

Sharon-Hope United Church

2025 Annual Report



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...come and see!

SHARON-HOPE UNITED CHURCH

2025 Annual Report

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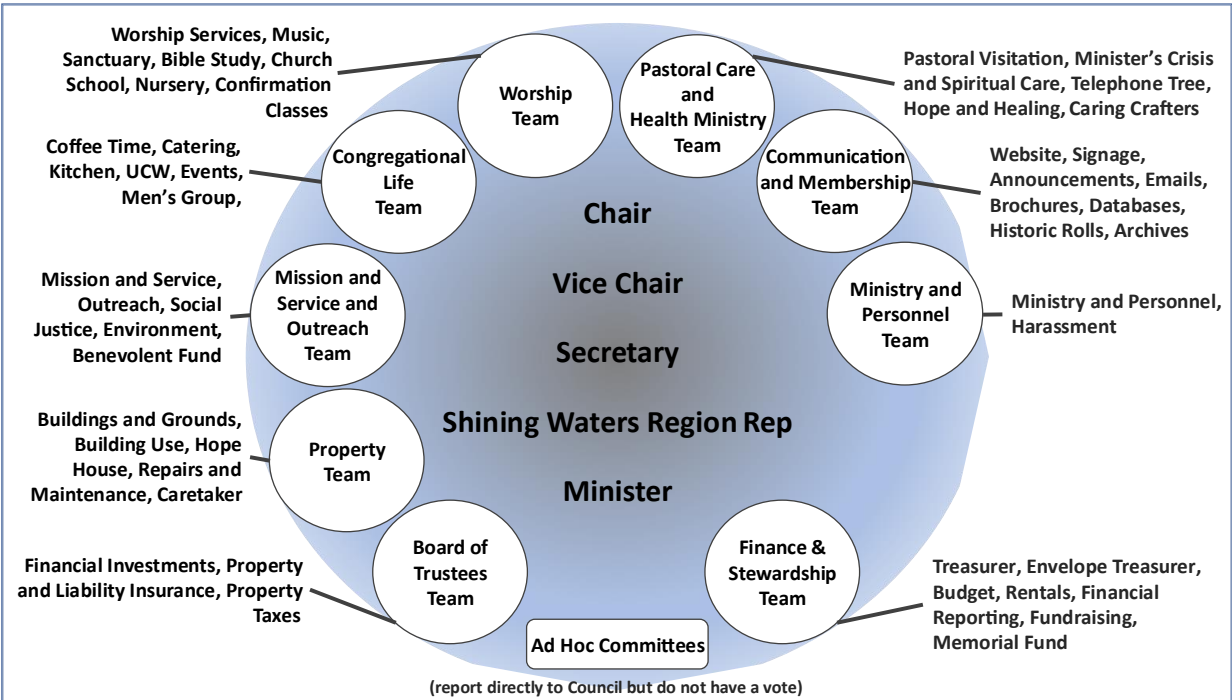
Sharon-Hope Church Council and Staff Members

2025 Church Council		
Position	Name	Year Elected
Chair	Betty Trach	2020
Vice-Chair	Vacant	-
Past Chair	Dave Greenwood	2020
Secretary	Donna Bremaud	2020
Shining Waters Region Representative	Laurie Cook	2023
Trustee	Tom Pilkington	2019
Minister	Rev. Sadekie Lyttle-Forbes	N/A
Communication & Membership Team	Vacant	-
Congregational Life Team	Cheryl Telford	2018
Finance Team	Melanie Pilkington	2022
Ministry and Personnel Team	Vicki Greenwood	2020
Mission & Service and Outreach Team	Maryann Patterson	2025
Pastoral Care & Health Ministry Team	Donna Corbett	2022
Property Team	Munro Armstrong	2018
Worship Team	Laurie Cook and Susan Brown-Krueger	2019

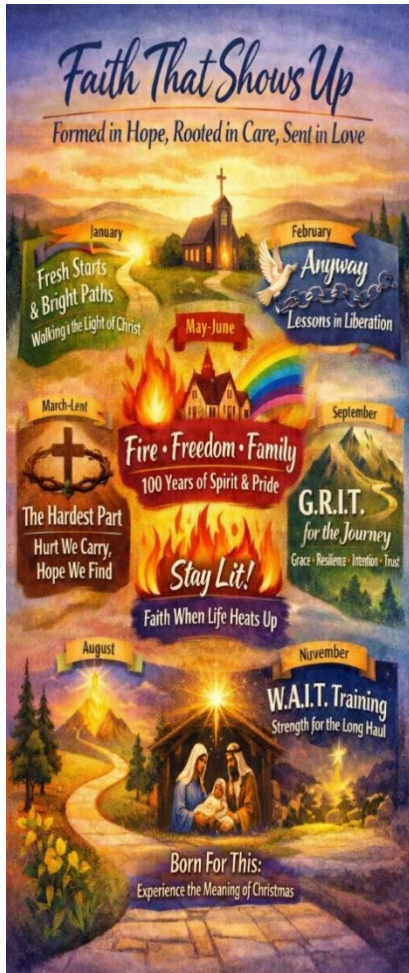
Other Elected Positions	
Trustees	Tom Pilkington, Terry Evans, Keith Carson, Rev. Sadekie Lyttle-Forbes, David Greenwood
Shining Waters Region Representatives	Laurie Cook
Ministry and Personal Team	Vicki Greenwood, Tenley Kelly, Susan Brown-Krueger, Mary Jane Curtis
Treasurer	Melanie Pilkington
Envelope Treasurer	Tom Pilkington (Acting)

Staff	
Minister	Rev. Sadekie Lyttle-Forbes
Music Director	Donna Corbett
Communication & Administration Coordinator	Lynne Faibish
Caretaker	Greg Gourlie

Sharon-Hope Church Council Structure



Minister's Report



Throughout 2025, the ministry of Sharon-Hope United Church was shaped by an intentional focus on worship that speaks to real life, discipleship that deepens faith, pastoral care that embodies presence, and leadership that seeks connection beyond our walls. Again and again, the guiding question was: *How do we show up faithfully, for one another, and for our wider community, in these times?*

Worship in 2025 was vibrant, contextual, and rooted in both the Christian story and the lived realities of our congregation and community. Services consistently wove together scripture, pastoral sensitivity, creativity, and invitation. Worship life included multiple infant baptisms, the welcoming of new members, meaningful seasonal services, and pastoral moments such as memorial acknowledgements on Christmas Eve. The Advent Cantata and Christmas Eve service were especially powerful expressions of shared ministry, drawing together music, word, and community memory. As we looked ahead, the rhythm of the church year continued to anchor our

life together, with Lent and Easter being thoughtfully prepared as spaces of reflection, repentance, and resurrection hope. I am deeply thankful for all who make worship possible week after week, our Music Director, choir, media ministry team, readers, greeters, and our dedicated office administrator. Your commitment, flexibility, and care allow worship to be meaningful, welcoming, and connectional.

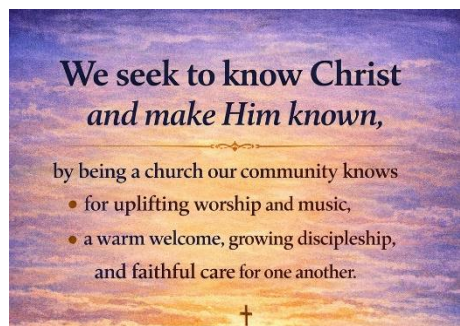
Discipleship in 2025 emphasized connection, conversation, and spiritual formation rather than programmatic busyness. The ongoing **Lectionary study group** remained a steady and valued space for learning, theological reflection, and mutual encouragement. Seasonal discipleship offerings during **Lent and Advent** provided opportunities for participants to engage scripture devotionally and communally, deepening faith while remaining accessible to varying levels of experience. Digital discipleship also grew through short weekly video devotionals focused on hope and everyday faith,

gently extending the church's teaching presence into the wider community. Thank you to all who participated in lectionary discussions, seasonal studies, and informal learning spaces. Your willingness to show up, ask questions, and share wisdom quietly shapes the spiritual health of this congregation.

Pastoral Care remained at the heart of ministry in 2025, marked by responsiveness, presence, and collaboration. Ongoing pastoral care included:

- Monthly communion services at Sharon Corners, on the 1st Thursday of each month
- Visiting individuals in hospitals and seniors residences upon request
- Providing last rites and prayers in the hospital for members of the community
- Responding to funeral home requests for members of the community
- Phone calls, emails, meetings, and in-person visits coordinated through direct requests, the Phone Tree, and pastoral referrals as well as counselling support by appointment
- Preparation of families for infant baptism, new members for baptism, reaffirmation of faith, and membership

There was a noticeable increase in pastoral care needs this year, and care was faithfully shared among the wider team. I am profoundly grateful for the Pastoral Care Team, Phone Tree callers, Caring Crafters, 55+, Hope and Healing team, and the many unsung heroes who offer meals, rides, quiet check-ins, prayer, and steady companionship behind the scenes. Where my own boundaries stop, this team has carried ministry forward with compassion and wisdom. Having this team ensures that each person is able to receive the support they need, in a confidential and affirming environment with someone they are comfortable with and trust.



Leadership in 2025 involved holding both continuity and change, supporting congregational life while engaging in broader church responsibilities. This included participation in regional and denominational roles, clergy gatherings, response and liaison work, and intentional interim ministry conversations.

A recurring leadership challenge continues to be **building awareness of what Sharon-Hope offers the wider community**. Efforts this year focused

on gentle, consistent visibility rather than large-scale initiatives, trusting that faithfulness over time bears fruit. Steps taken included:

- Short weekly devotional videos shared on social media (Facebook, Instagram, YouTube)
- Printed invitation materials for members to share personally
- Seasonal promotion of special services, particularly Advent and Christmas Eve

While growth is gradual, these efforts have begun to translate into new connections and visitors, reminding us that small acts of invitation matter. Sharon-Hope United Church continues to be a place of kindness, welcome, and care. In 2025, we did not try to do everything, but we did seek to do something meaningful, faithfully, and together.

I am deeply grateful for the capacity to hold all that life requires of me. In one breath, I am a wife and co-parent to three teenagers—one celebrating the milestone of completing his first semester of university in Waterloo, and the other two preparing for their transitions into high school and Grade 11. In the next breath, I am attentive to responsibilities in Jamaica while faithfully tending to what needs to be done here. For me, the ability to stand in these spaces with steadiness and purpose feels nothing short of a miracle. I am thankful for the M&P Team for their continued vigilance and support. I remain grateful for the trust of this congregation, the generosity of its volunteers, and the quiet faithfulness that so often goes unseen but never unnoticed by God.

With hope for what is still unfolding, **Sadekie Lyttle-Forbes (Rev)**, Minister

Council Chair / Vice Chair Report

2025 was the Centennial Year for the United Church of Canada. 100 years since various denominations decided to join together to create a new church. Anniversaries are a time to reflect and celebrate; 100th anniversaries even more so. Within the wider church, there were several initiatives that twiggged my interest.

The first was 'A Place at the Table'. This involved a group reimagining and creating a new photographic version of Da Vinci's Last Supper. The people in the photo included clergy & lay; people of all backgrounds, identities, and experiences. It provided a picture of how diverse this United Church of ours is and a commitment to being welcome to all.

As a local community of faith, we are welcoming. I have heard it from people who have come to our worship services, and to other events which happen. To be able to share the wonderful community that is Sharon-Hope United Church, we need to continue to seek new ways to make people aware of who we are and the kind of community we have to offer, because I believe we have a lot to offer.

Another national project that intrigued me was the '100 Tables' project. Through it, local churches could transform a picnic table into a welcoming site. With input from many and the painting skills of Maryann and Bob Patterson, our table became a game table with checkers/chess and Tic-Tac-Toe boards. Many symbols of inclusion and its bright yellow paint made it glorious to behold. It will return to the yard this summer and I encourage you to invite someone to share a game and a chat.

