



"Living faithfully in the Spirit of Christ to make a loving difference in the world."



2025 ANNUAL REPORT

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PROPOSED AGENDA FOR 2025 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

Sunday, March 22, 2026 - After Service

1. Opening Prayer
2. Appointment of Secretary
3. Appointment of Chairperson
4. Extension of voting privileges
5. Adoption of Agenda
6. Minutes of the ACM meeting held on March 23rd, 2025
7. Minutes of the Congregational Meeting held on September 21, 2025
8. Presentation of Riverside United Church Annual Reports as printed
9. Statement of Accounts for 2025 - Riverside United Church
10. RUC Budget for 2026
11. Nominations Report
12. New Business
13. Governance review
14. Appreciation of Staff
15. Close with prayer

Please register your attendance by signing the book which will be circulating during the meeting.

United Church Polity

The congregation or pastoral charge must meet annually. This meeting must be held as early as possible in the calendar year. The congregation or pastoral charge may also decide to meet more often than annually.

At the annual meeting, the congregation or pastoral charge is responsible for:

1. electing a chair and a secretary of the annual meeting;
2. receiving the annual reports from the governing body, committees, and other groups in the congregation or pastoral charge;
3. electing the governing body and the regional council representatives; and
4. considering and making a decision on the draft annual budget.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SUNDAY, MARCH 23, 2025

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

Sunday, March 23rd, 2025

Minutes

Rev. Paul Dillman called the meeting to order at 12:45 p.m. and led us in an opening prayer.

Motion #1: Moved by Samantha Wilson, seconded by Patricia Ryan to nominate Jeannie Taylor as Secretary. **Carried unanimously.**

- Jeannie Taylor assumed the position of secretary.

Motion #2: Moved by John Huston, seconded by Peter Griffiths to nominate Dave Bell for Chair. **Carried unanimously.**

- Dave Bell assumed the position of chairperson.

The Chair extended a welcome to all attending both in person and by ZOOM.

Motion #3: Moved by Wendy Graham seconded by Norm McLeod to extend voting privileges to all those in attendance. **Carried unanimously.**

Motion #4: Moved by Cat LaForce seconded by Bob Christy to adopt the agenda as circulated with the addition of approval of the Minutes of March 16th, 2025. **Carried unanimously.**

Motion #5: Moved by Mary Shaw seconded by Daphne Biggs to approve the Minutes of the Annual General meeting held on March 24th, 2024. **Carried unanimously.**

Motion #6: Moved by Susan Wade seconded by Gwen Bell to approve the Minutes of the General Meeting held on March 16th, 2025. **Carried unanimously.**

Presentation of Riverside United Church Annual Reports as printed:

The Chair introduced this section as information for which no voting is required and advised that he would move through this list of reports by naming each report in turn, asking the submitter if there were any additions and the Congregation if there were any questions (and if so, seek answers to those questions). This process would continue for the full list of reports.

Wendy added the names of the folks in the Music Forward Committee for addition to the Annual Report. The members are: Wendy Graham, Chair; Malcolm Wade; Wanda Maurais; Paul Dillman; Wayne Irschick; Karen Percy.

Motion #7: Moved by Bob Christy, seconded by Gail Christy to accept the reports included in the 2024 Annual Report. **Carried unanimously.**

Statement of Accounts for 2024 - Riverside United Church:

Ken Smith explained that we have two sets of books, one for RUC and one for the Trustees, which is a holdover from when we shared the building with Church of the Resurrection. Our financial advisor has informed us that it would be better and simpler to merge the two accounts.

RUC Budget for 2025

Motion #8: Moved by Peter Griffiths, seconded by Deborah Chaplin to approve the budget for 2025 as presented. **Carried unanimously.**

Ken explained that there was a typo under Repair and Maintenance for 2024, but it does not affect the budget.

Nominations Report (Pages 44 and 45)

Motion #9: Moved by Bob Christy, seconded by Gwen Bell, that the Congregation of Riverside United Church accept the Nominations Committee Report, approve the nominations in the report and grant the Council of Riverside United Church permission to approve nominations during the year for any positions normally approved by the Congregation at the annual meeting. **Carried unanimously.**

Bob Christy introduced and thanked the members of the Council for their ongoing work.

New Business: none declared

Appreciation of Staff: David thanked the church staff for their dedicated service over the past year.

- Rev. Paul Dillman, our minister.
- Louise Madaire, the Office Administrator who retired in August
- Wayne Irschick, Ministry of Music
- Marc Godin, Caretaker
- Cat LaForce, Child and Youth Coordinator

He also thanked Ken Smith for being our treasurer, the Tech support team, and all the members of all the committees who do all the work.

Finally, the Chair expressed appreciation for the members of the congregation, many of whom give time and energy to the work of the church.

Closing prayer: Rev. Paul closed the meeting with a prayer.

Motion #10: Moved by Samantha Wilson seconded by Cat LaForce to adjourn the meeting at 1:25 p.m. **Carried Unanimously**

Dave Bell, Chair

Jeannie Taylor, Recorder

MINUTES OF THE CONGREGATIONAL MEETING OF SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 21ST, 2025

David Bell called the meeting to order at 11:40 a.m. and explained that the purpose of the meeting was to receive the recommendation of the Riverside United Church Search Committee for our new Minister. Quorum was achieved.

Peter Griffiths and Samantha Wilson presented the report of the committee. The committee included Jonathan Bathurst, Peter Griffiths, Patrica Ryan, and Samantha Wilson from Riverside United Church, and Barbara Reynolds as the representative from the Eastern Ottawa Outaouais Regional Council. They met several times between February and August of 2025.

Peter and Samantha described the process, which included surveying the congregation about their desires for the new minister, creating a job posting and interview questions, and interviewing a short list of candidates twice. The Search Committee was unanimous in their decision to recommend Rev. Carla Van Delen as the chosen candidate.

Rev. Carla has 17 years of experience as a Minister of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care, most recently at Barrhaven United Church for the last 8 years. She also held many roles at the regional level including Chair of the Ottawa Presbytery and part of the Regional Transition Team from Ottawa Presbytery to becoming the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council. She has experience with and a personal commitment to working in an Affirming Church to create safe and welcoming spaces for all. She also enjoys engaging with children in church, including Messy Church. She is comfortable with technology, is a dedicated lifelong learner and has a great sense of humour.

Rev. Carla is available to start on January 5, 2026, and would work in the office 4 days per week.

Motion #1: Moved by Peter Griffiths, seconded by Samantha Wilson that Riverside United Church accept the recommendation of the Search Committee to issue a call to Rev. Carla Van Delen with a start date of January 5th, 2026.

A secret ballot was distributed and the motion was Carried.

Motion #2: Moved by Bob Christy, seconded by Ken Smith that Riverside United Church extends its thanks to the Search Committee for its work and disbands the Search Committee following the covenanting service. **Carried**

Meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

David Bell, Chair

Jeannie Taylor, Secretary

2025 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL REPORT

COUNCIL REPORT - 2025 – 2026 Report to the Congregation

Introduction

The Council of Riverside United Church, elected by the congregation at its annual meeting each March, meets on Zoom on the third Wednesday of April, June, September, November, January and February. It has eleven members – either a past chair or chair-elect, a chair, secretary, treasurer, four members-at-large, a representative of the trustees, the chair of ministry and personnel and the minister. Council and Riverside United have a direct connection to the wider United Church, the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council, through its minister and lay representatives, Charles Barrett and Bob Christy

In 2025 – 2026, the work of Council was carried out by Bob Christy (Chair), Charles Barrett (Chair Elect or Vice Chair), Gail Christy (Secretary), Ken Smith (Treasurer), Shirley Andrews (Trustees representative), Peter Griffiths (Chair of Ministry and Personnel), and Anne Dawson, Patricia Ryan, Gwen Bell and Samantha Wilson, Council's four members-at-large. Anne, unfortunately, had to leave Council in September and was missed.

