

# First United Church Mount Pearl



Annual Report 2025

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**Minutes**  
**Annual Congregational Meeting**  
**First United Church**  
**March 30th, 2025**

The meeting began immediately following the morning worship service at 12 noon.

Rev. Karen called the meeting to order and opened the meeting with a prayer.

Nominations were then called for a Chair Person and Secretary for the meeting. Joan Winsor nominated Gary Gosse as Chair and Wayne Rideout seconded the motion. Gary accepted the nomination and was elected to the position. Wayne Rideout nominated Heather Sinyard as Secretary and Joan Winsor seconded the nomination. Heather Sinyard accepted the nomination and was elected to the position.

There were 45 people in attendance.

Gary opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and thanking them for their attendance. He expressed his thanks to the volunteers who helped throughout the year.

**Proposed Agenda** – It was moved by Lisa Walsh and seconded by Denis Manning that the proposed agenda be adopted. **Motion Carried.**

**Mission Articulation Plan (MAP)** – Kyle March-MacCuish presented the MAP on behalf of the committee. A MAP takes the opportunity to look at where the church is within its life cycle, the community and beyond and develops a plan for the next three years of the church.

The committee determined that First United was in the maintenance stage of its life cycle. This analysis is informed by Tom Morgan's book, *The Unstuck Church: Equipping Churches to Experience Sustained Health*, which offers valuable perspectives on fostering lasting vitality and growth.

Priority areas of the church were determined to be:

- Social Outreach and Community Engagement
- Bridging the Generational Gap

Specific Objectives outlined:

- Creating a new Church Logo to put on merchandise such as hats, caps, bags etc. to sport while performing volunteer activities within the community.
- Create a survey to assess the needs of both the younger and older members of our congregation and use that feedback to decide how to move forward.
- Create a means where the youth of the church can assist the seniors better learn to use technology for such things as email, spam, photos, FaceTime tec.

The specific details will be worked out by the groups and committees following and expanding on the items outlined in the MAP.

The MAP also looked at developing our vision and mission statements. Believing our current mission statement is too broad to act as a mission statement but rather acts as a Vision statement. The MAP recommends the following:

Vision Statement:

“We are a welcoming, spirit-filled community of Christians, spreading the love of God through worship, caring, sharing and outreach.”

Mission Statement:

“Our pastoral charge seeks to nurture a compassionate and connected community, grounded in God's love, by offering inclusive worship, providing social outreach, and fostering programs that engage and bridge all generations, for the people of our congregation and the wider community we live in, building relationships that promote care, support, and unity for all.”

The MAP also set out to identify our Core Values and Beliefs. These Core Values and Beliefs can be expanded upon and added to by other members of the congregation.

Core beliefs and values

We believe...

First United Church is more than just a building. It is a community of people that are there to uplift anyone that needs it.

That by coming together during the best times and even more so the worst times we can accomplish anything.

First United Church is a community that preaches their faith at all times and when necessary, uses words.

First United Church embraces change and looks to the future with curiosity, not doubt.

Building on these foundational beliefs, the MAP Committee encourages each member of First United Church to take time to reflect on the outlined values and consider any additional values that you feel represent the core of First United Church for you personally. We invite you to share these insights with the Church Board, contributing to an evolving and inclusive community of faith that honors the diverse perspectives within our congregation.

**Motion to accept the Missions Articulation Plan (MAP) as presented** was moved by Paul Hillyard and seconded by Carolyn Rice. **Motion Carried.**

**The Minutes of the Congregational meeting of April 14, 2024** – It was moved by Kevin Martin and seconded by Joan Winsor that the minutes of the previous congregational meeting be accepted. **Motion Carried.**

There was no business arising from or questions raised by the minutes.

**Committee Reports** – It was moved by Wayne Rideout and seconded by Kyle March-MacCuish that the committee reports excluding the Stewardship and Financial Reports be accepted. **Motion Carried.**

**The Report from First Dawn Eastern Edge** is supplied for information purposes only and did not require a motion to accept.

**Message from Rev. Ian** – Joan Winsor, Board Chair, provided an update on the status of Rev. Ian's health.

**Interim Minister Report** – Rev. Karen expressed her hope for Rev. Ian's return so that she could return to the pew.

**Board of Management** – Board Chair, Joan Winsor, had no further comments.

Gary then proceeded to ask if any one had any further comments or questions on each of the reports.

- **Property Report**
- **Worship Committee Report**
- **Peace Garden/Garden Café Report** – Rev. Karen expressed her thoughts about the wonderful initiative with both the garden and café, people are gathering and talking, getting to know one another.
- **Christian Development Committee Report**
- **Sunday School Report**
- **Youth Group and Youth Group Financial Reports** – Paul Hillyard said a great job on the success of the Youth Group. He suggested that the Recycling Monies be cashed out from the Recycling Account rather than be allowed to build up there.

**Pam Morgan responded** – that recycling monies build slowly. She will request funds when she sees it building up.

- **Book Club Report**
- **Quilting Group Report** – Paul Hillyard said that the 1<sup>st</sup> banner created by the quilting group was lovely. He wondered if there were any plans for another.

**Pam Morgan Responded** – that they were a quilting group not a sewing group. They recently were working on the orange cloths for the church.

- **Bridges to Hope Report**

- **Ministry and Personnel Report**
- **Board of Trustees Report**
- **Men's Fellowship Club and Men's Financial Reports**
- **First United Church Women and UCW Financial Reports**
- **General Protestant Cemetery Report**

**Stewardship Report** – The Stewardship Committee / Financial Report was moved by Joan Winsor and seconded by Eric Eveleigh. **Motion Carried.**

Paul Hillyard – Made the observation that in the revenue statement were two grants - a Federal one of \$25,000 and a Provincial one for \$5,000. Without these grants the income would be \$30,000 less which would cause a significantly serious deficit.

Gary Gosse, Meeting Chair, agreed that this was a good observation.

Joan Winsor advised that the \$5,000 grant was the grant for the summer student. The \$25,000 grant was for the Peace Garden, but it came in after 2023.

Carolyn Rice noted that there are many grants that can be applied for and we can certainly expand our search for those opportunities.

Paul Hillyard concluded that grants for projects do not help our operating income. Typically grants are issued for specific projects and do not help pay for lights and heat, etc.

**Revenue and Expense Budgets for 2025 –**

Paul Hillyard commented that the budgets for each were not too 'pie in the sky'. Wayne Rideout moved the acceptance of the Proposed 2025 Budget and was seconded by Florence Morrissey. **Motion Carried.**

**Re-Election of Current Board Members and Election of New Board Members –**

Gary thanked departing members Brenda Andrews and Carolyn Rice for their service on the Board. He also thanked Lilly Pope, Youth Representative who is resigning after three years service on the Board to further her education,

Current members on the Board serving in their first two years do not require a new vote. They include Joan Winsor, Tony Tuck, Kirk Howell, Glenys Harris, Lisa Walsh, Kevin Martin and Denis Manning.

Gary stated that those members in their third to fifth years require a vote. These members are Heather Sinyard, Allison Randell and Sara Case.

Motion: That these people listed be re-elected to the Board moved by Carolyn Rice and Seconded by Pam Morgan. **Motion Carried.**

There are two new people who have offered to serve on the board. They are Lori Leonard and Wanda Tiller.

**Motion:** That these people who volunteered be elected to the Board, moved by Pam Morgan and seconded by Kevin Martin. **Motion Carried.**

Gary then called for Nominations and/or Volunteers to serve on the board. (Repeated three times.) No further nominations or volunteers stepped forward.

### **Election of Delegates to First Dawn Eastern Edge –**

Brenda Andrews, Cynthia Burt and Kelly Tuck have agreed to continue as our representatives. The fourth delegate position is now vacant. Gary called for a nomination or volunteer to become a delegate to represent First at FDEE. (Repeated three times.) There were no additional nominations or volunteers at that time.

Gary also called for Alternates to serve as delegates when an existing representative is unable to attend (three times). No nominations or volunteers at that time.

**Motion:** To accept these delegates. Moved by Kyle March-MacCuish and seconded by Madeline Rideout. **Motion Carried.**

### **Election for Representative for Cemetery Committee –**

Joan Winsor and Gary Gosse both thanked Calvin Gibbons for his years of service representing First United on the Cemetery Board. Calvin confirmed that he has been on the board for 41 years. His family encouraged him to retire this position now and he has reluctantly agreed. He expressed his thanks for the opportunity and stated that he very much enjoyed working on our behalf.

Gary called for nominations or volunteer to serve on the Cemetery Board. (three times) Clarence Butt agreed to represent First on the Cemetery Board.

**Motion:** Lorne Squires moved the acceptance of Clarence Butt, seconded by Denis Manning. **Motion Carried.**

### **Statistics for 2024 –**

Rev. Karen expressed her thanks for Calvin's support of the staff at the cemetery.

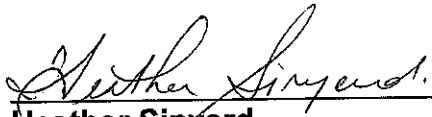
Rev. Karen then read out the names of the 16 members for whom funerals were conducted. A moment of silence and prayer was held for the deceased members.

**New Business –** There was no New Business brought up.

Gary expressed his thanks to the volunteers who often work behind the scenes on behalf of the Board. He thanked the staff for their support during the year. He also thanked the Board members for their efforts. He reminded people that they do not have to be on the Board to serve on a committee and most committees can always use extra people.

Rev. Karen expressed thanks for the support given to her while she has served as our Interim Minister. She concluded the meeting with a benediction.

