

ANNUAL REPORT

2025

St. Mark's United Church

237 CANNIFTON ROAD NORTH
CANNIFTON, ON K0K 1K0

From St. Mark’s United Church Constitution...

Our

Mission Statement

The Mission of St. Mark’s United Church is to:

- reflect the love of God by sharing gifts, talents and resources throughout our whole faith community
- encourage openness, respect and diversity where all people are welcome regardless of age, gender, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, differing abilities, ethnic background or economic circumstance within and outside our church boundaries
- cherish and sustain our Christian faith through the word of God, music, laughter, food and caring during good times and challenges, remaining true to our roots while planning our future.

And

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of St. Mark’s United Church is to provide leadership and support for worship and Christian development among all age groups within the congregation and the community. We, the congregation, achieve this by working together in co-operation with our Minister and Church Board, using all our resources as an informed Church of Jesus Christ, and by supporting, through prayer, Christian witness and financial contributions, the work of the local and wider Church.

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Official Board of St. Mark’s United Church. Cannifton
2025

Chairperson: Roger West
Past Chair: Bonnie Watson

Christian Development Committee

Betty Beer (Clerk of Session)
Elaner Pound (Secretary)
Alfreda Rupert
Sheila Parks (from Congregation)
Rev. Ryan McNally
(Chairperson – January to June)
Rev. Dr. William Smith
(Chairperson – September to December)

Ministry and Personnel Committee

Margo Russell-Bird (Chairperson)
Jacquelyn Bell
Lois MacDonald

Stewardship Committee

Mary Milligan (Chairperson)
David Clazie (Treasurer)
Nancy Shorey

Property Committee

Keith Parks (Chairperson)
Melanie Thompson
Bonnie Watson

Nominating Committee

Elaner Pound
Roger West

Board Secretary: Elaner Pound

Board Treasurer: David Clazie

Trustees

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● David Clazie (Treasurer) ● Elaner Pound (Secretary) ● Greg Stevens ● Rev. Ryan McNally
(Ex Officio Chairperson
January – June) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sheri Thompson ● Gary William ● Rev. Dr. John Young
(Interim Ex Officio Chairperson
September – December) |
|---|---|

St. Mark’s United Church, Cannifton
Annual Congregational Meeting
February 8th, 2026

Agenda

- **Welcome, Attendance and Establishing Quorum: Rev. Dr. William Smith**

Establishing Quorum:

B.5.5 Minimum Number of Members Present

A meeting of the congregation or pastoral charge may take place if a minimum number of full members is present, as follows:

- *for congregations or pastoral charges with 100 or more full members, at least 20 full members must be present.*

“Quorum having been met, in the name of Jesus Christ, the head of the church, I declare this meeting constituted to transact all business properly brought before it.”

Annual Meeting

B.5.2 At the annual meeting, the congregation or pastoral charge is responsible for

- a) electing a chair and a secretary of the annual meeting;*

Rev. Smith or Rev. Young will open the floor to nominations for Chairperson and Secretary of the Congregational Meetings for the calendar year 2026.

Motion: Nomination of the Chair for the Congregational Meetings in the calendar year 2026

Moved:

Seconded:

“That _____ be Chair of the Congregational Meetings in the calendar year 2026.

Motion: Nomination of the Recording Secretary for the Congregational Meetings in the calendar year 2026

Moved:

Seconded:

“That _____ be Recording Secretary for the Congregational Meetings in the calendar year 2026.

- **Opening Prayer: Rev. Dr. John Young**

- **Opening Motion**

Moved:

Seconded:

“That

- **all persons present in the meeting room shall be considered present**
- **attendance shall be taken by recording the list of participants**
- **at this meeting of St. Mark’s United Church Community of Faith, identified adherents of the congregation may vote on all matters.”**

- **Additions to the Agenda**

-
-
-

Motion to Approve Agenda as presented/amended

Moved:

Seconded:

“That the agenda for the Annual General Meeting, 2026 be approved as presented/amended.”

- **In Memoriam: Rev. Smith/Young**

We mourned the passing of the following persons, and commended them to God’s ever-loving care

- Geoff Gowthorpe
- William John (Jack) MacDonald
-
-

- **Consent Motion**

Moved:

Seconded:

That the attendees of this Annual Congregational meeting:

- Approve the Minutes of the February 9th, 2025 Annual Congregational Meeting
- Approve the Minutes of the April 6th, 2025 Congregational Meeting
- Approve the Minutes of the October 5th, 2025 Congregational Meeting
- Approve the Minutes of the November 16th, 2025 Congregational Meeting

- **Business Arising from the Minutes:**
 - Paving of the South parking lot
 - Review of the 100th Anniversary Project
 - Fundraising Goals and Projects
 - Update on Search for New Minister
- **Correspondence**
- **Financial Report and Budget Presentation: David Clazie**

B.5.2 Annual Meeting

*At the Annual Meeting, the congregation or pastoral charge is responsible for
d) considering and making a decision on the draft annual budget*

Budget Motion(s): David Clazie

The meeting may proceed with questions about the proposed budget. Additional or alternative budget motions, arising from the floor, may be presented at this time. The meeting may also move directly to a motion to adopt the budget as presented.

Motion: To approve the budget as presented

Moved:

Seconded

“That the budget be accepted as presented/amended.

- **Mission and Service Objective for 2026: David Clazie**

Motion re: Mission and Service Objective of \$_____ for 2026

Moved:

Seconded:

“To adopt the Mission and Service objective of raising \$_____ from congregational giving, and report the objective to the General Council as requested.”

- **Review of the Reports contained within the Annual Report**

B.5.2 Annual Meeting

At the Annual Meeting, the congregation or pastoral charge is responsible for

- *receiving the Annual Reports from the governing body, committees, and other groups in the congregation or pastoral charge.*

Motion re: Reports within the Annual Report

Moved:

Seconded:

“To receive, for information, the reports contained within the Annual Report”.

- **Nominating Committee Report: Roger West**

B.7.1 Responsibilities of the Congregation or Pastoral Charge

A congregation or pastoral charge is responsible for having a governing body. It must....

- *elect the members of the governing body.*

Motion re: Nominating Committee Report

Moved:

Seconded:

“That the report of the Nominating Committee be received.”*A motion may be made to add persons to the list of potential nominees.***Motion: To adopt the slate of officers and church board members as amended.**

Moved:

Seconded:

“That the slate of officers and church board members be amended to include.....”

- **Report of the Board of Trustees: Rev. Young**

Motion: Transfer of Funds from the Manse Fund to the Legacy Giving and Trust Fund

Moved:

Seconded:

“That the congregation of St. Mark’s approve the transfer of funds from the Manse Fund to the Legacy Giving and Trust Fund up to the maximum amount allowed by the policy of the East Central Ontario Regional Council (ECORC) for the calendar year 2026.”

- **New Business**

- Election of Congregational Representatives to the East Central Ontario Regional Council (ECORC).

-
- Election of Chair of the Board and Secretary of the Board for the coming year.
 -
 -
 - **Closing Remarks**
 - **Closing Prayer: Rev. Smith/Rev. Young**
 - **Motion to Adjourn**
 - Moved:
 - Seconded:

“That the business being completed, the Annual Congregational Meeting of St. Mark’s United Pastoral Charge be adjourned.”

A Message from our Ministers....

Dear Friends of St Mark's:

If a picture paints a thousand words, then the words contained in this Annual Report, paint for us a portrait of the life, work, and ministry of St Mark's United Church in Cannifton. It has truly been a year of change with the Rev Ryan McNally and his family, Julie, Evan, and Tyson loading their vehicles and heading west to Kamloops BC for new opportunities in Ministry, Medicine, and Education. Although they will be missed, Rev Ryan's 13 years as St Mark's minister and that of the McNally family certainly left their mark upon us and this place and we are all blessed because of it.

2025 saw seven new persons come into membership and two who transferred to another congregation. We also mourned the loss and give thanks for the lives of two of our saints; Geoff Gowthorpe and Jack MacDonald, both who were vital parts in this church family. We hold up their families in prayer and support.

