

Annual Report 2025

**St. Andrew's & St. Paul's United Church
Box 400, 38 Mill Street
Russell, ON
K4R 1E2**

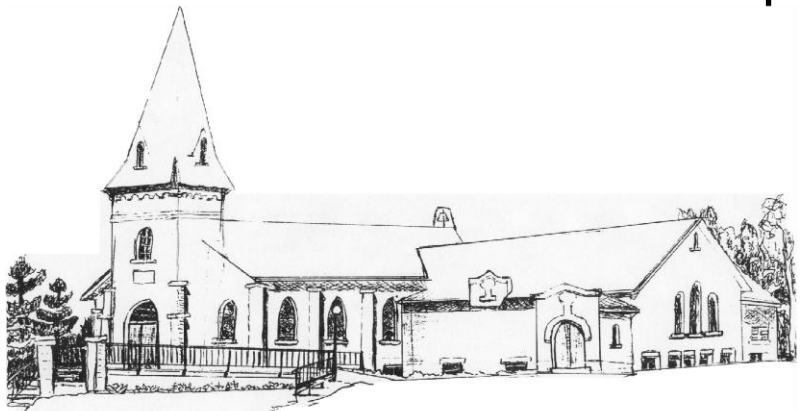


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Ministers Report LCol(ret'd) the Reverend Laurelle Callaghan

I have been delighted to share ministry with Russell United since 1Sept 2025. I admire the way the congregation has faced many crises without a resident minister. I applaud your resiliency. Russell has been a welcoming and receptive community. I am happy to still be able to share ministry, albeit on a very part time basis. I am also grateful for the accommodations that the community has made for me and my time management.

I feel that we have accomplished a lot in the last few months. Systems are all go, for Sunday services, with the diligent work of Graham Cameron. I enjoy preaching and am grateful to have a receptive congregation. Thurs morning coffee chats have been a great space for members of the congregation to get to know each other on an informal basis without the pressure of an agenda or meeting. In the past months, I have been privileged to attend several UCW meetings and admire the hard work and ministry this group of dedicated and faith faithful ladies provide. Highlights for me this year have been our Remembrance Day Service where we honoured members of our family who have served or who are serving in the Canadian Forces, and Joy Sunday in Advent where our garb reflected our joy! Thank you to everyone for digging out their Christmas sweaters and jammies!

I look forward to continued ministry with Russell United. God Bless.

St. Andrew's and St. Paul's United Church

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, March 22nd, 2026, in the Upper Hall, 11:30 a.m.

Welcome: Susan Gray, Board Chair

1. Opening Prayer: Rev. Laurelle Callaghan
2. Motion to allow all members and adherents to vote.
3. Approval/Amendment of Agenda
4. Approval of Previous Minutes: ACM Meeting – April 27th, 2025
5. Business arising from previous minutes: Renovations completed.
6. Part time minister hired; August of 2025 for 12 hrs/week.

New Business:

Motion to change governance from Official Board to Council. Discussion and vote.

Motion to give Executive of Chair, Secretary and Financial to be empowered by the Council to make decisions up to and including a set dollar amount.

Motion to strike a committee of 3-5 members, including the Chair, to work on the new governance – one item at a time.

M&P to lead: Minister's contract expires August 2026. Discussion & vote. Rev. Laurelle to recuse herself during the discussion and vote.

Summer Service. Rev Laurelle away July and August. Discuss and vote

Annual Reports:

- Motion to accept all reports as written
- Budget – Tara Hall
- Committee Reports
- Nominations to committees from the floor

Adjournment

ST. ANDREW'S & ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
APRIL 27TH, 2025 AT 12:30PM. IN THE CHURCH UPPER HALL

IN ATTENDANCE: SUSAN GRAY - CHAIR, BRENDA HOOPLE, JIM WATSON, CINDY DESSUREAULT, BARB AGAR, NINA BROCK, GRAHAM CAMERON, DAVID & LYNN ROCKWELL, DIANE WADE, LYNDA JENNINGS, MARILYN JAMES, SUSANNA CLUFF-CLYBURNE, MARILYSE DUMAS, DAWN WRIGHT & MICHEL CARRIERE, ED THOMAS (17 ATTENDED)

