



# **2025 Annual Report**

**Erindale United Church**

**1444 Dundas Crescent  
Mississauga, Ontario  
L5C 1E9**

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Mississauga, Ontario L5C 1E9  
905-277-3656**

**[www.erindaleunited.church](http://www.erindaleunited.church)**

A Congregation of  
The United Church of Canada

**Mission Statement**

*"Erindale United Church is a people of God.  
We embrace, proclaim and practice  
the Gospel of Jesus Christ.  
We seek justice for all people,  
striving to become a loving, nurturing  
ministering community."*

**Minister**

Rev. Nicholas Forrester  
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**Music Director**

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**Psalm 98 Coordinator**

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## **ERINDALE UNITED CHURCH**

### **Minister's Annual Report**

*For the Year January 1 – December 31, 2025*

#### **I. PASTORAL AND WORSHIP LEADERSHIP**

The pastoral year was marked by stability in worship, increasing liturgical depth, and steady congregational participation. Advent and Christmas were well supported, with meaningful lay involvement and strong attendance at Christmas Eve services. Lent and Easter were observed with theological intentionality, including Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and Holy Communion on Easter Sunday. Black History Month worship services were designed to celebrate historic contributions through music and readings.

Congregational feedback from the January Town Hall identified concerns regarding the pacing of worship, communion practices, and audio quality. These insights were presented to Council as raw data for discernment and strategic response.

Weather disruptions and travel interruptions early in the year required our adaptability. A February snowstorm necessitated the cancellation of one service, with sermon distribution as a substitute in the absence of a church closure protocol in place. However, the unprecedented cancellation of worship on February 16 due to severe weather prompted formal consideration of a Service Interruption Protocol, which was subsequently developed and implemented. Also, during an unexpected travel delay in Detroit while returning from a Continuing Education worship symposium in Grand Rapids, worship leadership continued seamlessly through collaboration with Worship Team leaders that demonstrated our resilience and shared leadership capacity.

Throughout the year, Worship Teams remained consistent in planning, hospitality, and liturgical coordination. The overall rhythm of Sunday worship has stabilised, with thoughtful thematic coherence based on the Common Lectionary, and pastoral sensitivity guiding preparation, while ensuring hearing from God remains in the forefront of the worship experience.

#### **II. CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND FAITH FORMATION**

Faith formation expanded meaningfully during the year. A Lenten study on *Autopsy of a Deceased Church* generated sustained engagement and open theological discussion. Participation reflected a clear appetite for honest reflection on congregational vitality.

Plans for a Confirmation Class were announced in February and implemented in the spring. A Confirmation Class launched in March and concluded successfully in May, culminating in a public Confirmation Ceremony during regular worship on May 25, 2025, marking an important step in rebuilding structured faith formation pathways. Ben Hawn, Ben Robinson, and Kurt Schaubel were the Confirmands who were received into full membership at Erindale. This represented an important step in rebuilding intentional pathways for youth and emerging adult faith development. Council discussions around confirmation emphasised the importance of generational renewal and leadership development as part of the broader strategic direction.

There was a Fall Bible Study series on Nehemiah that ran for six weeks, beginning on November 4, 2025, and ending on December 10, 2025. The study deepened scriptural engagement, with consistent attendance and strong dialogue. Themes of rebuilding, leadership, perseverance, and prayer resonated in light of the congregation's broader strategic discernment.

### **III. PASTORAL CARE AND PRESENCE**

Pastoral care remained steady and relationally grounded. Home and hospital visits were conducted throughout the year. Numerous pastoral calls and follow-ups sustained connection across the congregation. Two funerals occurred during the summer, and one wedding was also celebrated.

A notable governance matter during the year concerned the Benevolence Fund. Council affirmed that the fund remains minister-led and requested preparation of a draft policy to ensure clarity, confidentiality, and accountability.

### **IV. LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE, AND STRATEGIC DIRECTION**

The most significant development this year was a structured movement toward a formal Strategic Plan, which emerged as the central leadership initiative of the year. A congregational Town Hall on January 25, 2025, initiated a broad-level conversation regarding the church's future. Feedback revealed both concern and hope, and created momentum for structured planning. Following the January Town Hall, a comprehensive summary of congregational feedback and suggested next steps was presented to Council. Council then moved to formally authorise the establishment of a strategic planning process to be undertaken by an ad hoc Committee led by the Minister.

A comprehensive Strategic Planning Framework was drafted and presented for Council consideration. In May, the Proposed Strategic Planning Framework was introduced, outlining seven structured phases and criteria for a planning team. The framework outlined phases including situation analysis, vision development, goal setting, structural alignment, and action planning.

Subsequently, the Council approved expenditure for a Strategic Planning Orientation Workshop and reviewed facilitator options. An Orientation Workshop was designed to equip Council and congregational participants with a shared understanding of planning stages, governance roles, and implementation responsibilities. Following the November workshop, Council formally resolved to proceed with the Strategic Planning Process. The minister was tasked with obtaining facilitator proposals and exploring potential funding support through the General Council Office. These responsibilities placed the Minister at the centre of coordination, while maintaining the Council's authority over appointments and approvals.

Throughout the year, regular committee meetings, consultations, and reporting responsibilities were fulfilled. Governance collaboration has improved in clarity and tone. The next phase requires disciplined execution.

### **V. MINISTRY PARTNERSHIPS AND WIDER CHURCH INVOLVEMENT**

Service beyond the local congregation continued through volunteer roles with the United Church of Canada's General Council Office and Admissions Board. I continued to serve the wider United Church of Canada through volunteer roles as Accompanier to prospective Admittands and Interviewer for the Admissions Board. Also, I maintained participation in the Mississauga-area gatherings and collaborative work of The United Church.

### **VI. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND SELF-CARE**

Continuing education included attendance at the Calvin Symposium on Worship in Grand Rapids from February 5 – 7, 2025, and study leave for theological reflection and preparation. The study leave focused on reading on leadership and relational influence.

Vacation leave was taken in scheduled intervals in June, July, and August 2025, to ensure renewal and sustainability. The aim was to frontload the vacation time so as not to appear to be away from the church too frequently if I had followed my usual vacation leave pattern of several times per year. All leave was taken in compliance with denominational standards

## **VII. CONGREGATIONAL HEALTH OBSERVATIONS**

Participation in worship and study remained stable. Engagement levels during Bible Studies suggest intellectual curiosity and spiritual hunger. There is a clear interest in revitalisation, though pace and decisiveness remain areas of tension.

Council discussions throughout the year reveal a congregation aware of national denominational decline and conscious of the need for proactive direction and imminent action to address concerns. Feedback from the January 25, 2025, Town Hall emphasised the need for governance clarity, reduction of committee overlap, improved accessibility, enhanced visibility, and renewed outreach.

Nevertheless, the congregation exhibits resilience, relational warmth, and willingness to reflect honestly. At the same time, there is the overwhelming recognition that prolonged deliberation risks eroding momentum and therefore, strategic clarity will require collective courage.

## **VIII. STRATEGIC OUTLOOK FOR 2026**

In 2026, we must move from framework development to measurable implementation.

The priorities should include:

- Formal commissioning of a Strategic Planning Team/Working Group
- Completion of vision and mission refinement
- Congregational consultation and survey
- Structural alignment with ministry goals
- Action plan approval with defined timelines

Momentum in planning must be protected, and our governance discipline must remain firm as the congregation requires directional clarity and mobilisation.

## **IX. GRATITUDE**

Gratitude is extended to Council members, Worship Teams, committees, volunteers, staff, and congregants who have sustained the life of Erindale throughout this year. Our stability has been preserved, direction is emerging, and though the work ahead is substantial, the foundation is solid.

*In His Service and with a Grateful Heart,*

N. Forrester

**Rev. Nicholas Forrester, Minister**  
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*Erindale United Church*

Dated: February 24, 2026

## Chair of Council

Four years ago, I began my first annual report by noting that the position of chair of Council while challenging can also be very rewarding. Events have proved me right and with the support, advice and prayers of Council and members of the congregation, the challenges have been met and the rewards are energizing. At this stage of my report, let me thank Tom McIllwraith, until last August, Secretary of Council and Linda Antony, his successor, for their support, efficiency and unobtrusive leadership in that role. They have made my work easier.