As one reads through this report, a picture begins to emerge; a picture of people reflecting God's love in worship, in outreach, and in caring and service.

In June, we were able to join with the other United Churches in the area at Zwicks Park to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the United Church of Canada. Our own anniversary was highlighted on September 21st, with the Rev Kathleen McCrea as our guest speaker. Kathleen is the daughter of Rev. Robert McCrea who had served as a student minister at St Mark's some years back. And with a big thanks to Alfreda and her team, a beautiful Story Wall was erected depicting the people and events who have shared and shaped the ministry of this amalgamated congregation of St. Mark's United Church

As one reads through this report, we do not only see those who are actively supporting this church's ministry and the Mission and Service fund, but also share a deep caring for this wider community and made donations to Gleaners, Food for Learning, the Farley Fund, and others (see CD report for full list). Thank you.

We are thankful for our chair Roger West, who will also be providing leadership on our Search and Selection Committee, to Mark Bond who shares his wonderful gift of music with us each week, to Sheila Parks for her faithful leadership in the office, to Andrea McFaul and her family whom we wish good health in this new year and to Joel Frijters who is helping us in the office until Andrea's return. We are truly blessed with those who share in this ministry.

In September, you invited The Rev Dr. John Young and the Rev Dr Bill Smith to lead in the ministry of St Mark’s. Although we have known one another for many years and have served on committees together, this was our first opportunity to share leadership in congregational ministry. What a wonderful opportunity you have given us. Thank you for your faith in God and your trust and support in us as we share together in this gift of ministry.

As we move into 2026, and with the hopes of our new minister being called to this church, may we remind you of the questions posed by the Rev Éric Hebert Daly, the executive minister for the East Central Ontario Regional Council (ECORC Fall Meeting Report.)

Who are we serving and where is God’s Spirit pushing us as we seek to be a community of faith in this our time and place? For these questions define what shape our ministry will take in this new year and in the years to come.

Yes, this report paints a picture of a people who reflect God’s love, respect diversity and welcome all; who sing and share, who pray and laugh, and who break bread together in sacrament and fellowship. And each one of you makes this ministry possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Dr. John Young

Rev. Dr. William Smith

A Message from our Chair....

When I joined the Board in April 2025—after transferring my membership the year before—I knew there would be a learning curve. It has stretched and humbled me at times, but it has also been deeply encouraging. Your patience, wisdom, and good humour have made all the difference.

This year brought a significant transition as Rev. Ryan requested a change in relationship and moved with his family to British Columbia. We are grateful for the ministry he shared with us and for the foundations he helped strengthen.

We are blessed that two of our own—Rev. Dr. Bill Smith and Rev. Dr. John Young—stepped in as interim ministers. Their steady presence in worship, pastoral

care, and the many small moments that hold a congregation together has been a true gift.

Even during change, we accomplished important work. We completed and approved a new Living Faith Profile, and our request to seek a full-time minister is now active. The Search Committee is ready to begin their work with care and prayer as we prepare ourselves for a new ministry—still unknown, but full of possibility and hope.

When our church administrator needed personal time away, we were fortunate to find the support we needed. Thank you to Sheila and Joel for stepping in with such generosity and skill.

And truly, to every member of St. Mark's—thank you. For every effort offered, every task taken on, every quiet act of care. You make this congregation one of warmth, strength, and love.

Through it all, your Board has remained committed and attentive, and our committees/groups have carried the work of the church with courage and creativity. As we move forward, we do so with gratitude and with trust that God continues to guide St. Mark's into its next faithful chapter.

Roger West,
Board Chair

Sacred Celebrations in 2025

We celebrated the marriage of:

- Taylor Rae Blanchard and Zachary Arthur Wayne Reid, officiated by Rev. Ryan McNally.

We welcomed the following persons into the membership of St. Mark's United:

- Elaine & Roger West, St. Andrew's United, Blind River, Ontario by transfer.
- Chloe Elizabeth Land, Church of England.

We welcomed the following persons into the membership of St. Mark's United by Profession of Faith:

- Natalie Danielle Land
- Spencer Ezra Ernest White
- Gary Treverton
- Evan McNally

We received a Transfer of Membership from St. Mark's to Central Okanagan United Church, Kelowna, BC.

- Julie Bryson McNally
- Evan McNally

We mourned the death of the following persons, and commended them to God's ever-loving care.

- Geoff Gowthorpe
- William John (Jack) MacDonald

St. Mark’s United Church Annual Congregational Meeting February 9th, 2025

St. Mark’s United Church Annual Congregational Meeting was convened on Sunday, February 9th, 2025 by Rev. Ryan McNally in the Lower Hall following a delicious potluck lunch. Those in attendance were:

Jack Alexander	Julie McNally	JoAnne Scott
Margaret Alexander	Rev. Ryan McNally	Nancy Shorey
Betty Beer	Mary Milligan	Gary Treverton
Jacklyn Bell	Elaner Pound	Marguerite Treverton
David Clazie	Alexandra Reid (a minor)	Marilyn Vance
Jennifer Clazie	Beverly Reid	Bonnie Watson
Dawn Chambers	Helen Rollins	Roger West
Lois MacDonald	Alfreda Rupert	Gary Williams
Evan McNally	Ellen Rush	Rev. Dr. John Young
	Jack Scott	

Welcome, Attendance and Establishing Quorum

Rev. McNally welcomed all those attending.

Rev. McNally stated that we must have quorum, and quorum is established in the following manner:

B.5.5 *Minimum Number of Members Present*

A meeting of the congregation or pastoral charge may take place if a minimum number of full members is present, as follows:

- *for congregations or pastoral charges with 100 or more full members, at least 20 full members must be present.*

There were 28 members present.

Rev. McNally then stated:

“Quorum having been met, in the name of Jesus Christ, the head of the church, I declare this meeting constituted to transact all business properly brought before it.”

Election of Chair and Recording Secretary for the Annual Congregational Meeting

Rev. McNally opened the floor to nominations for Chairperson and Secretary of the Congregational Meetings for the calendar year 2025.

Nomination of the Chair for the Congregational Meetings in the calendar year 2025

Moved: Elaner Pound

Seconded: Alfreda Rupert

“That Roger West be Chair of the Congregational Meetings in the calendar year 2025. Carried

Nomination of the Recording Secretary for the Congregational Meetings in the calendar year 2025

Moved: Nancy Shorey

Seconded: Betty Beer

“That Elaner Pound be Recording Secretary for the Congregational Meetings in the calendar year 2025. Carried

With the completion of these motions, Roger West took on the duties of Chairing the meeting, and Elaner Pound commenced recording the minutes of the meeting.

Opening Prayer: Rev. McNally opened our meeting with prayer, seeking guidance as the business of the church was being conducted.

Opening Motion

Moved: Jack Alexander

Seconded: Bonnie Watson

“That

- **all persons present in the meeting room shall be considered present**
- **attendance shall be taken by recording the list of participants**
- **at this meeting of St. Mark’s United Church Community of Faith, identified adherents of the congregation may vote on all matters.”**

Carried

Additions to the Agenda:

The following item was added to the agenda: Approval of the Minutes of the November 10th, 2024 Congregational Meeting.

Motion to Approve the Agenda as Printed and Amended

Moved: Bonnie Watson

Seconded: Lois MacDonald

“That the agenda be approved as printed and amended.” Carried

In Memoriam: Rev. McNally

We mourned the passing of the following persons, and commended them to God’s ever-loving care:-

- John Thomas Bryson
- John Frederick “Jack” Caddick †
- Royce Ronald Doxtator
- Alma Doreen Grills†
- Gail Hinds
- Sherry Kavanaugh
- William John Lyons†
- Frederick Warren Middleton†
- Howard Alan Pulver
- Barbara Ann Webbert†

† Indicates the person was a member of St. Mark’s United Church

Rev. McNally explained that all of these people were in one way or another, part of the St. Mark’s family, and we mourn their loss. Rev. McNally closed our “In Memoriam” with a prayer.