Within our community of faith, the year started with concerns regarding the long-term financial sustainability of the work of Sharon Hope United Church. Our projected budget for the year predicted a \$34,000 deficit. Although it was not the first deficit budget, it was the largest. How would we deal with this? Could we?

As a Council, we sought guidance from staff at Shining Waters Regional Council. One of the suggestions, which had been used in another community of faith, was similar to our 'Count Me In' special gifts program. Our ask for extra gifts raised \$23,251. This helped us close the gap and showed just how much the ministries of Sharon-Hope United Church matter

to you. Thank you to each of you who gave as you were able to continue the work of our church!

September saw the beginnings of the Community Youth Choir. This had been in the planning stages from several years as an outreach project. Our music program is wonderful and we wanted to share it with the community. The call was for youth 7-12 years of age (but younger and older were welcome). Numbers were slowly building, and the music was wonderful. Unfortunately, the music director was not able to continue. The program is on hold at present, but we are looking forward to seeking a new music director and starting the recruiting process again.

I take great pride in the community we have built and sustain at Sharon-Hope United Church. I see that sense of belonging in the small group ministries and in 'Coffee Time' following worship. We have much to offer the larger community, but we need to let them know what they are missing. I urge each of you to share what you enjoy/appreciate about your involvement in this community of faith with your friends. Invite someone to an event or to worship. If each of us brought just one person to an event, just how glorious that would be! Who will you invite?

Respectfully submitted, Betty Trach

Worship Team

Our great United Church turned 100 in 2025. Thank God we are still active and very much alive. Together we celebrated with joy and jubilation, thankful for those who pursued Unification.

Our worship services continue to contain meaningful messages, harmonious music, joyful singing, and congregational participation. We continued celebrating Communion and birthday and anniversary blessings the first Sunday of each month.

February was Black History month. Through the month, special readings, videos, and music honoured Black History.

Lent began in March and we provided a service on Ash Wednesday (March 5). Easter baskets for special donations were given out and Lenten Bible study began. March 7, we hosted World Day of Prayer with participation of six churches in the planning and presentation. On March 29, the

congregation, family, and friends joined Reverend Sadekie to honour the life of Dorothy Botham with a meaningful send-off

In April, the Easter week services started with Palm Sunday. Services were held on Good Friday. Easter Sunday April 20 presented a service of hallelujahs, music, joy and a message of hope and new life as the choir presented the Cantata "Come Touch the Robe" with an appreciative congregation of approximately 80.

June was busy with a baptism, Fathers' Day, National Indigenous Peoples' Day, Pride Day. On June 8, we kicked off our United Church of Canada 100th Anniversary celebrations with some historical facts, hymns that would have been sung in 1925 or at the inaugural UCC church service, and cake. On June 21, the congregation, family, and friends joined Reverend Sadekie to honour the life of Ron Botham with a meaningful send-off.

July 13 was our indoor picnic service and attracted a number of visitors. The rainy weather was perfect for an indoor service, the singing and musical instrument participation was enthusiastic, the message "Love that Crosses the Road" was warm and enlightening. We introduced our creatively decorated Welcome Table from which Communion was served. Many thanks to all who assembled, offered design suggestions, and helped decorate.

On July 20, The Worship Team led the service with the topic "From Distraction to Devotion" with video Reflection by Rev Sadekie. On July 27 Worship Team hosted a Coffee House with Good Samaritan skits on the topic "Being a Good Neighbour".

On August 3 Sharon Hope did not have service but alternatives for Zoom and in-person locations were suggested.

In August, Reverend Sadekie returned from holidays. A baptism occurred on August 10.

On September 28. Indigenous Sunday, we celebrated our 158th Anniversary with special readings and memories from members of the congregation.

In October, the fruits, vegetables, and bounty of the autumn harvest decorated the church as we celebrated Thanksgiving on October 12.

Clergy Recognition Month was celebrated on Oct 19 with flowers and cake for Reverend Sadekie. We thanked Brenda Friesen for her active participation on the Worship Team and wished her well on her move to Newfoundland.

November was a busy month. November 9 service was very special as we celebrated the Baptism of Sami Abdollahi. It was a moving, inspiring joyful service. Advent started on November 30.

December was very busy with Advent services, the choir Cantata “Night of the Father’s Love” on December 21, and the Christmas Eve service on December 24 which included candles, carols and hanging the Blue Christmas memorial tree ornaments. These services were meaningful and well attended.

Thanks to Rev. Sadekie for keeping up her enthusiasm, leadership and great messages including Seeds of Faith. Many thanks to all those who have participated through the year by reading, lighting candles, decorating, serving Communion, greeting, dedicated choir and Donna for harmoniously leading the choir and choosing melodious music.

May we continue this year with Hope, Peace, Joy, Love, Celebration, and Enthusiasm!!

Respectfully submitted by Laurie Cook and Susan Brown-Krueger (Co-Chairs), on behalf of the Worship Team: Rev. Sadekie, Mary Belyea, Donna Corbett, Brenda Freisen, Julia Greenidge, Gay VanCaeyzeele.

Music Ministry

Senior Choir continued weekly Thursday practices and Sunday morning practices and services throughout 2025 with a summer break. Extra practices on some Sundays after church were scheduled for cantata preparations.

It was a difficult year in that several members of our choir experienced health or personal issues. We are terribly saddened by the deaths of Ron Botham in June 2025 and death of Lynn Mitano in January 2026. We thanked Gwen Pottage with recognition and gift in February. Gwen retired from choir at the end of 2024. Gwen has sung in this church choir in this building and all its former configurations since her Junior Choir days!

Skilled coverage for a vacation day in May was provided by Diane Griffin. Celebration Choir of approximately 20 members were thrilled to perform two cantatas by Pepper Choplin in 2025. Easter Cantata was “Come Touch the Robe” accompanied by Diane Griffin and narrated with sincerity and skill by Roger Fox. Our Christmas Cantata “Night of the Father’s Love” was

accompanied by Neill Kernohan and narrated beautifully by Megan Leonard, Neil Brady and Grace Vieira-Peacock.

We had extended Christmas 2024 into January 2025 when we performed our 2024 Christmas Cantata to The Renoir Retirement Residence and then repeated our 2025 Easter Cantata to that same very appreciative audience. We thank Lynn Mitano for the contact to The Renoir and for the advertising she did that brought an overflow audience to the room!

Our choir and congregation eagerly await the delivery of the “Then Let Us Sing” new addition to our United Church of Canada hymn resources. We are very grateful for the memorial donation given by Faye and Ron Botham to finance these books.

The tremendous contributions of knowledge, time and patience by the media Ministry Team (Vicki Greenwood, Tom Pilkington, Bob Patterson, Barry Kelly, Jim Carnegie and Mary Jane Curtis) allowed our weekly services to continue and be broadcast, our special recordings to happen, and our YouTube Channel to be built.

I am blessed with the collaboration with Reverend Sadekie. I appreciate the freedom and trust she has given me. I particularly loved planning for the special themes in February (Black History Month), April (Lent, Palm Sunday, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Sunday), July (Picnic Service outdoors), and December (Advent, Blue Christmas and Christmas Eve). We are so blessed to have a Minister who is a fine musician, values music and fully understands the sacred role of music in Ministry. I’m always overjoyed when Rev. Sadekie spontaneously breaks into song mid-service.

Music Director Activities 2025:

Music Director activities included:

- Provision of music both by Zoom and live from the sanctuary. Personally provided piano, vocals and lyrics of many hymns for YouTube videos for weekly use in services and special events.
- Arranged many piano medleys as special occasion music, preludes and postludes.
- Was honoured to offer Music Ministry for two Celebrations of Life (Dorothy Botham on March 29 and Ron Botham on June 21)

- Where appropriate, searched out YouTube recordings of hymns by other groups and musicians as well as interesting, relevant and meaningful preludes, postludes, anthems; sought copyright and recording permissions as required.
- Maintained on-going log of all music and internet links used in every service through 2025. Researched copyright for music used in services.
- Organized and provided musical leadership and accompaniment for the performances by other Sharon-Hope musicians with much support by and appreciation to Media Ministry, Rev. Sadekie and all the performers.
- Ensured that annual church licenses for copyright and streaming for OneLicense and CCLI are current. Maintained required weekly reporting. Our 2026 CCLI License has been renewed as of January 2026 and OneLicense will be due at the end of June 2026.
- Attended meetings as scheduled and appreciated the work and support of the M&P team (Vicki Greenwood, Tenley Kelly and Mary Jane Curtis); attended all Worship Team meetings chaired by Laurie Cook and relevant ad hoc meetings.
- Maintained weekly regular checks and humidifier care of the sanctuary grand piano. One tuning and maintenance was done in 2025.
- Community support and broader church outreach:
 - Was on the community churches' World Day of Prayer 2025 planning team. Coordinated and performed the WDP March 7 worship music including a pop-up choir. Planning Team again this year for March 6, 2026 service.
 - Played Music Ministry for Good Friday service at St. Elizabeth Seton Parish
- Professional development:
 - Stayed current with Music United, an organization for United Church Musicians across Canada.

Report respectfully submitted,
 Donna Corbett, Music Director, B.Mus, B.Ed

Media Ministry

The Media Ministry team is made up of 6 dedicated volunteers: Bob Patterson, Barry Kelly, Jim Carnegie, Mary Jane Curtis, Tom Pilkington, and Vicki Greenwood.

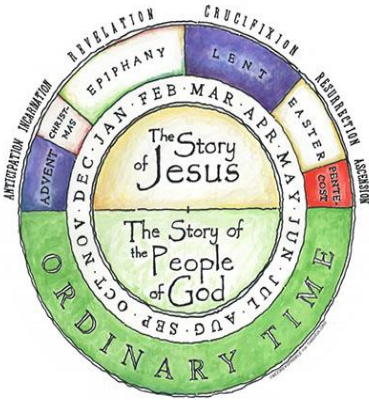
This past year the team continued to focus on providing quality sound and visual projection to support both in-person and virtual worship services, as well as congregational meetings and special events. Virtual worship services (Zoom) is a vital part of our offering to support both members who cannot attend in-person services for whatever reason and for reaching out to the broader community.

We received a very nice note about virtual worship services: "I am writing to express my sincere appreciation to you and the rest of the AV Team for another year of providing Zoom for Sunday services and special events. I am most grateful for this opportunity which you offer to permit me to "attend" church and to remain a part of the congregation, which I would otherwise be unable to do."

As the new year begins, the team looks forward to continuing our work in the back row of the Sanctuary and working with Property to find a solution to address the external LED sign to enable both volunteers and office staff to update.

Submitted by Vicki Greenwood and Tom Pilkington

Lectionary Group



If you are interested in learning more about what the Bible says and how it applies to your everyday life. The Lectionary / Bible Study group meets every Thursday in the Lounge, from 11am – 12pm. Discussions range from serious to humorous.

Lectionary is a bible reading and reflection group. All the Scripture readings for the year are available (on our website) so that participants can read beforehand if they desire.

We would love to welcome anyone interested in interacting with a small group and growing their exposure and understanding of the Bible. Thanks to all who participated for 2025, and we look forward to a full and enriching 2026.

Christian Education

Each Sunday is September to June, age appropriate, lectionary-based programming it available. Children participate in the first part of the worship service, then move out of the sanctuary to enjoy stories, videos, and crafts chosen to support the theme of the week.

Visiting children, who might not be comfortable leaving family, are provided with activity sheets they can enjoy in their pew. All are welcome.

Pastoral Care and Health Ministry Team

Pastoral Care and Health Team formally consists of Reverend Sadekie, Tenley Kelly, Ginny Ashton, and Donna Corbett (Chair). A standing agenda item for each Pastoral Care and Health Team Meeting is a confidential discussion of congregation members who may be in need of pastoral care. This confidential discussion is never recorded in the Minutes taken.