No.	ITEM	DETAIL
1.	WELCOME	REV. BRUCE PETERKIN OFFERED GRACE AND FOLLOWING A BRIEF LUNCHEON, CHAIR SUSAN GRAY EXPRESSED GRATITUDE TO ALL VOLUNTEERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR THEIR DEDICATION TO THE CHURCH AND CONGREGATION. SHE ADVISED THE CHURCH NO LONGER WAS REQUIRED TO HAVE A MEMBER OF REGIONAL COUNCIL PRESENT FOR AGM.
2.	OPENING PRAYER	SUSAN GRAY
3.	AGENDA	MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA: BRENDA HOOPLE, SECONDED BY BARBARA AGAR APPROVED.
4.	APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREV. MEETING	MINUTES FROM ACM MEETING – MARCH 17 TH , 2024. MOTION TO APPROVE AMENDED REPORT: JIM WATSON, SECONDED BY ED THOMAS. APPROVED
5.	APPROVAL OF ANNUAL REPORT 2025 COMMITTEE REPORTS	A MOTION THAT ALL REPORTS WITH ANY ADDITIONS AND OR CORRECTIONS BE MOVED COLLECTIVELY AT THE END OF ALL THE REPORTS. MOVED BY LYNN ROCKWELL. SECONDED BY LYNDA JENNINGS APPROVED
6.	BUSINESS ARISING FROM ANNUAL REPORT	AMENDMENT: GRAHAM ADVISED THE PROPERTY REPORT WAS FROM 2023 AND BRIEFLY OUTLINED THE 2024 PROPERTY ACTIVITIES. LYNN RANSOME JOINED THE COMMITTEE AS A NEW PROPERTY MEMBER AND GRAHAM ADDED THERE IS ALWAYS ROOM FOR MORE.
7.	NEW BUSINESS	SUSAN REPORTED THE SEARCH COMMITTEE HAS PLANS TO INTERVIEW ONE MINISTER WHO APPLIED. THE PROCESS TO FINALIZE ANY DECISION TAKES SEVERAL MONTHS. UNTIL A NEW MINISTER IS HIRED THE MINISTER'S OFFICE HAS BEEN LOANED TO THE NURSERY SCHOOL STAFF TO BE REVISITED WHEN A MINISTER IS HIRED. NO NEW NOMINATIONS TO COMMITTEES.
8.	BUDGET	JIM WATSON REPORTED ON THE BUDGET. BUDGET WAS REVISED TO SHOW FUNDRAISING CHANGED TO ZERO AS THERE ARE NO FUNDRAISING PLANS IN PROGRESS. PROPERTY SUGGESTED THE DIVISION OF PROPERTY EXPENSES CONFLICTED

		<p>WITH CHURCH OPERATING COSTS. THERE WAS CONSENSUS TO REVIEW EXPENSE CATEGORIES.</p> <p>METCALFE HAS ADVISED THAT THEY CAN NO LONGER SHARE EXPENSES FOR A FULL-TIME MINISTER SO THE SHARED AMOUNT FOR SUPPLY MINISTERS WAS REVISED TO \$5000.00 AS HALF ON BUDGED EXPENSE OF \$10,000 FOR SUPPLY MINISTERS.</p> <p>GIC INVESTMENTS WERE REVIEWED AND REINVESTED TO UTILIZES BETTER RETURNS AND IN AMOUNTS TO BE AVAILABLE FOR EMERGENCIES.</p> <p>A MOTION TO APPROVED THE AMENDED BUDGET WAS MOVED BY JIM WATSON AND SECONDED BY SUZANNA CLUFF-CLYBURNE</p>
9.	CORRESPONDENCE	
10.	COMMITTEE REPORTS	<p>AS PER ANNUAL REPORT 2024 BOOKLET.</p> <p>A MOTION TO ACCEPT ALL APPROVED AND AMENDED REPORTS COLLECTIVELY, MOVED BY LYNN ROCKWELL. SECONDED BY LYNDA JENNINGS. APPROVED</p>
11.	OTHER BUSINESS	<p>THE DAY CARE NURSERY HAS MOVED TO A 5 DAY SCHEDULE. A RENTAL HAS BEEN INCREASED TO \$700./MONTH. THE COOP NURSERY HAS RECEIVED A GRANT AND WITH PERMISSION PLANS TO REPAINT THE BASEMENT HALL, WASHROOMS AND CUPBOARDS IN THE NURSERY. THE SMALL FREEZER HAS BEEN REMOVED AND THE FRIDGE WAS MOVED TO THE KITCHEN AREA. THE NURSERY SCHOOL PLANS TO UPDATE THE LIGHTING IN McLAUGHLIN HALL.</p>
12.	DATE OF NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT	<p>THE NEXT MEETING OF OFFICIAL BOARD WILL BE HELD TBD</p> <p>A MOTION TO ADJOURN WAS MADE BY SUSAN GRAY</p>
13.	BENEDICTION	

MINUTES PREPARED BY DIANE WADE *Diane Wade*

APPROVED ON BEHALF OF THE OFFICIAL BOARD: _____

STATISTICS 2025

<u>Funerals</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>Baptisms</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Marriages</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>Leaving the Church By Death</u>	<u>0</u>

St. Andrew's & St. Paul's United Church Cemetery, Russell, Ontario 2025 Report ACGM

THE ANNUAL MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR ST ANDREW'S & ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH CEMETERY AND LOUCK'S CEMETERY WAS HELD IN THIS CHURCH ON SUNDAY, JUNE 22, 2025.