The meeting adjourned.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Heather Sinyard**  
**Secretary**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Gary Gosse**  
**Chairperson**

**FIRST UNITED CHURCH  
Official Board  
2025**

<b>Minister</b>	Rev. Ian March-MacCuish
<b>Interim Minister, January to June</b>	Rev. Karen Burse
<b>Chairperson</b>	Joan Winsor
<b>Vice Chair</b>	Wanda Tiller
<b>Secretary</b>	Heather Sinyard
<b>Treasurer</b>	Glenys Harris
<b>Stewardship Chair</b>	Vacant
<b>Worship Chair</b>	Sara Case
<b>Worship Member</b>	Kevin Martin
<b>Property Chair</b>	Kirk Howell
<b>Christian Development Chair</b>	Allison Randell
<b>Membership and Social Outreach</b>	Tony Tuck
<b>M&amp;P Chair</b>	Brenda Andrews
<b>Board of Trustees Chair</b>	Nelson Harris
<b>UCW Rep</b>	Jean Randell
<b>Men's Club Rep</b>	Kevin Martin
<b>Board Member</b>	Lisa Walsh
<b>Board Member</b>	Denis Manning
<b>Board Member</b>	Lori Leonard
<b>Board Member</b>	Gloria LaFeuvre

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA  
**FIRST DAWN EASTERN EDGE REGIONAL COUNCIL**  
 Annual Meeting  
 May 2-4, 2025  
 Corner Brook Civic Centre, Corner Brook, NL

**What Do You Want With Us, Jesus?**

**Friday, May 2, 2025**

Registration

**REGISTRATION**

Members of First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council registered online for the May 2-4, 2025 Annual Meeting of the Regional Council, being held at the Corner Brook Civic Centre in Corner Brook, NL. In preparation for the annual meeting, the Executive offered a webinar on April 9, 2025, so that members were able to ask questions for clarification about matters that require decision making at the annual meeting.

In person registration began at the Civic Centre at 9:00am on Friday morning for members to pick up registration packages and be assigned table groups.

Attendance

**ATTENDANCE** – Appendix A

Regional Council members in attendance at the meeting are included in Appendix A.

Regrets

**REGRETS** – Appendix B

Appendix B lists regrets received by members of the region.

Gathering  
with Music

**GATHERING WITH MUSIC**

Members were gathered together with music, offered by Oliver Dingwell and Wayne Blackwood.

Call to Order

**CALL TO ORDER**

The President, Jocelyn Cook, welcomed everyone to the seventh annual meeting of First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council and called the meeting to order. The President began the meeting with the lighting of the Christ Candle. The President highlighted the Whole People's Covenant and Holy Manners, as printed in the docket of reports, as guidelines for the business proceedings.

Welcome

**WELCOME**

Jocelyn Cook, President, welcomed all to the meeting. The President extended warm welcome to the clergy and lay council members, visitors, and guests. Special welcome was extended to Rev. Alan Hall, Executive Officer, Shared Services, Pension, Benefits, Human Resources and Payroll, Archives, General Council Administration, Legal and Incorporated Ministries, in attendance as General Council Representative, Shreetee Appadu, Community Engagement Coordinator, Ecology Action Centre, and the Very Rev. Dr. Marion Pardy, 37<sup>th</sup> Moderator of The United Church of Canada.

Quorum

**QUORUM AND CONSTITUTION OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL**

Constitution of  
the Council

The President noted that there was a quorum present, and constituted the council in the name of Jesus Christ, the head of the church, for all the business that shall properly come before it.

Acknowledging  
the Land

**ACKNOWLEDGING THE LAND**

The President began the meeting by acknowledging the land on which we gather.

We acknowledge that long before our ancestors were on this land, this land was the homelands of the Beothuk, whose culture has been lost forever and can never be recovered. We acknowledge the island of Ktaqmkuk (Newfoundland) as the unceded, traditional territory of the Beothuk and the Mi'kmaq. We acknowledge Labrador as the traditional and ancestral homelands of the Innu of Nitassinan, the Inuit of Nunatsiavut, and the Inuit of NunatuKavut. We strive for respectful partnerships with all the peoples of this province as we search for collective healing and true reconciliation.

PROCEDURAL MOTION

Procedural  
Motion

MOTION: (Kathy Brett/Amanda Barnes)

That the Roll of First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council be (Manual 2025 C.1.1 and C.1.2):

- a) Members of the order of ministry within the bounds served by the regional council; and
- b) Other ministry personnel in a covenantal relationship with a community of faith within the bounds of the regional council; and
- c) The lay members who are members of the United Church who are not ministry personnel and who are elected by their Communities of Faith.
- d) Appointed members, lay members of the Regional Council Executive who have not been elected by their Community of Faith.

That the quorum be as indicated in Section C.4.3 of the Manual 2025;

The Regional Council may meet only if a minimum number of members is present... If there are 60 or more members, at least 20 members must be present; and that there must be at least one ministry personnel and one lay member who is not ministry personnel present. Corresponding members are not counted for this purpose.

That the bounds of the Regional Council meeting be the Corner Brook Civic Centre, Corner Brook, NL.

That representatives of General Council; representatives of United Church organizations; ministry students not serving a pastoral charge; and any other registered visitors to the Regional Council meetings be Corresponding Members of this Council.

That the agenda, as printed and distributed, be adopted as the agenda for this meeting of First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council, subject to such changes as may be adopted and such Orders of the Day as may be determined by the Council.

That the business table be Amanda Barnes, Kathy Brett, Nancy Mojica-Fisher and Alison Piercey.

That the minute secretary for the seventh (7<sup>th</sup>) annual Regional Council meeting be Jennifer Taylor.

This meeting will be recorded for the purpose of the Record of Proceedings. Once the Record of Proceedings has been produced, the recording will be destroyed.

That any elections held during this meeting be by majority ballot.

That the Proposals presenter be Paula Gale.

That the Table Group Facilitators for this meeting of Regional Council be as selected by the table groups.

That the following shall be Duty People for this session of Regional Council: Randy Purchase (Head Duty Person), David Anthony, Christine Clipstone, Natalie Lacey, Lynda Morgan, Ethel Paul, Hannah Sheppard and Derek White.

That the Chaplains/Pastoral Care providers for this weekend be Julie Brace and Simon Muwowo (Friday), and Valerie Kingsbury and Liberty Matabire (Saturday).

That the nurses/first aiders for regional council be Cynthia Burt and Pauline Dingwell.

That the Process and Flow Support person for Regional Council be Paula Gale.

That the Friend in Council be Nancy Mojica-Fisher.

The President will chair the meeting, making any rulings necessary. The Regional Council will work together using the Whole People's Covenant and Holy Manners as its guide. The President will apply the Manual 2025 Appendix: Procedures for Holding a Meeting and Decision-Making. Bourinot's Rules of Order will be used as the authority should a question arise which is not answered by the Appendix.

...cont'd

**First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council Annual Meeting, May 2-4, 2025  
Corner Brook Civic Centre, Corner Brook, NL**

## Speakers will:

- start by identifying themselves (name, Pastoral Charge or Community of Faith)
- direct all discussion to the President.
- address the President only once about a motion; except the mover, who may speak both first and last.
- be allocated time as follows: The initial time allocated for the mover to address the motion be limited to three (3) minutes, and that all subsequent speakers be limited to two (2) minutes, including any reply by the mover of the motion.
- make every effort to have discussion clear and concise, and deal only with the motion.

**CARRIED****Consent  
Motion****CONSENT MOTION****MOTION:** (Kathy Brett/Amanda Barnes)

That First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council:

1. Approves the Minutes of the Regional Council Meeting, June 7-9, 2024 (RC73-RC87) as circulated.
2. Receives and accepts the following accountability reports:
  - a. President
  - b. Executive Minister
  - c. Division of Finance and Administrative Resources
    - Financial Accountability Investments & Trusts
    - Property
    - Incorporated Ministries
  - d. Division of Regional Council Services and Support
    - Communications
    - Faith Formation, Christian Education & Leadership Development
    - Justice, Mission & Outreach
    - Annual Meeting Planning
    - Children, Youth & Young Adults
    - Stewardship
  - e. Division of Communities of Faith Support and Planning
    - Mission Consultation & Accountability
    - Future Directions in Ministry
  - f. Division of Human Resources
    - Licensing
    - Pastoral Relations
    - Retiree Support
    - Chaplaincy
  - g. Nominations
 

**INCLUDING THE NOMINATIONS REPORT AND THE  
2025-26 REGIONAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE**
  - h. Tri-Regional Staff Support Committee
  - i. Affirm Committee
3. Receives for information the following other reports:
  - a. Atlantic School of Theology
  - b. Board of Vocation
  - c. Centre for Christian Studies
  - d. Emmanuel College
  - e. Growth Animator
  - f. Office of Vocation
  - g. St. Andrew's College
  - h. Stewardship
  - i. Ukulele Church
  - j. United Church Rural Ministry Network

**CARRIED**

### INTRODUCTION OF CANDIDATES

Rev. Dr. Andrew Richardson, Office of Vocation Minister for the eastern regions, welcomed students and candidates for ministry to the council. Welcome and congratulations were extended to Emma O'Rourke; being Ordained; to Heather Cronhelm and Corey Paul; being recognized; and to Deepak Yohan, who is to be admitted to The United Church of Canada this weekend at the Celebration of Ministries service. The celebrants were welcomed to the regional council and given two minutes to speak to introduce themselves.

Andrew Richardson also introduced candidates for ordered ministry, Melissandra Groza and Katelyn Vardy; and Admissions candidate, Rev. Deepak Khristi.

### WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

The President, Jocelyn Cook, invited new members to the regional council to stand and be acknowledged.

### CENTENNIAL VIGNETTE

In recognition of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The United Church of Canada, a piece was shared with the regional council members gathered. The first vignette was presented by Paula Gale to reflect on the Methodist church prior to and at union in 1925.