Approval of the Minutes of the February 11th, 2024 Annual Congregational Meeting**Motion to Approve the Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting held on Sunday, February 11th, 2024**

Moved: Elaner Pound

Seconded: Gary Williams

“That the minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting held on Sunday, February 11th, 2024 be approved as printed and circulated.” Carried

Approval of the Minutes of the November 10th, 2024 Congregational Meeting

Motion to Approve the Minutes of the Congregational Meeting held on November 10th, 2024

Moved: Elaner Pound

Seconded: Lois MacDonald

“That the minutes of the November 10th, 2024 Congregational Meeting be approved as printed and circulated.” Carried

Business Arising from the Minutes

- **Update on the Rural Connect and the “Three Opportunities:**
 - **Opportunity 1: Working with Other United Churches:** Rev. McNally referred those present to page 11 of the Annual Report, in which a summary of St. Mark’s working with other United Churches in the Belleville area has been an ongoing process. He then noted with those attending that as part of his studies with the (Re)Generate Program, he has led the Board in a discussion regarding the terms “planning” and “strategy”, both of which were clearly defined on page 12 of the report. Rev. McNally explained that St. Mark’s needs a strategy more than it needs planning, He then asked everyone to think about:- “What would St. Mark’s look like in 2035?” and share your thoughts with those around you. Here are some of the points from that discussion:
 - we would maintain the sense of community that we have, thinking more of the people than the building
 - we would show God’s love by our actions, by helping in the community i.e. Mission by the Month, volunteering in local schools, etc.
 - as we look ahead 10 years, many of us will not be here, so with this in mind we need to attract more young families and youth
 - we need to make ourselves more of a presence in the community so that others may learn what we are all about
 - when new people attend our morning worship service, we need to make them feel welcome, and make a connection with them
 - what we are currently doing may need to change in order to grow; i.e. perhaps we need to change when we have our worship service
 - it was noted that the streaming of our Sunday morning service does help those who cannot come to the service, and for others, they can participate in it at another time that is convenient to them
 - we also have to be aware that those who join us for worship may not be familiar with all of our traditions; i.e. the Lord’s Prayer, thus having it printed on the screen helps them be part of the service

- we do need to advertise more about what we do – i.e.; announce on our Announcement Loop what we gave to the Bridge Street Program, or put it on our outside sign.

- **Opportunity 3: Increase Rental Income:** It was noted that the Board has been evaluating new rental opportunities as they arise, always making sure that the building can be used by St. Mark’s for its own activities.

- **Paving of South Parking Lot:** It was noted that the Board had investigated this, and found that to pave our parking lot would be quite costly. When the current paving was put down, it was for non-heavy traffic, rather for cars coming and going to church, etc. In order to have our parking lot handle the school buses, other traffic etc. that it sees each day, a construction company needs to remove the current paving, create a heavy rock and soil base, and then pave for heavy usage, which would be extremely expensive. The Board also looked into just paving the small area where there is breakage, and it became apparent that this was too small a job for paving companies to consider. The matter was referred back to the Property Committee for further consideration.

Correspondence: None

Financial Report and Budget Presentation: David Clazie

David Clazie, Treasurer, began his presentation by talking about how St. Mark’s had fared in 2024. He noted that we had ended the year with a small surplus of \$238.00. This small surplus comes about because:-

- we exceeded our offering budget by \$5,600.00,
- we gained an additional \$970.00 through fundraising, as well as another \$760.00 in HST revenues,
- sadly, funeral revenues gave us \$2,100.00,
- we received \$10,000.00 from the estate of W. Waldron, and
- we only used \$28,500.00 of the budgeted \$41,500.00 from the Legacy Fund.

Looking at the expenses side, David noted the following:-

- the salaries and benefits came in under \$600.00,
- the Administration costs were under \$1,400.00,
- the building costs were over by \$1,365.00, due to an increase in hydro rates,
- the snowplowing and grass cutting costs were under by \$1,400.00, and
- other expenses were over by \$2,100.00.

So, in summary, David explained, we did end the year with a small surplus of \$238.00. We have an operating bank balance of \$57,594.00, the Legacy Fund has a balance of \$266,893.00, as we used \$42,800.00 for capital and operating expenses i.e. installation of heat pumps, stone repointing, etc., and the Manse Fund has a balance of \$56,194.00.

David then turned our attention to the proposed budget for 2025. He thanked the members of the Stewardship Committee, as well as the Chairs of the four Standing Committees of the Board for their input in helping to present a balanced budget for the coming year. As he progressed through the proposed budget, David emphasized with those attending how much we would need to take in each month to meet these costs.

2025 Expenses

- **Staff Salaries and Benefits:** David reported that the staff salaries and benefits total \$136,925.00 for the coming year, which is an increase of \$9,300.00, which is due in part to an increase in the United Church grid, the minimum wage increase, increased employee salaries including an increase in Secretary hours, which will now include UUC Pension and benefit costs. **This equates to \$11,410.00/month.**
- **Administrative Costs:** These costs total \$7,700.00, and include such things as bank charges, the photocopier, stamps, paper, etc. This is an increase of \$525.00, and **equates to \$642.00/month.**
- **Building Operating Expenses:** These come to a total of \$22,900.00, and include costs for heat and hydro, insurance, etc., and this is up \$1,000.00 from last year. David noted that water and hydro had increased by \$1,400.00 from last year, but heat had decreased by \$400.00. A maintenance budget of \$3,000.00 is also included. **This equates to \$1,908.00/month.**
- **Property:** The property expense total \$11,500.00, which includes \$8,000.00 for snowplowing, (a decrease of \$500.00), and \$2,500.00 for grass cutting. **This equates to \$959.00/month.**
- **Outreach:** This was kept at \$500.00 for church funded items. David did note that we will continue to receive and give outreach amounts throughout the year as they arise. **This equates to \$40.00/month.**

- **Other Expenses:** This totals \$11,175.00 and this is an increase of \$675.00 from last year, and it is mainly due to software costs. **This equates to \$931.00/month.**

David then provided a chart which summarized our total expenses for the coming year, as well as the monthly requirement to meet those expenses. (Please see below)

Summary of 2025 Expenses		
Expense	Yearly	Monthly
Salaries	\$136,925.00	\$11,410.00
Administration	\$7,700.00	\$642.00
Building	\$22,900.00	\$1,908.00
Property	\$11,500.00	\$959.00
Outreach	\$500.00	\$40.00
Other	\$11,175.00	\$931.00
Total	\$190,700.00	\$15,890.00

As well, David provided a summary chart of how these expenses would be met. (Please see below.)

How will we fund this?		
Revenue	Yearly	Monthly
Offerings	\$100,000.00	\$8,334.00
Donations	\$5,000.00	\$416.00
Fundraising	\$3000.00	\$250.00
United Church Women	\$4,000.00	\$333.00
Rental	\$22,650.00	\$1,887.00
Other	\$5,050.00	\$420.00
Legacy Fund	\$51,000.00	\$4,250.00
Total	\$190,700.00	\$15,890.00

David then offered a revenue analysis using the following chart:

Revenue Analysis		
Revenue	Yearly	%age
Offerings	\$100,000.00	52%
Rental	\$22,650.00	12%
Other	\$17,050.00	9%
Legacy	\$51,000.00	27%
Total	\$190,700.00	100%

Giving us something to think about, David emphasized with those present that it is very problematic to take \$51,000.00 from the Legacy Fund each year to help balance the budget, as it **is just not sustainable**. The yearly offerings that we are receiving are becoming a smaller percentage of our total revenues, while our expenses continue to increase each year. We are becoming more and more reliant on the Legacy Fund to balance the budget, and the Fund will run out of money in the next few years!!!

David then addressed any questions regarding the budget.