DIANE WADE WELCOMED VISITORS TO THE MEMORIAL SERVICE. REV BRUCE PETERKIN SANG 'IN THE GARDEN' TO OPEN THE SERVICE. THE RESPONSIVE READING BEGAN WITH, "THERE IS A SEASON AND A TIME FOR EVERYTHING IN THE WORLD."

DURING THE SERVICE, GRAHAM CAMERON OPERATED THE SOUND SYSTEM AND BARBARA AGAR HELPED ME DOCUMENT DONATIONS COLLECTED DURING THE SERVICE. SHE ALSO MADE COFFEE TO SHARE WITH GUESTS WHO GATHERED TO VISIT AFTER THE SERVICE. DIANE PREPARED SOME SNACKS.

DAVID ROCKWELL REPORTED ON INFORMATION DEALING WITH LOUCK'S CEMETERY AND DIANE SHARED INFORMATION ON THE VILLAGE CEMETERY. RUSSELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY HELD AN HISTORICAL WALK THROUGHOUT THIS CEMETERY IN SEPTEMBER. THEY HIGHLIGHTED MILITARY MEMORIALS AND STORIES OF LOCAL EVENTS AND NAMES.

I AM HOPING TO GATHER FOR THE ANNUAL MEMORIAL SERVICES AT 2:00 PM., ON THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN JUNE. JUNE 28ND THIS YEAR. THE GROUNDS CONTINUED TO BE BEAUTIFULLY CARED FOR BY MR. J. HAMELIN. MAINTENANCE AND GRASS CUTTING COST \$2000. IN 2025 DONATIONS TOTALLED \$1880. A HUGE THANK YOU GOES TO THOSE WHO FAITHFULLY MAKE DONATIONS TO HELP WITH THIS COST. PEOPLE ARE WELCOME TO VISIT THE CEMETERIES ANY TIME.

MEMORIAL GATHERINGS: *FORTUNATELY NO SOULS WERE LAID TO REST IN ST. ANDREW'S AND ST PAUL'S CEMETERY IN 2025. ALL THOSE WHOSE NAMES ARE WRITTEN IN THE 'BOOK OF LIFE' SHALL BE IN EVERLASTING REMEMBRANCE (Ps 112:6).*

PLEASE VOLUNTEER AND BECOME A BOARD MEMBER. BOTH CEMETERY BOARDS NEED YOUR INPUT.

THANK YOU ALL FOR ATTENDING THIS SERVICE AND FOR YOUR CONTINUED INTEREST AND SUPPORT IN THE CARE AND UPKEEP OF OUR LOCAL CEMETERIES. YOUR KINDNESS IS GREATLY APPRECIATED!

ANNUAL REPORT FOR LOUCKS CEMETERY

Loucks Cemetery is located on Luxembourg Lane, off Wade Road.

We held our annual service, jointly, with St Andrew's and St. Pauls' cemetery in June of 2025 at Russell United Church. Rev. Bruce Peterkin led the service for us. We thank those people who attended and for your donations to the upkeep of the cemetery. Donations can be sent year-round to the treasurer, Brent Denison. As you will see in our financials, we are very low in funds, and any additional monies are appreciated.

The volunteer committee meets through the spring and fall on an as needed basis. David Rockwell continues to update the mapping of the grave sites. Susan Gray is acting secretary and Brent Denison is the treasurer.

After 25 years of service, Ian Wade retired from the committee at the end of 2025. We thank Ian for his dedication to the Loucks Cemetery committee and his many years overseeing the upkeep of grounds as well as many other volunteer jobs.

Thank you to Jr. Hamelin for keeping the grounds in such great shape.

Burials in 2025: David Watson

Committee: Ian Wade (retired end of 2025)
David Rockwell
Brent Denison – Treasurer (brentdenison@hotmail.com)
Susan Gray – secretary

Respectfully submitted by,
Susan Gray, Secretary

ANNUAL REPORT FOR LOUCKS CEMETERY
FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER
31, 2025

Opening Balance – Jan. 1/25		\$3,055.29
<hr/>		
Revenues		
• Donations	\$5,950.00	
• Inurnment	\$450.00	
• Investment Interest	\$318.86	\$6,718.86
 Total Revenue		
<hr/>		
Expenses		
• Maintenance – Lawn Care 2025	\$2531.20	
• Bank Charges	\$36.00	
		\$2,567.20
Total Expenses		
<hr/>		
Closing Balance – Dec. 31/25		\$7,206.95
<hr/>		

Public Trustee & Guardian: \$8,706.04 – funds in Care and Maintenance account.

