church

January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025

Investment Certificates Held (All at the Royal Bank of Canada) as of January 1, 2025

| Investment # & GIC type | Interest Rate | Balance | Maturity Date | Interest Payee |
|--|---------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|
| no GIC's held | | | | |
| Total Certificates Held, December 31, 2025 | | \$0.00 | | |
| Investment Capital Cashed in 2025 | | \$0.00 | | |
| Total Interest Earned in 2025 | | \$0.00 | | |
| Total GICs Held December 31, 2025 | | \$0.00 | | |
| 2025 Operating Surplus | | | \$385.88 | |
| Total Capital Transferred to Operating Funds in 2025: | | | \$0.00 | |
| Total of Cashed Investments held in General Account: | | | \$0.00 | |

Fund Balances

| Fund | Dec 31 2023 | Dec 31 2024 | Dec 31 2025 | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Endowment | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | |
| Bequests | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | |
| Reserves | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | |
| Memorial | \$3,718.30 | \$2,228.12 | \$2,681.36 | |
| Access Project | \$6,326.65 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | fund now closed |
| Benevolent Fund | \$952.91 | \$1,064.44 | \$574.22 | |
| Monthly Maintenance | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | |
| Wesley/Relief late donations | \$20.00 | \$0.00 | \$15.00 | |
| Miscellaneous Fund | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | |
| Total of All Funds | \$11,017.86 | \$3,292.56 | \$3,270.58 | |
| Total Certificates Held | \$2,000.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | |
| Funds in the General Account | \$9,017.86 | \$3,292.56 | \$3,270.58 | |

Balance Sheet

| | Dec 31 2023 | Dec 31 2024 | Dec 31 2025 |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| General Fund Bank Balance, | \$13,637.63 | \$8,108.38 | \$8,323.15 |
| Lottery Account Bank Balance, | \$843.38 | \$2,612.89 | \$2,600.94 |
| Event Float held in Cash | | \$310.00 | \$310.00 |
| Less Capital held in Gen. Acc. | <u>\$9,017.86</u> | <u>\$3,292.56</u> | <u>\$3,270.58</u> |
| General Fund Balance | \$5,463.15 | \$7,738.71 | \$7,963.51 |

| | | | |
|--|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Total of All Laidlaw Accounts: | \$7,463.15 | \$7,738.71 | \$7,963.51 |
| GIC Held: Hamilton Presbytery Mission Council Grant (Sound System) | \$3,300.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| GIC Held: Ontario Anti-Hate Grant (to improve door security) | <u>\$6,950.00</u> | <u>\$0.00</u> | <u>\$0.00</u> |
| TOTAL ASSETS HELD | \$17,713.15 | \$7,738.71 | \$7,963.51 |

Roof/Solar Loan Payments

| | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Mission Council Converted the mortgage to a no interest loan in September of 2020 | January 1, 2025 | \$82,500.00 |
| | principle paid | \$6,000.00 |
| | interest paid | \$0.00 |
| | December 31, 2025 | \$76,500.00 |

2025 Annual Review of the Church Books

I have reviewed in detail Laidlaw Memorial United Church's General Fund Ledger for 2025 and Lottery Trust Ledger for 2025 and compared entries made in the Ledgers with bank statements, returned cheques, invoices, reconciliations, and statements from 2025. I have found them to be accurate and in good order.

George Redburn, Auditor, February 2026

Finance and Envelope Secretary Report – 2025

The Laidlaw Church Council is grateful for the work of George Redburn who has, with kindness and efficiency, has taken up the work of Envelope Secretary for Laidlaw Church. George always wondered about the unusual binder that his father left behind after his passing; it turns out it was a binder for the Envelope Secretary's tally sheets. We are in good hands, and we are grateful.

The Finance Chair side of the work has been attended by combining, as in years past, the Finance and Property Chairs on Laidlaw Church Council. We are grateful for the continued assistance of Ron Jenkins, CPA, who, in kindness toward his friend, Wayne McNally, continues to offer his assistance to Laidlaw Church in filing the CRA Annual Report, as well as managing the ADP Payroll system for Laidlaw Church.

