

# Blenheim United Church Annual Report 2025



*“Care and Compassion for All”*





# **OUR MISSION**

**We, the people of Blenheim United Church, being part the United Church of Canada, are a family that is committed to the ministry of Jesus Christ and the mission of care and compassion to people everywhere at all stages of their lives.**

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## **AGENDA FOR THE 2026 CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

- Call to Order
- Opening Prayer
- Election of a Secretary for this Annual Meeting
- Election of Chairperson for this Annual Meeting
- Motion re Voting privileges
- Agenda approval
- In Memoriam
- Consideration & Adoption of the 2025 Congregational Meeting Minutes
- Business arising from the 2025 Congregational Meeting
- Consideration and Approval of Reports found in the 2026 Annual Report
- 2026 Budget Recommendation from Council
- Mission and Service Fund Target Recommendation from Council
- Motion to Appoint Auditor for 2026
- Board of Trustees Resignation/Nomination
- Nominating Recommendations from Council
- New Business
- Welcome New Members
- Planning for the Future
- Date of next annual meeting –
- Adjournment

Dear members and adherents of our congregation,

As we come to the close of another year in our shared journey of faith, we pause with gratitude and reflection. Through every season, we have been guided by grace, sustained by community, and reminded that even in uncertain times, seeds planted in faith can bear meaningful fruit.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Rev. Wanda Burse for her devoted leadership and vision. Her commitment to reaching beyond our walls and into the wider community through acts of generosity and service has helped our congregation shine its light in new ways. As she steps back once more, we hold her in our prayers and wish her rest, comfort, and renewal in the days ahead.

We are also deeply grateful to Marc Eskritt for his generosity in opening his community space to us each week. Because of this kindness, we have been able to continue gathering in person—something we cherish now more than ever. It has been a true gift to worship side by side again.

With warm hearts, we welcome Rev. Bruce Cook back into leadership among us. His return marks both a homecoming and a new chapter, and we look forward to the guidance and care he will bring as we continue forward together.

This year also marked an important transition as we officially concluded our weekly Zoom services. As more of us have returned to in-person worship, this shift feels like a gentle closing of the pandemic chapter. We are especially thankful to Michael, whose steady presence and dedication helped keep us connected. Though we are no longer gathering live online each Sunday, our services continue to be recorded and shared on our YouTube channel, ensuring we remain accessible to all.

We are joyful to welcome new members into our congregation. Seeing our community grow—after the challenges of recent years—is both encouraging and inspiring. It reminds us that even after seasons of waiting, new life can emerge, and hope continues to call people together.

As we look ahead, we invite each of you to reflect prayerfully on the future of our church. What is being placed on your heart? Where do you feel we are being led? Whether we are called toward growth, toward careful stewardship of what we have built, or toward discerning a different path entirely, these are conversations we must approach with openness, courage, and trust. Just as a body has many parts, each with its purpose, so too does our community rely on the voices and gifts of all.

May we continue to walk together in faith, guided by love, grounded in hope, and strengthened by one another.

Whatever lies ahead, we trust that we do not walk it alone.

Grace and peace be with you all,

Kary “Oliver” Phillip

Chairperson

Blenheim United Church

Congregational Meeting  
May 4, 2025

**Attendance**

In person 17

**Call to Order**

Rev. Bruce Cook

**Establishment of Quorum**

- Quorum met

**Election of Chairperson and Secretary**

C2025-05-01 "that Kelly Wright be the secretary for the meeting"

MOVED	Shirley Green	
SECONDED	Laura Koehler	CARRIED

C2025-05-02 "that Rev Bruce Cook chair the meeting"

MOVED	Shirley Green	
SECONDED	Laura Koehler	CARRIED

**Voting Procedure**

C2025-05-03 "that all those in attendance would be given voting privileges"

MOVED	Erin Berry	
SECONDED	Anne Nanni	CARRIED

**Adoption of the Agenda**

- "Consideration of the reports found in the 2023 Annual Report" should be 2024
- *Insert "Amendment of motion C2024-04-09" prior to Consideration & Adoption of the 2024 Congregational Meeting Minutes.*
- "Board of Trustees Resignation/Nomination" to be amended to "Board of Trustees"
- Under "New Business" – Policy change to be removed

C2025-05-04 "that we approve the agenda as amended"

MOVED	Jim Berry	
SECONDED	Shirley Green	CARRIED

**In Memoriam**

- We acknowledge and celebrate the connection and service of those who have passed this year

**Amendment of Motion C2024-04-09**

- In view of Christine Muckle's extensive illness, she is unable to complete our annual review and Charity Return for 2024.