At the last AGM, I indicated that this would be my last year as Chair of the Council. So, let me begin my final report by saying that it was my honour to serve and thank you for giving me this opportunity for leadership. While I expected, then, that this would largely involve our adjustment to the challenges posed by COVID, we were soon faced with the unexpected changes of leadership in the ministry of sacrament and word. So once again, I want to thank the Rev. Warren McDougall and the Rev. Ken MacDonald for bridging the gap between our permanent ministers and providing us with stability, continuity and engagement in the life of our church.

One of the themes that has persisted for years is concern about Erindale's future ministry, particularly the reality of decreasing and aging of our membership. While served by interim ministers, the decision was made that this would be best addressed once we had a permanent minister. So, in the ministry of Rev. Nicholas the process began and as a result of recent decisions made by Council and interactions by the congregation, the Strategic Planning for this ministry is now underway. While a small group of our members, with the help of a facilitator, has been charged with developing the plan, its future, success and scope depend on the support and involvement of the congregation and the Church Council.

Further ahead in 2027 is 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the existence of our congregation in iterations as Springfield Methodist Church (1877- 1902), Erindale Methodist Church (1902- 1925) and Erindale United Church (1925 to the present in 2 separate buildings). There already are plans for celebrating this sesquicentennial and a small planning group is being assembled but Council has made clear that the congregation be invited to share and lead in shaping this celebration.

Fully knowing that the list will be incomplete and words are not enough, I want to offer some words of thanks. Committees of Council have functioned well and dependably, and committee chairs and their teams ensure that the spiritual life and business aspects of the church are carried out in a prayerful and responsible manner. Rev. Nicholas continues to provide challenging spiritual leadership in worship services and Bible study. Laura McClure, the Director of Music, continues her ministry with inspiring and new music and has introduced a children's choir, reminiscent of bygone years. Psalm 98 adds immeasurably to our musical lives. Sarah McEwing, our Office Administrator, continues to provide timely, helpful and dependable service. The tech teams integrate new technologies into our worship and, through Zoom, provide the useful service of connecting those who cannot attend to our worship services. Largely unseen, but vital, are those who clean our building, clear the snow, salt the road and walkways, tend the garden and mow the lawn. Then there are those who, unseen and unacknowledged, are the face of our church as they visit and support others.

One of the features of my time as Chair was having to say goodbye to three ministers. Our goodbyes were done with style and grace under the leadership of Bill McIntosh. Once again, thanks to Bill.

Blessings, Horace Neita

## Reports of Standing Committees

### Congregational Care

#### Mission

Our goal is to develop and maintain a nurturing and enjoyable environment that will provide a knowledge and understanding of God's love.

#### Mandate

In working towards our mission, we provide pastoral care through visiting, communicating, and welcoming visitors, members, and friends of Erindale United Church.

#### Committee Members

Jennifer Code, Pat Jenkins, Nadia Lay, Ruth Nott, Judy Vandermark, Cindy Williams, and Sandra Wiseman. Pat Viau prays at home for those on our prayer list.

#### Achievements in 2025

Although Covid-19 is no longer an emergency we continued to hold our meetings on Zoom for convenience.

- We continued to pray for members and others who have been facing illness, bereavement, and life challenges.
- Cindy Williams continued to mail our sympathy, get well, new member, thinking of you, new baby, and 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary of baptism cards. In the fall Judy took over this task from Cindy. If you know of someone who would appreciate receiving a pastoral care card, please contact Judy or Sarah McEwing in the church office.
- Jennifer Code took orders for subscriptions to the United Church magazine, Broadview.
- Telephone visits continued, but this year many visits were made in person.
- Sandra Wiseman and Pat and Garry Jenkins delivered hard copies of the weekly e-newsletter and bulletin to members who were without access to computers.
- Cards were mailed in December to each person in our congregation who was bereaved or housebound during 2025. We usually send cards to baptismal parents as well. At Christmas Cindy, Pat and Sandra delivered poinsettias to parishioners who are isolated or ill. We also delivered Easter gifts.
- We recently invited bereaved members as well as those who might not be able to enjoy the Christmas festivities to attend the Quiet Christmas service (Christmas in a Minor Key). We attended to support those in attendance and found the service moving personally.

We also thank those who have worked so hard to bring church services to us in our homes. One advantage to virtual services is that friends and family from afar have been able to join us, one a former member of our committee. We have had participants from England, Western Canada, the United States, and from previous members who have moved from the area.

#### Plans for 2026

As in 2025, we will need to see what the year brings. We will continue to keep in touch with each other and members of the congregation, and to continue praying for those on the prayer list.

We were pleased to have our former ministers Rev. Brenna Baker and Rev. Warren McDougall with us to lead services when Rev Forrester was on leave. In the summer we had a visit from Dorothy Hodgkins, sister of our former music director, Rob Anderson, and recently from a former member of our committee, Dianne Drennan.

**Contacts** Jennifer Code (Co-Chair), Pat Jenkins (Co-Chair), Nadia Lay, Ruth Nott, Cindy Williams, Sandra Wiseman, and Judy Vandermark.

## **Finance and Property**

### **Mandate**

To ensure proper financial controllership and property management within the context of service to God, our members, and our community. To create an environment within the Church where financial resources are spent to ensure the Church's future needs are met and accomplish future goals.

The Finance and Property Committee is concerned with tangible property and funds, and so the vision and the mission of the Committee get woven together.

### **Mandate Execution**

The Finance & Property Committee is responsible to manage the following activities:

- contracts for snow removal, outside maintenance (lawns, gardens, building), heating / cooling and cleaning
- technology (internet, phones, cell service, hardware and software support and purchasing)
- manage the relationship with our renter, Tender Years
- general interior maintenance, painting & repairs
- financial analysis, annual detailed budget and 3-year plan
- safety & security, including contracts with companies supplying these services
- church bookings, rental arrangements
- offertory counting coordinator, large fundraising (coordinated with Stewardship), trustee liaison
- treasury, envelope steward, congregational giving statistics and analysis, liaison with Stewardship Committee
- manage the capital budget

### **Achievements In 2025**

In early 2025, Erindale was blessed with an amazing \$200,000 anonymous donation. Council, in conjunction with the Investment Team, decided to put ½ of the money into the Endowment Fund (meant for very long-term use) and the other ½ into the Long-Range Planning Fund (like a backup or special capital fund).

The following jobs were completed:

- Due to an excessive amount of snow falling in a short period of time, we had to have Nailed It Roofing come in and shovel the whole roof of the church.
- In late Feb, 2 new furnaces were installed by Seasonal Home Comfort to upgrade the heating in the sanctuary after one of the furnaces stopped working.
- In May, air conditioning was installed by Seasonal on the new furnaces for the sanctuary. It was a very hot summer, and everyone enjoyed worshipping in a very comfortable environment. This was paid for out of the Long-Range Planning Fund.
- Tom McIlwraith suggested we put hand railings on the dais. Everyone thought this was an addition that was long overdue. They were installed in July by Gallery Metalworks and paid for out of the Long-Range Planning Fund.
- In July, Nissena Paving finished repaving the rest of the private roadway in front of the church up to Dundas Cres. They also replaced the damaged speed bumps.
- In Sept, the exterior portion of the window frames of around the church were painted by Divine Designs. This had not been done for years but now all exterior windows have been painted.

- In Dec, we split the cost of 10 new tables for Gardner Hall with the Mississauga Chess Club. They continue to be our best renter, using the hall 3 nights a week.
- This year, the maintenance that had to be done in the Tender Years area was the replacement of all overhead light fixtures. LED fixtures were installed by Tandem Electrical while the daycare was closed for Christmas. The daycare also installed new bollards as required by the government, but this was done at their expense.
- The AC heat pumps in the board room stopped working and will not be replaced. There are fans in the church office and minister's office that can be borrowed to use in the boardroom as needed.
- The one project that remains outstanding is the replacement of the sign on Dundas Cres. It's proving to be a more challenging project than expected but we hope to make some serious progress by spring 2026. It will be paid for out of the Long-Range Planning Fund.

Our regular renters continue to be the Mississauga Chess Club on Mon, Wed & Fri evenings with the occasional tournament on the weekend, Mommy Connections on Monday mornings and 3 community groups. We continue to rent a parking spot in the back lot to a local resident who has a work truck. There was a Chess Camp during March Break.