### OPENING WORSHIP

Opening worship was led by liturgy team members; Oliver Dingwell and Wayne Blackwood. Prayer, scripture and hymns were offered to help animate the theme *What Do You Want With Us, Jesus*, and reflect on the history of The United Church of Canada. Members of the region were also invited to dress in period costume for the opening service. The President, Jocelyn Cook led members gathered in the New Creed and the Covenant between the region and our communities of faith. Scripture readings from Jeremiah 29:11-14a and John 17:1-2, 6, 17-23 were offered. Portions of the service, including the Invocation from the inaugural service in 1925, were shared in the opening worship in commemoration of the past 100 years of The United Church of Canada. Music leadership was offered by Oliver Dingwell and Wayne Blackwood, leading the selections *The Church's One Foundation, Three Things I Promise, O God of Bethel, God of Life and May the God of Hope*. Oliver Dingwell offered the benediction.

### IN MEMORIAM

As part of the opening worship, the Regional Minister, Heather Sandford, led the in-memoriam video presentation. Regional Council members paused to remember those that we have lost since we last gathered, and celebrate all that they have given to us, and this United Church of ours. The Regional Minister offered prayer and asked for a moment of silence.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kathy Brett, Annual Meeting Planning Team Convenor, offered the announcements of the region.

### LUNCH AND GRACE

Grace was offered by Kathy Brett, Annual Meeting Planning Team Convenor.

### GATHERING WITH MUSIC

Members were gathered together in music led by Oliver Dingwell and Wayne Blackwood. The members gathered sang songs from the first United Church hymn book, *The Hymnary*, as chosen in an advanced poll

### TABLE GROUP TIME

The President invited members into table group time to introduce themselves, where they are living, and their pastoral charge. Table groups engaged in a community building exercise based on the equity questions and Holy Manners.

Introduction of  
Candidates

Welcome to  
New Members

Centennial  
Vignette

Opening  
Worship

In Memoriam

Announcements

Lunch and  
Grace

Gathering with  
Music

Table Group  
Time

General  
 Council  
 Representative

**GENERAL COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE**

The President, Jocelyn Cook, introduced the General Council Representative, Alan Hall, to the council. Rev. Hall shared a video presentation with greetings from the Moderator. The Moderator offered greetings from the General Council Office and congratulations on the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The United Church of Canada. The Moderator offered blessings to the region and shared information and updates from the General Council; highlighting the upcoming centennial celebrations and General Council 45, with the theme *Visions and Dreams*. The General Council Representative also brought greetings on behalf of General Council, and shared a video from Rev. Michael Blair, General Secretary, offering an update on the pillars of the strategic plan; Deep Spirituality, Bold Discipleship, Daring Justice, and the vision for the next 100 years. Rev. Hall thanked the regional council for the invitation to be present.

Centennial  
 Vignette

**CENTENNIAL VIGNETTE**

In recognition of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The United Church of Canada, a piece was shared with the regional council members gathered. The vignette shared was presented by Oliver Dingwell, and highlighted 100 years of worship, praise and sacrament, as well as traditions, including "after service", prayer groups and revivals.

Table Group  
 Time

**TABLE GROUP TIME**

The President invited members into table group time to share artifacts from the past 100 years of The United Church of Canada and share with the group why the items hold importance for us. Members displayed the artifacts on the worship table for others to observe.

Division of  
 Finance and  
 Administrative  
 Resources

**DIVISION OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE RESOURCES**

**2024 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Brenda Andrews, secretary of the Division of Finance and Administrative Resources, presented the 2024 audited financial statements. A detailed account of the region's finances was presented during a webinar on April 9, 2025. The secretary led the regional council members through the audited financial statements, noting the importance of the auditor's declaration that the statements *present fairly... the financial position of the Regional Council*. The representatives also highlighted the restricted and unrestricted funds, and how the investment of these funds has placed the region in a very strong financial position. The secretary thanked the Financial Accountability, Investments and Trusts Team for their valuable work on the review of the statements, and offered special thanks to Roy, West, Chair, for his invaluable contributions to the division during his terms.

**MOTION:** (Brenda Andrews/Fred Douglas)

That the 2024 audited financial statements for First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council be accepted as presented.

**CARRIED**

Budget

**BUDGET 2026**

Brenda Andrews, secretary of the Division of Finance and Administrative Resources, presented the budget for 2026. A detailed report on the budget was presented at the April 9, 2025 webinar. The representative noted that there are not expected to be any changes in the Mission and Service grant and the regional assessment payments for 2026. The chair highlighted several increases in expenditures, including cost of living adjustments for salaries and an expenditure for the audit, which was not previously broken out in the budget. The representatives reported that the budgeted amounts proposed for 2026 are relatively stable, as the region has a better understanding of projected revenues and expenses, and have received budget requests from divisions and teams, based on their planned work for the next year. It was noted that a surplus of \$816,726.14 (eight hundred and sixteen thousand seven hundred and twenty-six dollars and fourteen cents) is projected for 2026, indicating a very strong financial position for the region.

**MOTION:** (Brenda Andrews/Oliver Dingwell)

That the budget for First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council for 2026 be approved as presented.

**CARRIED**

**BREAK**

**Break**

**GATHERING WITH MUSIC**

**Gathering  
With Music**

Members were gathered together in music led by Oliver Dingwell and Wayne Blackwood. The members gathered enjoyed gathering music from the 1948 hymnal *Songs of the Gospel*.

**CENTENNIAL VIGNETTE**

**Centennial  
Vignette**

In recognition of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The United Church of Canada, a presentation was shared with the regional council members gathered. Rebecca Pike-Winter presented a vignette on First Third Ministries. Members gathered were given table group time to answer trivia questions on youth and children's ministries and programming.

**INVOLVING CHILDREN IN CHURCH**

**Involving  
Children in  
Church**

Lynda Morgan, member of a provincial committee on youth and young adults, was welcomed to the council. Lynda Morgan shared her story and memories as a young adult, growing up in the church, and asked the members gathered to reflect on their own stories. Lynda offered ideas and information from her experiences that may help create an environment of welcome and inclusion to grow children's activities in our communities of faith.

**CHILDREN, YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS**

**Children,  
Youth and  
Young  
Adults**

Catherine Stuart was welcomed to regional council. Catherine discussed her role as Minister for Children, Youth and Young Adults, and highlighted some of the main pieces of work that she carries out in the three eastern regions, with the support of Mission and Service. Catherine offered highlights from the past year, including the growth in youth registration at the annual meeting this year, camping ministries, annual meeting workshops and attendance at Audacious Hope. Catherine thanked the Children Youth and Young Adults Team, regional council members and support staff for their support and leadership of youth ministry.

**GUARANTEED LIVABLE INCOME (GLI)**

**Guaranteed  
Livable  
Income**

Marion Pardy, Provincial Coordinator, GLI Network, was welcomed to regional council. Marion Pardy thanked Sherpherd Munikwa and the Justice, Mission and Outreach Committee for their support in this work. It was noted that this year is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of another important milestone; the Women's Suffrage movement in Newfoundland, culminating in the right to vote. A video was shared on the Newfoundland suffrage movement. Members were reminded to use their hard fought right to vote and have their voice heard. To that end, a sample letter and letter-writing guidelines were shared with the regional council members to support the work towards securing a guaranteed livable income for all.

**HEALTH AND WELLNESS MOMENT**

**Health and  
Wellness  
Moment**

Friend in Council, Nancy Mojica-Fisher, led the regional council members in a health and wellness moment to move and stretch.

**PRESIDENT**

**President**

(Amanda Barnes, Past President, assumed the chair)

Jocelyn Cook, President, offered her remarks. The report of the President is included on pages R8-R9 of the reports to the region. The President thanked the members gathered for the opportunity and privilege of serving the region in this way. The President offered gratitude for the many invitations that she has had over the past year, to be present in the life and work of the wider church; from church closures and funerals to covenanting services and anniversaries. The President thanked the Executive Minister, staff, members and Past President for their support.

(Jocelyn Cook, President, reassumed the chair)

**CENTENNIAL VIGNETTE**

**Centennial  
Vignette**

In recognition of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The United Church of Canada, a piece was shared with the regional council members.

**First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council Annual Meeting, May 2-4, 2025  
Corner Brook Civic Centre, Corner Brook, NL**

Rebecca Pike-Winter presented a centennial vignette, reflecting on Indigenous relationships. Members were reminded that it may be hard to share some memories from the past, including the operation of residential schools and orphanages by the United Church. In 1986, the United Church offered the first apology to Indigenous Peoples. The journey of reconciliation has continued to today, as we make the commitment to deepen the calls to the church from the Truth & Reconciliation Commission, and with the creation an "Autonomous Indigenous Church" within The United Church of Canada.

Faithful  
Footprint  
Program

**FAITHFUL FOOTPRINT PROGRAM**

Shreetee Appadu, Community Engagement Coordinator, Ecology Action Centre, was welcomed to the council. Shreetee shared highlights of the Faithful Footprint program, accessed in Atlantic Canada through the Ecology Action Centre. The program offers grants to encourage congregations to undertake energy retrofits in order to save money and help the environment by becoming energy efficient.

Announcements

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Kathy Brett, Annual Meeting Planning Team Convenor, offered the announcements.

Supper and  
Grace

**SUPPER AND GRACE**

Grace was offered by Nancy Mojica-Fisher, Friend in Council.

Gathering with  
Music

**GATHERING WITH MUSIC**

Members were gathered together in music led by Oliver Dingwell, Wayne Blackwood and Catherine Stuart. The members gathered enjoyed gathering music from *The Hymn Book*.

Centennial  
Vignette

**CENTENNIAL VIGNETTE**

In recognition of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The United Church of Canada, a piece was shared with the regional council members gathered. Jocelyn Cook, President, presented a centennial vignette about the role of United Church Women (UCW), and its predecessors, in the care and support of United Church congregations, communities and world mission.