According to United Church polity or "rules", a clergy person has to attend Council meetings. Until he retired in May, Rev. Paul Dillman attended. Rev. Brian Copeland graciously volunteered to attend our June meeting even though he did not officially become Riverside's supply minister until September. As supply minister, Rev Copeland attended our September and November meetings. Joining Riverside in January, Rev. Carla Van Delen has attended our January and February meetings.

Twice during the year, Council held in-person meetings – in May to say farewell and thank you to Rev. Dillman and in January to welcome Rev. Van Delen.

The role of Council changed in 2018 with the acceptance of the Mission Forward Circle's report and recommendations. It now focusses on large policy and strategic issues while the on-going work of Riverside is carried out by ministry teams – Nourishing Our Faith. Caring for One Another and Building Partnerships.

A Busy 2025 – 2026

First, just to recap Council's work during January to March 2025. Council created a Transition Team which:

- worked hard to quickly create a spiritual and community of faith profile;
- found a talented and experienced Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council liaison person;
- distributed a questionnaire to determine the congregation's wishes for/expectations of
- clergy leadership; and

- sought out needed input from various committees at Riverside.

Council then put together and presented to the congregation a search committee made up of both Council members and representatives from the general congregation.

In addition, Council prepared and recommended a 2025 budget for congregational approval at its March 23, 2025 annual meeting.

Council was busy from April 2025 until February 2026 as the following indicates:

April: – the first meeting of the new Council was held in April; it was the first in-person meeting since the pandemic; it welcomed Shirley Andrews as the Trustee representative, acknowledged the work of and thanked the past-chair, Christine Rhodes, for her leadership; and it was Rev. Paul Dillman's last council meeting as minister at Riverside and he was thanked for his long ministry with us;

- approved the baptism of a teen, the confirmation of four other teens and the wedding of a member of the congregation.
- agreed with Election Canada's request to hold an advanced general election poll on Easter Sunday at Riverside.
- agreed to co-sponsor two brothers claiming refugee status.

June: – Rev. Brian Copeland, who became Riverside's supply minister in September, graciously volunteered to attend so that there was a clergy presence as required by the United Church;

- heard Ministry & Personnel's report of Rev. Dillman's exit interview.
- received reports from the three Team Ministry groups in addition to the regular reports it receives.

August: Council met in special session twice in August:

- on August 5th to approve the use of Riverside United's Marriage Register by a visiting minister for an off-site wedding; and
- on August 20th to approve the calling of a congregational meeting on September 21, 2025, to consider and vote on the person the Search Committee is recommending as Riverside's new minister.

September: – Gwen Bell graciously agreed to act a secretary for the meeting;

- Council agreed to hold an in-person meeting in January;
- made changes in the Roll at the family's request;
- heard that the Trustee's financial account had been successfully merged with Riverside's accounts;
- heard that rental policies and rents were being reviewed.

October: On October 8, 2025, Council met in special session to discuss how Riverside might support a Riverside family and a Rwandan family of six seeking refugee status who have been forced to leave their government sponsored hotel accommodation. A Riverside family had agreed to share their home with the refugee family until the new year, but the family was able to find an apartment in November.

November: – Council heard that 2025 givings were eight thousand dollars (\$8,000) lower than last year because people who gave substantial amounts through PAR are no longer with us;

- Council noted that Riverside needed to increase its profile in the community;
- in addition to its custodian, who works at night, there is a need for an on-site handy person during the day and agreed to explore this further;
- Council learned that there had been a meeting with the Nursery School to discuss rents;
- EOORC is exploring the path of the United Church to 2035;
- children & youth and caring for one another representatives from the five cluster churches in southeast Ottawa met to discuss common concerns;
- agreed to purchase a “point of sale” machine for church use;
- approached Providence Methodist Church in Jamaica to see if it needed assistance after the hurricane and Council agreed it could launch an appeal.

January: – Council and Ministry Team leads and co-leads met in-person to welcome and get to know Rev. Carla Van Delen, Riverside United’s new minister;

- set the date of the congregation’s annual meeting: March 22, 2026;
- learned that the covenanting service between Riverside United, Rev. Van Delen and the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council will take place on February 22, 2026;
- discussed the need and process for pro-active stewardship at Riverside;
- approved a new wedding brochure for distribution;
- granted a two point five percent (2.5%) cost of living increase to the salary and wages of Riverside staff as well as increasing travel allowances – both changes were recommended by the United Church’s General Council Office;
- heard that because Riverside United Churches of Ottawa Inc. no longer existed, a change in land title was needed;
- agreed to discuss the length of time previous services should be left on Youtube.

February: – met three times during the month:

- a) informally to review the budget, discuss stewardship and finding members-at-large (the representatives of the congregation) for Council;
 - b) to conduct the general business of Council and
 - c) to vote on the budget for 2026;
- approved a new funeral brochure for distribution;
 - discussed Youtube and privacy;

- agreed to a budget.

The chair wants to thank the diligent group who serve on Council this past year for their hard work and their support. This list of achievements would not have resulted without their willingness to listen, contemplate, share their wisdom and confront risks. From the chair's point of view, this group was a God-send and Riverside should be proud of them!

Submitted by:

Robert (Bob) Christy, Chair of Council

MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL REPORT

The purpose of the M&P Committee is to be the human resources department of Riverside United Church (RUC). As such, we run competitions for new staff, keep job descriptions up to date, and conduct annual reviews with our minister and staff. We ensure current employment standards are followed and review salaries annually. We are responsible for drafting and implementing policies addressing workplace harassment and violence. We are a mandated committee of the United Church of Canada and report directly to Council.

2025 Highlights

- 1) After over 20 years of service and spiritual guidance at RUC Reverend Paul Dillman retired effective May 28, 2025. His gifts of humour, wisdom, and leadership were celebrated at a number of events in the spring. He is missed but he leaves behind a strong community of faith.
- 2) Between the retirement of Reverend Dillman at the end of May and the call of Reverend Carla Van Delen on January 5, 2026, our pulpit supply and pastoral needs were covered by many different individuals to whom we owe a debt of gratitude. Pulpit supply was provided by Rev. Dr. Jessica Hetherington, Jeannie Taylor, Karen Percy, Rev. Gail Christy, Rev. Jane Griffiths, and Rev. Anne Montgomery. Over the summer emergency pastoral care was given by Rev. Brian Copeland and Rev. Frank Emmanuel. Finally, from September 3 through to January 4 Rev. Brian Copeland accepted a half-time appointment to RUC. Rev. Copeland kept the spirit of RUC alive while preparing us to transition to a new full-time minister. We are grateful for his stories, compassionate care and gentle wisdom.
- 3) In this unusual year a decision was made to offer no Sunday services in July. Jeannie Taylor kindly volunteered to offer a devotional service outdoors every Wednesday evening. Our singing was a little scratchy but those able to attend appreciated the opportunity to join together in community to worship.

- 4) In the spring annual reviews were held with each staff member and an exit interview was conducted with Rev. Dillman. These reviews gave us the opportunity to express the thanks of the entire congregation for the work done on our behalf.
- 5) Samantha Wilson and Peter Griffiths represented the M&P Committee on the Search Committee for a new minister.
- 6) We carried out an annual review of our policies addressing workplace harassment and violence as required by the United Church of Canada. Those policies can be found on the bulletin board in the hall outside the church office.
- 7) At the Giving Sunday Service in December we thanked on behalf of the congregation our staff and Rev. Brian Copeland. RUC is blessed to have a staff that makes our church a welcoming and affirming home. We give thanks to Jeannie Taylor for keeping us all organized, to Marc Godin who works 7 evenings a week to keep our church clean, to Cat La Force for her loving care of our children and youth and to Wayne Irschick who fills our Sundays with music.
- 8) Finally, my thanks to Karen Ogston, Diana Desjardins, John Gingerich, and Samantha Wilson for their work on this committee.