Motion to Receive the Budget as Presented

Moved: Nancy Shorey

Seconded: Bonnie Watson

“That the budget be received as presented.” Carried

Mission and Service Objective for 2025: David Clazie

David explained that even though we had exceeded our Mission and Service objective for the past year, we were keeping this year’s objective at the same amount - \$12,500.00. He also noted that the United Church Women had committed to keeping their \$2,500 M & S objective as well

Motion re: Mission and Service Objective of \$12,500.00 for 2025

Moved: Mary Milligan

Seconded: JoAnne Scott

To adopt the Mission and Service objective of raising \$12,500.00 from congregational giving, and report the objective to the General Council as requested. Carried

Review of the Report within the Annual Report

Roger led those present through the various reports contained within the Annual Report, seeking comments, questions or discussion on any of the material within those reports.

Mary Milligan, Chair of the Stewardship Committee, rose to speak to the Stewardship Committee Report that was enclosed within the Annual Report. She explained that the 2023 report had mistakenly been included in the report, and she distributed to those present the correct report. She noted that the 2024 report gives a detailed explanation as to why the Stewardship Committee was recommending the closing of the Memorial Fund and transferring those funds to the Church’s general fund. She did stress that

those individuals who wished to make memorial donations would have in the future the option of specifying either the General Fund or the Legacy Fund.

Motion to Receive for information the reports contained and amended in the Annual Report

Moved: David Clazie

Seconded: Jack Alexander

“To receive, for information, the reports contained and amended within the Annual Report.” Carried

Nominating Committee Report

The Board received a request from Rev. Caroline Giesbrecht for a “leave of absence” from the Board due to other commitments. In addition, each member whose term was up at the end of 2024 was approached to determine if they were willing to return to the Board for another 3 -year term. All agreed to do so, except for Sheri Thompson who wished to resign from the Board. She was thanked for her leadership over the past few years. Two new members have agreed to join the Board, and they are Jacklyn Bell and Margo Russell-Bird.

Accordingly, the Nominating Committee put forward the following list as the slate of Board members for 2025:-

Betty Beer (Clerk of Session)
Jacklyn Bell
David Clazie (Treasurer)
Lois McDonald
Mary Milligan
Keith Parks

Elaner Pound (Board Secretary)
Margo Russell-Bird
Alfreda Rupert
Nancy Shorey
Melanie Thompson
Bonnie Watson (Past Chair)

With respect to the Trustees, Sheri Thompson, Gary Williams and Rev. Dr. John Young have agreed to continue on the Board of Trustees for another term, and Jack Alexander has agreed to join the Trustees.

Motion to Adopt the Slate of Officers and Church Board members as put forward by the Nominating Committee

Moved: Alfreda Rupert

Seconded: Bonnie Watson

“That the Slate of Officers and Church Board members as put forward by the Nominating Committee be accepted.” Carried

Report of the Trustees: Rev. McNally

Rev. McNally referred those present to the Trustees report as found on pages 29 and 30 in the Annual Report. He placed particular emphasis on two items:-

- **Promoting the Legacy Giving and Trust Fund:** It was noted that anyone can give to this fund at any time. The funds are held in trust for the use of the church, as directed through the budget process. It was also noted that these funds can be used for urgent capital expenses that can arise from time to time. There are several ways that donations can be made to this fund, either by:
 - a gift of cash,
 - a bequest in your will,
 - though an insurance policy in which St. Mark’s is the beneficiary,
 - or by a gift of stock, mutual funds or other investments, thus avoiding capital gains tax on the transaction.
- **Risk Assessment Check List provided by the United Church of Canada:** This check list is provided by the United Church’s insurance program. From the list, the Trustees identified several deficiencies in need of repair, and worked with the Property Committee and NOSH to rectify them. The Trustees also sought to ensure that there is appropriate insurance to cover the organ and piano, in case there was ever a problem.

Rev. McNally also explained that we need to transfer funds from the Manse Fund to the Legacy Giving and Trust Fund.

Motion to Transfer Funds from the Manse Fund to the Legacy Giving and Trust Fund

Moved: David Clazie

Seconded: Jack Alexander

“That the congregation of St. Mark’s United Church approve the transfer of funds from the Manse Fund to the Legacy Giving and Trust Fund up to the maximum amount allowed by the policy of the East Central Ontario Regional Council (ECORC) for the calendar year 2025.” Carried

New Business:

- **Election of Congregational Representatives to the East Central Ontario Regional Council (ECORC):** Rev. McNally explained that we are entitled to send 2 representatives to attend these meetings, and there are usually 2 meetings/year, one in the Spring and one in the Fall. Elaner Pound volunteered to continue in this role. Alfreda Rupert volunteered to attend as well.

Motion re: ECORC Representatives from St. Mark’s

Moved: Nancy Shorey

Seconded: Jacklyn Bell

“That Elaner Pound and Alfreda Rupert represent St. Mark’s United Church at the East Central Ontario Regional Council (ECORC) meetings.” Carried

- **Time and Talent Survey:** This will be forthcoming from the Christian Development Committee.
- **100th Anniversary Project – Alfreda Rupert:** Alfreda explained that a “story wall” will be created in the Narthex using the Gallery Rail, and it will tell the story of St. Mark’s over the past 100 years. The wall will be divided into 3 sections, with one section highlighting various memories of folks over the many years, another showcasing the 5 churches that came together to form St. Mark’s, and the third will feature the various groups that have met/ are meeting in the church. In addition, people will go out and talk to various members of the congregation, gather pictures, articles with their stories, bring them back and the committee would organize them on the storyboard. Alfreda noted that the assembling of the information on the storyboard wall would be “fluid”, or in other words “a living wall”. She also mentioned that perhaps at the end, all of the materials (stories, pictures, etc.) could be assembled into a book.
- **Fundraising Goals and Ideas:** This item on the agenda came from the Board, as it recognizes that we will need to fundraise money in order to meet our budget and the Board is seeking ideas. The following are some of the suggestions that were put forward:-
 1. a purse auction
 2. a pie auction
 3. generate a fundraising event that would be part of an “Open House” that would feature what we value and some of the charities that we support
 4. Fish Fry
 5. BBQ.

Closing Remarks: Roger thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and participating in the discussion. He suggested that perhaps each one of us could ask someone to come to church with them over the next few months. Doing this could have some very surprising results.

Closing Prayer: Rev. McNally closed our meeting with prayer.

Adjournment: As the business of the Annual Congregational Meeting had been completed, the meeting was adjourned.

St. Mark’s United Church Congregational Meeting
April 6th, 2025

A Congregational Meeting was held on Sunday, April 6th, 2025, following the morning worship service. Rev. McNally explained that this meeting was called for the purpose of the congregation electing a Board Chair and Secretary, as per the new United Church Manual. He then asked Roger West, as Congregational Meeting Chair and Elaner Pound as Secretary for these meetings to come forward.

Roger West then called the meeting to order.

Motion to Accept New Members to the Church Board

Moved: Alfreda Rupert

Seconded: Nancy Shorey

That Roger West be accepted as a new member of the Church Board. Carried

Motion to Elect a Board Chair and Secretary

Moved: Alfreda Rupert

Seconded: Nancy Shorey

That Roger West be elected as Board Chair for the remainder of the year, and that Elaner Pound be elected as Secretary for the remainder of the year. Carried

As the business of the meeting had been concluded, Roger thanked everyone for attending the meeting, and he thanked all of the Board members for their contribution to the church. He noted that we need people to support the Board and the congregation.

Rev. McNally closed the meeting with prayer.

Adjournment: Elaner Pound

St. Mark’s United Church Congregational Meeting
October 5th, 2025

St. Mark’s United Church Congregational Meeting was convened on Sunday, October 5th, 2025 by Rev. Dr. William Smith in the Sanctuary following the morning worship service. There was a quorum.

Rev. Dr. William Smith explained that as Roger West, our current Congregational Meeting Chair was unable to attend this meeting, the congregation of St. Mark’s would need to elect a Chair for this meeting, only. Once that Chair had been elected, he and Rev. Dr. John Young would leave the meeting.

Rev. Dr. Smith then opened the meeting with prayer.