The Pastoral Care and Health Team emphasizes that Pastoral Care at Sharon-Hope is SO MUCH MORE than our formal Team that reports to Council. The guiding philosophy of Pastoral Care encompasses congregation members caring for and connecting with each other. The 2025 statistics (in bold below) demonstrate the far reach of Pastoral Care in Sharon-Hope and in our broader community. Our coordinating Team is honoured to be part of that work.

Team Activities included:

- Collecting monthly statistics of emails, phone calls, in-person visits, prayer shawls, groups with pastoral care or health focus (Hope & Healing, Caring Crafters, Health Watchers, 55+, Pastoral Care and Health Team). A new group (55+), who first met in April 2024, is coordinated by Jill Southwell and has continued to meet regularly through 2025. Please see Annual Report for each group for their activities and initiatives.
- Monthly reports presented to Council specify volunteer hours. Reverend Sadekie's Pastoral Care activities are reflected separately in her monthly and Annual reports and her professional pastoral care hours are in addition to that number.
- In 2025, pastoral care and health contacts **BY VOLUNTEERS** totalled 841 HOURS in individual pastoral care and groups, averaging 70 hours per month. Of these hours, it needs to be noted that **58 HOURS PER MONTH HAVE BEEN ONE-ON-ONE INDIVIDUAL VOLUNTEER SERVICES. THIS MEANS AN AVERAGE OF 58 HOURS EACH MONTH ARE GIVEN BY INDIVIDUAL CONGREGATION MEMBERS TO SUPPORT AND HELP OTHER INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION. SHARON-HOPE IS VERY GRATEFUL THAT THESE SERVICES ARE FREELY GIVEN BY MANY PEOPLE TO MANY OTHERS WITH HUMILITY, ANONYMITY AND**

CONFIDENTIALITY OUT OF THE GOODNESS OF HEARTS and CHRISTIAN LOVE.

- **PHONE TREE CALLERS:** Thank you to the 2025 phone tree callers Tenley Kelly, Grace Vieira-Peacock, Laurie Cook, Susan Brown-Krueger, Cathy Sweezie, and Ginny Ashton. Their work is unsung and behind the scenes. They keep folks on their lists informed of events and questions and maintain regular friendly calls. Ongoing gratitude goes out to that dedicated team and to Tenley Kelly for collecting the monthly statistics.
- Reverend Sadekie's blessing for birthdays and anniversaries was initiated for the first Sunday service each month and has been very meaningful.
- Access to pastoral care: Reminder of how to access was reviewed orally and on a weekly basis the information is standard part of the weekly e-blast and the pre-service slides that begin each Sunday service.
- Hopes and plans for growth of Pastoral Care and Health in the congregation: more support groups as needs arise; professional therapeutic support by Reverend Sadekie as her qualifications were recognized in Ontario; expanded Pastoral Care visits; hopes to initiate an Intercessory Prayer Group.
- Educational events were catered by Roxborough Retirement Residence, and our thanks also go to the Sharon-Hope Congregational Life Team.
- Chair of PC&H, Donna, attended continuing education at Tyndale College in November 2024 on their series about MAiD and attended further sessions in early 2025.

As Chair of PC&H Team, I thank Reverend Sadekie, Tenley Kelly, the phone tree callers, Gay van Caeyzeele who had been our card person, the humble unnamed volunteers, and the members of the groups (Hope and Healing, Caring Crafters, Health Watchers and 55+) who provide pastoral care through deeds and socialization. We value the knowledge that with God and the compassion of our human companions that we do not walk alone on the journey.

2025 Report respectfully submitted January 2026
Donna Corbett, Chair, Pastoral Care and Health Team

Hope and Healing

The Hope and Healing group was formed in November 2018. Membership has continued to grow to 14 people with most meetings averaging approximately 11. Some people attend each meeting and others come and go as they feel the need. There are several community members who have found us through personal friendships or word of mouth.

Our Hope and Healing group mourns the loss of Lynn Mitano who was a faithful and wise participant in our group. Through her observations and articulate descriptions of her journey, we too grew in compassion from her wisdom and courage.

Donna Corbett is grateful for the opportunity to continue to facilitate the group. The statistics are collated under the Pastoral Care & Health Team. In 2025 the group met monthly for 10 months (except July summer break and November cancelled at last minute due to weather).

This year because Blue Christmas (Longest Night Dec 21) fell on the same Sunday as Cantata service, the memorial recognition was featured in our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. The Sharon-Hope tradition of decorating the Christmas trees with memorial ornaments to honour members who passed away continued at the Longest Night and Christmas Eve services. Three new ornaments recognized the loss of: Dorothy Botham, Ron Botham, and Joan Nicholls.

Hope and Healing is an open, welcoming group for anyone who is living with grief and loss. We acknowledge and respect that grief accompanies loss through death of loved ones but also other life-altering events like relationship loss, job loss, financial loss, illness, etc. It is a mutual support group (not a therapy group) where participants at any stage of their journey share stories, laughter, tears and empathy in a confidential, respectful space. All are welcome and the principles of confidentiality and respectful listening to each person's story are reinforced and upheld at each meeting. Participants have expressed appreciation for the spirituality, camaraderie and comfort they have experienced.

I thank Sharon-Hope and the members of the Hope and Healing Group for their open hearts, courage, support of each other and willingness to share

their stories. We value the knowledge that with God and the compassion of our human companions that we do not walk alone on the journey.

I also want to thank my fellow members of the Pastoral Care and Health Team (Reverend Sadekie, Ginny Ashton and Tenley Kelly) for their pastoral care of me. Reverend Sadekie is also a wise mentor and teacher. It makes it possible for me to carry on, treasure and grow in this essential work for Hope and Healing.

Report respectfully submitted by Donna Corbett (B.Mus; B.Ed; RN retired, former Sharon-Hope Parish Nurse), Facilitator, Hope and Healing

Health Watchers

We meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays every month to explore the trails in the area during warmer weather and the neighbourhood streets in the cold. In 2025, we were delighted to have an outdoor meeting place to chat before or after our walks when Maryann Patterson and Betty Trach completed the Centennial picnic table. We always welcome new participants to join us and enjoy an hour's walk.

Respectfully submitted by the Health Watchers

Caring Crafters

We continued to meet enthusiastically bi-weekly throughout the year with a few extra fifth Mondays. Each person works on a project of interest to them, whether it is knitting or crocheting or weaving. Our book and puzzle sale in the hallway location appeals to all who use our church and continues to be successful in raising funds for our church. However, our main project is Prayer Shawls that we donate to members of our congregation, their families, and friends. This year we donated 7 shawls. We also donate hats, scarves, and small blankets to various shelters in the area. Anyone interested in pursuing any craft is most welcome. Your ability to knit, crochet or weave is not a requirement. Lessons are available but more important it is another avenue for meeting new people with useful and sometimes entertaining information.

Respectfully submitted by Susan Brown-Krueger

55+ Group

We met on the fourth Tuesday of each month to discuss topics of interest to the retired members of our congregation.

We started the year with a discussion of our financial commitment to our church with Betty Trach and Rev. Sadekie attending to answer our questions. For the remainder of the year, we focused on the celebration of The United Church of Canada's one-hundred-year anniversary. We initiated and organized the Centennial Honour Roll of one person or couple who had attended Sharon-Hope being celebrated in the e-blast for each week of 2025. We contacted Broadview magazine to honour Pearce Thomas by his name being included in the Centennial List of the June 2025 historic centennial edition of Broadview.

We continued with our 'Walking with Our Creator' with the third walk in our series; the Centennial Walk which was prepared by Grace Vieira-Peacock for our Church website. Maryann Patterson's work enabled us to try our Christmas Cedar Bough fundraiser again. We submitted photos to Grace for the Centennial Slide Show at our 158th Anniversary on September 28th, 2025. We revisited the discussion of MAiD, and toward the end of the year we focused our discussions on 'Living with Rapid Change and Constant Uncertainty' as mentioned in our new moderator, Kimberley Heath's address to the United Church of Canada congregation.

Respectfully submitted by the 55+

Congregational Life Team

Throughout 2025 the Congregational Life team continued to provide catering upon request which, in 2025, included two funerals, the East Gwillimbury Quilt Show Tea Room and Christmas lunch. We support other teams by ensuring coffee hour is complete with coffee and baked goods. These events include the Cantatas, Easter Sunday, the summer picnic and Anniversary Sunday.

The team continues to use the coffee hours as an opportunity to build community by providing lunches and themed Sunday coffee hours. These include providing lunch, after service tea and cookies and hot chocolate Sunday. Free will offering is collected to help maintain kitchen supplies which are integral to the operation of the kitchen. The congregation enjoys these Sundays and we appreciate their support. We would like to express a heartfelt thank you to the congregation for their continued support. Their contribution of baked goods and coffee hour supervision is appreciated.

The Congregational Life Team generated \$5,195.00 in income through our endeavours.

Team Members: Cheryl Telford, Ginny Ashton, Audrey Morrow, Grace Viera-Peacock

Submitted by: Cheryl Telford

Men at Sharon Hope (MaSH)

No report for 2025.

Mission & Service and Outreach Team

The second Sunday of each month is dedicated to raising awareness of the Mission and Service programs of the United Church of Canada through Minutes for Mission stories and videos. These moments also help educate the congregation about the importance of financial support for the M&S Fund.

In 2025, weekly givings to Mission and Service totalled **\$9,168**. Our goal for 2026 is **\$10,000**.

The Benevolent Fund received **\$6,541 in revenue** this year, which includes \$1,336 from the annual pumpkin sales. The balance of this fund as of December 31, 2025 is \$3,400. The fund continues to play a vital role in our community outreach.

Mission, Service, and Outreach remain committed to supporting our surrounding community. Food insecurity continues to be a pressing issue, and we believe everyone deserves to have food on their table. Every carton, tin, and box makes a difference. Each month, on the second Wednesday, donations of food and clothing are delivered to the St. James the Apostle Anglican Church Clothing Depot and Food Closet. In 2024, this organization provided food to **1,667 people** in our neighbourhoods. We also provide grocery gift cards for those in need, distributed confidentially by Rev. Sadekie upon request. A drop-off box for gently used clothing is available year-round, and donations are delivered to various local agencies, including St. James. We also supported a disabled member of our community who required assistance with rent.

In spring 2025, Mission, Service, and Outreach organized the **Ungarage Sale Fundraiser**. The congregation collected and delivered books and household items to Value Village, diverting an estimated **5,492 pounds** from the landfill and raising **\$956** for our General Fund.

In September, the Benevolent Fund contributed **\$700** to local Thanksgiving food drives, shared among the East Gwillimbury Food Pantry (Holland Landing branch), St. James Food Pantry, and the Newmarket Food Pantry. In October, Carol Bertram generously donated 10 pumpkins, which were delivered to the St. James Food Closet for families with young children.

In November, we once again participated in the **Fill a Purse for a Sister** campaign. Founded by Angel Freedman of Stouffville, this initiative aims to “make this a better world, one community at a time.” Purses filled with personal necessities offer comfort, hope, and dignity to women and youth in transition. Thanks to donated purses, products, and financial contributions, we filled **38 purses**.

In December, **\$3,000** from the Benevolent Fund was distributed to nine local agencies supporting the unhoused, those in crisis and transition, young mothers, those experiencing food insecurity, and the East Gwillimbury Christmas toy and food drive. Recipients included:

- Inn from the Cold
- The Loft – Street Van
- The Blue Door
- Abuse Hurts
- East Gwillimbury Food Bank (Holland Landing Branch)
- Newmarket Food Bank
- St. James Food Closet and Clothes Depot
- Rose of Sharon
- Town of East Gwillimbury Christmas Toy and Food Drive

Thank you to our committee members, Rev. Sadekie and Laurie Cook. Also, a heartfelt thanks to our amazing congregation for your continued generosity and commitment to the Mission and Service Fund, the Benevolent Fund, and all our community outreach initiatives. Your support makes a meaningful difference in the lives of many.