Much of the money in the Fund accounts continues to be invested in cashable GICs in order to increase interest generated by these funds but to also keep them liquid in case the funds are needed. GICs are held at Meridian Credit Union or RBC. Some of the Endowment Fund money is invested in a conservative mutual fund at Frontier Capital. These investments are overseen by the 4 person Erindale Investment Team: Earl Cochrane, Paul Sabourin, Doug Johnston & Barbara Manchur.

Thanks to the whole committee for keeping the church in good repair, the bank balances and finances maintained, the budget updated and followed, and all the utilities running as needed. We welcomed Jacob Vandermark to our committee and said goodbye to Arash Rozbeh, Bob Rogers & Joy Cunningham thanking them for their service on the committee. New members are always welcome.

### **Committee Members**

Brian Longley, Barbara Manchur (Treasurer & Secretary), Paul Sabourin, Doug Brien, Claudette Neita, Norma Macintyre (Controller), Arash Rozbeh (resigned), Bob Rogers (resigned), Craig McLean, Joy Cunningham (resigned), Janice Everett (Tender Year's Coordinator), Jacob Vandermark (new member) and Sarah McEwing (Envelope Steward, non-voting). The chair position has continued to be rotated through Claudette, Brian, Doug, and Paul.

## **Stewardship**

### **Mission**

To assist each member and participant of Erindale United Church to, as is appropriate to them, give time, energy, and money to the total Mission and Ministry of the Church.

### **Mandate**

To have full understanding of the Givings and Giving patterns of the congregation; to plan Stewardship Campaigns which will match the Givings of the congregation to yearly budgets and targets for support of the Church; to educate members and participants as to the Givings that the church needs to continue its Mission and Ministry; and to educate new members and participants as to how they may support the Church with Givings of time, energy, and money.

### **Activity Summary**

The 2025 Stewardship Committee consisted of: Carolyn Hendricks (Chair), Laura Turner, Christian Hawn, Joanna Robinson, and Rev. Nicholas Forrester. At the September meeting, Carolyn Hendricks informed the team she would retire February 2026, after 7 years of service. Laura Turner will assume the role of Chair as of February 2026. Jennifer Hawn has agreed to join the Stewardship committee starting January 2026.

Meetings were held monthly, and the committee worked throughout the year to ensure Erindale's Mission and Mandate were met.

Meetings focused on:

- Monitoring and Understanding the flow of Givings
- Determining the 'Ask' for money (pledges), time and energy
- Creating and Presenting the Annual Fall Givings Campaign

Givings for the first quarter of 2025 were strong, with more members choosing to contribute through the convenience of PARs and etransfers. A dedicated group kept up their regular support using envelopes. Adding to the year's positive momentum, Erindale was delighted to receive a one-time monetary gift from a thoughtful, anonymous donor.

In late Spring, a quick survey was emailed to a select group of Erindale members, specialty groups, and Chairs of Standing Committees requesting information about their contribution of time, talent and treasure. Once responses were in, the helpful feedback gave Stewardship fresh insights to guide their ongoing conversations as they prepared for the 2025 Fall Campaign.

Erindale's Bulletin Cover Picture Library continued to grow as the annual request for pictures was sent out in May. Over the summer, the collected submissions were curated into a year's catalogue of images, and copies were provided to the Office Administrator and Communication Officer for weekly use.

These bulletin cover pictures, along with dedications when offered, were prominently displayed on monitors and acknowledged before service. The submitted photographs play a role in facilitating meaningful dedications throughout the year. Stewardship was grateful to the number of participants who responded to the annual call for picture submissions and to those who dedicated bulletin covers.

As autumn began, Erindale launched a focused three-week Fall Stewardship Campaign that started in late October with a lively, minute teaser. On Sunday November 16, the Stewardship 2025 Fall Campaign was successfully launched, thanks to weeks of careful planning and preparation. A Jeopardy-style game brought the congregation together, featuring engaging and entertaining "questions" to the "answers" asked. Real examples of members' contributions were shared along with token prizes given to add to

the fun. The game provided both enjoyment and meaningful reflection, reinforcing how contributions are essential to the life and mission of Erindale.

During the 2025 Fall Campaign *ASK*, all members of the Erindale community were invited to look ahead to the coming year. The Stewardship Team spoke to the *Heart of Stewardship*—our commitment to giving time, talents, and treasure.

Members, adherents, and guests were encouraged to consider how they might dedicate time in the coming year to help advance Erindale’s mission and ministry. The congregation was asked to reflect on their personal gifts and consider how individual talents could enrich the life of Erindale, recognizing there are meaningful roles for everyone and that every contribution strengthens our church community.

When considering gifts of treasure, the emphasis was placed not on equal giving, but on giving as each person is able. Every offering—each donation and monetary gift—given in a spirit of generosity and gratitude is a vital part of our shared spiritual journey.

The congregation was invited to pledge gifts of time, gifts of talents, and gifts of treasure, each contribution helping to sustain and enhance the vibrant life of Erindale United Church.

Looking back over the past few years:

Year	Budget	Givings (rounded)
2021	\$196,000	\$225,000
2022	\$210,000	\$232,000
2023	\$210,000	\$229,000
2024	\$228,000	\$255,000
2025	\$255,000	\$252,000, plus a \$200,000 one time gift

In December 2025, a total of 36 pledges were received, reflecting a decrease from most previous years. This represents an approximate 23% decline from 44 pledges in 2024, 10% decline from 33 pledges in 2023, virtually unchanged from 37 pledges in 2022, and decline of 15% from 40 pledges in 2021.

The 36 pledge breakdown was as follows: Foundation and Other 5%, Envelope/e-transfers 44%, and PARs 51%. Responses held varying commitments: 2 first time pledges; 8 decreased their pledged amount; 10 pledged the same as last year; and 16 increased their pledged amount.

At the time of the 2026 budgetary discussions, preliminary figures were utilized, as several members finalized their commitments later in the year. Stewardship, in consultation with Finance and Property, considered all sources—including pledges, PARs, e-transfers, cheques or cash, Canada Helps (online), and security donations—when forming an estimate. Based on these collective inputs, Stewardship recommended a range of \$248,000 to \$255,000 be considered for the 2026 budget.

Throughout the year, the generosity of our congregation—through regular contributions, one-time gifts, and increased donations—has enabled Erindale to continue advancing its Mission and Ministry. The steadfast commitment of our members, sharing their time, talents, and financial resources, remains at the core of Erindale’s strength. Collectively, these gifts sustain and enrich the vibrant life of Erindale United Church.

**Contacts:**

Carolyn Hendricks (Chair), Laura Turner, Christian Hawn, Joanna Robinson, and Rev. Nicholas Forrester

## **Ministry and Personnel**

### **Mission**

The Ministry and Personnel Committee provides a confidential setting for consultation, support and assessment of all staff, together with support and consultation for congregants at Erindale.

### **Mandate**

The Ministry and Personnel Committee is the human resources committee of the church; with responsibility for managing areas such as: Employment standards, Human Rights and Harassment, Workplace Health and Safety, and relationship with the Region's Pastoral Care Staff. The committee provides consultation and support for the staff of Erindale United Church and for the members and adherents of the congregation. The committee works with members of staff to ensure they are supported from both an administrative and personal perspective, in a way that allows them to best carry out their responsibilities.

Ministry and Personnel meets with staff and church groups when requested to ensure objectives are clearly understood and communicated as defined by Council. Once a year, each staff member participates in a performance review with one or two committee members. Ongoing discussions provide both Staff and Council an opportunity to monitor progress and provide an opportunity for mutual reflection on accomplishments, performance against objectives and to make continuing education plans for the subsequent year.

### **Achievements in 2025**

For convenience we continued to meet via Microsoft Teams. Members kept the committee informed of new information in their areas of responsibility.

Performance reviews were conducted on schedule, personnel policies and procedures were reviewed and ad hoc issues were handled as they arose. All salary reviews were completed on time and approved by Council.

Employees are Rev. Nicholas Forrester, Minister; Laura McClure, Music Director; and Sarah McEwing, Office Manager. Laura McClure has also been our Communications Coordinator. In January 2026 we will welcome Rachel Nott as she takes on this position.

**Committee Members:** Harvey Watson (Chair), Jennifer Code (Secretary), Barbara Manchur (resigned June 2025), Cathy Stone, George Beagley.