We are grateful to all those who make the choice to contribute financially to the Ministry of Laidlaw Memorial United Church. It is essential. There are those who contribute with Weekly Offering Envelopes, by Using the 'Donate' button on the website, through Canada Helps, and those who send offerings by e-transfers to 'laidlawuc@bellnet.ca', as well as the United Church of Canada' PAR (Pre-Authorized-Remittance). We also recognize the countless volunteer hours and donations of food, prizes, and baking for fundraising events, not to mention encouraging friends, family and neighbours to come out to events at Laidlaw. We are grateful to the Dr. Peter Banting Swingtet for the twice a year concerts and their generously donating the proceeds to Laidlaw Church. This support of our fundraising and community outreach is life and joy for our Church.

The year 2025 began with a surplus of \$4,245.25, a good beginning to a challenging year. The people of Laidlaw Church have supported a full-time minister for twenty-one years, through the trials of COVID, and the passing of many beloved and generous long-time members and friends of Laidlaw. We come into 2026 with Rev. Doug beginning to receive all but his United Church of Canada Pension; and moving to half-time hours. This, we believe, will allow Laidlaw to continue its ministry with grace and continuity, while finding greater financial stability, and begin to rebuild reserves.

Building improvements continued this year, with grants from the Mission Council, and the Ontario Anti-Hate Security improvement grants. It has been a year of improving windows, in hopes of preparing to paint the exterior of the church.

Laidlaw operated on a balanced budget in 2025, with a small surplus of \$385.88. Built into the 2026 Budget is the remaining amount for the Upper Room Project of \$3,604.35, still to be spent on the project, and a payment to cover a Legal Retainer loan of \$3,500.00. We are happy to report that the Horseshoe Falls Region has made a grant to Laidlaw in 2026 to cover this \$3,500.00 obligation. We look for a balanced budget in 2026, and, with reduced costs for Ministry Personnel, we hope to see a \$10,000.00 surplus to be assigned to Reserves.

Thanking everyone again for their generosity with time and treasure.



Christian Development Report- 2025

As the Christian Development chair, I am very pleased and thankful for the steady group of young people who show up on Sundays at Laidlaw. This past year, we have had a group of kids show up almost every Sunday!! I'd like to thank all the parents and kids who came out and a special thank you to the volunteers who were honorary children! We were able to do our fundraisers with lots of young people helping at events such as Movie Nights, Penny sales, Sew Hungry and Bingos this year! Thanks to all our volunteers like Kace and Carol and Kathy for helping with all we need to run our events! This year, we didn't give out any pins as we didn't have our normal Sunday School Picnic, but I am hopeful that we can give them out in 2026! We are happy that we can still help engage with the kids through the activities that are put in the bulletin by Rev. Doug. This year, I was so delighted that we had enough children to do our Christmas Pageant. Thank you to Rev. Doug, Ben and Matt who helped with the Production of the Pageant. I would also like to thank all the kids who learned roles and did an amazing job with no rehearsal! As we head into 2026, I am grateful and excited to continue running Sunday School and helping with events and I encourage and am thankful to our young people who keep coming out!

Thanks to all the parents who bring their children to church every Sunday!

Respectfully Submitted, *Drew Walker*, Christian Development Chair

Outreach and Communications 2025

Hello everyone! I hope you had the merriest Christmas and will have a happy New Year.

I am so excited about the up-and-coming events we have planned. I am sure they are going to be as successful as our past ones. These events would not be possible if it wasn't for all your kind and generous donations. They are truly appreciated!

Last year, our Penny Sales brought in a total of \$13,377.00. In addition to that, our Bingo games brought in \$2,392.50. We have raised the winning on our Bingo games, and I think this is attracting more people as I am seeing new faces attending the games.