C2025-05-05 "that we amend motion C2024-04-09 to appoint Cathy Stoner to review our 2024 books and complete the Charity return"

MOVED Kary Phillip  
SECONDED Vicky Fraser CARRIED

**Consideration and Adoption of the April 14, 2024 Congregational Meeting Minutes**

C2025-05-06 "that we adopt the April 14, 2024 Congregational Meeting Minutes as amended"

MOVED Marilyn Dowker  
SECONDED Jim Berry CARRIED

**Business Arising from the 2024 Congregational Meetings**

- Rev Bruce Cook removes himself from the chair and Jim Berry steps in
- The Kids at Risk Fund, part of the Benevolent Fund, was created with donations in Memory of David Cook. The Cook family asks that if we disband, we consider giving any remaining money in the fund to the Chatham Kent Women's Shelter
- Rev Bruce Cook returns to the chair

**Consideration and Approval of Reports found in the 2024 Annual Report**

C2025-05-07 "that we approve the reports as presented"

MOVED Jim Berry  
SECONDED Patrick Koehler CARRIED

**Budget 2025 Recommendation from Council**

C2025-05-08 "that we make a transfer of \$35,000.00 from whichever Investment Fund the Trustees see fit to the General Fund"

MOVED Kary Phillip  
SECONDED Jim Berry CARRIED

- Add \$700.00 for Music License
- Add \$500.00 for Professional Fees

C2025-05-09 "that we approve the 2025 Budget as amended"

MOVED Erin Berry  
SECONDED Jim Berry CARRIED

**Mission and Service Fund Target**

- Two options – one would be to set a target and just send what is donated toward that target. The other would be to set a commitment and if it isn't met by year end then top up from our General Fund.
- Recommend we give the congregation quarterly updates

C2025-03

C2025-05-10 "that we set our 2025 Mission and Service commitment at \$2,500.00 and pay any shortfall from the General Fund"

MOVED Kary Phillip  
SECONDED Laura Koehler CARRIED

**Auditor**

C2025-05-11 "that we appoint Cathy Stoner to review our 2025 books and complete the charity return"

MOVED Kary Phillip  
SECONDED Evelyn Rumble CARRIED

**Trustees**

- We acknowledge that our Trustees are Laura Koehler, Erin Berry and Shirley

**Nominations recommendations from Council**

C2025-05-12 "that we empower Council to fill vacancies as needed"

MOVED Shirley Green  
SECONDED Jim Berry CARRIED

**New Business**

- Vicky Fraser reported that Kenesserie Camp has almost completed their major renovations through donations and loans.

C2025-05-13 "that we donate \$5000.00 from our investments to Kenesserie Camp to assist with their debt repayment"

MOVED Kary Phillip  
SECONDED Erin Berry CARRIED

- Kary Phillip made a presentation on behalf of LINCK. They are in desperate need of foster homes and ask us to share their flyers with anyone that we think might be interested
- Jim Berry has agreed to assist us with pulpit supply and visitation. Council to negotiate the terms of his contract with him. Council will need to fill his Ministry and Personnel position.
- We have a few unfilled Sundays over the summer. Council and Communications felt it was appropriate to use a pre-recorded service from our archives to fill those Sundays. There was a discussion about closing for a month in the summer.

C2025-05-14 "that we close for one month during the summer"

MOVED Evelyn Rumble  
SECONDED Steve Dowker DEFEATED

- Discussion about purchasing a bench to be placed at Blenheim Community Village in honour of Rev Wanda Burse's Care and Compassion.

C2025-04  
END

C2025-05-15 "that we give Council the authority to purchase a bench in honour of Rev Wanda Burse"

MOVED Shirley Green  
SECONDED Anne Gammage CARRIED

**Date of Next Annual Meeting**

- At the call of the chair

**Adjournment**

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Rev Bruce Cook, Chairperson

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Kelly Wright, Secretary

## Council Members for 2026

- Kary Phillip - Council Chair
- Kelly Wright - Finance Chair & Council Secretary
- Michael Berry - Communications Chair & ARWRC Representative
- Vicky Fraser - Ministry and Personnel
- Laura Koehler - Board of Trustees Representative
- Jim Berry - Worship Leader
- Rev. Bruce Cook - Pastoral Charge Supervisor



### Board of Trustees

- Laura Koehler - Chair of Trustees
- Erin Berry
- Shirley Green

#### Benevolent Fund Kids At Risk

The Benevolent Fund of Blenheim United Church is a fund to assist persons and families in particular need. Specific details of this Fund and its operation are generally maintained confidential. However a portion of the balance were donated in Memory of David Cook and are dispersed under the name "Kids at Risk". Our fund at Blenheim United Church is administered by Shirley Green, Erin Berry, Laura Koehler and overseen by the Church Council.