Maryann Patterson, Chair, on behalf of the Mission & Service & Outreach Team

Communication and Membership Team

No report submitted as there continues to be no chair for this Team.

Membership and Congregational Statistics

Baptism – 2 baptisms

- Stefan Zullo
- Eva Hartman

Reception into Membership – 2

- Mary Jane Curtis
- Sami Abdollahi

Reaffirmation of Faith – 0

Transfer In – No members transferred in

Transfer Out – No members transferred out.

Left Church – 1 member moved away

- Brenda Friesen

Deaths – We were saddened by four deaths in our community of faith:

- Ron Botham
- Dorothy Botham
- Joan Nicholls
- Lynn Mitano (January 2026)

Membership and Statistics (as per UCC)		2025	2024	2023	2022
1	Number of congregations (preaching places)	1	1	1	1
2	Number of Church (Sunday) Schools	1	1	1	1
3	Number of Candidates in training for the Order of Ministry	0	0	0	0
5	Number of Households under pastoral care (member and adherent) – GREATER THAN OR EQUAL TO 1.18b	79	79	79	79
7	Number of adult baptisms 12 years of age and over (include number in question 12 below)	0	1	0	0
8	Number of Child baptisms under 12 years of age	2	2	2	0
9	Number of marriages	0	0	0	0
10	Number of funerals and memorial services	2	5	5	1
11	Total confirmed membership, Jan. 1	79	80	76	79
12	Members received by Profession of Faith (confirmation) (including those in question 7 above)	2	0	0	0
	a. Under age 18	1	0	0	0
	b. Age 18 or older	1	0	0	0
13	Members received by certificate of transfer or otherwise	1	1	2	2
14	Members removed by death	2	5	5	2
15	Member removed by:				
	a. Certificate of transfer	0	0	0	0
	b. Otherwise	1	2	0	0
16	Total confirmed membership, resident and non-resident, Dec.31	79		76	79
17	Total non-resident membership included above	1		1	1
	Resident membership	79	79	75	78
18	a. Number of identifiable givers to local expenses	65	65	64	59
	b. Number of financially supporting households represented by the number of givers in 18.a	62	63	60	57
19	Number of identifiable givers to the mission and service fund	32	34	34	34
21	Average weekly attendance Oct. And Nov. 2022 (including online attendance)	50	45	45	45
	a.Wkly attend In Person Worship	45	40	40	40
	b.Wkly attend On Line Worship	5	5	5	5
22	Number of adherents, including children and youth, who regularly participate in the life of the pastoral charge, but who are not included in the membership figures	30	28	29	21

b

OTHER STATISTICAL DATA	2025	2024	2023	2022
Christian Education Groups:				
Sunday School attenders	4	5	5	3
Youth Group	0	0	0	0
Living the Lectionary Bible Study	6	6	6	7
Hope & Healing	14	12	12	14
Lenten Book Study	8	n/a	n/a	8
Advent Book Study	18	n/a	n/a	3
Caring Crafters	7	10	10	10
Health Watchers	5	5	5	8
Men at Sharon-Hope (MaSH)	n/a	6	6	6

Submitted by Vicki Greenwood on behalf of many teams

Ministry and Personnel (M&P) Team

The M&P Team, including Tenley Kelly, Susan Brown-Krueger, Mary Jane Curtis & Vicki Greenwood, had another busy year.

The team attended quarterly updates and/or training offered by Shining Waters Regional Council.

Annual evaluation for Communication & Administration Coordinator, Lynne Faibish, was completed in May 2025. We would also like to thank the many Community of Faith members who covered the office during Lynne's vacation.

Rev. Sadekie's annual review was completed in March 2025.

The Children's music director, Jennifer Haywood, was hired in August 2025. Unfortunately, in October, she submitted her resignation.

The Music Director's contract has been renewed, expiring January 31, 2027.

Submitted by Vicki Greenwood on behalf of the M&P team.

Property Team

The structure of the building we call Sharon-Hope is approaching its 40th year (1987). While the building is home to a wide variety of activities, every single day of every week we are blessed to know our facility helps the greater community. With this usage beyond Sundays, it is also taxed with additional wear and tear for which the Property Team is doing it's very best to keep up with considering the limited funds. Because of the natural aging process and usage, major big-ticket repair and/or replacement projects are becoming even more difficult to finance. Examples are:

- Carpet replacement
- 2 replacement furnaces
- Window replacement
- Electronic sign replacement
- Repairs to church roof following the 2024/25 harsh winter
- New roof on Hope House

Please keep this structure in your thoughts and prayers as you consider your financial gifts.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of your Property Team,

Chair: Munro Armstrong

Team: Todd Telford, Jim Carnegie

Finance Team

Members: Melanie Pilkington – Team Chair, Rental Committee Coordinator, and Treasurer, Cheryl Telford – Recorder, David Greenwood – Stewardship. Melanie and Cheryl share the bookkeeper position.

2025 ended with some incredible financial support from everyone. As we approached the end of the year, it looked like we would be in a deficit position. Communications went out and you faithfully gave to eliminate that projection and put us into a surplus position. We are so blessed to be part of such a generous community. Not only did you give to ensure we covered our operating expenses, but you donated to other funds that directly impacted our community, our memories of loved ones passed, and major repairs of our property. It was a banner year for demonstrating financially your support for our church's mission. Thank you!!

We face another challenging year in 2026. Our goal is to maintain all levels of services and programs. Costs rise each year which means your financial support to meet these rising costs is critical. Continuing to donate at the exceptional levels of 2025 will help significantly. Participating in and promoting fundraisers and concerts will make a big difference too. As always, we are very conscientious in cost control and will work with all our Teams to keep them at or below budget.

Your Finance Team is open to trying new ways to better communicate financial results. Please let any of us know how we can make the financial results easier to understand. Please also contact us if you would like to know more about any of the financial information that we publish.

We are looking for volunteers to fill the following positions:

- Fundraiser Coordinator – someone to help event organizers with planning and communications
- Bookkeeper – someone familiar with QuickBooks or similar software. This position is currently split and can remain so if desired
- Rental Committee Coordinator – someone to handle communications with renters when Lynne is not in the office; provide input for renewal of long-term rentals and setting of rental rates annually

Guidance in any of these positions will be provided and is readily available.

Any of these positions could be shared. The type of work for new members involves, primarily, communication, time management, and organizational skills. A financial background isn't always necessary for some of the work we do but it is helpful. Please consider joining our team. We have a job for you!

A review of 2025 fundraising efforts is summarized below.

Thank you all again for all that you do to make our church welcoming, great support to our community, and a healthy, safe place to worship.

Blessings to all,
Your Finance Team

Fundraisers

<u>2025 Fundraisers:</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Net Contribution</u>	<u>2024</u>
Pancake dinner	\$ 1,280	215	1,065	\$ 650
Concerts	3,818	723	3,095	-
Euchre tournament	-		-	90
Ungarage sale	956	-	956	-
Allocation of pumpkin sales	575	-	575	-
Boughs sales	115	-	115	-
Apple pies	6,634	1,085	5,549	4,734
	<u>\$ 13,378</u>	<u>2,023</u>	<u>11,355</u>	<u>\$5,474</u>

Time & Talent projects, such as the parking lot sale, do not appear as fundraisers since individuals sell their own items and donate their results to the church. Time & Talent funds received amounted to \$1,001 (2024 - \$1,197) and are included in total donations as well as the Lenten Challenge which amounted to \$1,925 (2024 - \$5,042).

Thank you to everyone for all your time and energy to make our fundraisers and additional financial contributions a success.

Rental Committee

The Rental Committee is part of the Finance Team. Our Communications and Administration Coordinator, Lynne Faibish, is the primary contact for new rental enquiries. She also communicates with our teams when rental issues arise. The Finance Team researches and proposes adjustments to the rental rates schedule annually for Council approval. We had 5 long-term renters throughout 2024 and all of them renewed their agreements with us in 2025. Two groups are choruses: A Capella York and York Harmony Chorus; 2 are religious groups: Church of Christ and Sharon Village Bible Church; and Gwillimbury Quilters Group. Regular short-term renters include Kidz Can Play, Ignited Learning Centre Inc and St. Silouan the Athonite Orthodox Church. The event schedule on our website demonstrates how busy we are with renters and how well occupied the building is.

We are very thankful for Lynne's patience in working with renters, working through improvements to the rental process and revising rental agreements.

Submitted by Melanie Pilkington, Rental Committee Coordinator

Donation Statistics

A special thank you to **Maryann Patterson** and **Carol Bertram** for their valuable assistance with the donation count team this year. Their hard work helped ensure the donation records are complete and accurate, all while maintaining strict confidentiality.

The following charts provide insights into the donation levels and average donations from "identifiable givers." These are individuals who regularly contribute to the General Fund and/or the Mission and Service Fund.

Identifiable givers include those who regularly give through:

- Weekly Sunday offering envelopes
- Mailed cheques
- Monthly contributions via the Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR) program
- E-transfers

Please note, donations made to other funds (such as the Benevolent Fund, Memorial Fund, or Repairs and Maintenance Fund), as well as those processed through third-party organizations (e.g., CdaHelps, UCC Foundation), are **excluded** from this analysis. Additionally, one-time donations from individuals not directly connected with Sharon-Hope (such as occasional visitors) are excluded.

The methodology used in compiling this data adheres to the guidelines set forth in the United Church of Canada's Annual Statistics and Assessments Report.

Identifiable Givers By How They Give				
	General Fund		M & S Fund	
	PAR	Other	PAR	Other
2025	\$44,811	\$90,009	\$4,933	\$3,838
2025 total	\$134,820		\$8,771	

Identifiable Givers By Donation Level					
Per Year (Donation Amount)	Per Week (Donation Amount)	2025 (Number)	2024 (Number)	2023 (Number)	2022 (Number)
\$50 - \$499	\$ 1.00 - \$ 9.60	14	14	14	12
\$500 - \$999	\$ 9.62 - \$19.21	8	8	11	12
\$1,000 - \$1,499	\$19.23 - \$28.83	14	10	13	8
\$1,500 - \$1,999	\$28.85 - \$38.44	6	10	5	7
\$2,000 - \$2,499	\$38.46 - \$48.06	4	8	6	5
\$2,500 - \$2,999	\$48.08 - \$57.67	3	5	4	5
\$3,000 - \$3,999	\$57.69 - \$76.90	4	3	2	3
\$4,000 - \$4,999	\$76.92 - \$96.13	3	1	4	1
\$5,000 and over	\$96.15 and over	9	6	5	6
TOTAL		65	65	64	59

Average Donations Per Identifiable Giver				
To General Fund and M&S Fund	2025	2024	2023	2022
Identifiable Givers	65	65	64	59
Total donations	\$143,591	\$119,622	\$117,628	\$110,156
Average donations	\$2,209	\$1,840	\$1,838	\$1,867

Average Donations Per Identifiable Giver				
To General Fund	2025	2024	2023	2022
Identifiable Givers	65	65	64	59
Total donations	\$134,820	\$109,236	\$107,219	\$99,700
Average donations	\$2,074	\$1,681	\$1,675	\$1,690

To M&S Fund	2025	2024	2023	2022
Identifiable Givers	32	34	34	34
Total donations	\$8,771	\$10,385	\$10,409	\$10,456
Average donations	\$274	\$305	\$306	\$308

---Submitted by Tom Pilkington, Envelope Treasurer (Acting)

2025 Financial Statements and 2026 Approved Budget

Sharon-Hope United Church
Statement of Financial Position - Unaudited
For the year ending December 31, 2025