Our Hat and Mitten Tree was plenty full with all kinds of food, toys, knitted hats, scarves, and mittens. This helped a lot of people right here in our community.

And finally, our Lunch with Santa and Phineus. This always brings lots of smiles and joy to the children. We also had some people from the community come even though they had no children. They just wanted some Christmas joy.

Movie Night continues to welcome Laidlaw and neighbourhood folks. Come see the latest family friendly movie at a family friendly time, with great food and comfortable surroundings, even toys for the children to play with when they are not engrossed in the movie!

I'm asking all of you to join us and encourage your family and friends to join us for fun with our friends and neighbours at Laidlaw! May God bless us all!

Sincerely, *Kathi Austin*, Chair of Outreach

Summary of Donations to Outreach Projects in 2025

| Outreach Project | Bal. Jan 1 | Received | Donated | Bal. Dec. 31 |
|--|------------|----------|----------|--------------|
| Wesley Urban Ministries | \$0.00 | \$415.00 | \$400.00 | \$15.00 |
| United Church Mission and Service Fund | \$0.00 | \$60.00 | \$250.00 | \$0.00 |
| United Church Appeal | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Benevolent Fund Donations, Assistance | \$1,064.44 | \$115.00 | \$605.22 | \$574.22 |

Worship, Pastoral Care and Membership-2025

Thank you everyone for another great year. This was my fourth year in this role, and I am happy with how things are going. We were able to celebrate six baptisms, welcomed four new members and celebrated one wedding, and one 50th Anniversary renewal of vows. We unfortunately had one member of Laidlaw Church, David Bell, pass away in 2025, as well as to many friends and family members we dearly love. They will be missed and remembered.

Our digital footprint continued to do well this year with a steady view count of about 60 to 80 views per video, and now 400 subscribers.

Thank you everyone for your support and I am looking forward to 2026!

Matthew Saunders, Chair of Worship, Pastoral Care and Membership

Pastoral Care and Membership Statistics – 2025

| | | |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| Members as of December 31, 2024, (Resident & Non-Resident) | | 69 |
| Received by Confirmation and Profession of Faith | 4 | |
| Received by Transfer | 0 | 73 |
| Removed by Death | -1 | |
| Removed by Letter/Transfer | -0 | 72 |
| Total Non – Resident Members as of Dec. 31, 2025 | -6 | |
| Total Resident Members as of Dec. 31, 2025 | | 64 |
| Identifiable Financially Supporting Persons at Laidlaw in 2025: | | 98 |
| Identifiable Financially Supporting Households at Laidlaw in 2025: | | 85 |
| Identifiable Contributors to Mission and Service Fund in 2025: | | 2 |
| Sunday Attendance, Average of October and November Sundays in 2025: | | |
| Average in Person Attendance | 49 | |
| Average Peak Concurrent Viewers on YouTube | 11 | |
| Total Average Weekly Attendance, October and November 2025 | 60 | |

Editor's note: A more accurate measure of average attendance in 2025 would be 71. This considers the average of YouTube concurrent viewers would be two per household. This excludes the people who view the livestream after the fact. Worship Videos receive an average of 50-60 views after the fact, often more. **Laidlaw now has 400 YouTube Subscribers!**

In 2025, Laidlaw was privileged to be asked to help with: three Youth\Infant Baptisms, three Adult Baptisms, we received four new members, one by profession, three by baptism, officiated for one Wedding and one 50th Anniversary Renewal of Vows, and officiated forty-two Funerals for forty-three people.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Doug Moore, Matthew Saunders