Bookstore

**BOOKSTORE**

Leona Laundry, Bookstore Manager, highlighted some items available in the bookstore in celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of The United Church of Canada. Books, candles, shirts and mugs are all in stock and available for purchase this weekend.

Community  
Connection

**COMMUNITY CONNECTION**

Pastoral Charge representatives were invited to come to the microphone to share a story of hope or good news from their home congregations.

Closing  
Vespers

**CLOSING VESPERS**

Wayne Blackwood, Oliver Dingwell and Michelle Lavender led the evening vespers with prayer and quiet reflection on the day's events. Hymns, psalms and praise were shared with a time for prayer and blessing. Vespers closed with the singing of the hymn *Are You a Shepherd* and benediction.

President's  
Reception

**PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION**

Jocelyn Cook, President, hosted a reception, where a cake was cut and shared with members gathered, as a thank you from the region for this past year of her presidency.

Kitchen Party

**KITCHEN PARTY**

Elsie Squires, President-Elect, hosted a relaxing and entertaining "kitchen party". Members signed up to participate and offered to share their songs, stories, poems, skits, and laughter to conclude the day of meetings. Rev. Paul Rumbolt, retired minister, was welcomed back to the region, who, with his band, offered some of the night's entertainment.

Saturday, May 3, 2025

GATHERING WITH MUSIC

Oliver Dingwell and Wayne Blackwood gathered members together in music. The members enjoyed gathering music from supplement *Songs for a Gospel People*.

Gathering  
with Music

OPENING PRAYER

The President, Jocelyn Cook, welcomed members back to the council and opened the meeting with the lighting of the Christ candle and an acknowledgment of the land on which we gather. The meeting opened with the prayer *When I Don't Feel Ready for This*, from the book *Ash & Starlight* by Arianne Braithwaite Lehn.

Opening  
Prayer

EXECUTIVE MINISTER

The Executive Minister, Faith March-MacCuish, offered her remarks to the members gathered, and brought greetings from the two other eastern regions in the United Church. The Executive Minister shared a reading from the book *Turning to One Another* by Margaret J. Wheatley, changemaker, stating that "there is no power greater than a community discovering what it cares about". The regional members were reminded of the call and vision statement, approved at the 2024 annual meeting; to be bold disciples loving and serving all creation. During the past year, the Executive, Division and Teams of the region have been working to live into this call. The Executive developed a listing of priorities as a lens for this work. The Executive Minister thanked the members, staff, clergy and communities of faith for their parts in being the church and living out the call.

Executive  
Minister

CENTENNIAL VIGNETTE

In recognition of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The United Church of Canada, a piece was shared with the regional council members gathered. Kathy Brett offered a presentation on home-grown saints of the church. The members gathered were introduced to some persons who have been instrumental in the development of the United Church in Newfoundland and Labrador, such as Stella Burry, Lester Burry, Ernest Howse and Marion Parly.

Centennial  
Vignette

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Pastoral Charge representatives were invited to come to the microphone to share a story of hope or good news from their community of faith.

Community  
Connection

STEWARDSHIP

Roger Janes, Communities of Faith Stewardship Support Staff for six eastern regions in The United Church of Canada, was welcomed to the regional council. The presentation offered thanks to the region for their continued support over the years. The presentation shared the support and resources available to communities of faith, including stewardship resource kits, worship resources, introductory courses for getting started in stewardship, and one-on-one coaching and support at any time.

Stewardship

REGIONAL COUNCIL STRUCTURE EVALUATION

Faith March-MacCuish, Executive Minister, shared an update from the consultant for the Regional Council Structure Evaluation, Jenny Stephens. The surveys have been completed and a report will come to the Executive in June with the full results and recommendations. A Town Hall will be set up to release the results and a task group will be put in place to work on any recommendations coming from the report. The consultant and the Executive Minister thanked the regional council for their participation and support in this evaluation.

Regional  
Council  
Structure  
Evaluation

TOWARD 2035

The Executive Minister presented an internal report to the members, which outlines The United Church of Canada's vision for 2035. The United Church continues to evolve and change, and the report imagines the direction for the church for the next 10 years; to be a faithful presence across Canada.

Toward  
2035

**First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council Annual Meeting, May 2-4, 2025  
Corner Brook Civic Centre, Corner Brook, NL**

A full presentation will be released in the fall to congregations, taking seriously the call to love our neighbours and embrace the strategic plan for deep spirituality, bold discipleship and daring justice. Data has been collected from 1991-2023, and an expected trajectory towards 2035, with the hope that we will interrupt the trajectory and create the church we want to have in 2035; paying attention to strategically making sure we have a United Church presence in geographical areas across the country. The General Council hopes this report will lead to positive changes in places where there are United Churches. It will be a collaborative initiative of the General Council, Regional Councils and congregations.

Break**BREAK**Gathering with Music**GATHERING WITH MUSIC**

Oliver Dingwell and Wayne Blackwood gathered members together in music with selections from *Voices United*.

Proposal**PROPOSAL** – Appendix C

Faith March-MacCuish, Executive Minister, reminded the council of the Holy Manners, the process of coming to the microphone to speak to the proposal before the council today, and the voting procedures. It was noted that the vote to become an Affirming region requires 75% (seventy-five) approval.

**MOTION:** (Faith March-MacCuish/Valerie Kingsbury)

That the vote to become an Affirming Region be held by secret ballot.

**CARRIED**

That First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council become an Affirming Ministry

The President called the council members together in prayer and welcomed Paula Gale to the council as Proposals Presenter. Paula Gale introduced the proposal *That First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council become an Affirming Ministry*, received from First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council Affirm Committee. Since the Affirm Committee was established in 2022, the call statement for the region was revised to have the language we use to reflect that the call be inclusive of all of God's beloved. Since that time, a process of education began, offering workshops and webinars, preparing a study guide for divisions and teams, and distributing information packages to pastoral charges. The proposal asks that the regional council become an Affirming Ministry, and as such become a member of Affirm United to ensure that there are safe spaces for all people in our church. An action plan, to be facilitated by the Affirm Committee, was presented to highlight how the region can act upon this commitment in order to be public and explicit. Members were invited to ask any questions for clarification and spent time in table groups discussing the proposal.

Health and Wellness Moment

**HEALTH AND WELLNESS MOMENT**

While the vote was taking place, Nancy Mojica-Fisher led the regional council members in a health and wellness moment to move and stretch.

Affirming Region

**MOTION:** (Jason Boyd/Susan Sheppard)

That First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council become an Affirming Region and implement the proposed action plan.

**CARRIED**

It was noted that the motion passed with an 89% (eighty-nine) approval.

**MOTION:** (Faith March-MacCuish/Jonathan Stevenson)

That First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council become a member of Affirm United and pay the annual membership fee.

**CARRIED**

**MOTION:** (Paula Gale/Cynthia Burt)

That the ballots be destroyed.

**CARRIED**

The Executive Minister offered a moment of silent prayer for the process that has been completed.

**CENTENNIAL VIGNETTE**

Centennial  
Vignette

In recognition of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The United Church of Canada, a piece was shared with the regional council members gathered. Oliver Dingwell presented a look at the changing landscapes of the United Church over the past century; from presbyteries to districts, and acknowledging those things we have lost with gratitude for their time, including AOTS and chaplaincy, as the church is called to move forward in faith.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Announcements

Kathy Brett, Annual Meeting Planning Team convenor, offered the announcements of the region. Nancy Mojica-Fisher shared congratulations and good wishes to those who are celebrating.

**LUNCH AND GRACE**

Lunch and  
Grace

Oliver Dingwell led the members in a sung grace *God Bless to Us Our Bread*.

**GATHERING WITH MUSIC**

Gathering with  
Music

Oliver Dingwell and Wayne Blackwood gathered members together in music with selections from *More Voices*.

**CENTENNIAL VIGNETTE**

Centennial  
Vignette

In recognition of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The United Church of Canada, a video was shared with the regional council members gathered, with excerpts from the 1988 General Council, and other highlights from the journey of the United Church to include leadership from women, those who identify as LGBTQ2AI, indigenous people and people of colour, as we live into our faith to act justly, love faithfully and walk humbly.

**NOMINATIONS**

Nominations

**President-Elect**

President-  
Elect

Emma O'Rourke, Nominations chair, introduced the matter of the election of President-Elect. The chair introduced Rev. Susan Sheppard as President-Elect nominee. The nominee for President-Elect was welcomed to the council and was given a few minutes to speak to introduce herself to the members gathered.

**MOTION:** (Emma O'Rourke/Valerie Kingsbury)

That Susan Sheppard be acclaimed as President-Elect of First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council.

**CARRIED**

**CENTENNIAL VIGNETTE**

Centennial  
Vignette

In recognition of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The United Church of Canada, a piece was shared with the regional council members gathered. Kathy Brett offered a presentation on *What we Believe*, an essential piece from the 1925 Basis of Union, the 1940 Statement of Faith, the New Creed and the Song of Faith; for all who are called to be United Church.

**COMMUNITY CONNECTION**

Community  
Connection

Pastoral Charge representatives were invited to come to the microphone to share a story of hope or good news from their community of faith.

Archives  
Presentation

**ARCHIVES PRESENTATION**

On behalf of Rev. Arthur G. Elliott, Paula Gale presented a bible to the regional archives. The bible is inscribed with the date 1846, and contains the official seal of the Methodist church of Newfoundland. The seal is believed to be the only one of its kind in existence.

Centennial  
Vignette

**CENTENNIAL VIGNETTE**

In recognition of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The United Church of Canada, Jocelyn Cook shared a piece with the regional council members gathered about looking toward the future.