## **Board of Trustees**

### **Mission & Mandate**

The Board of Trustees holds all of the property of Erindale United Church for the use and benefit of the congregation and as such is responsible for:

1. Monitoring, preserving and strengthening the assets of Erindale United Church
2. Preserving and celebrating the history of the church
3. Maintaining and managing the Memorial Gardens

### **2025 Highlights**

- The Investment Team, which reports to the Board of Trustees, continually monitored the Manse, Endowment, and Memorial Funds and made a number of investment decisions in line with the policy of each fund.
- Coordinated the maintenance of the Memorial Garden.
- Continued to monitor and implement the church's insurance policy.
- New purchases made by the church were added to the church's inventory of assets and pictures were taken and the memory stick in the safe was updated.
- Completed a detailed job description for all trustee jobs which will help not only in managing ongoing trustee responsibilities but will also help in the recruitment of new trustees.
- The board of trustees elected a new chair of the Board of Trustees (Lowell Hendricks) effective January 1 2026.

### **Plans for 2026**

- Continue in all activities associated with the Memorial Garden.
- Continue to monitor our insurance with the self -managed model developed by the United Church of Canada including cyber security.
- Develop a succession plan for Board of Trustees
- Monitor the performance of the Manse Fund, Endowment Fund and Memorial Fund and manage the portfolios to maximize returns within the constraints of the investment strategy of each fund.
- Contact UCW, Treasurer and F&P to find out if there have been any significant purchases in the past year and take photos and update inventory data base.

### **Members**

Lowell Hendricks (Chair effective Jan 1 2026), Doug Johnston (Vice Chair), Brian Longley, Eleanor McIntosh, Fred Williams, Priscilla Brandy, Tom McIlwraith, Mary Patterson, Garry Jenkins, Rev Nicholas Forrester, Earl Cochrane and Sarah McEwing (as non-voting Secretary).

**Contact:** Lowell Hendricks

## **Worship**

### **Mission**

Enable worship, which is open, inviting and involving to all to celebrate their faith; which reflects elements both traditional and new that can be shared by all members of our community, and is the basis for joyful praise, inspired action and deeper commitment.

### **Mandate**

Co-ordination and supervision of all phases of worship. Work with the Minister and Director of Music to co-ordinate, support and supervise all phases of worship. Approve all activities which take place in the sanctuary. Arrange for supply ministers and organists, as required, to provide pastoral care and conduct Sunday services.

### **Introduction**

The Worship Committee is responsible for all activities which take place in the sanctuary. Meetings are held via Zoom on the 3rd Wednesday of September, October, November, January, February, March and May. For the first year in some time, Erindale began 2025 on solid footing with Rev. Nicholas as our permanent full-time minister and Covid no longer a pandemic.

The Worship Committee arranged for an interesting and diverse range of worship leaders from among past Erindale ministers, members of the worship committee and congregation on the 11 Sundays when Rev Nicholas was on study leave or vacation. The committee also assisted the minister and worship leaders in providing worship experiences that kept our very diverse congregation fully engaged and growing in each one's own personal faith and spiritual journey, throughout the worship seasons.

The Committee recognizes with sincere gratitude the hard work and leadership of ALL congregation members, with special applause to the:

- Senior Choir, Junior Choir, Worship Band and Andrew McClure led by our talented Director of Music Laura McClure
- Worship Teams and their capable Coordinators who welcome people into the sanctuary, usher, open the service with greetings, land acknowledgement and announcements, read the scriptures and provide refreshments each Sunday. As of September, Worship Teams also began serving communion
- Tech Team (Ralph Nott, Rachel Nott, Garry Jenkins, Lowell Hendricks and Jeremy Charpentier-Wiseman) for operating the sound board
- Sarah McEwing, our Office Administrator, for her wide-ranging support
- Congregants who ensure that the physical environment of the sanctuary reflects, non-verbally, who we are and what we are about
- And finally, the committee. Thanks to Karen Bright for more than 10 years of participation in this committee, including as Chair. Cynthia Carr, with assistance from Rachel Nott, took on the leadership in February.

### **Activities/Achievements in 2025**

**Pulpit exchange:** took place on January 19 among the Mississauga United Churches. Rev. Norm Hennig-Pereira of Eden United Church led the service at Erindale, while Nicholas Forrester led at Westminster United Church.

**Town Hall Meeting:** during Sunday, January 26 service, the hopes, concerns, and insights of our church ministry were solicited, heard and documented. Congregants expressed views ranging from short term facility improvements to our mission and outreach to the broader community. Rev. Nicholas subsequently prepared a report on the meeting outcomes.

**Sacrament of Holy Communion:** beginning in February, the pre-Covid practice of serving real bread and juice at the dais was reinstated, and communion was set for the first Sunday of every month, plus Easter and Christmas Eve.

**Black History Month:** music, sermons and children's stories during this month were appreciated, notably guest drummer, video presentation on February 9 and 16, and Gospel Sing February 26 with the stories behind the spirituals. An authentic Caribbean lunch prepared by Claudette and Horace Neita was served after a service.

### **Lent and Easter**

- **Ash Wednesday:** congregants were blessed by Rev. Nicholas with ashes spread in a cross on their foreheads or hands.
- **Palm Sunday:** Palm branches were ordered and distributed by the March worship team. The choir and Sunday School students processed in at the beginning of the service with palms.
- **Maundy Thursday:** contemplative evening service was attended by a dozen people who had their feet washed by Rev. Nicholas or their hands washed, or both. Congregants were surprised and moved by the spiritual experience of the ancient ritual.
- **Good Friday:** reflective service with readings following the Stations of the Cross.
- **Easter Sunday:** Laura led both the choir and band; music included "The Third Cross" by Erindale musicians Steve Code and Richard Hancock. Communion was served. Daffodils were arranged on the dais and the flowers given out after the service.

### **May and June**

- **Confirmation** on May 25 for three Erindale youth Ben Hawn, Ben Robinson, and Kurt Schaubel.
- **Pride Sunday** was recognized, on June 1, thematically in the music.
- **100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The United Church of Canada** was celebrated by a gathering of all 9 United Church congregations in Mississauga, including Erindale, at Eden United Church for Sunday worship and celebration of our unity on June 8.
- **Sunday School Graduation** on June 15, acknowledged and presented the Sunday school students with gifts and the service was followed by a picnic for the entire congregation.
- **Music Appreciation lunch** held at the Mandarin Restaurant was well attended and enjoyed by all.

### **Summer Services**

From late June to the end of August, Sunday worship was led by familiar faces Rev. Brenna Baker (2x), Jim Bright, Laura McClure, Rev. Nicholas Forrester (2x), Rev. Neil Young (2x), Rachel Nott, Fraser Code and Rev. Alison Mock.

For the months of July and August, the committee organized a roster of volunteers to support worship in the ways normally provided by the monthly worship teams. Thank you to all those who stepped forward and made these services run smoothly.

### **Worship Team Reorganization**

September saw the monthly Worship Teams reorganized, refreshed and back to their duties following the summer off. The service of communion at the first Sunday following their month of service was added to worship team duties with support from the Worship committee in the form of training materials and refresher briefings prior to communion services.

## Fall Services

- **Blessing of the Backpacks** on September 7, by Rev. Nicholas as a blessing for the new school year.
- **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation/Orange Shirt Day** was recognized on September 28, with the wearing of orange shirts to honour survivors, their families, and the communities affected by Indian Residential Schools.
- October 5, UCW led the service with liturgy from national UCW to celebrate the **100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Church of Canada**.
- **Thanksgiving** was celebrated on October 12.
- **'We Remember' Memorial** book was placed at the back of the sanctuary for the month of November to collect the names of persons who have died, and we would like to remember as we gather for our service.
- **Remembrance Day** service November 9, with the lectern draped with a dramatic net of red poppies handmade by Carolyn Hendricks, and guest trumpeter Kaiwei Wang playing *The Last Post* and *Rouse*.
- **Stewardship Sunday** November 16, saw the Stewardship Committee gamify and engage the congregation in the elaborating of the work of all church committees supported by church funds.