Submitted by Peter Griffiths, Chair

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Each congregation of The United Church of Canada is required to have a group of Trustees who hold the assets of the church, subject to Canadian trust law. The assets of the congregation under the stewardship of the Trustees consist of financial resources beyond that required for current operations, as well as real property held in trust for The United Church of Canada

In 2025 the Riverside United Church Trustees were Shirley Andrews, Charles Barrett, David Bell, Elizabeth Cameron, Paul Dillman, Wendy Graham, Heather Smith, and Richard Williams. Following Paul's retirement last June Rev. Brian Copeland served as a Trustee, as required by United Church policy, for the duration of his appointment.

In January, the Trustees entered into a new copier lease contract with Konica Minolta. In March, the Trustees agreed to covenant with the Swahili-speaking Emmanuel United Methodist Church congregation to permit that community to worship in Room 6.

Since 2014 the long-term financial assets of the church have been invested consistent with our investment policy statement. These investible funds are overseen by the Board of Trustees, subject to clear guidelines regarding the allocation of assets. Our investments performed well in 2025 with a year-end balance of \$416,436.20 invested with the Canoe Asset Allocation Portfolio Series D, a socially responsible balanced mutual fund. This compared to a balance of \$382,289.91 a year earlier, for a return of 8.9 per cent.

In 2021, the Board of Trustees created a working group to monitor our investment performance and to recommend any changes in how funds are managed from time to time. Emily Gray and Ken Smith served on the Investment Management advisory group in addition to Charles Barrett, Elizabeth Cameron, and Paul Dillman. This group will meet next early in 2026 to review our recent investment performance.

In November, the Trustees approved a renewal of our insurance coverage with Ecclesiastical Assurance for another year beginning on December 29, 2025. The new policies provide increased coverage with a reduction in the total premiums paid.

At a meeting held on December 8 the Trustees also discussed succession planning, as the current Chair will be resigning in order to assume the position of Chair of Council in 2026.

The Trustees are responsible for the stewardship of our building through the Property Committee, which looks after ongoing property management, as well as repairs and maintenance projects as required. Since the closing of the Anglican Church of the Resurrection in 2020 receipts from Riverside Park Nursery School and other donations for the use of space had covered the costs of running managing and maintaining our property before depreciation charges. With the closing of the Meeting House in 2024 that ceased to be the case, and this created a financial challenge. Throughout 2025 the Riverside United Church has worked hard to find new building users and is actively pursuing opportunities to increase revenues from the use of our building. The Chair of Trustees has participated in a working group that has advised the Office Administrator on rental matters and updated our policies and pricing. We are grateful to the hard work of Jeannie Taylor in this regard.

Respectfully submitted, Charles Barrett (Chair)

EASTERN OTTAWA OUTAOUAIS REGION

Introduction

Riverside United Church is a member of the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council (EOORC) of the United Church of Canada. It supports the ministries of 200 communities of faith – pastoral charges, camps and outreach ministries such as chaplaincies, housing matters networks and right relationship networks. All United Church clergy, both active and retired, are members of the Region. This includes Rev. Paul Dillman who continues as a member even though he retired in May. As well, our retired clergy associated with Riverside are EOORC members: Rev. Dr. Ken Robinson, Rev. Ted Colwell, Rev. Gail Christy, Rev. Jane Griffiths and Rev. Janet Thompson.

In addition, Riverside is entitled to lay representatives who in 2025 were Charles Barrett and Bob Christy. Charles is very active at the regional level, serving as a member of its “future through property team”, a member of the Region’s “vision and transformation team”, and the

leader of the Social Justice Network of Ontario Regional Councils. In addition, Charles has spent many months working with Stittsville United Church to resolve a number of issues, and also serves as the Pastoral Relations liaison for Ottawa Chinese United Church. Bob, on the other hand, is minimally active, attending some meetings.

2025 Activities and Meetings

Since 2025 marked the 100th Anniversary of the creation of the United Church of Canada, the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council met several times, virtually and in-person, during 2025.

1. Winter Meeting: “Creative Sparks”

On March 1, 2025, under a theme “Creative Sparks”, EOORC held a half-day (morning) informational and educational meeting on Zoom. Attendees listened to presentations about:

- camps and programs for children;
- revitalizing annual meetings;
- programming for seniors or LGBT youth;
- the South East Ottawa Cluster;
- the Lenten devotional.
- worship for LGBT refugees;
- grants for seniors’ programs;
- pie sales;
- the Brookfield Food Cupboard;

2. Annual Meeting: “New Heaven, New Earth, Towards 2035”

The Regional Council held it’s 2025 annual meeting on Saturday, June 14, 2025, at the EY Centre in Ottawa. The one-day meeting’s theme was “New Heaven, New Earth, Towards 2035.” In addition to the normal AGM priorities of reviewing finances, passing a budget and electing an executive, the meeting set the stage for examining the United Church’s future to 2035. It examined issues about managing property in the future. It also looked at ministering to persons in the first third of their lives, small children to 30-year-olds.

3. 100th Anniversary Celebration

On the morning of June 15, 2025, the Region celebrated the 100th Anniversary of the founding of the United Church of Canada. Held at the EY Centre in Ottawa also, organizers estimated that between twelve hundred and fifteen hundred (1,200 – 1,500) people attended. At one point, prior to the service beginning, organizers were putting out chairs as people streamed in.

4. The Path Towards 2035

The Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council held a day-long meeting at Riverside United on September 19, 2025, to explore the future of the United Church to 2035. One hundred and twenty (120) clergy and lay persons attended. To ensure people with jobs could participate in the process, a similar gathering was held on a Saturday a week later in Smiths Falls;

Later that evening, September 19, 2025, the Region held its annual Celebration of Ministry Service at Southminster United Church.

5. Fall Meeting “Connection Day”

Rather than holding one fall meeting for the entire region, the Region held five sub-regional meetings on November 1, 2025, open to anyone in the United Church. The Ottawa area meeting met at Kanata United.

The common agenda for the five meetings provided for presentations and discussion time to explore the path to 2035. The discussion was wider than the discussion at Riverside in September. Although there was concern about the Church’s future, there was also a sense of optimism as people are prepared to take action.

NOTE:

- EOORC’s winter educational event will be held on-line (Zoom) Saturday, March 7, 2026
- Its annual general meeting will be held May 29 and 30, 2026 at Trinity United in Smith Falls

Submitted by Charles Barrett and Robert Christy

SOUTHEAST OTTAWA UNITED CHURCH CLUSTER

Introduction

Following the 2019 reorganization of the United Church it was anticipated that communities of faith would form geographic clusters to work together. In 2021 the lay leadership of Emmanuel United Church reached out to their counterparts in other United Churches in Southeast Ottawa to explore the possibility of creating such a cluster.

An informal steering group was formed, with Charles Barrett representing Riverside. This was followed by two facilitated workshops attended by people from all five congregations to identify areas for collaboration. Five communities of faith (Emmanuel, Glebe St. James, Rideau Park, Riverside and Southminster) agreed to create a cluster, get to know each other better, and to collaborate in ministries and programs. Joint events were organized including fellowship dinners, as well as continuing the tradition of an annual epiphany worship service (which predated 2021) and experimenting with joint theme-specific study sessions.

While the idea of creating the cluster came initially from lay leaders, it was quickly taken up by the clergy, who met regularly to discuss common issues and challenges. This support proved to be crucial to maintaining momentum. Coordinating meetings were established among clergy, the chairs of church councils and other interested lay representatives from each community of faith. This group meets every few months.