#### Financial Reports

##### **Benevolent Fund**

Balance December 31, 2024		\$ 8,969.01
Interest Dec 31 2024	\$ 2.36	\$ 8,971.37
S/C correction for 2024 done Jan 20 202!	\$ 7.00	\$ 8,978.37
Interest	\$ 5.45	\$ 8,983.82
Term deposit	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 1,983.82
 Withdrawals	 \$ 1,450.00	 \$ 533.82
Term deposit	\$ 7,094.05	\$ 7,627.87
Term deposit interest 2025	\$ 92.13	\$ 7,720.00
 Balance Dec 31, 2025		 \$ 7,720.00

##### **Kids at Risk**

Balance December 31, 2024		\$ 3,474.77
Deposits	\$ 210.00	
Interest December 31 2024	\$ 0.35	
Interest 2025	\$ 4.18	
Withdrawals	\$ 241.00	
Balance December 31, 2025		\$ 3,448.30

Board of Trustees

### Property Sale Fund

The Property Sale Fund of Blenheim United Church is a fund that resulted from the sale of the church property February 3, 2020. The net proceeds from that sale are restricted in its use per United Church of Canada guidelines. Any income earned from the restricted fund can be used to supplement the general operating expenses with approval from UCC Antler River Watershed Regional Council (ARWRC). The fund is managed by your Board of Trustees and the elected members include Shirley Green, Erin Berry and Laura Koehler.

### Financial Report

Balance forward as at January 1, 2024		\$321,374.42
Investment Portfolio Market Gain		\$28,696.37
Withdrawals	\$67,500.00	
Management fees	\$4,172.01	
Balance December 31, 2025		\$278,398.78
Investment with Frontier Capital Funds		
***Restricted Funds amount***		\$183 412.48

Board of Trustees

## Manse Fund

The Manse Fund of Blenheim United Church is a fund that resulted from the sale of the Church Manse in 2012. The net proceeds from that sale are restricted in its use as per United Church of Canada guidelines. Any income from the restricted funds can be used to subsidize the Ministers housing allowance. The fund is managed by your Board of Trustees and the elected members include Shirley Green, Erin Berry and Laura Koehler.

## Financial Report

Balance Forward as of January 1, 2024		\$	204,315.13
Income			
Investment Market Gain	\$	18,249.24	
Disbursements			
Minister housing			
Balance December 31, 2024		\$	222,564.37
Libro bank account balance	\$	565.93	
Investment with Frontier Capital	\$	222,564.37	
Balance as of December 31, 2025		\$	223,130.30
***Restricted Funds invested with UCC Foundation thru Frontier Capital Funds***		\$	123,678.43

Board of Trustees

## Investment Fund

Investment fund of Blenheim United Church is a fund that resulted from the various donations/gifts given to the church over the years. The fund is managed by your Board of Trustees and the elected members include Shirley Green, Erin Berry and Laura Koehler.

## Financial Report

Balance Forward December 31, 2024		\$18,805.34
Income	Investment Gain	\$1,805.17
Balance December 31, 2025		\$20,610.51
Libro Bank Balance	\$	730.95
Edward Jones Investment	\$	20,610.51
Total		\$21,341.46

Board of Trustees

### Homecare on Wheels

Homecare on Weels is a health care organization providing various care services such as: Homemaking, Personal Support Care (PSW), Nursing, Geriatric Clinical Nurse Specialist, Caregiver Respite Relief, In-home Physician/Nurse Practioner virtual/in person visits. Our Health Care organization provides Leadership and Management consutation to health care organizations to avoid practice risks and compliance orders.

Years of service in the healthcare industry has led us into a variety of settings from hospitals, long term care facilities, retirement homes and community care. Our staff comprises of homemakers, PSW's, RPN's, RN's, clinical nurse consultants and much more who can provide relief for your staffing shortages. Therefore, if you are struggling to fill your staffing quota, you have come to the right agency because we can help.