## Advent and Christmas

- **Christmas carols** and sing along were played by request for 15 minutes before each Sunday service in Advent.
- **Themes** of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love were followed over the 4 Sundays of Advent in the lighting of the candles, liturgy and sermon.
- **Christmas Cantata** December 14, entitled *By Heaven's Light* by Tom Long and Allen Pote, was performed by the senior choir.
- **Christmas in a Minor Key** December 17 at 7:00 pm was a quiet service for those who may have been grieving a loss or just having a hard time finding joy in the season.
- **Children's Choir** was formed under the direction of Laura McClure. They performed *The Little Drummer Boy* at the December 21, 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent service and reprised it at the early Christmas Eve Service.
- **Children's Christmas Pageant** was also viewed and enjoyed at the December 21 service.
- **Christmas Eve 5:30 pm** service focused on children and families. The story of Christmas was dramatized through narration, songs, costumes and props, while the children sat on blankets spread over the dais. Music was led by Psalm 98 and Laura.
- **Christmas Eve 8:00 pm** service was a more contemplative service where the Christmas story was told through the scripture readings, sharing of communion and sharing of the light of candles. Music was led by the senior choir and Laura.

## Members of Worship Committee 2025

Rev. Nicholas Forrester, Laura McClure (Music Director), Jim Bright, Cynthia Carr (Chair), Claudette Neita, Rachel Nott (Co-chair), Ralph Nott (Secretary), Linda Watson

## Ministry of Music

**Mandate and Overview** Music at Erindale is provided by the Senior Choir and Psalm 98. The **Senior Choir** offers musical leadership for the congregation of Erindale during worship services and occasions such as funerals and memorials. Its repertoire of introits, anthems, and benedictions (and sometimes music during offertory and communion) is largely traditional, drawing upon a substantial library of sheet music and a number of choral music books, accompanied by organ or piano. Microphones are used to enhance choral and solo presentations.

**Psalm 98** (aka 'The Band') provides musical leadership for the congregation during worship services, focusing on contemporary music provided by keyboard, guitar, bass, flute, and percussion. Psalm 98 members offer prelude music and contemporary pieces, sometimes during the youth portion of services. Microphones enhance individual singers, frequently as soloists. The Senior Choir and Psalm 98 usually present their music separately, taking turns from week to week but, occasionally, the two groups sing together.

### Reflecting on 2025

Throughout the year, the band consistently led music on the first and third Sundays of each month while the choir provided leadership and special music on the other Sundays (though present and gowned every Sunday). A variety of musicians from both within and outside Erindale were involved in the music ministry this year. Throughout 2025, both the Senior Choir and Psalm 98 expanded their repertoire, introducing the congregation to many new pieces while still bringing forth old favourites on a regular basis.

In the spring of 2025, Laura started writing a monthly column in the e-newsletter, entitled "Music Notes". Check out her column for announcements, information on upcoming music, and recognition of those who add their musical talents to the service.

In the fall of 2025, we introduced the "Hymn of the Month", in which a hymn is included in the Sunday service for four weeks, first as an introit presented by the band or choir and then as a congregational hymn, to provide a chance for the congregation to learn it well. There were two such hymns in 2025: "And on This Path", and "When a Poor One".

Despite the challenges of winter weather throughout February, the band and the choir came together to present the anthem "Music Down in My Soul" by Moses Hogan, reprised in June by popular demand. We had our annual Black History Month Gospel Sing on February 23 and were joined by drummer Devonte Ingram on two occasions in February. On Palm Sunday, the choir presented "The Holy City" as requested by Horace Neita (who, however, was not present to hear it—so look for that to return in 2026!). Tom McIlwraith again provided a resonant bass solo for the Good Friday piece "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross". Both Psalm 98 and the Senior Choir offered pieces by local composers on Easter Sunday: the band presented "The Third Cross" by Erindale member Steve Code and the choir presented "My Master from a Garden Rose" by Toronto composer Eleanor Daley.

In May, the choir continued to put a spotlight on Canadian composers with their offering of "Rise Up, My Love" by Healey Willan. At the beginning of June, the band reprised their incredible piece from last year, "When You Believe" (from *Prince of Egypt*), with Sarah Watson as soloist. A major highlight of June was the celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Church of Canada, at which our musicians joined the musicians of nine other United Churches at an awe-inspiring service that included the mass choir anthem "Spirit's Comin".

The summer saw the appearance of some guest musicians. Marianne Gast and Dr. Lori-Anne Dolloff both filled in while Laura was on vacation, and Jayden Maharaj provided an impressive piano postlude.

Jayden should also be acknowledged for his page-turning services on several occasions. Throughout the year, Andrew McClure made appearances on the flute. Highlights with Andrew included the presentation of "Earth", a stunning piece for flute and piano by Takatsugu Muramatsu, and the incredibly moving "Ashokan Farewell" on Remembrance Sunday.

Highlights of the fall included the Thanksgiving anthem "My Shepherd Will Supply My Need", accompanied by flautists Harvey Watson and Andrew McClure, the band's presentation of "All Good Gifts" from the musical *Godspell*, and the Remembrance Sunday anthem "In Remembrance" by Eleanor Daley. Kaiwei Wang, a friend of Jayden Maharaj, played the trumpet for the Last Post and Rouse on Remembrance Sunday.

As always, the Christmas season was a busy time for the musicians of Erindale! There were some new (to me) musical adventures this year: the choir presented the cantata "By Heaven's Light" on the third Sunday of Advent (my first time leading a cantata), and for the first time, I led a children's choir at Erindale. Several extra musicians joined the choir for the cantata, and Raman Sandhu and Linda Antony stepped forward to be our readers. The children's choir sang "The Little Drummer Boy" on the fourth Sunday of Advent and at the 5:30 PM Christmas Eve service. Psalm 98 led music at the 5:30 PM Christmas Eve service, presenting "The Birthday of a King", and the senior choir led music at the 8:00 PM service, including offering Vivaldi's "Gloria".

All the Erindale musicians gratefully acknowledge the steady support and encouragement shown by the congregation. They know that members are all volunteers and strive to do our best for the Erindale community.

### **Personnel**

Both the Senior Choir and Psalm 98 are delighted to have new (or returning) members join us, whether on an occasional basis or permanently. Janelle Maharaj joined the choir on a few occasions and is encouraged to join us again. Mary Patterson joined us for a few rehearsals; we would love to have her sing with us again. Oz Watson joined the band on Christmas Eve and is very welcome to join us more often. Arlene Stevens and Gabriella Wallace were unable to sing with the choir in 2025, but we hope to see them again in the future. Due to health challenges, Fred Williams was unable to sing with the choir in the latter half of 2025. We were devastated by his passing in January 2026. Fred's voice and presence will be greatly missed not only by the choristers but by all of Erindale United.

#### Senior Choir:

- Soprano: Norma Brown, Marilyn Johnston, Nadia Lay, Mavis Mahabir (wardrobe coordinator), Laura McClure (Music Director), Arlene Stevens, Gabriella Wallace, Dorothy Weston
- Alto: Priscilla Brandy, Ellen Dunlop, Barbara Manchur, Laura Turner
- Tenor: Fraser Code, Doug Johnston
- Bass: Doug Brien, Tom McIlwraith (librarian), Fred Williams (purser)

#### Psalm 98:

- Randy Ali: drums
- Jim Bright: bass, guitar, vocals
- Cindy Maharaj: vocals
- Oksana Manchur: guitar, vocals
- Laura McClure: piano, vocals, director
- Harvey Watson: vocals, flute
- Linda Watson: vocals
- Sarah Watson: vocals

**Contacts:** Tom McIlwraith, Harvey Watson, Laura McClure

## **Horseshoe Falls Region**

### **Report to Erindale United Church for the year ended December 31, 2025**

#### **Region and Organization:**

Horseshoe Falls Region (and all the other regions across Canada) began operating at the beginning of 2019 as the result of the national reorganization that was approved at General Council in 2018. Horseshoe Falls Regional Council (HFRC) has been fully operational since its inaugural Annual meeting in May 2019 in Port Elgin Ontario.

I was elected as HFRC Treasurer at that meeting. I now am serving a second term as Treasurer from 2022 to 2026. The term was extended by one year to provide adequate time for replacement and because the first year (year of our Region startup) was relatively inactive. This, then, is my last year as Region Treasurer, ending mid-year 2026.

Horseshoe Falls Region is comprised of all pastoral charges in Erie Presbytery, all pastoral charges in Halton Presbytery; all pastoral charges in Hamilton Presbytery; all pastoral charges in Niagara Presbytery; and the Pastoral Charges of Norval, St. John's PC (Georgetown), St. Andrew's Georgetown, and Acton.