Nomination of a Chair for the October 5th, 2025 Congregational Meeting

Moved: Mary Milligan

Seconded: Sheila Parks

That Alfreda Rupert be elected as Chair for the October 5th, 2025 Congregational Meeting.

Carried

Alfreda Rupert came forward and began her role as Chair.

She then introduced Rev. Stevan Spicer to the congregation, and noted that he was our Liaison Minister as appointed by the East Central Ontario Regional Council (ECORC).

Rev. Spicer came forward and addressed the meeting. He explained that three motions would need to be passed at this meeting, two of which were almost identical. Once they had been passed he would inform Susan Garrod-Schuster of the passage of the motions. Roger West can then post these positions as placeholders to the Hub, and Rev. Susan Garrod-Schuster will make them “live” following the upcoming Covenant Support Meeting, pending their approval at that meeting.

Rev. Spicer also went on to say, that the committee that was writing St. Mark’s Profile, which would also be posted to the Hub when completed, were a hard-working group of people. It was hoped that the draft document would be brought to the congregation for their input and approval by November, and hopefully it would “go live” on the Hub in January. Rev. Spicer commended our Treasurer for providing all of the financial information required for the report in a very timely fashion.

The following motions were placed before the congregation for their consideration:

Motion re: Creation and Posting of Positions

Moved: Gary Williams

Seconded: Jacki Bell

That St. Mark’s Cannifton Community of Faith create and post on the HUB two $\frac{3}{8}$ or 15-hour ministry positions to provide worship, sacrament and pastoral care and to support the community of faith during the search process. Both positions are from September 1st, 2025 to December 31st, 2025 . Carried

Motion re: Acceptance of Regional Appointment of Rev. Dr. William Smith

Moved: Nancy Shorey

Seconded: Mary Milligan

That St. Mark’s Cannifton Community of Faith accept the regional appointment of Rev. Dr. William Smith to $\frac{3}{8}$ 15-hour ministry role. All compensation pursuant to the current manual. This appointment shall be from September 1st, 2025 to December 31st, 2025. Carried

Motion re: Acceptance of Regional Appointment of Rev. Dr. John Young

Moved: Sheila Parks

Seconded: Dawn Chambers

That St. Mark’s Cannifton Community of Faith accept the regional appointment of Rev. Dr. John Young to $\frac{3}{8}$ 15-hour ministry role. All compensation pursuant to the current manual. This appointment shall be from September 1st, 2025 to December 31st, 2025. Carried

It was noted that it would be the decision of Rev. Dr. Smith and Rev. Dr. Young if they wished to continue into the New Year, and for how long. If that was the case, then another Congregational Meeting would need to be called to pass motions similar to the ones above.

Alfreda thanked everyone for staying and participating in the meeting.

As the business of the meeting was completed, the meeting was adjourned.

St. Mark’s United Church Congregational Meeting
November 16th, 2025

A Congregational meeting for St. Mark’s United Church was held on Sunday, November 16th, 2025 following the morning worship service. Chair Roger West called the meeting to order. There was a quorum.

Roger stated that there were three items that were to be addressed at this meeting, the first being the review of St. Mark’s church profile – “The Living Faith Profile”, then the extension of the interim ministry at St. Mark’s, and lastly the seeking of volunteers to serve on a “search committee”.

Roger noted that the “Living Faith Profile” was an invitation to prospective ministers, who were seeking to understand who we are, and where we were hoping to go in the future. He stated that the profile is comprehensive and detailed so that prospective ministers can see that there are job opportunities for their spouse/partner, areas for shopping, etc.

Roger then introduced our Liaison Minister – Rev. Stevan Spicer.

Rev. Spicer opened this portion of the meeting with prayer. He then stated that the “Living Faith” document was a true reflection of St. Mark’s, and prospective ministers would want to seek more information about us. He noted that the committee had worked long and hard on the document, and he asked the members of the writing team to stand and be acknowledged. Rev. Spicer also stated that once the document was approved by the congregation, then he would forward it to Rev. Susan Garrod-Schuster, Interim Pastoral Relations Minister for the East Central Ontario Regional Council (ECORC). When approval has been received at this level, then our “Living Faith Story” goes on to the Covenant Support group for their approval, and once that approval is received, then our “Living Faith Story” will be placed on the Church Hub, for prospective ministers to view.

Rev. Spicer also explained that a Financial Viability Report would also accompany our “Living Faith Story”. The Regional Council will examine this report to ensure that we can financially support a full-time minister.

Rev. Spicer then asked the congregation if they would support the document. With a show of hands, the congregation overwhelmingly showed their support for the document.

At this point in the meeting, Rev. Dr. William Smith and Rev. Dr. John Young left the meeting, as we would be discussing the extension of their interim ministry at St. Mark’s.

Roger explained that a small committee had met with both ministers about the extension of their Interim Ministry at St. Mark’s in the New Year. Roger was pleased to announce that both Rev. Smith and Rev. Young will continue their Interim Ministry at St. Mark’s to February 28th, 2026, and that Rev. Young will continue until June 30th, 2026.

With that in mind, the following motions were placed before the congregation for their consideration:

Motion re: Acceptance of Regional Appointment of Rev. Dr. William Smith

Moved: Jack Alexander

Seconded: Alfreda Rupert

That St. Mark’s Cannifton Community of Faith accept the regional appointment of Rev. Dr. William Smith to $\frac{3}{8}$, 15-hour ministry role. All compensation pursuant to the current manual. This appointment shall be from January 1st, 2026 to February 28, 2026. Carried

Motion re: Acceptance of Regional Appointment of Rev. Dr. John Young

Moved: Jack Alexander

Seconded: Alfreda Rupert

That St. Mark’s Cannifton Community of Faith accept the regional appointment of Rev. Dr. John Young to $\frac{3}{8}$, 15-hour ministry role. All compensation pursuant to the current manual. This appointment shall be from January 1st, 2026 to February 28th, 2026. Carried

Motion re: Acceptance of Regional Appointment of Rev. Dr. John Young

Moved: Jack Alexander

Seconded: Alfreda Rupert

That St. Mark’s Cannifton Community of Faith accept the regional appointment of Rev. Dr. John Young to $\frac{3}{4}$ time ministry role. All compensation pursuant to the current manual. This appointment shall be from March 1st, 2026 to June 30th, 2026. Carried

It was noted that Rev. Young had agreed to revisit the above motion, if necessary.

Rev. Spicer then informed the meeting, that because of the steps that St. Mark’s had to go through with initiating the dual interim appointments through the Church Hub, certain procedures had been streamlined. This was indeed good news!!!

Roger then introduced the final item for this meeting – the seeking of volunteers to serve on the “Search Committee”. He explained that there would be some training required, and that Rev. Spicer would lead that. Roger also felt that the initial interview with any prospective minister would be completed via Zoom, and the second meeting would be completed “in person”. Once the committee has decided on a new minister for St. Mark’s, their recommendation would be brought to the congregation at a Congregational Meeting. He was hoping that 5 – 7 folks would volunteer to serve on this committee. With that in mind, the following members of the congregation volunteered to serve on the Search Committee:

- Michelle Reid
- Alexandra Reid
- Jackie Bell
- Roger West
- Elaner Pound

The congregation was then asked if they approved of the Search Committee. Again, with a show of hands, the congregation approved the Search Committee.

Rev. Spicer then again thanked the committee for all of their hard work, and Roger thanked Rev. Spicer for his patience and leadership.

As all of the business had been completed, the meeting was adjourned.

Committee Reports

Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees for 2025 were as follows:

Name	Term ending in...	Name	Term ending in...
Sheri Thompson	2025	David Clazie	2027
Elaner Pound	2025	Greg Stevens	2027
Gary Williams	2025	Jack Alexander	2028
Rev. Dr. John Young	2025 – Interim Ex Officio (September to December)	Rev. Ryan McNally	Ex Officio (January to June – 2025)

Ex Officio Chairperson: Rev. Ryan McNally (January – June 2025)

Interim Ex Officio Chairperson: Rev. Dr. John Young (September – December 2025)

Deputy Chair: Sheri Thompson

Treasurer: David Clazie

Secretary: Elaner Pound

The United Church of Canada Act requires that a majority of the members of the Board of Trustees are members of the United Church of Canada. As all persons above are UCC members, this requirement is satisfied.