That said, challenges remained. Initial enthusiasm for collaborating in specific ministries, such as outreach and ministering to youth and young adults, proved to be more difficult in practice than had initially been hoped. It was also hard to maintain commitment, despite the general

interest in the cluster concept. Congregationalist perspectives are well entrenched in the United Church.

2025 Activities

The first six months of 2025 were a bit difficult for the group. The need to maintain contact and consult regularly were obvious. But the need to avoid adding too much structure or creating a bureaucratic process was equally apparent. The coordinating team appointed a small task team to draft a mandate statement.

Through this process it was recognized that maintaining lay leadership commitment would be critical to the sustainability of the cluster. Ongoing commitment by the clergy to the cluster is also very important. But it must be recognized that clergy turn over regularly for a variety of reasons, including sabbaticals, retirement, new calls or appointments.

But 2025 also brought an important insight, as members of the coordinating team recognized the potential for bringing together people in each congregation responsible for leading specific ministries, program, or tasks within their communities of faith. People want to learn from what others are doing: comparing notes and exchanging ideas. Jeannie Taylor, our Office Administrator, has met and continues to consult with the office administrators of the four other churches. Cat LaForce participated in a meeting of CE coordinators. There has also been a networking meeting focussed on pastoral care, and one is planned for people responsible for the use of technology and AV in worship.

The key lesson is that learning about what other churches do and how they address shared challenges both adds value and is a gateway to exploring potential areas for collaboration. We hope that this consultation will continue and identify potential new areas to work together.

Submitted by Charles Barrett and Bob Christy
Riverside Cluster Representatives

PROPERTY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT - 2025

The Property Committee continues to make progress on an ambitious agenda to maintain the church facilities in the best possible operating conditions, though due to age of the building and supporting systems our workload continues to increase.

The committee welcomed no new members and was formed as follows: Chair - Richard Williams (elected by members of the committee) Council Representative - Charles Barrett Minister - Rev. Paul Dillman (until his retirement) Members - Hugh Moeser (on leave of absence), Pierre Gauthier, Henry Andrews, Daphne Biggs, Karen Percy, Jean Gingerich, and WJ (Bill) Smith.

Discussion : While we have not tackled projects as large as last years re-paving of the parking lot, we have made strong strides in many other areas. Again, I note that we have a

diminishing resource of congregational members to sustain our committee. I would like to bring to your attention the following:

a. **Progress on the Audio-Visual Project.** We are now in a steady state model where incremental changes maintain the system for optimal use by the congregation and by renters. We replaced the faulty camera and in so doing discovered an inherent problem with flickering images due to a cable that was not properly seated and secured. We will add some new features using a product called the Stream Deck Plus that will make it easier to train operations personnel to run the system for services.

b. **Rentals continue to use our facilities.** The Riverside Park Nursery School has continued to deliver its program throughout the post-COVID-19 period. As well, we have the regular Saturday morning Ottawa Organic Food Market. Quilters, the University Women's Group, the Swahili congregation, regular concerts and others have joined our facilities.

c. **Riverside Park Nursery School / Fleck Childcare.** Charles Barrett and Richard Williams attended a meeting with Benoit Gauthier and Jessica Lumsden to discuss what projects are of mutual interest and what financial support they could provide. The general tenet is work that uniquely supports their role would largely be at their cost while work that contributes to overall church facilities would be split or funded by Riverside. At this meeting we considered:

1. Plumbing in the toddler room and Room 7 to allow for hand-washing sinks with running water, as well as improvements to the janitorial room
 2. Painting of the toddler room and Room 7
 3. Yard cleanup, repair of the asphalt, and installation of additional lighting
 4. Purchase of storage to support the church's continued growth
 5. Air conditioning (understood this is a larger project that might work best amortized over a few years—happy to discuss further once you have a sense of the costs).
- Signage at the front of the building RPNS has confirmed they have secured funding for item 1 and work will commence shortly.

d. **Exterior Signage.** It was noted that our Church sign on Riverside Drive was dim or not working so we investigated to find all but one of the fluorescent tubes were burned out. However, they are vintage 8-foot long bulbs and have gone out of stock. We received a quote of \$ 1775 from our sign contractor to replace the old lighting system with LEDs that will increase the light, lower the electrical cost and provide for easier maintenance. Work should begin shortly.

e. **Ottawa Regional Committee on Facilities.** The first meeting of the volunteer group from regional churches met on Zoom and began a periodic interaction of facilities or property leaders from the - at present - four churches. This was very productive in sharing experiences with contractors, government grant options and listings of property categories and support options. One item that was very pertinent was the need to ensure succession and transition planning for the property group leadership at each congregation. Depending on congregation size the cadre of supporters able to perform medium sized work projects is decreasing as is the options for future leaders able to take these tasks on. I share that concern.

f. **Parking Lot repairs** Pierre Gauthier contacted the company that the original paving quality had not been as expected so they returned and re-paved with better materials at no cost. I

would like to highlight how Signature Paving has performed to their stated warranty with outstanding results.

g. Air Conditioning and Radiant Heating. Office staff have raised the issue of air conditioning on a frequent basis which is understandable as they work inside all the time. The congregation, Nursery School and some renters have also noted this during extreme heat periods as well. Our existing roof, furnace, electrical, plenums and duct work should be able to accommodate this work but needs to be evaluated carefully. In the past, Francis HVAC gave us a quote of \$ 75 K but this lacked important details that could affect overall project cost. In addition, the RPNS/Fleck group are interested in this development and may be able to contribute. Work will continue to review this project and report next year. A new item has been added regarding possible radiant heating for the stage and choir area. We will examine options to provide increased heating options for the choir.

h. Roof repairs. The roof remains my highest concern. After many attempts to re-caulk the sloping roof over the sanctuary a small leak reappeared in the Narthex during a thaw in Dec. 2025. I have contacted a company referred by Barrhaven United Church who did excellent and reasonably priced work on their roof to provide us with a quote to repair and then periodically inspect and maintain both the sloping roof and the flat roof over the offices and classrooms. Our previous contractor was very expensive and did not fully resolve issues. They had provided a quote of \$ 175 K to repair the flat roof which I considered excessive so I will expect to recommend a major project using this new contractor to Trustees in the coming year.

Conclusion. The Property Committee both anticipates the future and deals with the present as any realistic manager of property would do. I would like to close as I did last year to provide reassurance of our overall state of play

- Our Structure is sound ...
- Our Property is sound ...
- Our Electrical system is sound ...
- Our Heating and Ventilation systems are sound ...
- Our Water, Plumbing and Washrooms are sound ...
- Our physical security (doors, windows, walls) and surrounding property is sound ...

Rest easy.

Richard Williams Chair Property Committee

BUILDING PARTNERSHIP TEAM MINISTRY

Our Mandate: To actively pursue partnerships based on the values of mutuality, hope and respect. Ongoing partnerships and new ones with faith and community groups ensure sustainability for the church and fill social needs close to home and in the wider world.

1. Brookfield Community Food Cupboard (BCFC)

Brookfield Community Food Cupboard gradually increased the number of people it serves, and how it serves its neighbours since it opened on May 1, 2024. A Steering Committee and Operations Circle provide leadership.

During the first year, students and neighbours were given bags of food prepared with nonperishable food items based on family size. Extra items were provided from donations from Lionhearts, a charitable Food Distribution Organization. Any extra fresh food was left for students in the breakfast programme at Brookfield High School during the school year or taken to Heron Emergency Food Cupboard during the summers of 2024 and 2025. Neighbours now select food from tables with items of each kind displayed. A 3-week survey at BCFC indicated this was appreciated.