Horseshoe Falls Region is organized into an Executive and three Commissions: the Congregational Support Commission (for Governance); the Human Resources Commission (for Pastoral Relations); and the Discipleship and Justice Commission (for Faith Formation). The Executive includes a President, Treasurer, Past President, Chairpersons of the 3 Commissions and other members of the Executive to a total of 13 or so members.

Commissions are special entities modelled after General Council commissions. They are structured with enough members to make decisions that, statistically, are normally the same as the entire Region Council might make. This reduces the workload on the Region Council and gets more work done at the same time (3 Commissions).

There are Staff Resources for the Regions: An Executive Minister plus 11 staff members most of whom are responsible for their particular responsibilities across three regions: Horseshoe Falls Region (our Region), Western Ontario Waterways and Antler River Watershed. This encompasses about 400 communities of faith.

#### **Regional Meetings:**

In the year 2025, Region and Region Executive Meetings have been a combination of in-person and Zoom meetings. Zoom meetings are likely to remain as they are both convenient and less expensive for numerous (and usually shorter) meetings.

There were two Region Meetings in 2025: the Spring 2025 meeting was an in-person meeting on June 14, 2025, at the St. Andrews U.C in Hamilton. The Spring 2025 was just a Horseshoe Falls Regional Council meeting – not involving the other two regions. The Fall 2025 Annual Meeting for HFRC (as is required for a Not-for-profit entity) was held November 21 and 22, 2025, via Zoom only.

The May meeting was concerned primarily with the work of the three Commissions (Governance, Discipleship, and Human Resources) to make sure the work of the Region was carried out properly and to reply to any concerns raised by the Commissions.

The November meeting was the Annual Meeting, and it received annual reports from the Executive and three Commissions. The YTD Financial Position was reviewed and received, and the 2026 Budget was approved with the ability for the Executive to amend as necessary.

As noted in prior reports, the Region received notice of a reduction in Mission and Service Grants from the National Church to the Regions to take effect in 2021. We have taken action to re-align and change costs but there remains a need to take in funds from Reserves to cover the Learning Fund and Events for Commissions. This reduction is relatively small but remains a topic of discussion. Continued reduction in pastoral charge membership will eventually result in redefining regional staff and cost requirements.

Funds coming from Reserves are nominal and planned. Prudent investment of excess funds (Reserves) has provided over \$200,000 into 2023 through 2026 Operations (varies by year). This is very helpful for our budget planning and operations.

### **Executive Meetings:**

For the most part, Executive Meetings were held by Zoom. An in-person Executive Meeting in October 2025 was held at Silver Spire United Church as an evening meeting. Because of this I was unable to attend Church Council on the same date, but I did make progress helping Erindale find external resources for its strategic planning work.

Executive Meetings have been held approximately 10 times per year with additional meetings held under unique circumstances. This has become a draw on people's time, so we are moving to 5 or 6 in 2026, earlier in day and that is good for me as it will prevent collisions with EUC Council Meetings.

Executive meetings are concerned with Property matters (some closures of more rural properties), staff changes and appointments to Regional Commissions, personnel matters (in camera), grants to appropriate organizations, and keeping the business of the Region up to date.

The house owned by Halton United Church Extension Council was sold in November 2021, HUCEC was closed in 2023, and all HUCEC business is now formally complete.

As Treasurer, I keep the Executive (and Annual Meeting members) apprised of the Budget and Actual results measured against Budget. Budget planning and related results are in good shape, due in some part to lower meeting and travel expenses because of the continued use of Zoom post Pandemic. We always plan our operations to be balanced with respect to Income and Expense, and in 2021 we saw our grants from the National Church drop and so made judicious use of our considerable reserves. The drop was one time, but the effect continued into 2022, 2023, and 2024. As noted earlier, prudent investing of funds in Reserves is certainly helping Operations.

### **Tri-Region Executive:**

Some staff is also shared amongst the three Regions, there is some staff (administrative) that each Region employs, and there is an Executive (elected volunteer members of the Region) for each Region.

We have had Tri-Region meetings both in-person and via Zoom. This year the National Church held a "Flourishing" workshop at Avondale U.C. in Stratford. I attended this meeting.

A significant function of these meetings is for people to have a chance to meet each other and share the responsibilities and work of each Region.

### **Other Activities:**

The Treasurers of each Region (Brent Caslick, Doug Cameron and myself) meet from time to time with the Executive Minister to discuss budgets and finances, and to consider clouds on the horizon which may need an action plan prior to preparing a budget or year-end forecast. In 2022, we formed Investment Committees (one for each Region) and work with BMO Nesbitt Burns to prudently invest funds and use the interest income to support Operations.

I was elected by the Region as a Commissioner to General Council 44 which began in February 2022 as an online meeting. Meetings were entirely on-line and stretched from February 2022 until August 2022. All the business put before the Council was properly dealt with at the meeting or properly reviewed and sent back to the GC Executive for further review and action. This is a normal Council process and gets work properly accomplished. GC44 met via Zoom in 2023 and 2024.

I have been a General Council Commissioner since 2006 (Thunder Bay) and I have now turned this activity over to other people. These activities help to keep our local congregation connected to the wider church.

Mary Patterson is a member of the Human Resources Commission. Together with our Minister (Rev. Nicholas Forrester), the Horseshoe Falls Region President (Rev. Sula Anne Kosacky), and a number of members from our old Presbytery, Erindale is very well represented and connected to the new Region.

Erindale can send 3 representatives to the Region. Mary and I represent two members at this point. If you feel called to volunteer for the wider church work, please any of us know.

**Prepared by:** John Hurst, Horseshoe Falls Region representative and Treasurer

## **Erindale United Church Women**

**Purpose:** To unite women of the congregation for the total mission of the church and to provide a means through which we may express our loyalty and devotion to Jesus Christ in Christian Witness, Study, Fellowship, and Service.

**Erindale UCW Annual Meeting** was held on February 18th, 2025. Devotions were led by the Mary and Martha Circle unit. The Reports in our Annual Report were accepted.

Ann Edge presented the Slate of Officers for 2025. As there were no further nominations from the floor, the slate was acclaimed. Our program was an Erindale Trivia Quiz, led by Pat Jenkins and Linda Rosekat.

Refreshments were provided by the Friends in Faith unit.

**Horseshoe Falls Region UCW: The Annual Gathering** was held on April 26<sup>th</sup>, at Stamford United Church in Niagara Falls. The speaker was Cathy Douglas. Several Erindale members attended.

### **Yearly Activities**

We have accomplished much again this year. We held 2 soup and 1 chili lunch in aid of The Healing Fund's special UCW Fund. Thanks to the Congregation for their overwhelming support of these and our other fundraising efforts. Thanks also to the honorary male members of UCW who assisted in setting up tables, moving chairs and clearing up. In June we held our Annual Social Evening, attended by approximately 50 people. Entertainment was provided by a musical group from Orangeville Westminster United Church. Our Garage Sale, Card Party and Frosty Fayre were also well supported, and the Fayre included vendors from within our congregation again. Because of this fundraising, we were able to support a number of worthwhile and needy causes locally and farther afield. We thank the congregation for their support and donations to our special projects. Charitable donations we made in 2025: Doctors Without Borders, Sleeping Children Around the World, and Canadian/Local Organizations: UCC Mission and Service Fund, Canadian Red Cross-for disaster relief, Sandy Salteaux Centre, Ian Anderson House Hospice, Heart House Hospice, Embrave (Interim Place) & Armagh House Women's Shelters, Our Place Peel Youth Shelter, Mississauga Foodbank, Deacon's Cupboard, The Open Door – drop-in centre, and the Northwest Mississauga Refugee Group. The total disbursed for 2025 was \$6,500.

Our visitation team continued to send cards to UCW sick or bereaved members and those unable to attend meetings and make in-person calls when possible. Plants were delivered at Easter and Christmas.

Our Executive meeting is held the first Monday of each month except July and August. This year they have been in-person.

All women of the church are welcome to be part of UCW. Please come along to any unit meeting to enjoy a time of fellowship and friendship. The Mary and Martha Circle meet on the 3rd Tuesday at 1 pm in the McGill Room and the Friends in Faith meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday at 12:30 pm in the Boardroom and bring a lunch.