Respectfully submitted by:



Brent Denison – Treasurer

Church Committee Reports

Christian Development Committee Report – 2025

This Committee is a component of the Session Committee of our Church, and is responsible for the following organizations: the Nursery (birth to Junior Kindergarten), the Sunday School (Senior Kindergarten to Grade 5) and Youth Group gatherings (Grade 6 and older), as well as Bible Study groups that may meet both within and outside of our Church building. This Committee is responsible for providing baptismal gifts to parents, as well as being a sponsoring point of contact for the Russell Scouting and Guiding communities. Their three Guiding groups are Venturers, Embers and Sparks. Many thanks to those who provide this Christian leadership.

Respectfully submitted by
Lynn Rockwell
Chairperson

Sunday School / Youth Group Report - 2025

2025 has marked the growth of our Sunday School program with Sarah Butcher providing leadership. Lynn Rockwell has been providing supply teacher services for the Sunday School, as required. The on-line curriculum “Sermons4Kids” continues to be used as the core curriculum, with supplementary materials being utilized as desired. Teaching worksheets are available in the Sanctuary whenever Sunday School is not in session. Our children contribute to morning worship (lighting the Christ Candle, singing, and responding to Storytime questions, etc.) and they are enthusiastically welcomed by the congregation. During 2025, Sunday School classes have tended to be comprised of mix-aged children, and attendance numbers are increasing. Some of the activities in which our Sunday School students have participated within this past year are as follows:

- Lighting of Worship Candles;
- Children’s Story Activities;
- Communion Services;
- White Gift Services; and
- Christmas Worship Services.

We look forward to future continued growth.

Respectfully submitted by
Lynn Rockwell

Pastoral Care Report

Caring thoughts and best wishes are shared with our church family friends by way of phone calls, visits and cards throughout the year.

It has always been a pleasure to reach out with those ones who come to mind. We ask that you continue to keep us informed of any person/persons who would welcome hearing from us.

Members: Madeline Holden, Marilyn James, Lynda Jennings, Lorraine Robinson, Emily Sheldrick, Elizabeth Simon.

Always welcoming new members.

Respectfully Submitted:

Pastoral Care Committee

"Be devoted to one another in love"

- Romans 12:10

The Ministry and Personnel Report

The M+P Committee is a confidential committee that provides support to the Minister and lay staff, acting as a liaison between them and the congregation (and vice versa).

In the spring of 2025, we were advised by Rev. Ed Gratton that, as we were not going to be sharing a minister with Metcalfe United Church any longer, we needed to have a minimum of three people on our committee. In June, Sarah Bulpit Hill agreed to join the committee and we are delighted she has.

During the year, we had review meetings with our four lay staff members - Candace Woods (Organist), Tara Hall (Treasurer), Julie Lee (Administrator) and Valerie Houle (Cleaner) - who received a 3 per cent compensation increase in 2025. They all said they were satisfied with their roles, compensation and enjoyed working with/for our congregation. Some subjects, e.g., moving to receiving and making payments electronically as much as practical, were discussed and are being worked on. We are deeply grateful for the work our lay staff do on behalf of the congregation. God has richly blessed us with their talent and dedication.

In September, we welcomed Rev. Laurelle Callaghan as our Minister. Her experience will be of great benefit to us as we work to fulfil our responsibilities to staff and the congregation.

Respectfully submitted by:

Sarah Bulpit Hill

Susanna Cluff-Clyburne

Jim Watson

2025 Trustees Report

There are 3 Trustees who are entrusted with the oversight and management of the assets of St. Andrew's and St. Paul's United Church.

Duties:

1. Advising our Treasurer regarding the investment of church funds in GICs of various durations with Scotiabank. GIC's totalling roughly \$96,000 mature this March and will be reinvested pending discussions with the Property Committee as to what projects are underway for 2026 and how much is required to pay for those projects.
2. Maintenance and oversight of our Church Insurance arranged by the United Church of Canada with HUB International Brokers. The Trustees confer each year to approve any changes to the policy covering the church property and the liability of members who work and volunteer for church activities. It is the 3rd year of this insurance plan organized by UCC to provide a rate reduction by lowering service fees and the discontinuance of local broker involvement. There has not been an increase in the insurance premiums from 2025 to 2026. However, we have been approached by HUB to obtain an appraisal on the church since this has not been updated for as many as 10 years. We are currently awaiting contact from the appraisers to complete this process. This could very likely mean an increase in the current insurance premiums but will more accurately assess the true asset value of the church and contents.