6 Baptisms in 2025

3 Children, 3 Adults



Parker Lynn Bissonette, Baptized February 23, 2025

Zoe Ligia Higgins Costa, Baptized March 16, 2025

Harvey Douglas Loverro, Baptized March 23, 2025

Brooklynne May Girard, March 23, 2025

Kyle Ryan Edward Cowin, Baptized June 8, 2025

William Robert Lamarr, Baptized, October 19, 2025

4 Members Received in 2025

Dorothy Lawrence, Welcomed May 4, 2025, profession of Faith

Brooklynne Girard, Welcomed March 23, 2025, by Baptism

Kyle Cowin, Welcomed June 8, 2025, by Baptism

William Lamarr, Welcomed October 19, 2025, by Baptism

1 Member Removed in 2025

David Bell, transferred to heaven

1 Weddings 2025

Darrien Hudgins and Karissa Selvey

Saturday, March 17, 2025

1 Renewal of Vows

Rick and Linda Powers

Friday, July 25, 2025

On the Occasion of their 50th Anniversary



42 Funerals for 43 People in 2025

Please see the 'In Memoriam' on page 1



Property Committee Report 2025

This report describes a number of work actions carried out at Laidlaw over the course of 2025. First, a sincere thank you to each of you who volunteer to clean the church inside and out each week. Your efforts benefit each person who comes to Laidlaw.

January: *The Stu Hamilton room floor was scoured and waxed. (3 coats) *3rd/final coat was applied to the new gym stairs. *Doors were built and installed on the electrical box by the furnace room.

February to June: *The main floor hallway outside Rev. Doug's office was refurbished. A 9 ft drywall ceiling with enhanced lighting replaced an 8ft drop ceiling. 65 ft of custom baseboard, ultra beadboard, and chair rail were installed. Ceiling and walls were meticulously taped, mudded and sanded by Troy and painted by Dennis and David. *Additional security cameras were installed funded from a govt. anti hate grant.

June: *New acrylic window coverings on the large south windows were installed as part of the security upgrade. Thank you to Rev. Doug for these installs. It has dramatically enhanced the appearance of the stained glass windows and added natural lighting into the sanctuary. We plan to paint these frames in 2026 *Sections of the ramp railing were replaced and a section of the ramp was replaced

August: *The driveway was re sealed and parking spaces repainted.

September and October: *Restored the two main front windows. Repaired extensive damage to the left front window frame. (Note) This improvement has been on the wish list for many years! Done! *New acrylic window coverings were installed on the main front windows, transom windows over front door and 2 north side doors as part of the security upgrades *Restoration of the front windows required the daily install and take down of scaffolding. Thanks to Kyle for his generous help with this.

October: *Downspout disconnected and rerouted away from the south basement wall to eradicate dampness in the south basement wall. South basement wall was retouched.

January to December: *A theatre studio has been created on the third floor: an initiative of Ron Weihs. With a grant from the Mission Council, all 3rd floor windows were replaced and electrical upgrades were made. Extensive repairs to the ceiling were carried out by Troy and ceiling and walls were painted. Ron generously donated theatrical lighting and sound equipment. Window covers and 30 re-use chairs have been added. *The Sunday school has been relocated to the 3rd floor south room. Plans are in the works to enhance this space.

May to October: *Green Venture gardens continue to be watered and monitored. This Green Venture initiative continues to enhance the streetscape of Laidlaw church and provides a place of serenity to the community. *Sanctuary lighting has been added along with directional speakers to enhance presentations. Again thanks to Ron Weihs for these additions.

Final notes: *The activities listed above are not budgeted items. They have been achieved through the sponsorship of Green Venture, The Ontario Anti Hate Grant and our Hamilton Mission Council along with the donors who have given time, skills and materials to complete needed improvements and repairs *In the property section of the financial report you will find listed necessary ongoing budgeted items that are covered through our offerings and fundraising activities.

Thank you for your prayerful support of Laidlaw Church.

David Crown, for the Property Team at Laidlaw

Ministry Personnel Committee - 2025

The Ministry Personnel Committee is in place to ensure proper oversight of our relationship with each other and with church staff. The committee negotiates, within the standards set by The United Church of Canada, compensation for staff, and receives any complaints.