Courtesies

**COURTESIES**

The Annual Meeting Planning Team chair, Kathy Brett, offered thanks to all who participated, presented, planned and prepared for the annual meeting. In particular, thanks and appreciation were offered to the Corner Brook Civic Centre, our visitors and presenters, the tech support team, chaplains, workshop leaders, Annual Meeting Planning Team, duty people, staff and members who attended. Special thanks were offered to the General Council Representative, Alan Hall, and Shreetee Appadu, Community Engagement Coordinator, Ecology Action Centre, for their attendance, and to the President and Executive Minister for their invaluable leadership at this annual meeting. The day's meeting closed with a song about the regional council, sung to the tune of *When He Cometh*.

Closing  
Motion

**CLOSING MOTION**

**MOTION:** (Kathy Brett/Amanda Barnes)

That First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council designate to the Executive the power to act for the region in all matters except those excluded by the Manual 2025; and that the seventh annual meeting of First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council close at the completion of the Celebration of Ministries Service, Sunday, May 4, 2025; and that the eighth annual meeting be held on-line June 12-14, 2026.

**CARRIED**

Workshops

**WORKSHOPS**

A total of seven (7) workshops were offered to members in two time slots on Saturday afternoon at 3:00pm and 4:30pm. The workshops offered were: Communion Every Sunday? How gathering at the Table helped transform a community of faith; Workshop by Youth @ Region; How can we strengthen invitation and help our community of faith grow?; Selling United Church Property; Unity in Diversity: A Contemporary Tool for Church Growth; Faithful Footprint Grants: How to save money and the environment?; and Ukulele Church.

Milestones in  
Ministry

**MILESTONES IN MINISTRY**

A banquet celebrating retirees and jubilarians, hosted by Heather Sandford, Regional Minister, and Amanda Barnes, Past President, was held at 6:30pm on Saturday, May 3, 2025. Elsie Squires, President-Elect, offered grace. A slideshow and music highlighted the years of service of those who have offered their gifts and talents to The United Church of Canada and are celebrating milestone events. Celebrants in attendance were presented with a certificate and a gift from the region, and were invited to say a few words.

Retirees

Retirees

Rev. Roger D. Janes  
 Ms. Georgina F. Parsons  
 Rev. Marilyn E. Rees

Anniversaries

Anniversaries

The Rev. Boyd L. Hiscock	65 Years	The Rev. F. John Adams	60 Years
The Rev. Arthur G. Elliott	60 Years	The Rev. Ralph G. Moores	60 Years
The Rev. Dr. L. George LeDrew	55 Years	The Rev. Clayton M. Parsons	55 Years
The Rev. James Allen Von Riesen	50 Years	The Rev. S. Boyce Parsons	45 Years
The Rev. E. Brian Colbourne	35 Years	The Rev. Roger D. Janes	35 Years
The Rev. Valerie L. Peyton Kingsbury	35 Years	The Beverly G. Matthews	30 Years
The Rev. Denine P. Morgan	30 Years	The Rev. Yvonne M. Hopkins	25 Years
The Rev. Pamela M. Jones-Fitzgerald	25 Years	Ms. Lorraine E. Moores	25 Years

Thank you and Appreciation

There was special acknowledgement of Rev. Alan Hall's retirement from The United Church of Canada, and acknowledgement of Rev. Catherine Stuart's 5<sup>th</sup> (fifth) anniversary as staff with three eastern regions of The United Church of Canada.

Thank You  
and  
Appreciation

YOUTH WORSHIP

The youth were welcomed back to regional council. The Youth led the regional council members in worship, offering music and prayer to help animate the Annual Meeting theme *What Do You Want With Us, Jesus?* The youth offered prayer and reflection of the message to love one another, based on a scripture reading from Matthew 22:37-40. Music ministry was offered by the youth at region, including the hymns *Deep in Our Hearts*, *Draw the Circle Wide*, and *My Lighthouse*. The service closed with prayer and a benediction.

Youth  
Worship

Sunday, May 4, 2025

CELEBRATION OF MINISTRIES

The Celebration of Ministries service was held at the Corner Brook Civic Centre, Corner Brook, on Sunday, May 4, 2025 at 10:00am. The service was also live streamed so that all members who were unable to attend in person were able to witness this important milestone event. The President, Rev. Jocelyn Cook, was the preacher. Emma O'Rourke was ordained as a minister, Heather Cronhelm and Corey Paul were recognized as Designated Lay Ministers, and Deepak Yohan was admitted as a minister in The United Church of Canada. Rev. Elsie Squires was installed as the President of First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council. The newly installed President announced the theme for 2026, based on Luke 5:4-7; *to put out into deep water and let down the nets for a catch*. The newly installed President asked the members gathered to consider who we need to be in times such as this, and to take a leap of faith into the changes ahead and try something different.

Celebration  
of  
Ministries

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Rev. Jocelyn Cook  
President

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Rev. Faith March-MacCuish  
Executive Minister

**A Message from  
Reverend Ian March-MacCuish  
Annual Report July - December 2025**

I give thanks to God for the privilege of serving among you during part of last year and grateful for Reverend Karen Bursey who also served among you this past year. Ministry is never the work of one person alone, and I am deeply grateful for the faith, dedication, and generosity that you, as a congregation, continue to share. This year we gathered faithfully for worship, prayer, and the sacraments. Together we celebrated seasons of joy and walked through moments of sorrow, always trusting in God's abiding presence. I am thankful for all who contributed to worship through music, leadership, reading, hospitality, and quiet service behind the scenes. Our shared commitment to worship remains the heart of our life together.

Pastoral ministry has included visits, phone calls, prayer, and support during times of illness, grief, transition, and thanksgiving. I am grateful for the trust you place in me during both joyful and difficult moments. Please know that pastoral care is a shared calling, and I thank those who reached out to one another with compassion and care throughout the year.

We continued to nurture faith through Bible study led by Reverend Karen, and other learning opportunities. From Quilting to Book Club to Men's Club to UCW. Many more moments of study and conversation deepen our understanding of Scripture and strengthen our walk with Christ. I am encouraged by the openness, questions, and thoughtful engagement shown by participants of all ages. Our congregation has continued to be a visible and caring presence in the wider community. This includes Stella's Circle and Bridges to Hope and Community Suppers. Through acts of service, generosity, and partnership, we have sought to live out Christ's call to love our neighbours. Thank you to all who offered time, resources, and leadership in outreach ministries.

I extend sincere thanks to the Church Board, committees, volunteers, and staff for their faithful service and support. As we look ahead, I pray that we will continue to listen for God. Leading us, grow in faith, and serve with hope and courage.

May God bless our congregation and guide us in the year to come.

***God is good, all the time, God is good.***

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Rev. Ian March-MacCuish

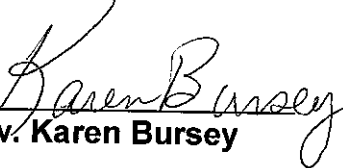
**A Message from  
Reverend Karen Bursey  
Annual Report January - June 2025**

To prepare this report, I reviewed my calendar from 2025. The days from January to June were filled with many notes of worship, meetings, hospital and nursing home visits, and unfortunately too many funerals.

But I could not do it alone. Christina was of immeasurable help. Joan, Peter, the UCW, the Men's Club and various committees all stepped up to ensure every need was met. The building was covered from meeting financial commitments to snow clearing, to fixing a burst pipe to seasonal decor and gardening. Worship was lead with the contributions of Peter, Melissa, the choir, scripture readers and the ushering teams. Many of you let me know of situations requiring pastoral care. As well, many of you supported families when they faced the death of a loved one.

I was pleased to be able to fill in for Reverend Ian as he regained his health and was pleased to return to my comfortable pew on his return.

Thank you to all who supported me in this journey. May we be blessed as we continue our walk with God.

  
Rev. Karen Bursey

**FIRST UNITED CHURCH  
BOARD OF MANAGEMENT  
ANNUAL REPORT 2025**

Where is the time going, another year over! Busy year at First United! We had Rev. Karen Bursey with us until June. We thank Rev. Karen for all the work that she has done, and continues to do for First United. Rev. Ian came back on modified duties for a couple of months, then back full time. We are glad that you are back feeling better and stronger and getting back into your normal routine. We are very fortunate to have a lot of volunteers that have helped out with Rev. Karen and Rev. Ian over this past year, with partaking in the services, visiting or whatever they needed help with, thank you!

This past year we had two very successful concerts - Kevin Collins in the spring and The Masterless Men in the fall. Thank you to all the people who helped out organizing the concert, selling tickets, doing the sound system, setting up and taking down!

Here at First United we are very fortunate to have a lot of volunteers - from working the Garden Cafe, working the sound system, serving communion, singing in the choir etc. When we ask for help, there is always a crowd who shows up! Thank you to all!!

We are very fortunate to have working for us great staff. To Peter McDonald and Melissa Butt for all the playing the piano and organ and directing the choir. To Christina Manning for the running of the church office and all the extras that she does. To our summer student, Julia Saunders, thank you for the work you did and for putting up with the heat in the office during the hot summer months.

Last but not least, thank you to the Board members for all the dedication this past year. Thank you to all group leaders, thank you and finally to the congregation, thank you for all your support this past year. We are truly blessed to have a great church family at First United Church.

**Respectfully submitted,**



**Joan Winsor  
Board Chairperson**

## PROPERTY COMMITTEE

### ANNUAL REPORT 2025

The current members of the property committee are Kirk Howell (chair) along with Gary Gosse, Mark Rice, Wayne Rideout and Harold Sinyard. The committee members make arrangements and coordinate with various contractors/ suppliers as required to deliver the necessary services for our property as well as taking an active roll in minor repairs and maintenance around the building. There were no major projects over 2025, however the following items were attended to as required.