Respectfully submitted by Trustees,
James Watson
Ed Thomas
Barbara Agar

Property Management Committee Report

<u>RUSSELL UNITED CHURCH - PROPERTY COMMITTEE BUDGET FISCAL YEAR 2026</u>						
<u>Item</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Unit Cost</u>	<u>Qty</u>	<u>Extended Cost</u>	<u>Notes</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>Carpet Runners - Whole Facility</u>	<u>Local Retail</u>	<u>\$2,000.00</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>\$2,000.00</u>	<u>All entrances plus some in Lower Hall</u>
<u>2</u>	<u>Facade work and refurbishment of front ramp/stairs-wall</u>	<u>Kevin De Jong</u>	<u>\$10,500.00</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>\$10,500.00</u>	<u>Replacement Masonry on South Façade (includes escalation)</u>
<u>3</u>	<u>Replacement Sconse Lights C/W Rewiring</u>	<u>Electrician Contractor</u>	<u>\$600.00</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>\$1,200.00</u>	<u>local elctrician</u>
<u>5</u>	<u>Replacement Door - South/East Entrance</u>	<u>Allmar Corp</u>	<u>\$6,500.00</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>\$6,500.00</u>	<u>Replacement Steel Frame and Door C/W Hardware (Volunteer Install)</u>
<u>6</u>	<u>Snow Removal - Parking Area</u>	<u>Bastien Contracting</u>	<u>\$3,700.00</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>\$3,700.00</u>	<u>Includes forecasted escalation</u>
<u>7</u>	<u>Lawn Maintenance</u>	<u>Local Sub Contractor</u>	<u>\$1,200.00</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>\$1,200.00</u>	<u>Includes forecasted escalation</u>
<u>8</u>	<u>Miscellaneous Supplies</u>	<u>Property Committee Volunteers</u>	<u>\$2,000.00</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>\$2,000.00</u>	<u>Extemporaneous Expenses</u>
<u>9</u>	<u>Repair of power amplifier for the PA</u>	<u>Local vendor</u>	<u>\$400.00</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>\$400.00</u>	<u>If repair not worthwhile, cost could escalate to \$1,000 for a replacement</u>
<u>10</u>						
<u>11</u>						
<u>12</u>						
		<u>Sub Total (No tax)</u>			<u>\$27,500.00</u>	

Search Committee Report

Matthew 7:7

Ask, and it will be given to you. Search, and you will find. Knock, and the door will be opened to you.

The Search Committee was nominated at the congregational meeting in 2023 with Brenda Hoople, Graham Cameron, Cynthia Dewolfe and Susan Gray as the members voted in to work with Metcalfe United Church to find a full-time minister we could share equally, with a 50/50 split of time and expenses.

Cynthia resigned from the committee after a time and Brenda, Graham and Susan continued. In November of 2024, Metcalfe shared that they would be dissolving our agreement and we would be on our own to find a minister. This led us to confer with the congregation and make the decision to continue with the search and to find a part-time minister, 20 hrs a week only working for our church.

Over the past two years, our search committee has asked God for guidance, searched through many names on Church Hub to find the person best suited to our congregation and when we knocked, the door was opened and we found our new minister. We must give a thank you to Rev. Ed Gratton as our pastoral supervisor and for guiding us to Rev. Laurelle Callaghan. A chance comment that she was interested in part-time ministry led us to a phone call (our equivalent of a knock on the door) and her first meeting with the Search committee.

After a series of meetings to see if we were compatible and in agreement with working hours, her duties, the churches short- and long-term goals etc., we were pleased to put her name forward at our congregational meeting in May of 2025. With the agreement of the congregation, we informed Rev. Callaghan that we would indeed like her to lead our congregation forward beginning September 1, 2025. Rev. Laurelle accepted our invitation to be our new minister.

At this same meeting, the Search Committee was disbanded by the congregation, with their thanks for the work done over the past two years.

It has been a pleasure for all of us to be a part of this important journey for the church. We learned about our church community and ourselves through this.

May God bless our minister and her family as they become a part of our church family.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Gray, Chair
Search Committee

2025 Session Report

2025 Session/Worship Planning Committee Report

The Session of St. Andrew's and St. Paul's United Church consists of David Rockwell (Clerk of Session/Chair), Lynn Rockwell (Recording Secretary), Susan Gray, Barb Agar and Doris Prescott. David Rockwell also serves as our church's Lay Representative to the EOORC (Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council) of the United Church of Canada. Currently, Session does not have an Alternate Lay Representative to the EOORC. Thank you to all members who have served on this Committee and have helped to carry out Session's responsibilities.

The responsibilities of Session are to oversee the spiritual interests of our Community of Faith. These main duties have oversight of the following:

- The admission of persons into full membership, their removal and the granting of certificates of transfer;
- The conduct of members, with power to exercise discipline;
- The administration of sacraments;
- The religious training of the young, and the organization of meetings for Christian fellowship, instruction and work;
- The order of public worship including the service of praise and the use of the church edifice;
- The care of the poor and the visiting of the sick;
- To receive and judge proposals and appeals from members;
- To transmit proposals and appeals to the EOORC of the United Church of Canada; and
- To recommend to the EOORC suitable lay members to be licensed as Lay Worship Leaders (we currently do not have any LLWPs (Licensed Lay Worship Leaders) in our church).