During the summer of 2025 a donated fridge and freezer allowed us to store fresh produce donated over the summer by neighbourhood gardeners. We added corn (Shouldice Farms) greens (Terre à Terre at the RUC Organic Farmer's Market), and since the fall, 150 apples are donated weekly by Warner's Farms from Landsdowne Farmer's Market.

On one night in December 2024 when 17 students from the High School and the English as a Second Language for adults (LINC) and 30 community neighbours came to BCFC, we provided food for 195 people. The first week of this past 2025 December when 28 LINC and other students and 39 neighbours came, we fed 280 people. We have had as many as 47 neighbours come one week this fall.

We are thankful for our many volunteers, and for those who came to many Food Drives, such as PumpkinFest, our Holiday Harvest Concert, City Councillor Riley Brockington's events (e.g. Christmas Dinner) that brought in generous food and monetary donations, and many regular monetary donations through the RUC and BCFC Website. Your generous donations of time, money and food on Sundays and on the Website allows us to feed the many neighbours who regularly face food insecurity in the Hunt Club, Riverside Park and Heron Park area of the city. Contributions from the RUC Ted Thexton Garden were also gratefully received.

Respectfully Submitted by Karen Ogston and Rosemary Hood

2. Heron Road Emergency Food Centre (HEFC)

Situated in the City of Ottawa multipurpose building on Heron Road, the HEFC is one of over 100 emergency food centres under the Ottawa Food Bank (OFB) umbrella. During this past year the number of families needing to access the Centre remained extremely high. A typical month saw 740 households served - for a total of 1,238 souls. Some folks are new to the country/city, some have been coming regularly, others have had to return for help after being self-sufficient for some time, while others find themselves unable to put enough food on the table for the first time. There is an increase in the number of clients who are employed but still not able to make ends meet, as well as senior citizens. Each family is provided with 7 days' worth of food per month. A new system has recently been instituted to ensure that people are not visiting more than one facility in the system.

The OFB is the main provider of the food, but some items they previously sent are no longer available, so we need to purchase them, as well as other items which we feel should be included. At one point in the past year the amount of food allocated was decreased.

Thankfully that has now been reversed, but there is no guarantee that it will not happen again. This is why the generous donations from individuals, faith communities, schools and other organizations are so important.

The 2 major fundraisers this year were extremely successful. In September the Walkathon raised \$17,288 and the amazing Christmas concert at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church made \$19,336. Because of the uncertainty of how the year will unfold this gives us some reassurance. This year we received a grant from the City to enable us to hire another employee for a year, to assist the Executive Coordinator deal with the registration and processing of the clients' needs.

We continue to be grateful for the support of the members of RUC, especially since the Brookfield Community Food Cupboard, situated in our immediate neighbourhood is now the main focus. Thank you to all who in any way contributed to HEFC whether by monetary donations or through the growing and harvesting of the vegetables from the Thexton Garden. The healthy produce contributions are very much appreciated by the Executive Coordinator, Board of Directors, volunteers and clients.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Shaw, RUC Representative to HEFC Board.

3. Amnesty International (AI)

Our group consists mainly of members of RUC. We have been joined by others who are not associated with the church, but who are keenly interested in the issues raised by Amnesty International. We do not meet as a group. We are members of the **Urgent Action Network**. Cases, as they are received, are forwarded by email to members of the group who then respond as they can and have time. We respond mainly by writing letters, sending an e-mail, fax or by signing a petition addressed to the authorities in the targeted countries or the representative in Canada.

Amnesty International defends prisoners of conscience, human rights workers and human rights groups who carry out their activities peacefully. An individual or group who has used or advocated the use of violence will never be adopted by AI. AI adopts individuals or groups which have had their internationally recognized Human Rights, including a legitimate legal defence, abused by their governments. We also oppose the use of capital punishment and other inhumane forms of punishment.

In 2025, we participated in 20 campaigns defending human rights workers, prisoners of conscience and human rights groups, and Indigenous groups. Issues were floggings, capital punishment, extra-judicial killings of human rights workers, threats, false imprisonment, torture, kidnappings, illegal occupation of lands, non-violent expression of one's ideas, disappeared and murdered aboriginal women. .

Our major event is The Annual Write for Rights Campaign. On December 6, 13 individuals came to the church to write letters in support of 8 prisoners of conscience, human rights

workers and human rights groups, and many others wrote from home. One case was withdrawn by Amnesty as the action was deemed too dangerous for the individual and their community. One other action was modified as the individual was released from prison. 148 letters and emails were sent to various countries. Petitions were made available at the church. Our event was one of 200 that took place across Canada. Again in 2025, the “Cards of Hope” campaign was integrated into the Write for Rights campaign. People were encouraged to send a card or message of good wishes to the individuals identified in the Write for Rights campaign.

Anyone who receives a response to one of their letters or emails is asked to let us know as AI needs to know the impact of its campaigns.

We always need more letter writers. If you are interested in receiving regular information on these campaigns and in participating, please contact us at pn.mcleod@sympatico.ca

Respectfully submitted:

Pat & Norm McLeod 613-324-6279

4. Centre 507

The Centre met their biggest demand for services in 2025. This year alone, 20,000 people spent their nights at the Centre. By 9:30 each evening the space is full, and long lineups appear with folks hoping for a warm shelter overnight. A new dedicated outreach team was launched, administering naloxone and performing CPR to the most vulnerable in the community. Overdoses are reported almost daily.

The Clothing Room is a wonderful addition and operates two days per week. The Riverside congregation continues their strong support with gently used warm clothing and generous financial donations. The staff at the Centre appreciate our support very much as they continue to serve the growing needs and challenges of the community.

Respectfully submitted, Morag Pearce

5. Connecting Seniors

In 2024 we started a “Connecting Seniors” program on the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 10:00 to 11:30 to welcome seniors from the community. The format is to invite in a guest speaker on a relevant topic, have them make a presentation with Q&A, and we provide coffee, tea and snacks. There is usually no cover charge, but a donation basket is put out to offset the costs of refreshments. Our average attendance has been about 30 seniors.

In 2025 we hosted 9 Connecting Seniors Sessions on the following topics:

January: Annette Charron, Registered Dietitian “Healthy Nutrition for Seniors”

February: Black History Month – Rev. Dr. Anthony Bailey “Black History and Anti-Black Racism”

March: Charles Barrett from Compassionate Ottawa, “Compassionate Communities”

May: Sarah Coulber from the Canadian Wildlife Federation “Gardening for Wildlife”.

June: Elaine Birchall, Hoarding Consultant “Downsizing and Decluttering”

September: Rachel Lalonde, Travel Consultant (CAA) “Seniors Travel”

October: National Capital First Aid, “First Aid for Seniors” (for this session there was a fee of \$50 per participant)

November: David Van Noppen, Financial and Mortgage Advisor “Money Matters for Seniors”

December: Chris White, Singer/Songwriter “Christmas Singalong” and Cookie exchange.

Thanks to the volunteers who help with program planning, set up and refreshments.

Respectfully submitted, Jeannie Taylor

6. Advent Giving Sunday

In December a collection of gifts were donated and presented during Sunday worship. The gifts were then distributed to 12 residents of Serenity House, the Brookfield Community Food Cupboard, the Heron Emergency Food Centre (HEFC) and a hamper was delivered to a local family.

Respectfully submitted, Morag Pearce

7. The Mitten Tree

The annual collection of warm hats, mittens, gloves and scarves is warmly supported by the congregation and groups who use our facilities. The gifts were distributed to Centre 507, the Brookfield Community Food Cupboard and Heron Emergency Food Centre (HEFC) for distribution to their clients.

Respectfully submitted, Morag Pearce

8. Toucan Singing Group

The Toucans, an all-abilities singing group under the leadership of Roxanne Delmage and Chris White, met at the church on Monday afternoons, up until June 2025. In April they sang at the Ottawa Grassroots Festival, and in May they provided musical entertainment at Paul Dillman's retirement party. This group has now dissolved, but over the years they encouraged an inclusive circle for friends to sing together, and their enthusiastic and joyful singalongs will be missed.