- Parking lot snow clearing and salting by Jim Eales, Jr as per our ongoing agreement
- Walkway and entrance clearing and salting by Tom Cheeseman
- Lawn care ( Nutri-Lawn)
- Regular cleaning and janitorial services as well as stripping and waxing of Trinity Hall floors (Avalon Cleaning and Restoration)
- Annual furnace maintenance and cleaning as well as 2 significant zone valve repairs in January and October ( Cooper's Heating)
- Annual fire system inspection ( Firetech/Vipond) and replacement of expired fire extinguishers
- Miscellaneous repairs to toilets/sinks
- Removal of bumps in entrance area carpeting
- Painting of parking lot lines and handicapped spaces
- Extermination of mice in the building

Some items will have to be looked after in the coming year as the weather improves. These include replacement of the threshold under the doors to Trinity Hall and weatherstripping on the doors of the multipurpose room. One major project that needs to be addressed is the replacement of shingles on the roof over the main entrance.

We would like to thank anyone and everyone who has helped out in any way with our property over the past year and hope that we haven't forgotten anyone. Simple tasks like keeping the building tidy and removal of garbage help to control costs in the long run. Your contributions are appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,



Kirk Howell

Property Chair

## **Worship Committee Annual Report 2025**

2025 has been our first full “normal” year since Covid. All services, collection, fundraisers, groups, meetings, etc. have gone ahead as in years past. We continued with two Christmas Eve services this year – an earlier Family Service and a later Communion Service. Communion continues to be the first Sunday of each month and the last is set aside for baptisms, on a requested basis.

First United has continued to live-stream the weekly Sunday worship services, as well as special services such as Christmas Eve. Over the past year views, watch time, and subscribers have dropped, as expected as more and more people return to in person services. However, we still had over 11,000 views and 3,000 watch hours, showing that the YouTube services are still needed and appreciated in the community, especially for those that are unable to attend in person or live away.

We had one baptism this past year, 0 confirmations, 0 weddings, and 17 funerals. These numbers are not necessarily what we would wish for, but are keeping in line with an older congregation and smaller numbers of youth.

Our ushering teams have undergone a few personal changes but are working hard to cover all services, including special ones outside the times of regular Sunday worship. We have looked over, rewritten, and reviewed the Usher Handbook with all captains to make sure we are all serving the congregation and any new members to the best of our abilities. We would like to thank all those people who have stepped up to help in months when they may not have been scheduled to usher but saw the need for extra hands and pitched in.

Peter and Melissa have done a wonderful job, as always, with the choir and worship service music. They have gone above and beyond to bring a mix of traditional hymns and more modern songs to keep the congregation interested and yet comfortable. Special thanks to them for the efforts put in for special services, such as the Christmas Cantata.

Outside of the Worship committee itself, and Board members, we have also had wonderful help from congregational volunteers with decorating the church for special services and times of year, such as Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter. The Quilting Club has also had a hand in making sure the new-to-us altar cloths we were gifted can fit our lectern and keep being used and appreciated in a new home.

A big thank you must go out to all the people who have agreed to be servers for Communion and Bible readers over the past year. We have done our best to schedule these volunteers the month beforehand and send out readings, so everyone has plenty of time to prepare.

**Respectfully submitted,**



**Sara Case**

**Chair, Worship Committee**

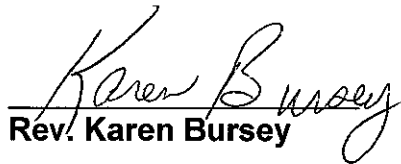
## 2025 Bible Study Report

At the request of those who participated in the 2024 Fall Bible Study on the Parables of Jesus, the Lenten Bible Study addressed the Book of Revelation. The complexity of the language and the often horrific visions John relates, were challenging to say the least. We soldiered on and were able to understand more than I expected when we started. We mostly referred to 'Revelation for Everyone' by the Rev. N.T. Wright and 'Revelation for Dummies' as our resource books.

This Fall (2025) we started in on the Gospel According to Matthew once the Multipurpose Room became available for classes. As most of the material was familiar and much of it addressed on Sundays this year, the Gospel connects with us more and on a deeper level than Revelation. We used 'Matthew for Everyone' by the Rev. N.T. Wright and the Bible.Ref website for current insights into the text. 'The Gospel of Matthew' from the Daily Study Bible Series by Wm. Barclay gave us historic interpretations, words meanings and many customs of the day.

We also referred to the classic resource 'Gospel Parallels' by Burton H. Throckmorton, Jr. It helped us to compare Matthew's version of events to that of Mark and Luke, demonstrating the different source material used by each.

I thank those who attend for encouraging me to lead the classes, as it has been and continues to be a very rewarding experience.

  
Rev. Karen Bursey

## **Peace Garden/Garden Café Annual Report 2025**

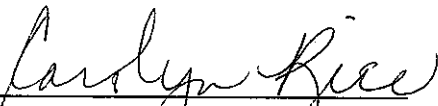
### **Peace Garden**

The Peace Garden was constructed in the summer of 2023. Throughout the spring and summer of 2024, there were a significant number of plants and shrubs donated and planted in the garden. During the 2025 season, other annual and perennial plants were added to the garden, in addition to some fresh soil and mulch. Given the extremely hot and dry season, constant weeding and watering was required and completed through the season.

A second raised bed was added to the vegetable portion of our Peace Garden this year. The expansion allowed for more lettuce, kale, green onion and herbs to be planted. Members of the congregation availed of fresh tomatoes and lettuce as they exited church on Sunday mornings.

### **Garden Café**

The Garden Café was introduced in May of 2024 as an extension of the Peace Garden. This indoor space complements the outside garden and provides an environment for social conversation. It is an informal pre-worship gathering for all who care to participate. Tea/coffee and a sweet treat is available each Sunday morning and, to date, has been very well received and attended. This year the café is buzzing with activity every Sunday morning. Continued feedback from the congregation has been very positive. A freewill offering basket is available for those who want to contribute. Supplies are purchased from these funds. A big thank you to the volunteers who take the time each Sunday to ensure the treats and tea/coffee are available.

  
**Submitted by Carolyn Rice**

**First United Church**  
**Christian Development Committee**  
**Annual Report 2025**

First of all, I would like to start by thanking all of our volunteers who plan and organize the many groups we have at this church, which includes Sunday School, Youth Group, Book Club and Quilting Group! Our loyal volunteers have worked hard at planning and integrating our worship to our meetings and giving back to our congregation. Pam Morgan is the leader of the Book Club and Quilting Group and is providing a list of all activities completed over the past year in her report. We still have our Sunday School program available for children when they are present and fun coloring pages and crayons to use during the church services. Our Youth Group fundraised and succeeded to make 225 Christmas loot bags for HMP in St. John's and delivered 130 valentines to our seniors living in personal care homes in Mount Pearl. We had our biggest Trunk or Treat this year, bringing close to 200 children. The Youth Group has also decided to adopt a park or playground in Mount Pearl and will be responsible for the cleanup activities. We aim to make beautiful and positive changes within our community. We also have some fun correspondence to share with the congregation from our foster child! Please see the poster in the vestibule.

We continue to look for more youth and children to join our programs, and if you are interested in bringing your child or youth to church, please see Youth Group and Sunday School reports for all of the fun activities that are provided throughout the year, and contact us! Thank you for being members of and supporting our groups! We look forward to exciting things coming in the near future!

"Let all you do, be done in love" ... 1 Corinthians 16 : 14; "and let us love one another, for love is of God" 1 John 4 : 7

*Allison Randell*

**Allison Randell**  
**Chair of Christian Development**

## Youth Group Annual Report SNAC -2025

The Youth Group at First United Church known as SNAC-Sunday Night at Church (because that is where you will find us and you will also see us snacking among other things) has had another successful year. We are very fortunate to have a group of dedicated leaders. Thank you to: Pamela Morgan, Kelly Tuck, Tony Tuck, Allison Randell, Emily March-MacCuish, Faith March-MacCuish, and Rev. Ian.

### **Good Bye**

This year we had to say good-bye to one of our leaders, Jenny Noel a former member of our Youth Group and long-time leader moved out of province. We wish her well with her new endeavours, and we miss her.

### **Time Away**

Sarah Walsh, had to take a break for part of the year as she had been taking up more responsibilities with the reserves and her work. We anticipate her return when things become a little less busy.

### **Welcome**

Lilly Pope has joined our leadership team. Lilly is a long-time member of our Youth Group and, as she has now graduated from our program, we are pleased to welcome her back as one of our leaders. Lilly is a great asset to the team, and we are so happy to have her join.

### **Thank You**

Thank you to all those who give of their time for the youth of our church!! Thanks for being part of our amazing leadership team.

Our Youth Group is small and thriving. We have been able to have a variety of programming, as well as support and relationship building. The below list of activities is part of our commitment to the church, the world and each other.

### **Outreach Programs**

#### **Prison Joy Bags:**

This year we contributed 250 Christmas bags for the inmates who are at Her Majesty's Penitentiary. It is important for our Youth Group because it always reminds us that we are all children of God and that all of us are capable of making mistakes, and we all have the potential for forgiveness and restoration.

A thank you note from the Prison Chaplaincy.

*It is so important to feel loved. You helped some of the 'unloved', feel love this Christmas. It is challenging to be behind bars at anytime, but Christmas is even more trying. Away from loved ones, living in close quarters with strangers, normal privileges of life restricted, often times it is easier to think no one cares. Your annual gift to inmates shows society hasn't given up on them. The chips and candy, chocolate and soft drinks, are so welcome! We delivered the HMP packages during a tour of the ranges for the Pastoral Care Christmas Decorating Contest. Once again Thank you!!*

### **Seniors Outreach:**

This year we were fortunate to have been able to make our cards and cookies for the seniors. The cookies and cards were delivered on Valentines Day to Hillcrest, Pearl House and CraDea. The cookie and cards were a welcomes treat and a reminder of God's love at all times and in all places.