The minister's compensation was set nationally, by The United Church of Canada's Salary and Benefits Board. The increase in the minister's salary this year was set at 3%, and that was also applied to our musicians. Steve McRae remains on permanent contract at Laidlaw. Steve's performance career has taken off, with amazing shows, and Steve has arranged to pursue this opportunity. Steve now has more Sundays off. He remains our contracted Musician. We are grateful to Borys Franciczek and Nicole Christian for their regular presence and music at worship, and Olivia Brown for her willingness to cover for Steve when he is away. Olivia has expressed an interest in learning to play the organ, and Laidlaw has offered to cover the cost of lessons to facilitate this, as well as providing building access to Olivia.

The members of the Ministry Personnel Committee attended to their responsibilities diligently and with dispatch this year. There were no formal complaints filed. The lawsuit mentioned in the Trustees' report is a historic claim from 1992 and 1993. The allegations do not involve any current members or church staff. The trustees will tend to this matter.

Thank you to all the volunteers who help and all those who support and pray for our staff as they seek to do their work.

Respectfully submitted, *Alan Finlay*, Ministry and Personnel Chair

Laidlaw United Church Women Report 2025

Laidlaw United Church Women have served Laidlaw Church and our Community for 100 years. Their contributions cannot be measured.

A decision was made this fall to wind up the Laidlaw United Church Women as a formal organization of Laidlaw Church and The United Church of Canada. The administrative work was growing, with fewer souls able to take that work on.



There are a great many things the Laidlaw United Church Women enjoyed, and while the formal administrative work has wound up, and the UCW bank account has been closed, the Women of Laidlaw Church will continue to do the things they enjoy.

The 'Women of Laidlaw' will continue to meet for lunch, with a focus on socializing, upcoming events, and fundraising of various sorts and kinds—meat pies, knitting, shepherd's pies, bake sales, and things they haven't thought of yet. The money raised from these efforts will be recorded as fundraising in the category of 'Women of Laidlaw'. Personal donations will be made directly to Laidlaw Church and receipted by the Envelope Secretary.

We thank Carol Courtney for her leadership over the last few years, as well as Carol Crown, who served as Treasurer. The 'Women of Laidlaw' look forward to continuing their contributions to our Church and our community freely and joyfully, cooperating together, finding ways to support and promote the work of Laidlaw Church now and in the future.

Laidlaw United Church Women, Financial Statement as of December 31, 2025

| | | |
|--|--------------------|----------------|
| Balance Forward, January 1, 2025 | | \$ 2,579.04 |
| Total Income, deposits, offerings | \$ 5,027.30 | |
| Expense: Laidlaw General Fund | \$ 6,500.00 | |
| Expense: UCW National Dues | \$ 42.00 | |
| Expense: Mandarin Outing | \$ 322.24 | |
| Expense: Close UCW Account, General Fund | \$ 732.10 | |
| Total Expenses | \$ 7,606.34 | |
| Account Closed, November 7, 2025 | | \$ 0.00 |

Minister's Report to the Annual Meeting - 2025

It has been One Hundred Years since Laidlaw Church became a part of The United Church of Canada. Laidlaw Memorial Institutional Presbyterian Church was fourteen years old when the Methodist, Congregational, and a portion of the Presbyterian Churches came into Union by an Act of Parliament on June 10, 1925, to form the United Church of Canada.

Laidlaw was one of two Presbyterian Churches in Hamilton that joined The United Church of Canada, the other was St. Giles' Presbyterian Church on Main Street. The Organ at Laidlaw was a gift from St. Giles' in the 1920s. A portion of the Laidlaw Congregation disagreed with the union; and left and built St. Enoch's Presbyterian Church by the Dairy Queen on Main Street, now the All Nations Church.