This year the Trustees met on Thursday, December 18th, 2025 to discuss their investment portfolio.

David Clazie, Treasurer for the Trustees, reported that the investments had done very well this year, as they had grown by \$29,000.00, which was a 9% return since January.

He explained that:

- 25% are in cash and high interest savings account
- GIC’s make up 35% of our portfolio, and these are laddered, with some coming due in 2026, others in 2027, 2028, 2029 and 2030. In the new year, another \$25,000.00 will be invested which will come due in 2031.
- 6% of the fund is in Mutual Funds
- Another 33% in equities.
- The total value of the portfolio is \$352,400.00

David explained to the Trustees that he has only had to take money from the fund in the last four years, and the amounts have not affected the principal.

David did note that currently, 25% of the portfolio, or \$85,000.00 is in cash, and is sitting in a high interest savings account. He was wondering if we would need those funds for a project in the near future, or should he re-invest them? The ensuing discussion centered around the south parking lot, in particular the breaking up of the pavement. It was noted that repair of the south parking lot had been discussed at last year’s Annual Meeting, and had been referred to the Property Committee of the Church Board. Both Elaner and Sheri explained that there had been discussions at the Church Board, but a decision had been deferred due to the cost. From this discussion of the Trustees, the following motion was placed before them for their consideration:

Motion re: Paving of Parking Lot

Moved: Gary Williams

Seconded: Jack Alexander

That the Trustees strongly recommend that the Board of St. Mark’s revisit the parking lot discussion, and entertain 3 formal quotes for the paving of the parking lot, broken down into west parking lot, east parking lot and complete parking lot. Carried.

The Trustees would also entertain the repair of just the south parking lot, but would preferably prefer the whole parking lot be repaired. There are safety and liability concerns with this area of the parking lot. From the above discussion, it was determined by the Trustees that the \$85,000.00 should remain in the high interest savings account until a decision was made regarding the paving of the parking lot.

Trustee Financial Information:

Please see Financial Reports Section of the Annual Report

Election of New Trustees:

The number of Trustees is governed by the United Church of Canada Act; the minimum number of Trustees is 3 and the maximum is 15.

Proposed for a three-year term, ending at the Annual meeting in February 2029 are the following persons:

- Elaner Pound
- Sheri Thompson
- Gary Williams
- Rev. Dr. John Young

This will bring the total number of Trustees to 7 (within the requirements).

Christian Development Committee **Highlights from 2025**

The Christian Development Committee was very busy over the past year, with a number of special services and activities. We were truly blessed to have as our Chairs over the past year Rev. Ryan McNally, and Rev. Dr. William Smith.

The year began with the Committee updating the Wedding/Funeral fees for our church. Then we quickly moved into the planning for the Lent and Easter services.

These plans included:

- A short evening service on Ash Wednesday
- The UCW leading the service on the first Sunday of Lent
- Waving of Palm branches on Palm Sunday
- Hosting the Maundy Thursday service
- Worshipping with Emmanuel United Church on Good Friday
- Enjoying our Sunrise Service by the river followed by a delicious pancake breakfast cooked by the men of the church
- Holding a joyful Easter service at our regular 10:30 a.m. time

Mother's Day and Father's Day services were also a part of our Church year. Many of our members attended the joint Belleville Churches' service at Zwick's Park celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the United Church of Canada on Sunday, June 8th, 2025.

St. Mark's Anniversary Service on Sunday, September 21st, 2025 was a truly exciting event. Our guest speaker was Rev. Kathleen McCrea McCallum, whose father, Rev. Robert McCrea was a former student minister here. Also, highlighted at that service was the "Story Wall" which displayed in pictures and stories, 100 years of history of our church. What a fount of information it was!!! Thanks to Alfreda Rupert and her committee for all their dedicated work on the project.

With the coming of the Fall season, services were planned for Thanksgiving, Remembrance Day, and the Advent Season. Communion was held on Advent 1, and a special White Gift service and Pizza party was held on Advent 2. The Christmas Eve Service on December 24th, 2025 was well attended and very meaningful for all.

During the year, the Christian Development Committee also approved and welcomed the following new members to the St. Mark's family by Profession of Faith (Confirmation): Gary Treverton, Evan McNally, Natalie Danielle Land, Spencer Ezra Ernest White

Approved by transfer from the Church of England was Chloe Elizabeth Land.

A request for Transfer of Membership was received by Julie and Evan McNally.

The wedding of Taylor Rae Blanchard and Zachary Wayne Reid was approved.

As had been the practice over the past number of years, the Christian Development Committee laid out our special Mission projects for the year, but with a twist. Rather than having a different project each month, the Committee determined that we should concentrate on food for the less fortunate, and the care of pets. It was decided that we should have each project continue over a 2 or 3 month period. With that in mind, the following projects were set out:

Mission by the Month			Amount Donated
January & February	Bridge Street Program	Mittens, hats and monetary donations	\$271.55
March & April	Good Baby Box	Diapers, etc. and monetary donations	\$223.10
May, June & July	Gleaner’s Food Bank	Non-perishable food items and monetary donations	\$1,186.95
August, September & October	The Farley Fund	Donations for pets and monetary donations	\$196.80
November & December	Food for Learning – Harmony Public School (Hastings and Prince Edward Learning Foundation)	Monetary donations	\$1,115.60

The members of St. Mark’s were very generous to each of these projects.

Respectfully submitted;
Elaner Pound

East Central Ontario Regional Council Spring Meeting
Friday, May 23rd and Saturday, May 24th, 2025

The East Central Ontario Regional Council’s Spring Annual Meeting was held on Friday, May 23rd, and Saturday, May 24th, 2025 at St. Paul’s United Church/St. Andrew’s PC, Bowmanville, Ontario.

Our meetings began Friday morning, May 23rd with registration at 9:00 a.m. At 10:00 a.m. we began our meeting with an acknowledgement of the land. We were then greeted by a women’s Métis and Indigenous “Drum Chorus and Singers”. The minister of the Ecumenical Shared Ministry of St. Paul’s United Church/St. Andrew’s PC, Rev. Michelle Brotherton explained that St Paul’s and St Andrew’s entered into an Ecumenical Shared Ministry in September 2024. Together they wish to be a place of belonging and connection where each person knows that they are loved and beloved.

We then participated in a worship service whose theme was a “You Are Not Alone” which included a very beautiful and moving Communion Service.

We then moved through the “Opening Motions” and were then reminded of our “Holy Manners” in the “chat room” of Zoom and in the main assembly in the sanctuary

During the afternoon session, there was a budget presentation as well as a Mission and Service Presentation. Growth Animator Rev. Victoria Mullin provided the attendees with ideas on how to grow your congregation. She would be most willing to come and work with your congregation. Following the Nutrition Break, those present were introduced to the Council of Elders, and the Staff of the East Central Ontario Regional Council. There was also a Strategic Plan Update, and the introduction of the General Council 45 Commissioners.

A delicious dinner and “Retiree’s Celebration” followed the day’s meetings. We then moved into another beautiful worship service, in which Communion was again shared, and we witnessed the ordination of two ministers – Rev. Doug Ferris who will be returning to the Eldad and Hampton Congregations and Rev. Timothy Wisnicki who will be returning to Montague, Prince Edward Island.

Our meetings began at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday morning with a Gathering Worship Service, led by Rev. Darren Liepold. This was followed by a moving tribute to the ministers we had lost over the past year, as well as the churches that had been closed or amalgamated with other congregations. The new UCW President addressed those present and provided an overview of the work of the UCW. We then received the Formation, Nurture and Justice Report during which Rev. Dr. Aruna Alexander was recognized for all of her work in this area.

Following the Nutrition Break, Jennifer Henry, from the Head Office of the United Church of Canada provided the General Council Report.