### **Congregational Outreach:**

**Trunk or Treat**– It was an exciting year for our pumpkin carving and our Trunk or Treat. Thank you so much to all the congregation who came out to support our efforts with their decorated cars and Halloween treats. Our program has grown. This year we sold pizza slices at our canteen, had pumpkin carving in Trinity Hall and supported 200 children in the community who took part in our Trunk or Treat. We consider it a great success!! We could not have done this without the support of you our congregation. **Thank You.**

**Easter Breakfast** – It was very exciting to host our Easter Breakfast. The youth were at the church bright and early and started the kettles and the big pots boiling. We then went to the 8 am communion service and then back down to cook our eggs and toast. Thank you to all of the members of the congregation that came out to support the youth!

### **Good Friday Vigil**

We, as a group, also took part in the Prayer Vigil. It is one of the things the youth love to do, and it is important for us to have this time in prayers and to help continue a beloved tradition of our church.

### **Worship Services:**

The Youth Group were able to host the Vesper Service again this year. It is such a wonderful candlelight service that gives time for reflection and singing of our Christmas hymns. Thank you to all who joined us for this special tradition in our congregation.

### **Faith Talks:**


Talking about our faith is part of our ongoing ministry, and there are times when we study topics that are important to us, that help us go a little deeper.

### **Fun and Fellowship:**

Our Youth Group provides a place for youth to come and feel comfortable, supported and safe. We play games, go bowling, watch movies, go sliding, go curling, have sleepovers. It is important for youth to have a place where they know they are valued, cared for and loved. There is no better place to do that, than with their church family!

### **Thank You:**

Thank you to First United Church for all your support, to the **UCW** and **Men's Clubs** and **Official Board** who support us. Thank you to **Rev. Ian**, our Minister. Thank you to the **youth** for being such a great group of young people. We are so proud of you. Thank you to the **parents** who help and support the youth and get them to the church and events we are hosting and for being a support to all we do!! Thank you to all the **leaders** who give of their time for the love of our youth.



**Rev. Faith March-MacCuish**

# First United Book Club

## Annual Report 2025


We remain a small but dedicated group, adjusting meeting times to accommodate individual absences so we don't miss a member. We meet monthly, other than the summer months, and go out to a restaurant for a Christmas social. We try to find a balance between having to buy the books, often finding the public library system has enough copies to accommodate us, or using one of their book club kits.

This year's selections brought some surprises of the "I never knew that" variety. We read more Canadian and Newfoundland books than usual this year but still travelled the world. We viewed India independence through the eyes of a multi-generational family saga, examined office relationships, and explored one side of Japan following a convenience store clerk. We did a road trip from the prairies to the east coast with a Canada Reads selection, explored friendship in post-war Italy, and visited Taliban-controlled Afghanistan. While we still had a couple of world war stories, we added a twist visiting Nagasaki during the atomic explosion and also read a very timely non-fiction book by a retired Canadian general. We also had a look at sex work in Newfoundland, recommended to us by another book club.

Below are our one-line book reviews for the past year:

- 2025-01-29 **The Covenant of Water** by Abraham Verghese  
*"A long flowing epic flavour of India"*
- 2025-02-26 **The Hazelborne Ladies Motorcycle and Flying Club** by Helen Simonson  
*"Lighthearted retelling of the lesser-known casualties of war"*
- 2025-03-26 **The Peace** by Romeo Dallaire  
*"A worthy but not easy read that shows how history keeps repeating itself."*
- 2025-05-15 **Etta and Otto and Russell and James** by Emma Hooper  
*"We can't figure out how this book made it to the Canada Reads shortlist"*
- 2025-06-04 **Rock Paper Sex** by Kerri Cull  
*"Think you know your city? A real eye-opener. Who knew?"*
- 2025-06-25 **I Hope This Finds You Well** by Natalie Sue  
*"You never know what anybody else is going through. Everybody has their problems."*
- 2025-09-24 **The Jack Ford Story: Newfoundland's POW in Nagasaki** by Jack Fitzgerald  
*"A very worthwhile read with a local connection"*
- 2025-10-29 **My Brilliant Friend** by Elena Ferrante  
*"Mixed reviews for this story of friendship in 1950s Italy."*
- 2025-11-26 **The Swallows of Kabul** by Yasmina Khadra  
*"Unsettling, oppressive in every sense, but worth reading to recognize the reality for some"*
- 2025-12-17 **Convenience Store Woman** by Sayaka Murata  
*"A sometimes funny, sometimes sad novel about societal expectations, suggesting that society tolerates 'normal' unhappiness over 'abnormal' contentment"*

Submitted for the Book Club  
by Pam Morgan



## **First United Quilting Group Annual Report 2025**

The Quilting Group meets biweekly, on the first, third and fifth Mondays of the month. We have an e-mail list of about a dozen people, with a core group of five to eight people attending each meeting. We meet all year around, with Monday morning emails determining whether meetings would go ahead that evening. Our meetings begin with a show and tell before we settle into our quilting.

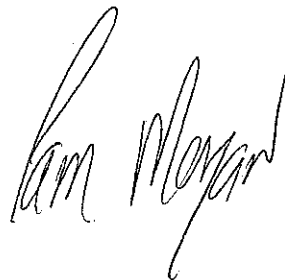
During the Winter and Spring, most folks were working on their own projects. However, a very dry Spring and Summer brought about wildfires throughout the nearby region. With one known member of the congregation having family affected in Adam's Cove, we decided to switch our attention to making a full-size quilt for donation. Then we added another two quilts when additional fires started up in Kingston and CBS before the first quilt was finished. Over the course of the Summer and the Fall, we made three large quilts. Unfortunately, we had not correctly calculated the time involved to make these quilts, and they were not finished in time to go with the major distribution of quilts done by the quilters' guilds in CBN. The quilts are now being held for a future need.

We donated two pieces to the church for the Fall Fair fundraising, a lap quilt and a Christmas runner. We also altered the new-to-us Christmas antependium to right-size it for the front of our church.

We held two two-day retreats, one in the Spring and one in the Fall, as well as a special one-day retreat focused entirely on the quilts for donation. Our scheduled road trip to a quilt festival and shop hop was cancelled due to the forest fires.

Our Christmas social ended the year. Christmas music, ordered in food, baked goodies for dessert, and a few games and prizes made for a successful end of the year, with members bringing goodies for dessert.

**Submitted by Pam Morgan  
on behalf of the Quilting Group**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pam Morgan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "P".

## **Bridges to Hope 2025 Annual Report**

Because of your generosity and commitment, Bridges to Hope continues to be a vital lifeline for individuals and families across St. John's. We are grateful to share an update on the impact your support has made throughout 2025.

So far this year, our Food Bank has recorded **17,910 client visits**, serving **5,541 unique individuals** in our community. The need remains significant, particularly for families with children—**31% of those we served were children aged 1–17**. At the same time, **seniors accounted for 7.1% of total visits**, reminding us that food insecurity affects people at every stage of life.

Your support also made several key programs possible:

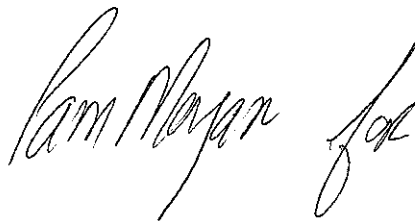
- Our **Bag to School Program** helped **900 kindergarten to Grade 12 students** start the school year with essential supplies, easing the burden on families and setting students up for success.
- Our Christmas Hamper program, **Miracle on Cookstown Road**, provided holiday support to **665 households**, ensuring that families could experience dignity, warmth, and hope during the holiday season.

These numbers represent more than statistics—they represent neighbours, children, seniors, and families who were able to access nutritious food and meaningful support when they needed it most.

Thank you for standing with us. Your compassion helps ensure that Bridges to Hope can continue responding to growing needs in our community with care, respect, and hope.

With sincere gratitude,

**Ken Peters**  
Chair of the Board-Bridges to Hope

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ken Peters". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "K" and "P".

**FIRST UNITED CHURCH  
MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE (M&P)  
ANNUAL REPORT – 2025**

The M&P Committee respectfully submits our Annual report. M&P representatives for 2025 were: Brenda Andrews (Chair), Eric Eveleigh, Ada Eveleigh, Janice Andrews-Ralph, and Cynthia Burt.

The M&P Committee acts under the guidance of *The Manual* of the United Church of Canada. The committee functions around three roles, which are: the consultative and supportive role, the healthy relationships role, and the supervisory role. We provide resources and support for our staff and our community of faith with respect to any issue involving staff of our Church, including ministry personnel and lay employees. The Committee works to build positive and trusting relationships between staff and members and adherents of our community of faith.

If members of the Community of Faith have praise or concerns about staff, these can be shared in signed correspondence with the Committee. The issues will be considered confidentially by the Committee, who will recommend action.

First United Church is blessed with staff committed to their work, and we are thankful for all they do. Our dedicated staff and volunteers help to ensure that we have meaningful worship services on a regular weekly basis, both in church and online.

From January to June 2025, we continued to be blessed by the inspiring spiritual leadership of Rev. Karen Bursey, who had joined us in September of 2024 as replacement ministry personnel during Reverend Ian's medical leave. We are grateful to Reverend Karen for her leadership during that time and for her ongoing leadership with Bible Study. We also are very grateful to the several volunteers and local clergy who led our Sunday services over the summer.

In September our church family warmly welcomed Reverend Ian back to work as our full-time Minister. We are very grateful to him for his continued inspirational leadership on a daily basis. We also are very grateful to Peter MacDonald (Music Director) and Melissa Butt (Associate Music Director) for their awesome music leadership and to Christina Manning who continues to provide excellent office support as our first point of contact for those who interact with First United.

During 2025, Avalon Cleaners provided cleaning services, as necessary, on a contractual basis. Mr. Jim Eales, Jr., provided snow-clearing services for the parking lot, and Mr. Tom Cheeseman provided snow-clearing services for the thoroughfares and exits. Nutri-Lawn looked after the grounds keeping during the summer. We are very grateful to all who have assisted in any way in keeping our church property safe and beautiful.