**Submitted by** Pat Jenkins, President

## Christian Development

### Mission

To develop and sustain a nurturing environment for Christian Education programs that provide knowledge and understanding of God's word and meet the needs of all members and segments of the Erindale family and community.

### Mandate

To develop the policies and programs for Christian education within Erindale, according to United Church standards, and to ensure there are resources, including financial, to carry out these programs with approval of Council. This includes support and guidance for Sunday School programs and teachers, adult education, youth ministry and any opportunities for spiritual growth.

### Achievements in 2025: Children and Youth

Christian Development looks forward to helping any person who is interested to start up a regular meeting/program at the Church for education, health or spiritual growth.

The students and teachers participated in the Easter and Christmas events. We all had fun at the end of the year graduation and picnic!

We thank our dedicated teachers, Karen Bright, Alan Schaubel, and Eleanor McIntosh as well as the volunteers. If you have experience with children and would like to share your talents with Sunday School, please let us know.

## Outreach

The Outreach Committee has been mainly inactive this year. We note and appreciate that individual people and groups continue offering their time, talent, and resources to various charitable activities outside of our church body.

**Deacon's Cupboard** continued giving food to those in need and Erindale contributed food and funding of \$3000 during the year for The Deacon's Cupboard to distribute.

**Coldest Night of the Year:** Many Erindale folks participated in the annual Coldest Night of the Year walk to benefit The DAM. Our thanks to George Beagley for providing leadership and thanks to all those who participated and to the sponsored walkers.

**Blood Donations:** We continued our partnership with Canadian Blood Services to help make a difference for patients in Canada. Thanks to Ann Edge for regularly encouraging the congregation to donate blood.

**Benevolent Gift Cards:** Thanks to our parishioners' concern for our neighbours, we were able to continue to provide gift cards that we have available to supplement groceries for those in need.

**Outreach Members:** Jim Bright (Chair), Karen Bright, George Beagley

**The DAM Committee**  
**DEVELOP    ASSIST    MENTOR**

With Erindale's awesome giving spirit we have had another successful DAM Gift Drive. This is the fifth year for the drive and provided the youth with a great Christmas.

A request went out for a driver to take the gifts to the DAM. The response was overwhelming. Earl Cochrane was the first one to approach me, willing to drive. On Sunday, December 7th, all the gifts were sorted and placed in labeled boxes. A BIG THANK YOU to Thelma Naughton, Laura Turner, Kurt Schaubel who helped me sort and get the gifts ready for delivery. Thank you to Earl Cochrane who packed the car and helped me deliver the gifts to the DAM on December 9<sup>th</sup>.

A thank you to all for their generosity and support of The DAM was sent out.

**Co-Ordinator:** Nadia Lay

**Communications**

Electronic communication has continued to be very important in 2025. We run Sunday services in a hybrid format and will continue to do so permanently.

PowerPoints are shared on Zoom and on the screens in the sanctuary, largely replacing print bulletins. The weekly e-newsletter keeps the congregation up-to-date with everything going on at EUC as well as events in the wider church and community. Many of EUC's groups send in announcements to be shared in the newsletter.

The main page of the church website is updated weekly. Most pages of the website are up-to-date with current information. Groups are encouraged to send updates to the communications assistant, who will update the website accordingly. Our Facebook page has 142 followers, and our Instagram page has 373 followers. Check out our social media for announcements, recognition of special days and events, and pictures.

At the end of 2025, Laura stepped down from the role of Communications Assistant and has been replaced by Rachel Nott. All the best to Rachel, who will no doubt bring fresh ideas to this role!

**Communications Assistant:** Laura McClure

**Listeners Corner**

The Listeners Corner is an internet Bible study group for Erindale United Church. Attendance varies from 6 to 12 members. This is convenient for lively Zoom discussions. We meet every Wednesday morning from 10 to 11 a.m. using the regular EUC Zoom link.

During 2025 we completed the study of Acts and the first half of Genesis up to Abraham, the Gospel of Mark, and the Gospel of Matthew up to Chapter 18. We open each session with a short prayer. Then we read two chapters, and for the remaining fifty or so minutes we have a group discussion of the readings. Note that our current schedule of readings is posted on the page for the Listeners Corner on the church website. New participants are welcome at any time. Just open the Zoom link and join in the chat.

**Participants:** Priscilla Brandy, Angela Brien, Ann Edge, Loretta Jackson, Pat Jenkins, Nadia Lay, Horace Neita, Ruth Nott, Judy Vandermark

## **Book Club**

For those who love to read, this is the place to be. We meet once a month, except summertime and December at Erindale UC in the Board Room. Some meetings could be held on Zoom depending on the weather. We meet in the daytime on the **4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the Month at 1:00 pm**. The books are selected by a vote of the participants from a list of suggested books at the last meeting of the year in June held at someone's house along with refreshment.

At regular meeting discussions are usually lively and varied and full of insight. This group is a wonderful place to meet new Authors (so to speak) as well as getting to know the members at a deeper level. Members have said that what they like best about the group is the friendships and that they have been challenged to read books that they would never have chosen for themselves. It certainly keeps us from getting into a rut and exposes us to new and different ideas. All in all, a perfect combination to enhance our always lively, interesting discussions. If anyone wants to read along but can't attend in person meetings call me and I will send you the reading list for 2026. The books are guaranteed to be challenging and to delight you.

### **Books we read in 2025 were:**

- January- The Air Raid Book Club by Kara Swisher
- February- Where The Falcon Flies by Adam Shoalts
- March- The Women by Kristin Hannah
- April- Black Cake by Charmaine Wilkerson
- May- Moon of the Crusted Snow by Waubeshig Rice
- September- Five Wishes of Mr. Murry McBride by Joe Siple
- October- A New Season by Terry Fallis
- November-Finding Flora by Elinor Florence

### **Members**

Melanie Blake, Kim Booth, Sandra Butcher, Cynthia Carr, Jennifer Code, Pat Jenkins, Susan Lyons, Doug Johnston, Marilyn Johnston, Duane McIlwraith, Horace Neita, Ruth Nott, Elaine Thorne, Lahring Tribe.

**Submitted by** Marilyn Johnston, Co-ordinator

## **Friday Morning Coffee Group**

Another year has come to an end. Coffee Hour is still thriving on Zoom and continues to provide a ray of sunshine and companionship.

In 2025, as requested by some, we held several Coffee Hours in the McGill Room one in August, October and November. It was so well attended that I will continue to have Coffee Hour in the McGill Room, once a month, on any month that the driving weather permits (Specifically during the winter months).

We continue to meet every Friday at 10:00 am on the Erindale Zoom Link and it is open to anyone who wishes to join us. God willing, Coffee Hour will continue to provide a way to feel connected to others at Erindale especially those who are home bound.

**Respectfully Submitted by** Nadia Lay, Coordinator and Host

## **Craft and Conversation**

Getting us all together has been a challenge this past year and we are trying to find a day that suits everyone. At the moment this group is meeting on the **2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month** at 1:00 pm. at the church from January to June 2024. Members bring a bit sewing, knitting, crochet or anything, even mending, and spend a few hours working together and sharing conversation. It is a wonderful way to unwind and destress. There is always someone to answer a question if you get stuck. If anyone wants to learn some of these crafts, they are welcome to come and join in the fun. New members are always welcome. Come and Join in the fun.

**Members:** Ann Edge, Marilyn Johnston, Nadia Lay, Norma Macintyre, Ruth Nott, Linda Watson, Sandra Wiseman

**Submitted by** Marilyn Johnston, Co-ordinator

## **Egg (Erindale Growing Group)**

This group was formed in 1982 when there were several groups called EGGS. They were scrambled once every two years from lists of people who signed up. The groups were made up of 12 people who met in people's homes monthly. This is a spiritual and social group. The group met only a few times in 2025.

We believe that small groups strengthen the church family because we get to know everyone just a little bit better and reinforce our shared values or understand and respect our differences.

This is not an exclusive, "invitation only" group. If you are interested in being part of this group, please do not hesitate to ask any of our members as there is no official leader.

## **The 2020 Group**

The 2020 Group is a social group of widows and widowers. We meet every second week for a social chat on Mondays at 4:00 PM using Erindale's Zoom link. From time to time we also meet in person as well. We express our thanks to George Beagley who arranged tickets for us to the Stratford Shakespearean Festival to see the play "Annie". We welcome any widows and widowers who would like to join us every second Monday at 4:00 PM using the church's Zoom link.