During the afternoon session, Jennifer Henry gave a very enlightening and informative talk to those present on the topic “Towards 2035”. Using the data that has been gleaned over the past years, she provided those assembled with a potential look at what the United Church of Canada will look like in 2035. Although there was some “doom and gloom”, there was also some very bright spots in the United Church’s future.

Following the afternoon break, small groups were formed so that there could be continued discussion and feedback on this topic.

The final report came from the Equity Committee.

This Spring Assembly was very enlightening, and offered many opportunities to learn about the inner workings of our United Church of Canada at the regional level.

Respectfully submitted;
Elaner Pound, Rev. Ryan McNally and Alfreda Rupert

East Central Ontario Regional Council Fall Meeting
Saturday, October 25th, 2025

The East Central Ontario Regional Council’s Fall Meeting was held on Saturday, October 25th, 2025 at the Alderville Community Centre in Alderville, Ontario, with your ECORC representatives attending along with Roger West and Rev. Dr. William Smith.

The meeting began at 10:00 a.m. with the Land Acknowledgement, and welcome to the Alderville Territory by Chief Taynar Simpson.

Following the opening motions, and the introduction of the volunteers for this meeting, Rev. Éric Hébert-Daly, Executive Minister for the East Central Ontario Regional Council (ECORC) introduced members from a new Community of Faith within our region- a Swahili Church in Oshawa. Each representative from this new church spoke of the warm welcome they had received within the community of the United Church, and they were very glad to be invited to our fall meeting.

A teaching moment was then expressed by Kathy MacLeod Beaver, an Elder from the Alderville Community. She explained that we all belong in a circle, with no one above,

below, behind or in front of us. She then asked: “What do we do to take care of our spirit?” As we all know, Native people have not been treated well, and they have had to come through what could be called a bereavement process. For them, their resources spoke of love, respect, courage, honesty, wisdom and knowing that all people are equal. Hopefully ours do as well.

Those present then participated in a worship service which included the Covenanting Service with the East Central Regional Council (ECORC), Rev. David King and Alderville United Church, which also included a Communion Service.

Following a wonderful lunch of Indigenous food selections, the afternoon session began with the Council of Elders report, followed by an update from the Vision Keepers. The budget proposal was presented, and there were motions passed that accepted the audited statements, the financial statements to date, and the 2026 budget.

Following a short break, Rev. Éric Hébert-Daly presented a review of Project 2025. He explained that the United Church of Canada has to stop thinking of itself as a “franchise”, and begin to think that we are a “buffet”, meeting the needs of many different individuals. He also challenged us with the following key questions:

- Who are we serving?
- What are we about?
- Do we believe there is a future?
- Are we willing to do things differently?
- Where is God’s Spirit pushing us?

If you wish to hear Rev. Éric Hébert-Daly’s presentation, you can see it on the ECORC website.

The meeting concluded with the recognition of the Licensed Lay Worship Leaders, including our own Roger West. A Covenanting Service was held for all of the LLWL’s present.

What a wonderful way to conclude our meeting.

Respectfully submitted;
Elaner Pound, and Alfreda Rupert

Ministry and Personnel Report

St. Mark’s United Church has had some changes this past year in both ministry and personnel. Andrea McFaul joined the staff in late December 2024 as the administrative support staff and has been on a personal leave of absence until June 2026. We are thankful to Sheila Parks for stepping into this role from August until December 2025 and have contracted services from Joel Frijters until June 2026.

The Board was saddened to accept a request for a change in pastoral relationship from Rev. Ryan McNally in May 2025 in order for him to accept a call to Central Okanagan United Church in Kelowna BC. Rev. Ryan completed 13 years at St. Mark’s at the end of August 2025. St. Mark’s is grateful for the contributions he has made to the progress of the church and wish him, Julie, Evan and Tyson all the best in Kelowna.

The Living Faith Document for St. Mark’s United Church was completed by a committee of church members and approved by the congregation in November 2025. It has been submitted to the United Church of Canada for approval to then be posted on the United Church Hub to invite applicants to the full time ministry opportunity at St. Mark’s. An additional committee has now been set up to complete the process of interviewing and hiring a new ministry. This is expected to take several months.

In the meantime, St. Mark’s is grateful to Rev. Dr. John Young and Rev. Dr. Bill Smith, both members of St. Mark’s United, for stepping into the ministry and pastoral care role as we continue our search. Rev. Bill will complete his commitment at the end of February 2026, and Rev. John has agreed to continue in his role until the end of June unless a call has been accepted before then. Thank you, Rev. John and Rev. Bill!

Mark Bond continues to provide inspirational music for all worship services and provided assistance to the Belleville United Churches, 100 Anniversary Service in Zwicks Park in June 2025. Keith Parks and Karen Decker continue to provide custodial and maintenance support to the church.

The Ministry and Personnel Committee is working towards improved clarity in the various job descriptions for St. Mark’s as we prepare to welcome a new minister.

Respectfully submitted by:

Margo Russell-Bird,

Chair, Ministry and Personnel Committee

Nominating Committee Report 2025

Over the past year, the Board of St. Mark’s United Church has been comprised of 13 members, who have worked diligently on behalf of the congregation. Each member whose term was up at the end of 2025 was contacted to determine if they were willing to return to the Board for another three-year term. All of those members agreed to return with the exception of Melanie Thompson. The Board thanks Melanie for her service on the Board over the past years. Her knowledge and input will be missed and we wish her well.

Accordingly, the Nominating Committee puts forward the following list of Board members for the coming year.

Name	Term Ending In:	Name	Term Ending In:
Betty Beer	2027	Elaner Pound	2026
Jacki Bell	2028	Alfreda Rupert	2026
David Clazie (Treasurer)	2029	Margo Russell-Bird	2028
Lois MacDonald	2027	Nancy Shorey	2029
Mary Milligan	2026	Bonnie Watson	2029
Keith Parks	2027	Roger West	2028

The Nominating Committee also wishes to put forward the following names to serve on the Board of Trustees for the next three years:

- Elaner Pound
- Sheri Thompson
- Gary Williams
- Rev. Dr. John Young

These Board members and Trustees look forward to serving the congregation of St. Mark’s in the coming year.

Property Committee

Happy new year everyone. There hasn’t been much going on within the property committee this past year. Maintenance and normal everyday building upkeep has kept our committee busy. There have been wheels installed on the communion table so it can be moved by one person rather than four. Our garbage shed has been installed and works great by keeping the kitchen area cleaner and less cluttered.

New projects are scheduled for 2026 if approved, a little paint here and there and a redesigned front flower bed to name a few.

Keith Parks,
Chair, Property Committee

Stewardship Committee

In order to balance for 2025 it was necessary to transfer \$23,000 from the Legacy Fund. The good news is that this is much less than we had budgeted for the year so we are thankful for that. Mission and Service donations exceeded our goal for the year.

As mentioned last year, the Church Board decided to close the Memorial Fund and transfer the balance into St. Mark’s General Fund. This was finalized in March. The final financial statement can be found elsewhere in this report. Those wishing to make memorial donations now have the option of specifying either the General Fund or the Legacy Fund. Our treasurer continues to provide monthly updates to the congregation which is greatly appreciated.

Thank you to all who continue to support St. Mark’s either weekly, monthly or yearly through envelopes, PAR, e-transfer, Canada Helps or cheques mailed or dropped off at the office.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Milligan
Chair, Stewardship Committee



St. Mark’s United Church Women (UCW) **2025 Report**

Where did the year 2025 go? We are still looking for it! They say time flies when you are having fun!

Well, it seems we were celebrating! 100 years since the United Church of Canada was formed in 1925. As St. Mark's Board started to make plans, the UCW began looking for ways to look back, to learn more about earlier events, and to remember how these events and people influenced and changed our lives. We held a service in March to share this time in history. We dug out old albums, documents and interviewed many of our congregation. Loaded with this info we contributed to a “Story Wall” in the Narthex.

Rev. Ryan told us in the late spring that his family would be moving to Kelowna, BC., to begin a new ministry there.