Between Jan-Sept 2025, our church had the privilege of having two supply ministers sharing worship leadership on Sundays. These ministers were Rev. Bruce Peterkin and Rev. Ed Barbezat and they shared weekly worship services on a rotational basis with Russell and Metcalfe. Many thanks to our Joint Search Committee and Brenda Reaney (Metcalfe) for their input in the arrangement of supply ministry. As of September 2025, we welcomed Rev. Laurelle Callaghan as our Minister and we changed our worship service time from 11:00 am to 10:00 am.

With no available ordained minister to attend Session meetings, this group moved forward with "Worship Planning" Meetings, with no motions being able to be approved, but many actions being able to be unofficially decided upon. We held two Worship Planning Committee Meetings before September 2025 and two Session Meetings after September 2025.

Over the course of the year, three Communion Services were conducted by Rev. Ed Barbezat. The dates of these services were the January 12, March 9 and April 13 and between September and December 2025, Rev. Laurelle Callaghan conducted two Communion Services (5 October and 7 December). We also held a Remembrance Day Service on the 9th of November. The congregation was asked to share personal military family experiences and Rev.

Callaghan spoke of her past military experiences. Following this service, we celebrated our church's 138th Anniversary with a catered lunch, which was very well attended. During November, Rev. Callaghan's daughter-in-law spoke to the congregation about the ongoing work of The Shepherds of Good Hope – very interesting. We held a White Gift Service on the 30th of November, in support of the Good Neighbours Food Bank. We received a very generous contribution of food items from the Nursery Co-op, as part of our White Gift Service. It should be noted that our church supports the Good Neighbours Food Bank on an ongoing basis. Our church also generously supported the Christmas Shoe Box initiative. This year, we enjoyed a Christmas Sweater Service on the 14th of December. During December, our church also hosted two events: "Jazzy Little Christmas", as well as a joint Anglican-United Church choir and the "Russell Bell Ringers led by Debra Bourne. Both of these events were open to the public. Our Christmas Eve Service was led by Stuart Brink and it was very well received. This year, we did not have a Sunday worship service between Christmas and New Year's.

Over this year, the congregation has averaged about 40 people each Sunday, with numbers continuing to grow. Mission and Service continues to be an important part of our church's outreach, with monthly Minutes for Mission being presented. Many thanks to Barbara Agar who provided a monthly Minute for Mission emphasizing our church's history over the past 138 years, in collaboration with the 100th Anniversary of the United Church of Canada. Our church was closed on the 15th of June to allow members of our congregation to attend the 100th Anniversary Service held at the EY Centre in Ottawa. It was well attended by our members.

Many thanks to Candace Woods for providing piano/organ music as part of worship, with supply music being provided as necessary.

Many thanks to all who contributed to the worship life of our church in 2025, including the following:

- Rev. Laurelle Callaghan;
- Our supply ministers;
- Graham Cameron who provided his technical expertise;
- Greeters/Readers who assisted in worship; and
- Those who prepared refreshments after worship.

During this year, Session members and others continued to provide outreach visitation, by making telephone calls, sending cards and providing small gifts to those in need of special attention in our local community.

Respectfully submitted by
David Rockwell, Clerk of Session

2026 Session Budget

Russell United Church

Please find below the 2026 Budget Submission for Session.

Fellowship and Outreach (Including Pastoral Care) - \$500.00

- a. Welcoming and Appreciation Events
- b. Mailings
- c. Gifts
- d. Advertising
- e. Care for Shut-ins, Elderly and Sick

2. Christian Development – \$300

- a. Nursery
- b. Sunday School
- c. Baptismal Items
- d. Confirmation Items

3. Decorating Church - \$300 (See Note 1)

4. Music – (no monetary allocation – See Note 2)

- a. Purchase of Music
- b. Cantata and Special Services
- c. Licensing for Music

5. Supply Minister (Licensed Lay Worship Leader/Guest Minister) – \$5,000 (See Note 3)

Notes:

1. UCW is responsible for decorating the church, but funding is part of the Session Budget.
2. Funding is available from the Music Fund.
3. This amount covers the cost of pulpit supply leadership by Guest Ministers/Licensed Lay Worship Leaders at \$261 daily rate + \$0.60/km for mileage (average of 100 km round trip visit).

It is suggested that Finance and Admin Committee/Treasurer place a line item for expenses associated with United Church Conferences and meetings of the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council (EOORC) @\$800.00 at an appropriate place in the Budget.

Stewards Report

Stewards Report

The Stewards Committee is responsible for documenting the church's income from collection, rentals, fundraising, other donations, etc. and making bank deposits.

Diane Wade (with the assistance of Graham Cameron) manages the Foodland and Giant Tiger Gift card program which is a significant fundraiser for the church.