### Financial Report

Balance as of December 31, 2024	\$15,005.86
Interest earned	\$37.57
Balance as of December 31, 2025	\$15,043.43

Board of Trustees



### Marriages

Addison Elizabeth Ferren & Billy Ray William Hall June 13, 2025

### Memorials

Don Watts	Feb. 4, 2025
Larry Stover	Aug. 2, 2025
Shirley Paul Fenton	Nov. 24, 2025
Jean McQuarrie	Dec.4, 2025
Charlene Stover	Dec.8, 2025



#### Blenheim United Church – Communications Committee Report 2026

"As the fiscal year comes to another close for Blenheim United Church in 2025, we reflect on our successes and growth this past year. Blenheim United Church and the communications committee had yet another successful year in 2025 and we were able to slowly grow in the digital space.

Our worship services continue to be offered both digitally and in person for those wishing to attend. The services are also available on our YouTube channel and folks from near and far can tune in to those services whenever they wish.

In 2025, our YouTube channel had 282 views and gained 1 new subscriber bringing us to 9 total subscribers. This is a decrease compared to 2024 when our channel had 320 views. This decrease cannot be attributed to any single factor. The watch time on our channel has increased in 2025 to 28.3 hours compared to 17.4 hours in 2024. This watch time increase also cannot be attributed to any single factor.

Social media proved to continue to be challenging for the communications committee, but we strive to continue building it in the future to the desire of the council and the congregation.

Many thanks to the congregation for another great year as we move forward into 2026."

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>BUDGET 2025</b>	<b>ACTUAL 2025</b>	<b>BUDGET 2026</b>		
<b>Receipts</b>					
Envelope Givings & Donations	15000	12,399.90	15000		
Loose Offerings		40.00			
Transfer from Investment Fund	35000	67,500.00			
Fundraising - Net	250	371.61	500		
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>50250</b>	<b>80,311.51</b>	<b>15500</b>		
<b>Expenses</b>					
<b>PROPERTY</b>					
Utilities - Telephone	600	619.07	625		
Utilities - Internet	875	1,055.30	1100		
Insurance	1019	982.62	1000		
Fire & Safety	50		50		
Janitorial Supplies	50		50		
Office Equipment, Maintenance & Upgrades	500	529.27	500		
Post Office Box Rental	200	194.36	200		
Office Rental	5500	5,251.17	5500		
<b>TOTAL PROPERTY</b>	<b>8794</b>	<b>8,631.79</b>	<b>9025</b>		
<b>WORSHIP &amp; FAITH FORMATION</b>					
Worship Supplies	100	85.41	100		
Pulpit Supply	7620	10,795.10	0	Moved to Staff Salaries	
Pulpit Supply - Mileage	600	461.67	0	Moved to Staff Salaries	
<b>TOTAL WORSHIP &amp; FAITH FORMATION</b>	<b>8320</b>	<b>11,342.18</b>	<b>100</b>		
<b>MINISTRY &amp; PERSONNEL</b>					
Staff Salaries & Expenses	33500	43,359.19	30000		
Staff Training	1000		1000		
<b>TOTAL MINISTRY &amp; PERSONNEL</b>	<b>34500</b>	<b>43,359.19</b>	<b>31000</b>		
<b>COMMUNICATIONS</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>950.82</b>	<b>2700</b>		
<b>CONGREGATIONAL LIFE</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>50.63</b>	<b>400</b>		
<b>FINANCE &amp; STEWARDSHIP</b>					
Denominational Assessment	1764	1,764.00	1936		
Bank Charges	1500	1,625.37	1500		
Office Supplies	250		250		
Professional Fees	500		500		
Contributors Envelopes & Par Fees	35	25.50	30		
Postage & Courier Fees	200	51.55	200		
<b>TOTAL FINANCE &amp; STEWARDSHIP</b>	<b>4249</b>	<b>3,466.42</b>	<b>4416</b>		
<b>BLenheim HEALTH HUB</b>	<b>1200</b>	<b>1,200.00</b>	<b>1200</b>		
<b>KENESSERIE</b>	<b>5000</b>	<b>5,000.00</b>			
<b>Non Budgeted Items</b>					
M&S Top up		941.50			
BCV Comfort Room		50.38			
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>59463</b>	<b>69,942.53</b>	<b>48841</b>		
<b>NET</b>	<b>-9213</b>	<b>10,368.98</b>	<b>-33341</b>		

<b>Summary of General Fund</b>	
2024 Balance	\$13,992.42
2025 Income	\$80,311.51
2025 Expenses	\$69,942.53
Net	\$24,361.40

<b>Mission &amp; Service</b>	
Total Donations	\$1558.50
Congregational top up	\$941.50
Target	\$2,500.00