We are so fortunate to have two retired ministers (VAM) in our congregation, Rev. Dr. William Smith, and Rev. Dr. John Young. They stepped forward wanting to help with the Sunday Service, and the general workings of St. Mark’s as we post our Profile.

“Remember When” was a previous evening of celebration held many years ago to reflect the changes and memories created by our weddings and outfits worn over a century. We started planning our own church’s 173rd Anniversary in September. Many residents of Cannifton and surrounding Thurlow area came to be a part of this memorable time.

The Country Market, formerly the Bazaar, was held in November where we raised a lot of money thanks to the help of the congregation. The women wore a decal pin bearing the name or theme of past Bazaars as St. Mark's has had a Bazaar every year except one since 1957!

When the women are not baking, cooking or creating, they are holding Bake Sales, Yard Sales, and hosting special meetings for our area.

With the funds earned, we support many charities and projects in the Quinte Area and beyond (like M&S). We do take time for fellowship and a social time at our monthly meetings.

So where did the year go?.....and now we welcome 2026.

All women of the church are welcome to come join us at our meetings.

Submitted by
 Alfreda Rupert,
Leader, United Church Women

Card Report 2025

Sympathy: 7	Birthdays (90+): 5	Get Well: 11	Easter: 20
Thinking of You: 3	Retirement: 1	Welcome to Belleville Cluster: 2	Anniversary (60 th): 1

Annual Gleaner’s Food Bank Donations
from St. Mark’s for 2025

St. Mark’s United Church donated many kilograms of food directly and \$1,186.95 in monetary donations to the Gleaner’s Foodbank this year.



Thanks to all for your sharing and most particularly for caring.

Respectfully submitted;
Sheila Parks for Gleaner’s.

St. Mark’s U.C.W. Financial Statement – 2025**Bank Balance as of December 31st, 2024** **\$ 3,733.07****Income:**

Offering	\$ 2,082.65
Donations	\$ 940.00
Catering	\$ 3,500.00
Country Market	\$ 5,007.50
HST Rebate	\$ 0.00
Frozen Food Sales	\$ 2,664.00
Bake Sale	<u>\$ 1,079.00</u>

Total Income: **\$15,273.15****Total:** **\$19,006.22****Expenses:**

Mission & Service	\$ 2,500.00
Kente Regional UCW	\$ 405.00
Fundraising Expenses	\$ 1,304.01
Gifts	\$ 839.53
St. Mark’s (General Fund)	\$ 7,000.00
Charitable Donations	\$ 4,975.00
Catering expenses	\$ 409.59
Speakers	\$ 0.00
Kitchen Knobs	<u>\$ 13.42</u>

Total Expenses: **\$17,446.55****Balance on December 31st, 2025** **\$ 1,559.67**

U.C.W. Charitable Donations-2025 attached

U.C.W. Charitable Donations – 2025

Gleaners	\$400.00
Humane Society Hastings Prince Edward	\$100.00
Canadian Cancer Society-Wheels of Hope (11882 9803 RR0006)	\$150.00
Alzheimer Society (11878 4909 RR0001)	\$100.00
Hastings & Prince Edward Learning Found. (#86105 8113 RR 0001)	\$400.00
Adopt-a-Child/Keep Kids Warm (Reg. # 87494 3301 RR0001)	\$100.00
Christmas Sharing (C# 89715 7665 RR0001)	\$400.00
Almost Home (C# 13031 5807 RR001)	\$100.00
ALS Society (Char. Reg. #13182 0938 RR0001)	\$100.00
Diabetes Canada (C# 11883 0744 RR0001)	\$100.00
Heart & Stroke Foundation (B# 10747 2839 RR0001)	\$100.00
MS Society (C# 10774 6174 RR0004)	\$100.00
Quin-Mo-Lac (C# 10677 6875 RR001)	\$1,575.00
Salvation Army (C # 10795 1618 RR0001)	\$400.00
Three Oaks	\$100.00
Habitat for Humanity (Reg. # 89280 5169 RR0010)	\$100.00
Hospice Quinte (#11911 4452 RR0001)	\$100.00
UHKF-Belleville Dialysis Clinic (C# 82021 8147 RR0001)	\$200.00
BGHF - Oncology (B# 11921 5556 RR0001)	\$200.00
United Way	\$ 50.00
Northern Ministerial Support	\$100.00
	\$4,975.00

Memorial Fund Financial Statement 2025

Opening balance January 1, 2025		4,089.44
REVENUES		
Closing of Share Account Alterna Savings	<u>15.00</u>	<u>15.00</u>
		4,104.44
EXPENSES		
To close out account and transfer to St. Mark’s General Fund		<u>4,104.44</u>
Closing balance chequing account		0.00
Share Account Alterna Savings		<u>0.00</u>
Total bank December 31, 2025		<u>0</u>

Respectfully submitted
Mary Milligan
Memorial Fund Treasurer

Board of Trustees Report on Funds Held - December 31, 2025

	Manse Funds		Legacy Funds		Total
Opening Balance	\$	56,194.77	\$	266,893.24	\$ 323,088.01
Transfer Between Funds	-\$	11,238.95	\$	11,238.95	\$ -
Revised Fund Balances - January 1st	\$	44,955.81	\$	278,132.20	\$ 323,088.01
Investment Earnings	\$	4,266.42	\$	26,395.44	\$ 30,661.86
Fund Deposits	\$	-	\$	-	\$ -
Fund Withdrawals	\$	-	-\$	23,000.00	-\$ 23,000.00
Ending Fund Balances - Dec 31st	\$	49,222.23	\$	281,527.64	\$ 330,749.87



Prepared by: David Clazie, CPA - Trustee Treasurer

St. Marks United Church Financial Statement - December 31, 2025

Opening Balance per 2024 Financial Statement			\$ 57,594.70
Revenues			
Offering		\$ 113,124.10	
Donations		\$ 5,000.00	
Fundraising		\$ 5,307.20	
Rental		\$ 22,717.00	
HST		\$ 4,178.42	
Mission & Service		\$ 15,200.00	
Outreach		\$ 3,544.00	
Gift in Kind		\$ 123.03	
Other		\$ 14,437.63	
Total Revenues			<u>\$ 183,631.38</u>
Transfer from Other Funds			
Legacy		\$ 23,000.00	
UCW		\$ 7,000.00	
Total Transfer from other Funds			<u>\$ 30,000.00</u>
Total Revenues			<u>\$ 213,631.38</u>
Expenditures			
Staff Salary & Benefits		\$ 118,886.28	
Administrative Expenses		\$ 10,021.53	
Building Expenses		\$ 25,390.85	
Property Expenses		\$ 11,441.25	
Fundraising Expenses		\$ 800.00	
Gift in Kind		\$ 123.03	
Outreach	\$ 3,544.00		
Mission & Service	\$ 15,200.00	\$ 18,744.00	
Other		\$ 22,260.35	
Total Expenditures			<u>\$ 207,667.29</u>
2016 (Surplus) / Deficit			<u>\$ 5,964.09</u>
Add: Opening Surplus			<u>\$ 57,594.70</u>
Year End Closing Balance			<u>\$ 63,558.79</u>
Surplus Breakdown			
General Operating		\$ 58,107.70	
Memorial Fund		\$ 4,104.44	
100th Anniversary Funds		\$ 1,346.65	
			<u>\$ 63,558.79</u>



Prepared by: David Clazie, CPA - Church Treasurer

2025 St. Marks Outreach

Mission & Service	\$ 15,200.00
Gleaners	\$ 1,186.95
Learning Foundation	\$ 1,115.60
The Farley Fund	\$ 196.80
Good Baby Box	\$ 223.10
Brusge Street Food Project	\$ 271.55
Quin Mo Lac	\$ 550.00
	<u>\$ 18,744.00</u>

Yard Sale
June 3rd, 2025

Thank you everyone for your time and donations to the St. Mark's Yard Sale.

Special thanks to the McNally family for their large contribution before the move to British Columbia.

Total raised was \$2,746.70.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lois MacDonald