Respectfully submitted, Jeannie Taylor

9. Mission and Service

Many people of Riverside support the Mission and Service Fund of The United Church of Canada through offerings and PAR contributions. The Mission and Service Fund supports a variety of ministry and outreach programs within Canada and with global partners in

various locations around the world. In 2025, Riverside United donated \$26,643 to Mission and Service.

Respectfully submitted, Jeannie Taylor

10. Multi-Faith Housing Initiative

Housing affordability remains a major challenge in Ottawa and across Canada.

Riverside United is a member of the Multi-Faith Housing Initiative (MHI), a not-for-profit organization with strong faith community participation. MHI was established in 2002 to bring more affordable housing to Ottawa. MHI has grown into a coalition of over eighty faith communities including Christians, Jews, Muslims, Hindu, Unitarians, Baha'i, and other faiths from across the city.

MHI has developed five different property sites: Blake House, the Haven, Kent House (sold in 2023), Somerset Gardens, and most recently Veterans' House: the Andy Carswell Building, designed specifically to address the needs of homeless veterans in the Ottawa area. The latter is now operated by a separate charity, Veterans' House Canada.

Gloucester Housing Corporation (GHC) was founded in 1986 to address the need for affordable housing in Gloucester, now part of Ottawa. Over the years, GHC developed several housing projects offering rent-geared-to-income and below-market rental units. The organization focused on providing sustainable, accessible housing in well-connected areas with public transit and essential services.

In fall 2024, GHC officially amalgamated with MHI, expanding MHI's housing portfolio and increasing its reach to over 1,000 tenants across nine housing communities, building on the complementary strengths of both organizations. MHI's portfolio now includes 62 one-bedrooms, 171 two-bedrooms, 161 three-bedrooms, and 28 four-bedrooms.

Members of Riverside United are encouraged to support MHI directly.

Respectively Submitted by Charles Barrett

11. Refugee Committee

Throughout the spring and summer of 2024 an invitation went out to the Riverside congregation through the Sunday worship bulletin for people interested in supporting 2 brothers, Syrian refugees, who wished to come to Canada and be reunited with their family here in Ottawa. This Syrian family is here thanks to the patience, determination, long-term leadership and gracious support of Pat and Norm McLeod.

At a meeting of the Riverside United Church Council in September 2024 a motion was passed supporting the refugee application of the two brothers. Jane and Peter Griffiths offered to be members of the Riverside United Church Refugee Committee and to join with the Co-Sponsors, 4 members of the Hanna/Hamaty family, to oversee the refugee application process to the United Church of Canada (UCC).

In the fall of 2024 Jane and Peter Griffiths had an introductory meeting with the 4 Co-Sponsors of the Hanna/Hamaty family. The precarious and dangerous situation of the 2 brothers was shared with us as well as the current situation of the family members already making their home in Ottawa. All of the necessary IRCC documents were reviewed with the family who then undertook to gather the necessary personal background statements, documents and finances and complete the forms. Rafat Hamaty, who works at IRCC, took responsibility for collecting all the necessary information and filling out the application forms.

We communicated regularly with the Co-Sponsors to receive and review the completed forms along with the \$22,000 (\$11,000 for each brother) which is required upon submitting the applications to the UCC.

In December 2024, news of major changes in immigration policy and a freeze on numbers was announced and we were all aware that the application process was going to be much longer than expected. We accepted this news with heavy hearts.

By April 2025 we received the completed refugee application forms from the Hanna/Hamaty family and submitted them to UCC. Also in April, the Hanna/ Hamaty family provided the \$22,000 and these funds have been placed in a Trust Account at RUC and will remain untouched until the Syrian brothers arrive in Canada.

In December of 2025 we were advised by the Hanna/Hamaty family that the circumstances have changed for both brothers requiring a revision of their personal statements. The war in Syria has ended and there is a new government. However, now there are local militias that are targeting and persecuting Christians which make it unsafe for the 2 brothers to return to Syria.

In January 2026 we were advised by the UCC that there are 45 refugees ahead of the Hanna brothers in the UCC queue waiting to be processed.

Changes in circumstances must be updated so the applications are now being updated at the UCC with the new information provided by the Hanna/Hamaty family. Just to be clear, the refugee applications have not yet been submitted by the UCC to IRCC.

The work goes on.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane and Peter Griffiths

12. Thexton Garden Report

The Thexton Garden had another successful year in 2025.

Each year there are modifications to help make the care and harvest more efficient. For example, in 2025, we decided not to plant green beans because, at harvest time, daily picking is required. We just didn't have the 'man'power to pick on a daily basis. Instead, we planted an extra bed of salad greens (spring harvest) and potatoes (fall harvest).

After a couple of years of so-so tomato harvests, we had a bumper crop in 2025. Thanks to Terre à Terre - our Saturday morning market gardeners, for the donation of these plants.

In 2025, we split our weekly garden donation between the Heron Road Emergency Food Bank and the Brookfield Food Bank. Both outlets were appreciative of these garden-fresh donations.

Thanks to the volunteer waterers for their role in the summer maintenance. More volunteers are always welcome.

Submitted by: John Gingerich, Ken Smith, John Dixon

CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER TEAM MINISTRY

Peg Brandon – Chair

Helen Hunter – Member-at-Large

Elizabeth Barclay – Card Ministry

Mary Shaw – Member-at-Large

Wanda Maurais – Co-Chair

Bob Garrow – Member-at-Large

Diana Desjardins – Member-at-Large

Deborah Chaplin – Social Ministry

Throughout the year we continued to reach out to members of the congregation through a phone and card ministry. Elizabeth Barclay sent cards for birthday and anniversary celebrations as well as sympathy, thinking of you, and get-well cards to members of the congregation.

The phone ministry checks in monthly with members of the congregation who have requested this, thanks to the efforts of:

Wanda Maurais, Karen Ogston, Heather Smith and Peg Brandon

The *Nourishing Our Faith* includes descriptions of several social activities that were linked specifically to Worship services. In addition, there were the following activities that should be recorded:

There was a *Soup'erbowl Sunday* after church on 9 February. This was a gathering where participants could sample small quantities of different soups prepared by members of the congregation. Not surprisingly, the date was linked to the football Super Bowl Sunday.

Louise Madaire organized photo sessions for a new church photo directory in Oct/Nov 2024, with the directories arriving and being distributed beginning the third week of March.

Prior to the RUC Annual General Meeting on Sunday 23 March participants enjoyed a Potluck lunch.

RUC hosted advanced polls for the federal general election for the 45th Parliament of Canada which were held from Friday, April 18 to Monday April 21, which coincided with Good Friday to Easter Monday.

A retirement party was held for Paul Dillman on Friday 23 May. A description of this event is included in the *Nourishing Our Faith* description of the Ending of the Covenanted Ministry service held on Sunday 25 May.

On Tuesday 29 April Paul Dillman and Grant Dillenbeck hosted a lunchtime gathering for retired and soon-to-be-retired ministers, with members of the congregation contributing sandwiches and helping to serve and clean up after.

There was a *Spirit and Spuds* event after the Anniversary and Candle Lighting service on Sunday 2 November.

On Tuesday December 16, 2025, we organized the reception that was held after the Quiet Christmas service, a time for reflection during the busy holiday season and a time for remembrance as we light candles in memory of loved ones. At the reception we enjoyed spending some time together as well as sweets and hot apple cider.