**Submitted by** Mary Patterson

## **The Tech Team**

Jim Bright addressed the issues with the speakers in the choir loft so that the choir can hear the minister's message.

Jeremy Charpentier-Wiseman officially joined the team as its newest member in September.

A new wireless microphone was purchased in December as the need for an additional wireless microphone was raised. It was used in both the December 21<sup>st</sup> service and the 5:30pm Christmas Eve service to mic the children's choir performances.

For Sunday services, zoom has seen an average of 14 connections bless its screens.

**Tech Team Members:** Jeremy Charpentier-Wiseman, Lowell Hendricks, Garry Jenkins, Rachel Nott, Ralph Nott.

## Roll Report

The statistics below reflect data required by the United Church of Canada.

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>
Number of Households under Pastoral Care	217	218
Number of Adult Baptisms	1	0
Number of Children Baptised	2	0
Members received: a) under 18	0	3
b) 18 or older	1	0
Members received by Transfer or otherwise	0	0
Members removed by Death	6	3
Members removed by: a) Certificate of Transfer	2	0
b) Otherwise	0	0
Total Confirmed Membership	249	249
Total Non-resident Members (included above)	21	20

### **Baptisms**

*Children:* None

*Adults:* None

**Zero Members Received by transfer or otherwise**

**Zero Members Transferred Out**

### **Weddings**

One

### **In Memoriam**

Christopher Brandy (Member)

Betty Gilman (Member)

Robert MacGregor (Member)

# MINUTES of ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

## ERINDALE UNITED CHURCH

Sunday, April 6, 2025

NOTE: Page numbers refer to the 2024 Annual Report.

1. Rev. Nicholas constituted the meeting with a prayer. A total of 69 people were present, 58 in the Sanctuary and 11 on Zoom. The meeting started at 12:08pm.
2. **Moved by Doug Johnston, seconded by Duane McIlwraith, that Horace Neita chair the Erindale AGM and that Thomas McIlwraith be Recording Secretary. All in favour. Carried.**
3. **Moved by Harvey Watson, seconded by Duane McIlwraith, that Adherents be eligible to vote at this meeting. All in favour. Carried.**
4. Rev. Nicholas Forrester tabled his report (pp 4-7). There was no discussion. **Moved by Earl Cochrane, seconded by Linda Watson, that the Erindale Congregation receive the Minister's Report. All in favour. Carried.**
5. Horace Neita tabled his report as the Chair of Council for 2024 (p 8). He stressed the importance of the 'private volunteers' in the congregation, people contributing unobtrusively to the daily life of the Erindale family. **Moved by Paul Sabourin, seconded by John Hurst, that the Erindale Congregation receive the Report of the Chair of Council. All in favour. Carried.**
6. Council and Committee Organization 2025. The Chair tabled the updated Table of Organization (Appendix A). Jim Bright announced that Arash Rozbeh has moved out of the country and has been replaced on the Outreach Committee by Karen Bright. [NOTE: Arash has also resigned from F&P.] **Moved by Laura Turner, seconded by Duane McIlwraith, that those named in the Table of Council and Committee Organization for 2025 are supported by the Erindale Congregation in their appointed roles and service to the church, and that the Congregation receive the current Table of Organization. All in favour. Carried.**
7. Rev. Nicholas Forrester invited all those who hold positions on Council and Committees to come forward for blessing and commissioning.
8. The Chair, on behalf of the Congregation, offered words of appreciation to the Erindale staff: Laura Hare McClure, Sarah McEwing, Duane McIlwraith, Tech team members (Lowell Hendricks, Garry Jenkins, Rachel Nott, Ralph Nott), Wedding coordinators (Oksana Manchur, Cathy Stone), and the cleaning services under contract with Paula Rego. They all, in so many diverse ways, keep Erindale running smoothly.
9. Minutes of Special Congregation Meeting of November 2, 2024. (Appendix B). The Secretary reminded the Congregation of actions taken at this 17-minute meeting: Adherents be eligible to vote; Committee to call the minister be disbanded; Lowell Hendricks be appointed to Trustees; updated Table of Organization be received. He pointed out that special congregational meetings, which may be called from time to time during the year, are a useful way for the congregation to be continually engaged in the life of the church. **Moved by Harvey Watson, seconded by John Hurst, that the Erindale Congregation approve the Minutes of the Special Congregation Meeting of November 2, 2024. All in favour. Carried.**
10. **Moved by Earl Cochrane, seconded by Harvey Watson, that the Erindale Congregation approve the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Congregation held on April 14, 2024. All in favour. Carried.** There was no business arising.
11. Reports of the Standing Committees (pp 9-19, 24-25). **Moved by Doug Brien, seconded by Norma Macintyre, that the Erindale Congregation accept the reports of the Standing Committees. All in favour. Carried.**
12. Report of Horseshoe Falls Region (pp 20-22). Harvey Watson asked for details on how the Region contributes to life at Erindale. John Hurst agreed that this would be the subject of future discussion. **Moved by John Hurst, seconded by Harvey Watson, that the Erindale Congregation accept the Report of Horseshoe Falls Region. All in favour. Carried.**

13. Report of Erindale United Church Women (p 23). **Moved by Pat Jenkins, seconded by Mary Patterson, that the Erindale Congregation accept the Report of Erindale United Church Women. All in favour. Carried.**
14. Other reports for reference (pp 25-28). Erindale has a substantial list of groups and organizations offering reports on their membership and activities, among them The DAM Committee (“Develop, Assist, Mentor”), Communications, Listeners Corner, Book Club, Friday Morning Coffee Group, Craft and Conversation, Erindale Growing Group (“EGG”) and The 2020 Group. The Chair, a member of the Book Club, took the opportunity to highlight just one example of these groups as enriching Erindale life. **These reports are received for information only.**
15. Congregational Statistics (p 29). **Moved by Duane McIlwraith, seconded by Paul Sabourin, that the Erindale Congregation receive the Congregational Statistics. All in favour. Carried.**
16. Paul Sabourin took the podium to present the financial report, supported by various tables and graphs displayed on the sanctuary screens (Appendices C and D). The overall statement was that “we are in good shape,” with income in 2024 being seven per cent over budget. Tender Years School (in the second year of a five-year contract) and the Chess Club of Mississauga (“the largest chess club in Canada”) provide steady, significant support for the bottom line. The M&P portion of the budget grew substantially as a result of having a full-time minister in place for seven months and the newly-covered application of staff benefits. Paul added that the Long Range Planning Fund, established in 2024, was not touched. John Hurst noted that Erindale finances have been in the black for more than a quarter century, reflection of consistent good management. As an example, he pointed out that during that time several roofing projects have been supported from earnings by the \$117,500 Manse Fund. **Moved by Brian Longley, seconded by Jim Bright, that the Erindale Congregation accept the EUC Audited Financial Statements of December 31, 2024 (Appendix C). All in favour. Carried.** Paul then introduced the 2025 budget, including projections into 2027. Again, Erindale’s financial situation looks secure over that time, and there was little comment. Paul noted that the anonymous donation of \$200,000 in February 2025 has been invested carefully. It has been split evenly between the Endowment Fund and Long Range Planning Fund, pending further action by the committee struck to deal with this subject. **Moved by Norma Macintyre, seconded by Carolyn Hendricks, that the Erindale United Congregation approve the budget for 2025 (Appendix D). All in favour. Carried.**
17. Auditors for 2025. The question of the need for a formal audit was raised. While it was acknowledged that United Church regulations may not require Erindale to conduct a formal audit, several members spoke up strongly in favour of an audit. The principal argument was that an outside assessment of Erindale’s finances relieves the congregation of any liability in the event of financial irregularity. On the question of the cost of the audit, Barbara Manchur reported (via Zoom) the figure of \$5,085 (including HST). **Moved by John Hurst, seconded by Doug Johnston, that the firm of Capstick McCollum & Associates, Professional Chartered Accountants, be appointed Auditors for Erindale United Church for the year 2025. All in favour. Carried.**
18. There was no further business.
19. **Moved by Garry Jenkins that the meeting be adjourned.** Time: 1:29pm.
20. Rev. Nicholas Forrester offered a Benediction.

Thomas McIlwraith, Recording Secretary

Horace Neita, Chair