(stated in Canadian \$)	General	Benevolen t ----- (Note 5) -----	Community Garden	Memorial	Memory Garden	Repairs & Maintenance	UCW	2025 Total	2024 Total
ASSETS									
Cash	\$ 42,189	3,358	2,541	6,171	866	14,725	1,748	\$ 71,598	\$ 46,428
Amounts receivable	1,000							1,000	26
Investments (Note 1)				21,226				21,226	2,226
GST/PST recoverable	1,277	42			5	-		1,324	4,704
Prepaid expense	139							139	168
Loan receivable-R&M Fund (Note 8)				500				500	19,500
Office equipment	-							-	1,392
Hope House (Note 2)	92,951							92,951	92,951
TOTAL ASSETS	\$137,556	3,400	2,541	27,897	871	14,725	1,748	\$188,738	\$167,395
LIABILITIES & FUNDS									
Accounts payable & accruals	\$ 8,786	-						\$ 8,786	\$ 4,568
Accrued sabbatical leave (Note 7)	10,413							10,413	8,860
Deferred revenue (Note 9)	5,069							5,069	7,047
Faithful Footprints grant	1,000							1,000	-
Loan payable-Memorial Fund (Note 8)	-					500		500	19,500
TUCC Mortgage (Note 2)	92,951							92,951	92,951
TOTAL LIABILITIES	118,219	-		-	-	500		118,719	132,926
FUND BALANCE	19,337	3,400	2,541	27,897	871	14,225	1,748	70,019	34,469
TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUNDS	\$137,556	3,400	2,541	27,897	871	14,725	1,748	\$188,738	\$167,395

Sharon-Hope United Church
Statement of Revenue and Expense - Restricted Funds - Unaudited
For the year ending December 31, 2025

(stated in Canadian \$)	Benevolent	Community	Memorial	Memory	Repairs &	UCW	2025	2024
	Garden	Garden		Garden	Maintenance		Total	Total
REVENUE								
Donations	\$ 5,205	-	1,860	-	-	-	\$ 7,065	\$18,949
Faithful footprint grant					19,000		19,000	-
Pumpkin sales allocation	1,336				862		2,198	-
Celebration bank contents					564		564	-
Interest income	-	-	400	-	104	28	532	792
TOTAL REVENUE	6,541	-	2,260	-	20,530	28	29,359	19,741
EXPENSE								
Bathroom floor tiles					3,638		3,638	-
Bench plaques				52			52	-
Charities/food drives/pantries	3,250						3,250	3,200
Caulking of all windows				-	-		-	18,709
Central vacuum					1,455		1,455	-
Direct support of individuals	600				-		600	550
Donated value of pumpkins	2,655						2,655	2,480
EG Christmas Toy Drive	300						300	-
Fill a purse for a sister	491						491	378
Gardening equipment & supplies		943					943	122
Grocery store gift cards	-						-	225
Heat pumps						-	-	19,767
Projector system components			11				11	-
TOTAL EXPENSE	7,296	943	11	52	5,093	-	13,395	45,431
(DEFICIT) SURPLUS BEFORE TRANSFERS	(755)	(943)	2,249	(52)	15,437	28	15,964	(25,690)
TRANSFER (NOTE 4)			(2,500)		2,500		-	-
TRANSFER TO GENERAL (NOTE 4)			(393)				(393)	(749)
BALANCE, BEGINNING OF YEAR	4,155	3,484	28,541	923	(3,712)	1,720	35,111	60,382
BALANCE, END OF YEAR (NOTE 5)	\$ 3,400	2,541	27,897	871	14,225	1,748	\$50,682	\$35,111

Sharon-Hope United Church
Statements of Revenue and Expense - Operations - Unaudited
For the year ending December 31, 2025

(stated in Canadian \$)	2026 Budget	2025 Actual	2024 Actual	Change 2024 to 2025 Actual	2025 Budget
REVENUE					
Donations	\$ 112,990	124,475	117,924	6,551	104,350
Fundraising events	13,500	13,378	6,604	6,774	11,130
Facility rentals & catering	77,030	75,031	69,414	5,617	68,310
Hope House rent	20,640	20,215	19,764	451	20,220
Government funding (Note 3)	1,940	960	-	960	2,900
Interest income	110	111	9	102	-
Other	780	1,382	723	659	1,000
TOTAL REVENUE	226,990	235,552	214,438	21,114	207,910
EXPENSE					
Pastoral care	140,850	135,160	129,648	5,512	134,840
Worship	27,970	21,820	21,163	657	28,840
Health committee	-	-	-	-	-
Communications	3,320	3,954	2,739	1,215	2,450
Hope House	9,290	8,520	8,259	261	9,340
Property maintenance	28,160	25,863	25,549	314	27,350
Insurance	17,800	17,516	16,664	852	17,510
Utilities	9,860	9,486	9,185	301	9,170
Office and general	1,410	1,543	2,017	(474)	1,280
Shining Waters regional assessment	9,900	7,813	7,798	15	7,810
Stewardship	2,560	2,023	1,130	893	1,200
Facility rentals & catering supplies	4,100	3,966	4,807	(841)	3,050
TOTAL EXPENSE	255,220	237,664	228,959	8,705	242,840
(DEFICIT) SURPLUS BEFORE OTHER ITEMS	(28,230)	(2,112)	(14,521)	12,409	(34,930)
Mission & Service donations received	10,000	9,168	10,898	(1,730)	11,270
Mission & Service paid to TUCC	(10,000)	(9,168)	(10,898)	1,730	(11,270)
Count Me In Special Gift	-	23,251	-	23,251	34,000
Provision for Sabbatical Leave (Note 7)	-	(1,553)	(1,570)	17	(1,570)
(DEFICIT) SURPLUS BEFORE TRANSFERS	(28,230)	19,586	(16,091)	35,677	(2,500)
TRANSFERS FROM MEMORIAL FUND (NOTE 4)	2,400	393	749	(356)	2,500
(DEFICIT) SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	(25,830)	19,979	(15,342)	35,321	-
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS, BEGINNING	19,337	(642)	14,700	(15,342)	(642)
ACCUMULATED (DEFICIT) SURPLUS, END OF THE YEAR	\$ (6,493)	19,337	(642)	19,979	(642)

Sharon-Hope United Church
Notes to the financial statements - unaudited
December 31, 2025

1. Investments	Memorial Funds Held in Trust
	High Interest Savings Accounts
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 2,226
Loan repayment (Note 8)	19,000
Transferred to the bank account	(393)
Interest earned	393
Balance, end of year	\$ 21,226
Interest rate at year end	2.30%
	(2024 - 3.17%)

2. Hope House/TUCC Mortgage

Presbytery arranged to have the mortgage on the Sharon-Hope Church building forgiven in 2008. A condition of the debt forgiveness was that, if sold, sale proceeds of the Scott Property (now named Hope House) would be applied to the forgiven mortgage balance. The cost shown for the Hope House reflects its value as a debt forgiveness asset. This value does not reflect the actual cost or fair value of the property.

3. Government funding

We applied for and received grants from the Town of East Gwillimbury in 2023 and 2024. In 2023, we received \$3,000 to replace our Automated External Defibrillator (AED). The actual cost of the device was \$2,822. The remaining \$178 will be recognized as income when costs are incurred relating to the AED. In 2024, we received \$3,000 to start a junior choir. A choir director was hired in 2025. \$960 of the funding was used to pay the director who terminated her contract before the end of the year. The remaining funding, included in deferred revenue, will be used when a replacement is hired.

4. Memorial Fund receipts & transfer

Per policy, up to \$2,500 per year of Memorial Funds received up to December 31, 2013 will be transferred to the Repairs & Maintenance Fund providing a minimum balance of \$20,000 remains in the Memorial Fund at the end of the current fiscal year. On Council approval, \$2,500 may be used for "special incremental church programs" annually. In 2025, this policy was used to budget for Christian Education and Youth program spending relating to the junior choir.

Per policy, investment income of the Memorial Fund is to be transferred to the General Fund annually.

Sharon-Hope United Church
Notes to the financial statements - unaudited (continued)
December 31, 2025

5. Restricted Fund Balances

The church received funds on which limitations have been set by the donor or by Council. Expenditures from these funds are limited by the policies established for each fund.

The Benevolent fund was established in 2018. Donations to the fund will be used to help individuals or families in financial need or organizations supporting them.

The Community Garden fund was established in 2021 upon our successful application to The United Church of Canada's Embracing the Spirit Innovation Grant Program. The funds will support the Climate Smart Victory Garden group to whom we have supplied land space, access to water and building space as required. The funds will allow for expansion into allotment plots, raised garden beds and educational workshops to the community at large.

The Memorial fund is funded through donations in honour of a passing. Expenditures are guided by the policies approved by Council and include items commemorating an individual's passion for music, for ceremony, to enhance worship and in other means associated with that individual.

The Memory Garden fund was established to create an outdoor green sanctuary for all members of, and visitors to, the church.

The Repairs & Maintenance fund is composed of a Capital Campaign Account (CCA) and an account for Major Repairs & Replacements (AMRR). The CCA is for specific appeals to repair or replace extraordinary cost items on the property such as the roof. The AMRR is for significant dollar items to be repaired or replaced.

The United Church Women (UCW) fund was established by our UCW as a depository for amounts raised through activities in, and spent on, the kitchen as well as ancillary activities of the group. The UCW had maintained a separate bank account. To save on service charges the account was folded into the General fund bank account in 2021.

The Benevolent fund, Community Garden fund and UCW fund do not have their own bank accounts. Their balances are maintained in the General Fund bank account but shown as separate cash balances for clarity in these statements.

6. Envelopes

Envelopes includes amounts received through the church's donor-numbered envelopes and all other donor-identified money received as donations. It also includes money donated from Time and Talent activities, donation of items purchased on behalf of the church, the Envelope Challenge, the Lenten Challenge, and the Advent Gift Challenge.

Sharon-Hope United Church
Notes to the financial statements - unaudited (continued)
December 31, 2025

7. Accrued sabbatical leave/Provision for sabbatical leave expense

The United Church of Canada policy is "that every pastoral charge provide a paid sabbatical of at least 3 months to members of the order of ministry....who have completed at least 5 years of service in one call or appointment." Historically, we have not annually included a provision for this cost but chose to record all of the cost in the period that the minister takes the leave. Budgeting annually for this leave relieves the congregation of a sudden additional expense in the year of the leave and better reflects how the leave is earned. As such, a "catch up" amount was recorded for 2023 representing 3.5 years of accrued leave. The 2024 and 2025 accruals reflect the remainder of the estimated cost of the leave.

8. Loan Receivable / Payable

The United Church of Canada's Faithful Footprints Grants provide the opportunity for churches to reduce their carbon footprint by replacing carbon-producing equipment with alternative non-carbon power sources. Two projects qualifying for the grant were selected as high priorities for 2024 and went forward in stages. Grant money is paid out upon project completion and a final report submission. Payments for the project work was required before the grant money was received. The congregation approved borrowing money from the Memorial Fund as bridge financing. \$19,000 of the grant money was received in 2025 and repaid to the Memorial Fund. The remaining balance of \$500 will be repaid in 2026 on receipt of the final grant amount of \$1,000.

9. Deferred Revenue

Deferred revenue is composed of funds received as deposits to be reimbursed or amounts that will not be earned until a future period. It consists of:

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Hope House last month's rent	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500
2025 concert tickets purchased	-	250
Rent deposits	51	519
Security and Access Key deposits	1,300	1,600
Grant funds	2,218	3,178
	\$ 5,069	\$ 7,047

Shining Waters Regional Council

Centennial celebrations across Canada saw many churches celebrating in many different and creative ways. We participated in the 100 Welcome Tables initiative. We applied for and received a picnic table which was creatively decorated and used outside during the warm months to welcome all in the community to sit, play the games painted on the table and eat lunch.

Several online seminars and workshops, on a variety of topics, have been offered during the year. Members of Sharon-Hope have attended regularly.

The Annual Meeting of Shining Waters Region occurred online in May 2025.