Over the course of 2025 there was one Women's Breakfast and seven Men's Breakfasts held at Stacked Smoked Meat and Grill on Bank Street:

Women's Breakfast: *Saturday 5 April*

Men's Breakfasts:

- *Tuesday 25 February*
- *Tuesday 25 March*
- *Tuesday 22 April*
- *Wednesday 21 May*
- *Thursday 23 October*
- *Thursday 20 November*
- *Thursday 18 December*

On 19 November Peg Brandon, Wanda Maurais and Mary Shaw attended the first Cluster Group Pastoral Care Team meeting to discuss with our four sister churches the differing approaches to Pastoral Care.

On behalf of the members of the Caring for One Another Ministry, I want to thank members of the congregation who keep us informed about those whom we may be able to assist. I also want to thank those in the congregation who, even though they are not "officially" members of

the Caring for One Another Ministry, fulfil the mission of this ministry by regularly checking in on those who live alone, by visiting those in hospitals and other care facilities, and by nourishing a connection with others in the congregation. I know you do not do this for thanks, but we are grateful to you as you spread God's love to others in the congregation. With God's help, may we continue to care for one another.

Respectfully submitted.

Peg Brandon and Wanda Maurais

NOURISHING OUR FAITH

Members: Wendy Graham, chair; Jonathan Bathurst. co-chair; Mary Shaw; Deborah Chaplin; Paul Dillman; Cat LaForce; Karen Percy; Jeannie Taylor; Bob Christy

Mandate: Engaging in a variety of experiences that encourage people of all ages to explore, celebrate and enhance our understanding of the Holy and what God calls us to be and do.

- Offer advice and support for meaningful weekly worship
- Work with minister and music director to offer special worship services
- Work with minister and music director to enhance worship with a wide variety of musical experiences
- Offer multigenerational forms of worship such as Messy Church
- Coordinate age specific and multigenerational opportunities for learning and connection

Areas of Focus:

- Worship services
- Sunday morning tasks – making Sunday morning run smoothly
- Music
- Communion
- Special services and traditions
- Affirming
- Children's ministry, including Messy Church
- Adult learning, such as study series and book club

New members would be very welcome.

Worship time:

We at Riverside strive to help everyone feel welcome and included. 'Everyone' means: people of all ages, cultures, abilities, sexual orientations and gender identities, believers and questioners. 'Included' means: included in every aspect of the life of our faith community. We even have a service dog, Rosie, who accompanies one of our members; she occasionally contributes with a well-timed little bark.

Most services are online on Zoom and You Tube, and we had a few services which were either just in person or just online.

Hymn sings a few times a year have become popular. Participation in worship activities is encouraged, and a good variety of folks do. They request prayers, raise joys and concerns during prayers of the people, light candles, make announcements, present 'Minutes' for a variety of subjects such as affirming, environment, mission, and stewardship, do the land acknowledgement; and make musical contributions. We encourage and cherish the contributions of our youth and children.

One poignant moment in our collective lives was on November 23rd when Georgina Gray dedicated a piano solo to the memory of Grant Dillenbeck, who had recently died. Grant was Intentional Interim Minister here at Riverside for 2 years after George Marr retired, and before Paul Dillman came to us.

We have a small but excellent IT team that runs our sound system and broadcasts and records our worship services, and we thank them for their diligence and expertise. Special thanks to their families for their forbearance as the technical team is not only on the job every Sunday but also spends many extra hours solving problems and helping at other events.

Marking church seasons:

Paul's Epiphany series of sermons on the theme "What Are we Meant to Do and Be?" was interrupted by weather, but true to his nature he persevered and eventually completed the series he had planned.

Easter season saw another preaching theme: Ministry Signposts.

Maundy Thursday was observed with an online service.

Good Friday we had a service at 10:30 in person and online.

Easter Day we again had a "Sonrise" service in the garden, breakfast, then a service in the sanctuary at our regular time.

Jeannie Taylor, Licensed Lay Worship Leader, held Wednesday evening 'Worship in the Garden' services four Wednesdays in July. This was an opportunity for anyone who wished to worship in a less formal format, with music, fellowship and fresh air being important components.

The Christmas pageant was written by Rev. Brian Copeland and was amusingly set in current times in the countryside in the Ottawa Valley. It was held on Dec 21st.

On Christmas Eve we had a family service at 4:00 p.m., and an adult service with communion at 8:00 p.m. At both services we welcomed a good number of people who have little or no affiliation with RUC.

Paul held **confirmation** conversations in the winter and spring and held a confirmation ceremony on May 11th. The following youth were confirmed:

- Isabelle Ruth Clark
- Dalphina Lexy La Force Gravelle
- Sarah Ruby Percy-Miller.
- Sophie Catherine Poulin

Two winter services were cancelled because of weather conditions, but because of the pandemic experience Paul and the technical team were ready to pivot to online gatherings.

For each, a mass e-mail was sent out and everyone who had access to the appropriate technology was able to worship without braving the elements.

This year was a very different year in the life and work of Riverside. Paul Dillman, our cherished, long-time minister, retired in the spring. His final service, including the Ending of a Covenanted Ministry liturgy, was May 25th. It was a well-attended and moving service, with colleagues, family, friends, and current and past congregants in attendance. We wish him a fantastic retirement.

The congregation threw him a big retirement dinner party, complete with no less than 3 songs written for him, a poem, a slide show, oral tributes from colleagues, family and congregation members. It was a memorable event.

Paul had prepared us well for his departure, and our Ministry and Personnel team made the months between Paul leaving and our new minister arriving very smooth.

Worship experiences were available throughout the transition period. We closed for a few weeks in the summer, but we were provided with information on other United Church services that we could attend. We had a series of guest ministers the rest of the spring and summer, and September 7th we welcomed Rev. Brian Copeland as our Interim minister. He integrated seamlessly and his friendly, calm presence, ever present sense of humour, and thoughtful sermons have allowed congregational life to continue in a smooth and meaningful manner as we waited for the arrival for our new permanent minister.

Our amazing student minister, Karen Percy, held a once-a-week-for 4-weeks series in the spring on “Exploring Prayer Practices”, as well as gifting us with her talents and insights during worship services and meetings. In the fall she accepted an appointment at Carp-Dunrobin. She preaches there two Sundays a month and happily is often with us the ‘off’ Sundays.

June 15 marked the 100th anniversary of The United Church of Canada. No worship service was held at RUC; rather, many members attended the celebration at the EY Centre.

Sunday Morning Tasks

The Nourishing Our Faith team looks after ensuring there are enough volunteers to guarantee that Sunday Mornings go smoothly; greeting, reading scripture, taking up the offering, setting up and cleaning up after social hour about every two weeks, finding volunteers to serve communion, preparing the communion trays and cleaning up after, and keeping the kitchen stocked with supplies.

There was one wedding at Riverside in 2025. Kira Malchy, a member at Riverside, married Pierre Vanasse. Paul officiated. We wish the happy couple a long and blessed marriage.

Respectfully submitted, Wendy Graham

Children's Worship Report

Logistics: We currently start in the Sanctuary with everyone and go out after the Theme Conversation (*of note, this year the committee decided not to call forward the youth due to our YouTube and legal permissions for public display of a child's face, coupled with fewer kids and our RUC inclusion mandate. This is noted in our guide for visiting Ministers and has worked well in our congregation*). When the weather safely allows, we go outside to the back treed area (to clean up or collect nature stuff). Generally, we do not go outside in the winter. We were in room 5 this year.

Timing & Numbers: There are approximately 4-10 youth and children in our classes as we still have 2 consistent families at RUC (with a couple of others coming irregularly). Regulars are 11-15 years old. The kids get along wonderfully, the older ones help the younger and new kids and everyone is super excited when a new or tiny kid joins us. We currently have about 35-40 minutes and if it could be a little bit longer, we could do more projects.