In 2025, we made progress in moving forward the church's ability to make and receive as many payments as practical electronically. We hope to have this capability in place in 2026. While using cheques and/or Canada Post will remain necessary in some cases, we hope to minimize this need.

There wasn't any Stewards-led fundraiser in 2025.

Respectfully submitted,
Susanna Cluff-Clyburne
Diane Wade

Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council of the United Church of Canada (EOORC) – 2025

The EOORC was established in January 2019 and replaced the Montreal and Ottawa Conference. EOORC is one of six administrative groupings in the United Church of Canada. EOORC gratefully acknowledges the traditional unceded lands of Indigenous peoples on which our buildings and ministry have been built.

The EOORC Office moved to the First United Church in Ottawa, at 347 Richmond Road. This year, the new Communications Assistant is Natalie Natkovsky who took over the duties of the bi-weekly newsletter and her e-mail address is nnatkovsky@unitedchurch.ca. This newsletter is published on a bi-weekly basis and is called "EOORC News" and it provides current updates on upcoming events and comments on recently-developed decisions. The EOORC website provides information and assistance to 133 Pastoral Charges and more than 200 Communities of Faith. Rev. Whit Strong retired and was replaced by Rev. Victoria Andrews as our Liaison Officer.

EOORC is dedicated to helping live out your ministry with the available resources, guidance and support to enable you to do the best ministry possible in your unique circumstances. EOORC has initiatives in many community projects, such as: Multi-Faith Housing Initiatives, the Ottawa West-End Community Chaplaincy and the Refugee Sponsorship Training Program (RSTP).

It has been my privilege to serve you as your EOORC Lay Representative during 2025.

Below please find the Annual Report of Highlights as published by EOORC:

EOORC in 2025

Highlights from 2025

- We celebrated the 100th anniversary of The United Church of Canada. EOORC hosted a large worship service on June 15th, with 1500 people attending and many more joining virtually. It was a wonderful experience to gather together for this inspiring worship service. Many congregations also hosted their own 100th anniversary celebrations.
- Communities of faith throughout EOORC sent quilt squares to create the 100th anniversary quilt. It was quilted by the quilting group at St. John's United Church in Kemptville, and was displayed at the June 15th celebration before touring our regional council.
- Five congregations in EOORC participated in the "100 Tables" project, celebrating the 100th Anniversary by transforming a picnic table into a place of welcome and connection.
- We were one of the first regional councils to engage with the "Towards 2035" data. It was presented at the AGM. In the autumn, EOORC organized two full-day workshops called "Holding a Vision for the Future," bringing together ministers and congregational leaders to discuss our future as The United Church of Canada.
- The Executive has appointed a sub group of the Executive called the Vision Keepers. This is a six person body that is holding the work of the Towards 2035 Report.
- The Keeping in Touch Team was created and began their work. Each member has a list of churches whom they call or email on a regular basis.
- With funding from Canada Summer Jobs and the Scrivens-Baillie Fund, we hired a Communications Associate student, Loli Zahinda, over the summer months. She worked on the 100th Anniversary, AGM and directory among other projects.

For more information about the EOORC Executive and Leadership Teams, and for minutes of the Executive Meetings, visit the EOORC Website.

- The Ministry Personnel Leadership Support Team hosted two gatherings for ministry personnel: "Ministry Leadership in a Crisis Shaped World" and a learning event about MAID (medical assistance in dying).
- EOORC offered workshops for members of M&P committees.
- Many congregations in EOORC fundraised for the Dream Lebreton Capital Campaign with Multifaith Housing Ottawa.
- EOORC had a float in the Capital Pride Parade, and congregations throughout EOORC participated in many local pride events. (Did you know we have a United Church banner which can be used in marches or pride parades? Please contact nmatkovsky@united-church.ca.)
- A Celebration of Ministries service was held on September 19th at Southminster United Church. The Rev. Dr. Frank Emanuel was ordained at this service.
- Rev. Whit Strong retired from his role as Pastoral Relations Minister. Rev. Victoria Andrews began her work as EOORC's new Pastoral Relations Minister.
- There are several new ministries, including the God's Beloved community (a new ministry at Kitchissippi United Church, Ottawa) and church plants (including at Knox-St. Paul's United Church in Cornwall and Riverside United Church in Ottawa).

- The Regional Council's 2024-2025 strategic plan has now come to a close. Most pieces of the plan were completed, but some elements did not meet the goals set for them, often for lack of volunteer enthusiasm. A new plan will be developed in the coming months to help integrate the Towards 2035 vision and objectives and to attempt a greater degree of focus.

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Below are short descriptions of the three meetings held throughout the year:

Creative Sparks

Winter Gathering – March 1, 2025 (online via Zoom)

A half-day informational and educational meeting.

This gathering shared inspirational stories and ideas from across our regional council. A number of presenters shared on innovative ideas with topics spanning from seniors' grants to pie-making to Sunday School curricula to revitalizing AGMs...and more!. We had the opportunity to learn from the real-life experience of others in our regional council.