The many Shining Waters Regional Council (SWRC) commissions have been busy dealing with relevant projects. For example, one initiative is:

- SWRC Grant for Communities of Faith: Congregational Capital Projects. In the Review of Ministry and Funding Priorities, communities of faith identified support to congregations with unexpected capital expenses as a priority. Grants of up to \$10,000 are available to support congregations with specific capital expenses. Applications can be made up to April 15, 2026.

At the General Council meeting in August 2025, the Right Reverend Dr. Kimberley Heath was elected as the 45th Moderator of the United Church.

The following excerpts are from a letter by Reverend Michael Blair, General Secretary of the United Church of Canada describing church growth based on 2035 plans and hopes. Reverend Blair writes:

“As we mark our Centennial, we are offered a profound moment: a time to honour and reflect on the faithfulness of those who came before us, and at the same time, to lift our eyes to the horizon and imagine the future to which God is calling us. Indeed, we “sing of a church seeking to continue the story of Jesus” (*A Song of Faith*).

Over the past years, our work on the General Council Strategic Plan has deepened this forward-looking perspective, and now we are broadening the lens to consider the future of the whole church.

At the core of this conversation is a conviction, held with humility and confidence, that the United Church continues to be called to faithfully witness to the God of abundant love, the Christ risen among us, and the lively Spirit who works in us and others. We are convinced that we are invited to embody this witness first and foremost in the lives of faithful disciples gathered in communities across Canada, in small rural localities, towns, suburbs, and the breadth of Canada's cities.

We know that there are fewer people worshipping in, volunteering in, giving to, and participating in United Church ministries at every level. Without a common vision and strategy—a whole-church commitment to discernment and collective action—our witness as a denomination will be severely constrained.

- **Toward 2035** imagines a different future—one in which bold, inspired communities of disciples share their faith and build community with their neighbours; The United Church of Canada reflects the diversity of our neighbourhoods and rejoices in the presence of all generations.
- **Toward 2035** envisions a future where cooperation and collaboration will be at the center, reflecting a shift from isolated congregations and ministries struggling on their own to ones that discern ways to thrive together.

What can you do? Watch for opportunities to join in the conversation. This conversation is not only about what “will be.” It is also about what “is.” Where do you sense God at work in your corner of the church? Where do you perceive “a new thing?” What possibilities do you already see emerging out of a connexional, cooperative approach? What if this became the norm for United Church ministry? Where can you fuse good data with discipleship commitment, to make effective and faithful decisions?

One hundred years ago, this church was formed with great celebration and sacrament. It began with faithful people seeing the possibility God guided them into, right there in the place they called home. We are convinced that God still calls, and that we can respond even more strongly to that call if we truly understand—that even within this church—we are not alone. Together in our call to Deep Spirituality, Bold Discipleship, Daring Justice.”

Respectfully submitted by Laurie Cook with acknowledgment to Reverend Sadekie Lyttle-Forbes

Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees is responsible for safeguarding all congregational properties, including land, buildings, chattels and investments, on behalf of the congregation and in alignment with the policies of The United Church of Canada. The Trustees ensure the proper management and use of these assets, including maintaining adequate property and liability insurance. The Board of Trustees for the year 2025 consisted of Keith Carson, Terry Evans, Reverend Sadekie Lyttle-Forbes, David Greenwood, and Tom Pilkington (Chair).

The Trustees addressed several important matters in 2025:

1. Insurance policy renewal

Sharon-Hope's property and liability insurance is provided through the UCC-Protect Insurance Program, which is endorsed by the General Council Office of The United Church of Canada. The insurance broker managing this coverage is HUB International. The insurance is renewed annually on December 1st.

The annual renewal of our insurance policy was processed on December 1, 2025, on schedule. A positive development was that insurance premiums remained unchanged from the prior year. However, for the first time a financing charge will apply if premiums are paid monthly, rather than in advance for the full year. To help manage our finances, we continue to opt for monthly payments.

2. Insurance claim

In October 2025, the Trustees submitted a property insurance claim for damages to the roofing system, including damage to snow guards, steel shingles, and eavestroughs as well as interior water damage resulting from water leakage caused by the roofing issues.

The damage to the roof was caused by the extreme snow and ice buildup during the previous winter. When temperatures rose, the snow and ice cascaded down, ripping out several snow guards and damaging some steel shingles and gutters.

The insurance adjuster used an inspection conducted by their contractor to assess the damage. The estimated repair costs could exceed \$100,000, depending on what portion of the roofing system is actually

replaced. The adjuster has determined that only the interior water damage and the damaged snow guards are covered by insurance, amounting to about \$12,000 after deducting the \$5,000 deductible under the terms of the policy. This is a relatively small portion of the total costs.

Given the scope of the roofing damage, we believe a larger portion of the repair costs should be covered by insurance. The Trustees are continuing discussions with the adjuster to better understand the reasoning behind their determination and to explore further steps. If we cannot resolve the matter through dialogue, we may need to consider legal options.

The Trustees are working closely with the Property Team and have provided regular updates to both the Council and the Congregation. Shining Waters Regional Council has been informed of our efforts and has offered valuable guidance and support.

3. Investments

Investia Financial Services Inc. manages our investments. These funds are currently held in an investment savings account, earning about 2.3% annual interest as at the end of the year. The Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation (CDIC) fully insures all investments.

As of December 31, 2025, the total investments amounted to \$21,226 (compared to \$2,226 as of December 31, 2024). The significant increase is due to the repayment of a \$19,500 loan that had been made from the Memorial Fund investments to the Repairs and Maintenance Fund in 2024. This loan proceeds were used to fund window caulking and the purchase of new HVAC equipment, as approved by the Council. A grant application was submitted early in 2025 to recover these costs, and the loan from the Memorial Fund was then repaid.

The Trustees continue to monitor investments and collaborate with the Finance Team to ensure funds are managed in a manner that aligns with our needs, both in terms of timing and risk.

Looking ahead to 2026:

The Board of Trustees has outlined the following priorities for the coming year:

- Finalize the insurance claim: Continue working with the insurance company adjuster to determine the full coverage we are entitled to and resolve any outstanding issues.
- Ongoing monitoring: Maintain a close watch on our property and liability insurance as well as our investments, ensuring they meet the congregation's needs.
- Explore investment alternatives: Consider other investment opportunities to further grow our assets.
- Collaborate with the United Property Resource Corporation: Explore possibilities for utilizing our church assets to enhance our financial and social well-being. In particular, we will investigate options for Hope House.

I want to thank the members of the Trustees for their continued support and dedication to their responsibilities, and the various other Teams and Committees for their oversight of our physical and financial resources.

--- Submitted by Tom Pilkington, Chair, Board of Trustees

2024 Annual General Meeting Minutes and List of Attendees

Date: Sunday, March 17, 2025

In Attendance: List attached

Meeting led by Betty Trach

Minutes Prepared by Grace Vieira-Peacock

AGM Agenda:

1. Opening Prayer – Rev Sadekie Lyttle Forbes
2. Motion giving adherents the right to vote
3. Motion to approve the agenda
4. Review of minutes from 2023 AGM
5. Review & acceptance of 2024 Team Reports
6. Review & acceptance of 2025 Budget
7. New Business
8. Motion to combine Finance & Stewardship Teams
9. Acceptance of Slate of Officers for Council
10. Memorials
11. 2025 Planning Update
12. Closing Prayer
13. Adjournment

Agenda Item 1 - Meeting opened with prayer from Rev. Sadekie Lyttle-Forbes

Agenda Item 2 – Motion 1 – Members and Adherents the Right to Vote

Motion 1: All members and adherents* have the right to vote at today's meeting.

*adherents are people who are involved in the church but are not full members

Motion made by: Linda Morby

Seconded by: Mary Belyea

Discussion: None

Vote: Opposed - None

Motion: Carried

Agenda Item 3 – Motion 2 – Approval of Agenda as posted and distributed

Betty asked if anyone had any additions that they wanted to make to the agenda; Jerry Therrien did.

Motion 2: To approve the amended agenda.

Motion made by: Mary Jane Curtis

Seconded by: Donna Corbett

Discussion: None

Vote: Opposed - None

Motion: Carried

Agenda Item 4 – Motion 3 – Review and Approval of Minutes of 2023 AGM

Motion 3: To accept the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on March 5, 2024

Motion made by: Mary Belyea

Seconded by: Tenley Kelly

Discussion: None

Changes: None

Vote: Opposed - None

Motion: Carried

Agenda Item 5 – Motion 4 – Review and Acceptance of 2024 Team Reports

Motion 4: Acceptance of the 2024 Team Reports as shared (except for the Finance Report)

Motion made by: Susan Brown-Krueger

Seconded by: Donna Bremaud

Reviewed:

- **Minister's Report**

- Focus for 2024

- Live with purpose
 - Prioritize what truly matters
 - Adopt a spiritual perspective
 - Approach the season with a sense of adventure & expectation

- Focus for 2025

- Build on the achievements of the last 3.5 years
 - Develop a deepening appreciation for the role of worship in our collective journey

Discussion: None

- **Worship Team**

- Designated Black History & Mental Health Month
- Cantatas: Easter & Christmas
- Outdoor service & picnic
- Summer/Fall: organized different worship leaders
- Celebrated 156th anniversary: Rev Linda Butler
- Celebrated communion
- Blue Christmas service

Discussion: Betty Trach commented that the Worship Team was very busy with special things and worked really hard.

- **Music Ministry**

- Coordinated music for worship services
- Senior Choir for Sunday worship (practice Thursdays)
- Celebration Choir for 2 cantatas
- Sampled & assessed hymns from “Then Let Us Sing” – new UCC resource in 2025
- Planned music for various church seasons
- Provided music for YouTube videos
- Managed reporting for copyrights & streamed music

Discussion: Betty Trach commented that the voices have been cherished in worship.

- **Media Ministry**

- New technology:
 - Big screen in sanctuary
 - TV cameras
 - Laptop
- Wi-Fi upgrade provided stability
- Focus for 2025
 - New faces joining the team
 - Improving the external sign

Discussion: Laurie Cook commented on the brightness that the pictures (on the AGM PowerPoint) were “absolutely amazing!”

- **Pastoral Care & Health Ministry Team**

- Ongoing Phone tree calls
- Statistics on volunteer pastoral care: 27 hours/month
- Replacement of AED (grant from EG)
- Education sessions:

Seniors' Safety seminar – YRP
Positive Approaches to Care – Deb Thomas

- Hopes for 2025
More small groups
Professional therapeutic support
Expanded pastoral visits

Discussion: Betty Trach added that the 27 hours/month of volunteer pastoral care is over and above what Rev Sadekie does. In addition, Betty added that as Rev Sadekie gets her professional status as a psychotherapist, she'll be able to provide the therapeutic support.

- **Small Group Ministries**

- Lectionary Group
- Hope & Healing
- Caring Crafters
- MASH – Men at Sharon Hope
- Health watchers
- Church School

Discussion: Betty Trach mentioned that the small groups are always open to having more people attend them. In addition, this isn't a "closed" list, i.e., if there is an opportunity that you see that you'd like to have a small group gathering with a special interest in church, come forward with the idea so that we can make it happen.

- **Congregational Life**

- Coffee Hour at least 1X/month
- Soup Lunches
- Supported other teams with coffee and snacks for special occasions
- Maintained & stocked the kitchen
- Provided catering on request
- Thank you for supporting others for special events and coffee hours

Discussion: None

- **Mission & Service and Outreach**

- M&S UCC: raised \$11,227 for the UCC
- Benevolent Fund: raised \$4,810
Supported local agencies
- Fill-a-Purse for a Sister: 31 Purses
- Anytime clothing drive
Donations to local agencies

- Climate Smart Victory Garden
- Minute for Mission – monthly

Discussion: None

- **Ministry & Personnel Team**

- Coordinated training for new Communication & Administration Coordinator (CAC)
- Worked with Telus Health & SWRC supporting Rev Sadekie’s leave
- Attended quarterly updates/training through SWRC
- Annual evaluations of staff completed
- Music director’s contract renewed

Discussion: Betty Trach explained that this team is the link between the staff and congregation and have been receiving training through Shining Waters.