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to all who have helped in any way with the ongoing operations of our Church and to those who volunteered to help maintain our beautiful Peace Garden during 2025. As well, of course, we continue to be very grateful for the excellent overall leadership and guidance provided for our churches by First Dawn Eastern Edge Region.

Many thanks to the M&P Committee members for their work and support over the past year!



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**Brenda Andrews, Chair**

**First United Church – Mount Pearl**  
**Board of Trustees – Annual Report 2025**

The function of the Board of Trustees is to hold all of the property of our congregation, in trust, for the use and benefit of our congregation as part of the United Church, and, to liaise with the Official Board respecting any relevant matters which arise.

In the tradition of First United, matters related to the operation, the mission and the ministry of our church is handled by the entire official Board which results in our trustees having little in the way of official business. However, I, as chair, attended monthly Board meetings in order to remain current on all church activities.

In addition, during the year we completed a document profiling our church building construction/protection, operations/activities, timing of last roof, plumbing, heating, electrical updates, in order to determine if we're eligible for inclusion in a new United Church of Canada insurance model. This is a work in progress through our Regional Council Office which we hope will result in lower insurance premiums.

We are indeed grateful for all people who work together in fulfilling the mission and ministry of our church.

Respectfully submitted,



**Nelson Harris, Chair**

**Members: Carolyn Rice**

**Rev. Ian March-MacCuish**

## **First United Church Men's Fellowship Club Annual Report 2025**

First United Church Men's Fellowship Club is a group of men of the congregation who meet once per month, usually the first Monday of each month for worship, fellowship and a good meal. Several times a year, the Men's Club prepares meals for fundraising, like supporting the UCW and assists the Board with other meal preparations when asked. The Club also raises funds for the general revenues of the church.

Many members of the club are also involved in various activities such as:

- delivery of envelopes, newsletters and other items to members of the congregation
- assistance with the sanctuary sound system
- various repairs and maintenance around the building
- taking part in church services and visitations in partnership with UCW members.
- cooking and cleaning for groups when asked
- many outreach programs such as Bridges to Hope and others.

2025 has seen the Executive return with Mr. Kevin Martin as President, Mr. Mark Rice as Vice President and Mr. Denis Manning as Secretary/Treasurer. The Men's Club has seen the men come back, and our regular meeting attendance ranges from 25 on a regular meeting to a high of 33 members. Mr. Lorne Squires and Mr. Nelson Harris perform our devotions before each meal, and these are very well thought out. The men appreciate this very much. Birthdays are acknowledged each month and well wishes for many more birthdays are given.

There are three cook teams that alternate each month with Cook team #1 led by Byron Button, Cook Team #2 led by Gary Gosse and Cook Team #3 led by Reg White. Each month we have a wonderful, cooked meal at a cost of \$10 and this includes dessert. Often, a second plate is available if your belly can accommodate it.

At the end of each meal, there is a prize to be won, and this can range from a \$25 gift card to a bag of vegetables from Lester's Farm. The cost per entry is a mere \$1. These funds are put towards the operating costs of the club. Cards are given out to our club members who are ill, and we recognize these men along with their wives/families and often provide a free meal to them, as well as make visitations on a regular basis.

The club has raised over \$2,000 for the church coffers in 2025 and have made a generous donation to Bridges to Hope of \$200 and The Red Cross Wildfire Fund of \$250. The men also have regular darts each Wednesday from 2-4 pm. All men are welcome to come to this and our monthly meetings.

A big thank you goes out to the executive, cook teams, dart league organizers and the many volunteers of the Men's Club who help the everyday operation of our church.

Our club is growing in numbers and our worship and fellowship is very strong. If you are a male member of First United Church or are a regular male visitor, you are always welcome to join us the first Monday of every month and become part of the Men's Club family. May God bless and keep you and your family in 2026.

**Respectfully submitted,**

  
**Kevin Martin, President**

# **First United Church Women**

## **Annual Report 2025**

First United Church UCW meets one Monday each month beginning at 12:30 pm. Ladies bring their own lunch with tea and coffee provided. Worship and business follow lunch. All ladies are welcome.

On March 2nd some of our ladies attended the 100th anniversary service at Wesley United Church. On April 26th we hosted the East District UCW AGM. Our men prepared and served a mid-day meal. Patricia Warford, a member of our choir did some singing, assisted by Melissa Butt, our assistant organist, on the piano.

At our March 17th meeting, our church Office Administrator, Christina Manning surprised us with homemade stew with pastry and desserts. Her daughter and grandchildren entertained us. It was much appreciated and enjoyed by all.

On April 18th we had a Good Friday worship service and on December 7th we had our annual Christmas Lights service. On May 10th we had a Morning Coffee and Cakewalk and on November 2nd we had an Afternoon Tea with some entertainment. We thank all who contributed.

In November at our annual shower of personal care items we filled and delivered 24 Christmas bags for residents of Carew Lodge. The remaining items were delivered to Stella's Circle and Iris Kirby House.

Outreach is also provided with our "Quilts for Comfort" project...ladies knit strips (according to a pattern), strips are knit together into a quilt. These quilts are distributed to give a little warmth where needed. This year we took five (5) quilts to Carew Lodge. We thank all those who provided wool, knit the strips and to those who put the strips together.

The UCW financially supported the United Church Healing Fund, Chaplaincy, Burry Heights Camp, Our Daily Bread Ministries, Red Cross NL Wildfire Fund, our Foster Child Fund, Mission and Service Fund as well as the Local and Building Funds of the church. In addition, this year instead of a Christmas gift exchange, we each donated to the Bridges to Hope, Miracles on Cookstown Road Appeal.

This past year we were sad to say goodbye to two of our faithful members. Pearl Smith passed away in January and Joan Mercer in May. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families.

We express our thanks to all those who continue to support our many projects. Without you we could not do what we do. We extend an invitation to all women of the congregation to join us in our faith journey as we share our time, talents and treasures. We pray that God will continue to bless us and our work.

  
**Glenys Harris, Secretary**

**The General Protestant Cemetery Trustee Board Inc.  
Annual Report for 2025**

We continue to make improvements to our cemeteries each year. In addition to our regular maintenance at all three Cemeteries, we leveled and sodded a large number of graves and leveled a number of headstones in the General Protestant Cemetery and Mount Pleasant Cemetery. We install several thousand square feet of sods per year.

During the past year we had 214 burials in total and of these burials, 168 were cremations.

The following breakdown may be of interest:

Burials in:	<u>2023-2024</u>	<u>2024-2025</u>
The General Protestant Cemetery	3	9
Mount Pleasant Cemetery	172	163
The Field of Honor	13	9
Memorials Gardens Cemetery	30	33
<b>Total Burials</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>214</b>
<b>Cremations Included</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>168</b>

All maintenance at Memorial Gardens, such as grass cutting, snow clearing etc., is done by our own staff. The maintenance for General Protestant and Mount Pleasant cemeteries is contracted out.

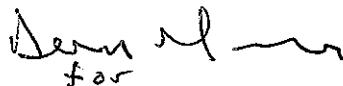
**Memorial Services:**

The Memorial Services for 2026 are tentatively scheduled as follows:

- 1) Mount Pleasant Cemetery, Monday, July 6th, 2026, 7pm.
- 2) General Protestant Cemetery, Monday, July 20th, 2026, 7 pm.
- 3) Memorial Gardens, Monday, July 27th, 2026, 7pm.

I am pleased to place on record thanks to our cemetery staff. We have a dedicated staff, and the feedback from the public is excellent. We appreciate the work done by our staff. We operate six days a week, sometimes through difficult and challenging situations, especially during the winter season.

Respectfully submitted,



for  
Clarence Butt  
First United Church Representative

## Stewardship Report 2025

Our Stewardship Committee is indeed very grateful to all those people who have contributed in many ways toward the life and work of our church. Of necessity, however, our main focus in this report must be about the financial health of our congregation.

We are happy to report that all our financial obligations for 2025 have been met. In fact, for the last calendar year, the operating account had a surplus of \$8,120. It is important however to recognize that, due to our staff being on sick leave, our salaries and benefits were less and we received the amount of \$16,267 through the Restorative Care Program. This is not a circumstance we wished to be in, but feel obliged to mention it in order to correctly reflect our financial reality.

Our Building Fund loan balance at year end was \$116,200, and we must be ever mindful of this responsibility as we plan for the ongoing operation of our church.

We believe that we have the resources within our community of faith to proceed with enthusiasm far into the future. As God has blessed us, let us prayerfully consider what our objectives must be and how we can individually help achieve those ends.

There are several ways to contribute; in-person collection (we love to see as many worshippers in the pews as possible), pre authorized remittances (forms available at the Church), E-transfer, just use the church email [firstunited@nf.aibn.com](mailto:firstunited@nf.aibn.com) or use post-dated cheques. Those may be suitable options when our folks are unable to attend regular worship services.

Once again, thank-you so much for all that you do. We pray for God's richest blessings on you and yours.

Respectfully submitted,

  
For Stewardship Committee

## STATISTICS 2025

<b>Baptisms:</b>	1
<b>Marriages:</b>	0
<b>Funerals:</b>	17

### Confirmation of Membership

December 31, 2024	1067
Added by profession of Faith	0
Added by Transfer	0
Removed by Transfer	0
Removed by Death	6
Removed by Request	0
Membership as of December 31, 2025	1061

### Baptisms in 2025

Autumn Victoria Rose Tiller

### Deaths in 2025

Pearl Smith	Cyril Ivany
Victor Robert Richards	Leanne Moores
Marie Winsor	Beverly Hiscock Taylor
Allan Burton Butt	Ethel Gariand Antle
Doris Simmons	Gertrude Norman
Christine Boland	Claude Hoyles
Elva Joan Mercer	Jason Rollings
Bernard Anderson Pike	Matthew Patey
	John Thistle