EOORC Annual Meeting: A New Heaven and a New Earth – Towards 2035

June 14, 2025, EY Centre, Ottawa (with option to attend via Zoom)

At our AGM, we heard a presentation about “Towards 2035”, a statistical report which takes United Church statistics from 1992 to 2023 and project estimates to 2035. We considered what we would do to help create space for health Communities of Faith. We attended to business, heard reports and gathered for worship. There was a round-table about First Thirds ministry. This AGM was only one day, as the 100th Anniversary Celebration was the next day.

EOORC Fall Gatherings – Connections Day

November 1, 2025, Across EOORC

Instead of a Fall Meeting, we planned five gatherings on the same day and at the same time, but in locations across the region. During the region's strategic planning process, it was decided that we should transform our Fall meetings so that they reach more people, closer to home, to build connections with the wider church. Four of the gatherings went ahead. (one was cancelled due to low attendance) and were a helpful opportunity for folks to get to know their neighbours. The evaluations were generally positive, and we will consider whether to do this again in 2026.

Respectively submitted,

David Rockwell

EOORC Lay Representative

Groups within the Church

UCW Report 2025

“The Miracle of Friendship”

There’s a miracle called Friendship

That dwells within the heart, and you don’t know how it happens

Or, how it gets its start....

But the happiness it brings you

Always gives a special lift, And you realize that friendship

In God’s most precious gift! (author Unknown from Chicken Soup for the Christian Soul)

UCW is all Women of the congregation, all offering their continued support to our Church & Community. We have been meeting monthly, weather permitting, and do take the summer off to enjoy family, friends, great weather & to get re-charged. We are so blessed to have 15-18 ladies attend our meetings with an open invitation extended to all ladies, who are always welcome to join in when able.

These amazing ladies are always ready and willing to lend their talents at any given time. On a rotating basis, the weekly fellowship/ social time after church service is prepared, always ready to be shared and enjoyed by any and all who are able to stay. Other talents we are fortunate to have is Debbie Brink, Treasurer, Kathy Findlay, Secretary, team work of Elizabeth Simon & Marilyn James ensuring cards are sent out to our congregation. And, under the guidance of Lynn Rnasome & a dedicated group to help her, work together to decorate the church year round, both inside and out.

In 2025, in March UCW lead Sunday service in celebration of 100th anniversary of United Church of Canada, we also hosted World Day of Prayer, which honored Cook Islands who wrote the service, with women attending from the Anglican, Catholic & United Church each doing their part. We held a successful book & puzzle, and continue to keep our book shelved filled with books for sale year round. A strawberry social was held in June celebrating the 100th anniversary of the United Church of Canada. October, a very successful “Flavours of Fall” bake sale was held and very well received by the community. November a catered luncheon was held, with tickets being sold, as we celebrated our own Church 138th anniversary. With all of this we also purged, cleaned, organized the kitchen, many storage cupboards, and we were able to give some items to Shepherds of Good Hope, Thrift Store, Ottawa Missions, doing our part to Recycle and reuse. It felt so good!

In December, we were invited to the home of Sue and Jim Watson for a get together and were treated to a wonderful lunch, fun, fellowship and ended our time together by recognizing 3 ladies. Nina Brock, Ruth Bulpit and Elizabeth Simon with the UCW Life Membership, each receiving a pin and a Certificate.

It was busy, rewarding and a wonderful 2025 and looking forward to what 2026 has in store.

Respectfully Submitted,
Brenda Hoople

OTHER GROUPS THAT USE THE CHURCH

Russell Scouting and Girl Guides

Our church is a sponsor of the Girl Guides, Embers and Scouts and we provide a meeting place for their many groups. The church is available to them for group and executive meetings, sleepovers, registration events, etc. The shed at the back of the church belongs to the Scouts and is used to store their scouting related material.

Russell Co-operative Nursery School

The Russell Co-operative Nursery School is a not-for-profit organization that operates out of McLaughlin Hall in our church basement. They meet Monday to Friday between 9:30-2:30 from September to June. We rent this space to the Nursery School on a yearly basis and find it an ideal tenant/landlord arrangement and use of the extra space available in the basement. The Nursery School continues to operate when guidelines allow them too. The children are dropped off outside in the parking lot by their parents. The teachers meet the parents outside to pick up the children and then deliver the children back to their parents after the program has finished. In the winter then children walk to the open outdoor area. The Church has also set up a chalkboard for outdoor play. Painted lower hall and nursery school room

Russell A.A. and N.A. Group

The A.A. group meets in the lower hall every Saturday evening at 7:00 pm. The N.A. group meets Monday nights from 7-10 pm.

Russell 4-H Association

The Russell 4-H Association Life skills Club held two meetings at the Church in the month of March 2025.