- **Property Team**

- Ongoing maintenance projects to keep building in good health
- Focus for 2025
Need for more extensive repairs (Betty Trach added that this is because the building is aging)
Need for capital funds

Discussion: None

- **Stewardship Team**

- Completed a 4-part training series – UCC
Focus: creating a culture of gratitude, hospitality & improved morale
“Voting with your feet!” (program that happened in the Fall)
- Envelope Challenge: fundraising raised \$3,600
- Focus for 2025
Merge with Finance Team (Betty Trach added that this is to better use people power)
Complete key Stewardship projects

Discussion: None

- **Shining Waters Regional Council**

- Provided on-line seminars & workshops
- Remit 1: presented a proposal for a self-determining Indigenous Council and to be voted on by all communities of faith & regions
- Annual meeting – North Bramalea UC
Commissioning of Dyanne Marlock

Discussion: Betty Trach explained that a ‘Remit’ is a vote to change the basis of the United Church. She also added that our Council voted in favour of this Remit and have submitted it to the UCC.

- **Board of Trustees**

- Insurance Coverage
 - Adjustments to policies for church & Hope House
- Investments
 - Repayment of CEBA loan
 - Monitoring investments
- Hope House property taxes
 - Amendment of tax assessment
- Focus for 2025
 - Continue monitoring insurance & investments

Discussion: Betty Trach commented that the Board of Trustees have had a very busy year working on our insurance coverage Betty also explained that during the pandemic, we received a CEBA loan of \$60,000 and if we repaid \$40,000 of that by the end of our loan period, we could keep \$20,000 as a gift ... which we were able to do. In addition, Betty mentioned that an error was found when the Hope House property was being assessed. Our Board of Trustees was able to have that amended/corrected. Jill Southwell said that the Trustees did a fantastic job navigating all of that and that it would have taken a lot of time.

Vote: Opposed - None

Motion: Carried

Agenda Item 6 – Motion 5 & 6 – Review and Acceptance of Budget for 2025

On behalf of the Financial Team, Melanie wanted to point out some highlights from 2024.

Slide 1

The major highlight from 2024 is that we approved a budget deficit of about \$11,500 and ended the year with a surplus before sabbatical provision of \$13,471. That's a swing of almost \$25,000. That was an amazing result, but you may wonder how did this happen?

Slide 2

The following are the main contributors for getting us into that position: Rentals exceeded the budget by \$8,000; Rev. Sadekie's medical leave resulted in an insurance payout of \$10,300; and our office position was filled later in the year than planned and at an hourly rate lower than the budget, saving \$4,500. You all also did more and donated more. So, although we started with a less than rosy deficit budget, we ended the year with a

surplus. Your prayers, dedication and belief in our church are significant in keeping our church alive and on a healing and growth path.

Melanie asked if there was anything specific that anyone would like to know more about or understand better.

No questions.

Slide 3

Motion 5: the financial statement, shown on pages 29 – 35 of the Annual Report, be accepted with the exclusion of the 2025 budget columns.

Motion made by: Melanie Pilkington

Seconded by: Vicki Greenwood

Vote: Opposed - None

Motion: Carried

Melanie continued with a look at the proposed budget for 2025.

Slide 4

We are in a good place in terms of having meaningful worship services, great support in the office and reliable service providers to keep the property safe and maintained. We need all of these expected costs to move forward with any growth plans. The cost for all of this in 2025 is expected to be just over \$239,000. (Melanie added that Mission and Service is always shown as an expense, i.e., the money comes in and the money goes out; so, our operating expenses are before that.)

Slide 5

Our total expected revenue less operating expense and the provision for sabbatical leave have us in a shortfall position. Currently, we do not know exactly how the shortfall of \$26,065 will be eliminated. All we know is that the way has arisen in each of the years since COVID began.

This year we may have to collectively find a significant new fundraiser but here are a few ideas to chip away at the shortfall.

Slide 6

- increase your donations (including the Envelope & Lenten Challenges) by at least 3% if possible or think of this differently. Give yourself a different challenge. Look at the chart on page 27 (number of donors by dollar level). Locate where your donations for 2024 fell and see if you can move your total into the next category up.
- donate a portion of your income tax refund, GST rebates, or the Climate Action Incentive amount that is paid out.
- If you're selling your home this year, ask your realtor to commit in writing to donate to the church a percentage or specific dollar amount of the commission that they will receive. If your realtor won't do this, we know of at least one who will.

We will send some of these ideas by email and have some printed copies available of these ideas to increase donations.

Further, we are planning to have a seminar on charitable donations of publicly traded shares sometime this year to help understand how this affects you and the church and how to proceed.

As in 2024, we will report monthly where we are financially vs where we thought we would be so you will know when and if you can help. If we have to, we will cut back on planned spending but for the health of the church, we would rather not.

If you would like to bring forward some ideas for fundraising, please contact me or any council member.

Melanie asked if there were any questions about the budget components. No questions.

Slide 7

Motion 6: the proposed budget for 2025, shown on page 31 of the Annual Report as a summary and page 32 and 33 for more detail, be accepted.

Motion made by: Melanie Pilkington

Seconded by: Carol Bertrum

Vote: Opposed – None

Motion: Carried

Acknowledgements

Acknowledgements from the Chair: Betty took a moment to thank all of the members of Council who have worked so hard to make this year a success.

Agenda Item 7 – Motion 7 – New Business

Motion 7: to combine the Finance & the Stewardship Teams

Made by: David Greenwood

Seconded by: Mary Jane Curtis

David Greenwood shared that the purpose for this motion is to consider ways to find opportunities for people to volunteer their time to actual activities, as opposed to sitting in meetings. Currently, Stewardship has one (1) full-time person and a couple of part-time people ... who aren't really "part-time" as they are also engaged in a number of other committees.

David continued that they are trying to find ways to be more effective. He added that Rev. Sadekie informed us that traditionally, Stewardship tended not to be a stand-alone committee. David concluded that the present size of our Council is usually found in a much larger church. So, combining these 2 teams is his attempt to right-size our Council to fit our congregation.

Vote: Opposed – None

Motion: Carried

Agenda Item 8 – Motions 8 - 18 – Acceptance of Slate of Officers for Council

Betty Trach began by explaining that there are a number of people who are reaching the end of their term of office on Council that we need to reelect. We also have vacancies.

According to the Constitution, terms are 2 years. Our Constitution also says that they can renew for another 2-year term, but it's recommended that after two 2-year terms, they step aside and let someone else step into that role. Because of the past few years (i.e., the Pandemic), some people have stayed in positions for a longer period of time.

As a congregation, we need to be looking at helping them have some time away from those roles. Betty asked us all to consider what our gifts and talents are and are we able to share those on a position on Council or on a team?

Council meetings have changed; for example, monthly meetings are shorter in order to give teams time to work outside of Council to do their work so that they can, then, share that work at Council.

David Greenwood stepped forward to the microphone to ask if there were any volunteers or nominations for Chair of Council as Betty's 2nd term has ended and Chair of Council is a big task.

A question was asked whether Betty would be Chair again; David responded that she can but she has put in a lot of hours and needs a break. He added she is remaining involved in a lot of other things.

Mary Jane Curtis asked as to the Vice Chair vacancy and whether that had been vacant throughout all of Betty's terms.

David Greenwood explained that he previously was the Vice Chair to Betty, and prior to that, she was Vice Chair to him.

Mary Jane commented that Vice Chair is a significant position to fill if Betty was willing to stay on. Mary Jane explained that she's new to Sharon Hope to take on such a position but certainly the members here value the time involved and will consider?

David summarized that what Mary Jane was suggesting is having someone take on Vice Chair with Betty as Chair and have a year of mentoring.

Jane Vale asked if Mary Jane would be interested in being the Vice Chair.

Mary Jane responded that she's quite interested but she's new and on a learning curve with her faith. She also is involved with some other commitments. But she is willing to volunteer in other positions. Mary Jane is willing to discuss what's involved with Betty, but she doesn't feel that where her faith is, this would be the right time to take on that role; she knows she can do the position but she wants trust from the membership but feels she has to earn that and gave her thanks.

Motion 8: Re-Nomination of Betty Trach for (Outstanding) Chair of Council

Made by: Melanie Pilkington

Seconded by: Vicki Greenwood

Betty responded that she is willing to stand.

Vote: Opposed – None

Motion: Carried

Attendees applauded and David Greenwood congratulated Betty Trach.

Congregational Life Chair:

Motion 9: Cheryl Telford is at the end of her 3rd term but that has agreed to sit in that position again.

Betty Trach asked if there were any other nominations. Seeing none:

Vote: Opposed – None

Motion: Carried

Finance Chair & Co-Treasurer:

Motion 10: Melanie Pilkington has completed her 2-year term as Chair of the Finance Team & Co-Treasurer in order to accommodate our Constitution. Melanie has agreed to continue as Chair of Finance.

Betty Trach asked if there were any other nominations. Seeing none:

Vote: Opposed – None

Motion: Carried

Ministry & Personnel:

Motion 11: Vicki Greenwood has been Chair for two terms of 2 years. Vicki is willing to continue as Chair. Vicki added that she was a member of M&P for a term (of 2 years) before becoming Chair.

Betty Trach asked if there were any other nominations. Seeing none:

Vote: Opposed – None

Motion: Carried

Pastoral Care & Health:

Motion 12: Donna Corbett has been the Chair for one term. Donna is willing to continue as Chair.

Betty Trach asked if there were any other nominations. Seeing none:

Vote: Opposed – None

Motion: Carried

(An additional note: Donna Corbett mentioned that Ginny Ashton has agreed to join the Pastoral Care & Health team.)

Property:

Motion 13: Munro Armstrong has been the Chair of the Property team for three terms (i.e., 6 years). He has been building the Property team but he has agreed to continue as Chair.

Betty Trach asked if there were any other nominations. Seeing none:

Vote: Opposed – None

Motion: Carried

Worship:

Laurie Cook has been the Chair for the Worship team for 2 ½ terms, not 3 terms; so, this position is not open for nominations this year and has been tabled until next year.

(An additional note, Laurie Cook would welcome any additional new members to the Worship team.)

Trustees:

Motion 14: Tom Pilkington has come to the end of a 5-year term as the Chair of the Trustees and he is willing to stand for another year.

Betty Trach asked if there were any other nominations. Seeing none:

Vote: Opposed – None

Motion: Carried

Betty continued mentioning that we have a number of vacancies on Council, asking after each if anyone would consider filling the below positions:

Vice Chair:

This position has been vacant for four years. This is an opportunity to learn about the workings of Council and then move forward into the position of Chair.

Mission & Service & Outreach Chair:

At the end of 2024, Phil Mannell stepped down as the Chair. The position will continue to be vacant but the team will continue to work.

Communication/Membership Chair:

This position has been vacant for six years. Tom Pilkington thought it would be worthwhile to list the duties of Chair of Communication to see if anyone in attendance might find it of interest.

Vicki Greenwood mentioned the following details:

Communications

is about social media;

has accountability for what's put on external sign;
educates & helps in the office with the formatting of our worship service;
prepares the e-blast;
is responsible for consistency, i.e., making sure that we are putting out consistent messages;
tries to use the right fonts and colours (on PowerPoints) and helps with fundraisers, for example, Communications is accountable for setting up on-line and paper registration for upcoming Euchre Tournament.

Membership

makes sure that we are keeping our rolls up-to-date, for example, our membership, baptisms, funeral/death rolls;
makes sure that the above roll information is shared with the office as we have a membership list in the office with addresses/emails, etc.;;
keeps e-blast lists up-to-date

Vicki added that a lot of the work of the Communication team is done in conjunction with the Office Administrator.
The position will continue to be vacant with the team continuing to work.

Ministry & Personnel:

Motion 15: Tenley Kelly has been a member of the M&P team for 2 years and has agreed to remain a member of that team.