Over the years, Laidlaw has welcomed the congregation of St. Christopher's Church, formerly of Holly Street, when the church burned and it was decided the church grounds would become St. Christophers Park on Holly Street, and the proceeds of the insurance would be given as seed money to begin the Boys and Girls Club south of Barton Street. Later, the Calvary Methodist Church on Campbell Avenue joined with Laidlaw. It was big deal. The two ministers lived side by side at 111 and 113 Ottawa Street North, agreed to encourage the amalgamation, and, also, agreed neither minister would be the new minister of the amalgamated Church. The choir loft was expanded, boardrooms were built, and the Presbytery received the proceeds of the sale of the building on Campbell Avenue through the Mission Council. It was this 'Calvary Fund' that eventually returned to us as a Mission Council Grant to install the stair lifts. In 2010, Solar Panels were installed, and since then, renovations to the chancel, and every other area of the church, as well as the new Gardens, are working together to welcome a new generation at Laidlaw.

And the Beat Goes On, as they say. The Beacon continues to shine—it actually has a light in it now. I have never felt more energized as I look to the year ahead. So many opportunities to share the light and love of Jesus Christ, so many members and friends who freely and joyfully join with us in a mission we know very well, and a mission we have only begun to understand.

We begin 2026 with your half-time minister fully engaged. There are tasks that I will need to ask others to take up, but I want to make it clear; I have not 'retired' as such. In short, I'm not going anywhere. Perhaps, I have 're-tired', another set of tires, another 100,000 miles—or is it kilometers...

I am grateful for the now more than twenty years we have enjoyed together at Laidlaw. We share an amazing history that will pale in light of the future before us.

Christian Life calls us to live, and live life abundantly. We're still celebrating and moving into the future because we share in the sufferings of Christ, and in the resurrection of Christ. I am pumped to discover the road ahead. May God give us the grace to celebrate, and find that provision, respect, cooperation and joy that make life new.

We are not alone. We live in God's world, and as we chose it, we have each other, the love of Jesus, the grace of God, the wisdom of the Holy Spirit.

God give us grace to see the new life God is giving us all.

Thanks be to God. *Glory to God in the Highest!*

Reverend Doug Moore, Minister

Proposed Slate of Officers for 2026

Laidlaw Memorial United Church

155 Ottawa Street North, at Cannon Street,

Hamilton, Ontario, L8H 3Z2

Telephone: 905-544-6536

www.laidlawchurch.ca

E-mail: laidlawuc@bellnet.ca

Church Officers for 2026

Staff

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Rev. Douglas C. Moore, Minister | 905 547 2021 |
| Steve McRae, Musician | 905 818 5251 |

Church Office Hours—9 a.m. till Noon, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

Other Times by Chance or Appointment!

The Church office is closed on Mondays!

Church Council

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Alan Finlay, Chair | 905 979 1469 |
| Shirley Bowers, Vice-Chair | 905 383 5934 |
| Ben Moore, Recording Secretary | 905 544 6536 |

Committee Chairs

| | | |
|------------------|------------------------------------|--------------|
| David Crown | Finance and Property | 905 464 6229 |
| Alan Finlay | Ministry and Personnel | 905 979 1469 |
| Andrew Walker | Christian Development | 905 538 4510 |
| Matthew Saunders | Worship, Pastoral Care, Membership | 905 549 0210 |
| Kathi Austin | Outreach | 289 698 1174 |

Representatives

| | | |
|----------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| Barb Hebert | Trustees | 905 515 2935 |
| Ben Moore | Regional Representative | 905 544 6536 |
| George Redburn | Envelope Secretary | 905 973 8942 |
| Coleen McNally | Women of Laidlaw | 289 925 4154 |
| Carol Courtney | Member at Large | 905 531 6797 |

Trustees

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Rev. Doug Moore, Chair (ex-officio) | 905 547 2021 |
| Barb Hebert, Representative to Council | 905 515 2936 |
| Carol Courtney | 905 531 6797 |
| Kathi Austin | 289 698 1174 |
| David Crown | 905 464 6229 |
| Shirley Bowers | 905 383 5934 |
| Hinson McMillan | 905 545 9617 |
| Don Wood (emeritus) | 905 560 6183 |