Vote: Opposed – None

Motion: Carried

Motion 16: Susan Brown-Krueger has volunteered to be a member of the M&P team.

Vote: Opposed – None

Motion: Carried

Betty Trach added the M&P team requires a minimum of 3 members on the team, which the team currently has; however, she asked if there was anyone else interested in being a part of that team.

Vicki Greenwood explained the duties of the M&P team:

liaison between staff and the congregation;
accountability for contract renewal for our music director;
talking with Rev Sadekie and making sure all is OK;
communication with Office Administrator;
listen to congregation as they converse and may bring information to appropriate people;

reviews

Motion 17: Mary Jane Curtis volunteered to become a member of the M&P team.

Made by: Vicki Greenwood

Seconded by: Tenley Kelly

Vote: Opposed - None

Motion: Carried

Acknowledgements

Betty Trach wanted to say Thank You to some individuals who have been working long and hard in positions:

Phil Mannell, who has been serving as the Chair of Mission & Service and Outreach. Phil stepped down from that position at the end of 2024.

Gail Therrien, who has been serving as a member of the Ministry & Personnel team and we appreciate the time and effort put into that job.

Dave Greenwood, who has been serving as the Chair of Stewardship and because of the merger, is stepping down as Chair of Stewardship but is becoming a part of the new Finance & Stewardship team.

Motion 18: to nominate Dave Greenwood to join the Board of Trustees

Made by: Tom Pilkington

Seconded by: Vicki Greenwood

Dave Greenwood responded that he would accept.

Vote: Opposed – None

Motion: Carried

Agenda Item 9 – Memorials

A moment of silence was taken to remember the people who were a part of our community of faith but who have passed on over the course of 2024:

- Pearce Thomas
- Valerie McPhee
- Glen Langford
- Gerald Baguley
- Ken Irizawa

Betty Trach added that we remember them and all of their contributions to this community of faith.

Agenda Item 10 – Motion 19 – Presentation of a Possible Venture

Motion 19: to explore the possible venture of utilizing Bingo as a fund raiser revenue stream for Sharon Hope United

Made by: Jerry Therrien

Seconded by: Dave Greenwood

Jerry shared that there is some negativity when we talk about 'Bingo', i.e., Bingo is gambling...the church is supporting gambling?

He agreed that Bingo is gambling but at the end of the day, the benefits outweigh some of the negativity.

Jerry has been involved with the organization *Knights of Columbus* in Aurora that got involved with Bingo 15 years ago; they have generated \$180,000 in revenue for charitable means for distribution.

Without the Bingo money, they were donating \$25, \$100, etc. Instead, when they got involved with Bingo, they were able to donate \$5000 to the Food Pantry, a \$7500 traction unit for the hospital, donate money towards *Coats for Kids & Adults*. Jerry said that they would never have been able to do this without the fact that they were generating Bingo money.

He continued that they generate about \$1400/session/once per month (approximately \$15,000 per year). This is pure profit. Revenue is approximately \$350/hr/person, for a 2-hour total/month. When you start looking at generating \$1500 for a fundraising event, the number of hours and talents cannot be compared. For example, Sharon Hope is probably spending approximately 300 hours generating \$1500 for an event that with the Bingo stream would take 2 hours total.

There are restrictions with Bingo. You're not provided money for 'free' use to spend the way that you want; it must be approved by Newmarket gaming and fall within the guidelines of the Provincial OLG.

Jerry mentioned that a lot of what he sees (at Sharon Hope) are operational expenses that can be paid by Bingo as well as generating extra money for donating to charity.

The work is simple:

- pre-qualify people with OLG representatives with a 15-minute OLG video
- show up with 2 people for a shift
- walk around, clean excess garbage forms from tables
- light cleaning of trays
- counting the number of patron's during a session
- leave

This venture isn't a replacement for generating revenue; it is a supplement. It is important in any organization to have alternative fundraising; this generates comradery and fellowship.

Bingo has helped with the survival rate of the organization that Jerry's involved with, especially after COVID with dwindling numbers and limited fundraiser events.

Jerry added that people would like to be involved with organizations that donate significantly to the community and to the environment.

With Bingo, there are no expenses or outlay of money to generate funds; it is pure profit. It increases the exposure of the organization for donating purposes. The organization 'feels better' with the exposure for the donation of that money to the community itself.

As Jerry looks back at the finances (at Sharon-Hope) since 2018, fundraising has been down 50%, generating approximately \$6900 right now. Identifiable givers are down 30% and revenue from identifiable givers are up 40%. That shows Jerry that we have an ageing congregation that really cares about what this place is and what we need to do to survive.

Jerry feels we are at the stage that we could use that extra form of revenue that doesn't incur a lot of time, talents and work involved. Some of that money generated could be used for the operating costs of the church and the other half we could look at generating funds for the 'WHO' in what Sharon-Hope is in this community.

Jerry thanked the congregation.

Betty Trach opened the floor for discussion.

Jane Vale asked in what facility does the *Knights of Columbus* hold their Bingos; Jerry responded the *Newmarket Bingo World*.

David Greenwood asked the Chair if the United Church of Canada's stand on Bingo could be shared as the Sharon Hope Council has also discussed the idea of Bingo.

Betty said that the Sharon Hope Council did discuss and investigate Bingo in the past as a potential source of revenue, what was involved, as well as the position of the United Church of Canada on gaming.

Betty asked Rev Sadekie if she could share the wording of the motion that was passed at General Council.

Rev Sadekie didn't have the exact wording. She informed us that this discussion came to its peak in 1998 when gambling started to be developed; when slot machines came into being, this intensified across the Church.

She continued that the concern around gambling "is not necessarily the gambling itself but the fact that gambling thrives on the exploitation of hope and the seduction of the vulnerable to achieve its ends. So, the concern is that it lures people who really cannot afford to gamble to utilize their resources and that causes societal harm."

"For example, we would be benefitting from someone using their rent money to go to Bingo to hopefully win ... and they don't. And we get \$1300 from that. It questions our values: are we OK with that? Is the church in that serious of a financial state that we would be OK with benefitting from resources that are acquired in that way? That is the sentiment from the United Church's perspective."

She also added that her experience of Bingo was not gambling oriented; it was community oriented, people coming together, having fun, etc.

Newmarket Bingo World does have slot machines. As a church, we could still make the decision, but with the presence of slot machines especially, the National church and the Region would not be happy and would not support this kind of fundraiser.

Nor could Rev Sadekie support gambling that changes lives, that destroys lives in general.

Rev Sadekie added that Sharon Hope's Council intentionally did explore the *Newmarket Bingo Hall* because it does present as easy money; however, it's not quite "easy" money as it does require finding volunteers (and one of our primary problems is finding volunteers). Also, the time was a concern (ex. finding volunteers if our time slot is in the evening).

After a thorough investigation into the prospects of this, recognizing the resources that we have available amongst us, having a sense that our church is really not in that bad a state and we're not that desperate, and also recognizing that it's not worth the value that we have, Rev Sadekie concluded that we cannot substitute that value for this venture.

Dave Greenwood added that Sharon-Hope received the Trillium grant. As a Council, they took time to discuss this as the Trillium grant is made up from lotteries.

Roger Fox explained that with Bingo, although the end result could profit our church and help others in the community, the actual gain of money could tarnish our church's reputation. Roger reiterated what Rev Sadekie said that while benefitting the church, we'd be involved on the impact of lives, often the less fortunate who are using their money to try and win to better themselves.

Motion: Defeated

Betty Trach mentioned to Jerry that as we've heard, this wasn't the first time the option of Bingo was discussed and thanked Jerry for bringing it forward.

2025 Planning Update

Betty Trach explained that the Council has been doing some planning processing. Some of this has come out of Congregational meetings last year, "voting with our feet", i.e., a lot of it isn't new; it's just amalgamated into one place. As we move forward into the new year, the Council will continue to be working on how we'll move forward and keep the congregation informed and a part of the process.

- Providing a worship experience that is meaningful, accessible, and inclusive
- Strengthening and enhancing discipleship opportunities

- Attracting new people to services and to events happening in the church and how to share that
- Providing opportunities for fellowship, i.e., ... for fun, for sharing gifts and talents ...
- Expanding outreach ministry
- Promoting & strengthening identity of Sharon Hope within the broader community
- Establishing a robust capital fund campaign (our building is aging and in need of some repairs)
- Effective visitor follow-up program is in place, i.e., we are already doing a great job welcoming visitors to our community. Looking at following up with them: Why did they come? What can we do to help integrate them into our church community and to share their gifts with us?
- Providing opportunities for a varied volunteer involvement (Betty gave the example from someone of the UCC who used the terms “marathoner”, i.e., one who is involved with larger commitments and “sprinters”, i.e., those involved with shorter term commitments)

Agenda Item 11 – Closing Prayer

Prior to praying, Rev Sadekie wanted to convey her own thanks to everyone. Due to the pandemic, she said Goodbye to her previous congregation in a parking lot, and began her time with Sharon Hope in our parking lot. It has been an interesting 3 ½ - 4 years of getting to know people.

She wanted to thank people for their support.

She mentioned that when arriving to a new congregation, she’s always nervous with the music, i.e., will she get along with the music director. She mentioned that she and Donna hit it off from day 1 and it has been so easy. Rev Sadekie weekly gives Donna scriptures, then Donna selects the music. Rev Sadekie feels that they have always been unified in the Spirit and that she really appreciates Donna’s gift.

She also thanked the Worship committee, stating that worship is the heart of the church and without it, we would not be experiencing the joy that we’ve been experiencing. She thanked the Worship committee, and especially Laurie Cook, for the team’s vision, for Laurie’s creativity, and appreciates being able to trust Laurie. Rev Sadekie asked everyone to thank Laurie (with applause).

Rev Sadekie thanked all of the committees with which she has worked. She thanked the Finance team that has a vision that understands church as

separate from business but still understands that there's a business in the church work.

She also thanked everyone who has given her feedback. She doesn't interpret comments as criticism; she views the feedback as your subjective report on what you've experienced. If it's something she needs to or can change, she will.

She thanked M&P, all the committees, Betty Trach - who is such a gift - , the choir,

She added that probably the most moving thing for her is when individuals approach her after church and share a connection they've made to something she has said; she feels her mission has been accomplished for that day.

She thanked us all again for how we've received her, that she feels welcomed. She added that although in the past she's stayed with congregations for 5 years, even though this coming July she is entering her 5th year at Sharon-Hope, because of the pandemic, she plans to remain for at least another 3 ½ years.

She feels that we have an awesome momentum going, a wonderful lightness that we want to hold, moving in the future with the resources we have. She is certain that God will increase our efforts just like wheat.

Closing Prayer from Rev. Sadekie Lyttle-Forbes

Agenda Item 12 – Motion 20 – Adjournment

Motion 20 – Motion of adjournment

Made by: Ginny Ashton

And in adjourning, Betty Trach thanked everyone for attending and for sharing with the work of the church.

Attendance at 2024 Annual General Meeting Sunday, March 17, 2025

In Person

Via ZOOM

Ginny Ashton	Brenda Friesen
Mary Belyea	Katie Russell
Carol Bertram	Marsha Hardwick
Donna Bremaud	
Susan Brown-Krueger	
Jim Carnegie	
Laurie Cook	
Donna Corbett	
Mary Jane Curtis	
Imran Forbes	
Roger Fox	
Julia Greenidge-Lowe	
David Greenwood	
Vicki Greenwood	
Tenley Kelly	
(Rev.) Sadekie Lyttle-Forbes	
Linda Morby	
Ron Morby	
Audrey Morrow	
Maryann Patterson	
Melanie Pilkington	
Tom Pilkington	
Jill Southwell	
Robert (Bob) Sparling	
Flo Sparling	
Cathy Sweezie	
Gail Therrien	
Jerry Therrien	
Betty Trach	
Jane Vale	
Grace Vieira-Peacock	
Steve Willey	