Program: We always begin with the kids setting up the room accordingly (tables, chairs, drawing materials). We do a check in with everyone. This helps kids know they will have a turn to speak, we will all listen, and that what they share about themselves and their week matter to us all. It's very popular and takes time but is totally worth it. We also clean up and it is part of the feeling of ownership of the room.

Kids enjoy the experience and experiment format where I choose appropriate activities or science experiments that relate to the passage. For example, we had a conversation about what the Church does in community and with its partners: Brookfield Food Cupboard, the Food Bank, Refugee sponsorship, Amnesty letter writing etc. They wanted to get involved and so we had a class that made cookies and rice crispy treats for the Bazaar which they really enjoyed, feeling they contributed to the Church community support. Showing the kids other parts of our church, we also went twice after a Sunday to the Book Nook. The kids are encouraged to take books they would read, and this works well as we have book worms. It was a very popular activity that encourages reading and donating. They love it and it cost approximately \$10 (to come out of Children's Worship budget).

During Advent we were talking about the different ways to calm ourselves (with the lesson where all angels say “do not be afraid”) and they knew many calming techniques and shared their favourites. We tried a few of them and discussed that finding your way to a place you have been many times is easier than somewhere you rarely go, and talked about calming in the same way – if you practice the techniques you can calm more easily. Kids like these types of lessons because it gives them a sense of capability and awareness that they can use in all of their spaces (and also because dancing and movement was one of the methods we tried).

We divide the tasks and visitors often volunteer and are paired up with a regular who knows where to find things. There have been a few new children coming regularly and the occasional drop in visitors as well. Parents are welcome to join, new or old, they all seem very comfortable.

When we do the scripture reading, I pause to ensure everyone knows what the words mean/context which helps conversation and ensures everyone understands the passage best (discussing what the situation would look like today and get examples from the children).

Ideally it is the same reading that the adults get so there can be meaningful conversation relating from the Theme Conversation and also at home afterwards *having the reading sent as far in advance as possible helps me do this. No questions are off limits and are responded to appropriately for the ages in the room. I aim to make the class feel comfortable and a place where kids are listened to by adults and each other, ask questions, share their ideas and where they can relax and be loved by God just for being themselves. I talk about my connection with God and also allow my mistakes (usually in the experiments) to be seen. Let's try again!

Development: I went to the [Change Conference](#) (not United but Christian, over the 2025 Thanksgiving weekend) to see what other youth worship leads do. Many said that the parents want the kids to memorize scripture and many have weeknight groups. Our parents have never expressed a specific need from worship and have said that nights won't work for us.

Clusters: The Southeast Ottawa United Church cluster churches are meeting in groups of practice. I met with the Children Worship leads Nov 10th, 2025, at Emmanuel. Not all the cluster churches were represented, but we discussed meeting again (as we didn't have a minister and other groups were missing). I did mention that we were doing a Vintage Messy Church, and they said they would promote it. At the January 2026 Cluster service, Rev. Jim Baldwin, said somehow Rideau Park was forgotten on the mailing list and I think now that we have our minister, we could do another session.

Special: The Christmas pageant had regulars and their visitors with approximately 7 youth and 5 adults. Lots of positive feedback from in person and YouTube watchers for the script (written by Minister Brian) and the participation of the adults and kids. We also did a “Vintage Messy Church”, adult-focused with nostalgic music and crafts (eg: potato prints, dehydrated citrus', gluten free gingerbread with powder sugar). Approximately 40 visitors (volunteers included). Because it was (older) adult focused we did it 1:30-3:30 for better driving visibility but the

weather conditions were very heavy snow which probably affected attendance. There was a bit of miscommunication about the main responsibilities because we didn't have Minister participation (this was the first without Paul and Brian was away that weekend) and I was away just before, but in true RUC fashion people stepped in and helped (Jeannie organized the mailing lists/communications with our Swahili congregation and Deb organized the dinner) to make it work! This was the first activity with this group, and it was awesome. They sang a beautiful Swahili song of prayer.

Forecast for the future:

-I would like to continue with the format of Check-in and Experience, Experiment and Artful worship. These are a favourite among current worshipping children. It would be nice to have time to do a trip or something after church, but everyone is too busy. Maybe a summer activity would work better.

-Most of the regulars are too busy for extra worship time or evening or weekend activities that we might put on.

-The change of focus from kids to all during the Theme Conversation seems to be working great. I think with so few (and shy) kids, they really appreciate that they aren't singled out and feel more a part of the whole collective. They still like going out and having ability to chat and check in and move/make/play.

-We would like to continue Messy Church. It's one of the most well-liked activities. It will be great to have another Minister who has experience and passion for this, who will bring energy and experience.

-Room 5 make over: We didn't have an opportunity to do this yet because, looking at it, there is much more stuff to organize and it will take a few days. There are a few items and furniture in there that we could use in a better way, I think the kids would like to have an opportunity to make it their own with a mural on a Saturday in the spring when we can leave windows open. As it's a shared space, a short focus could be on something like "make a joyful noise" or something suggested by the kids. It would be a fun activity to engage parents in too. It would be fun to also have a budget and a mini council to show the kids how decisions are made in our church 😊

Respectfully submitted by Cat La Force, Children and Youth Coordinator

Music Forward

Members: Paul Dillman, Wayne Irschick, Wendy Graham, Malcolm Wade, Karen Percy, Wanda Maurais

The Music Forward group continues to meet once a month to assist our music director, Wayne Irschick, plan the music program for the following month. Because our choir continues to be small in size, it is not always possible to provide an anthem every Sunday.

Sometimes we are able to reach out to the community for a musical contribution to our program but mostly we rely on folks in our congregation who share their talents with us. We thank and appreciate all those who have contributed to the music program this year. We encourage anyone who is interested in music to join our group.

Respectfully submitted by Wendy Graham and Wanda Maurais

Choir

Although we remain small in number, our faithful members have continued to lead the singing each Sunday, with several of our choristers contributing to the music ministry either individually or with others, whether with voice or other instruments. Some folks were with us for just a few Sundays, while others attended when they could, although several were present most weeks.

The year began with the annual Cluster Service when 3 of our number participated in the combined choir at Glebe St. James Church on January 12th and then on June 1st 3 choir members plus our director were part of the massed choir at the EY Centre for the 100th Anniversary celebration of the United Church. On May 23rd, at the Friday evening dinner to honour our retiring minister the choir gave a rousing rendition of "Farewell to Paul Dillman" (a parody on "Farewell to Nova Scotia") and on the following Sunday, which was Paul's last service with us, several alumni joined with us to sing "How Lovely are the Messengers". In total the choir provided the Special Music during Sunday worship on 11 occasions, as well as at the 8pm Christmas Eve service.

Our Choir Director, Wayne Irschick, continues to rise to the challenges of working with our diminished numbers and imbalance of voice parts. He sources suitable music or adapts the settings to make the arrangement more suited to our range of voices.

Although we remain happy to sing in the choir, we do have our limitations, so we would really love to have some fresh voices join with us to "*Make a Joyful Noise*". If you are a soprano, alto, tenor, bass - or even if you are unsure where your voice range places you - and you enjoy singing, we would be very pleased to welcome you into our choir family.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Shaw.

Communion

Over the past year we continued our usual pattern of celebrating the Sacrament of Communion a total of 8 times. All were in person with the exception of Maundy Thursday – April 17th, when 29 people participated on Zoom.

Our custom, when Communion is offered during a regular worship service, is to have recipients come to 2 stations, situated at the front of the sanctuary, where 1 server offers the gluten-free bread using tongs while the other holds the tray of glasses from which the cup of grape juice is taken by the person being served. A third volunteer holds a basket for the collection of the glasses. Another team circulates the congregation – complete with a tray of easier to grasp glasses - to serve those who are less comfortable walking forward to receive the elements.

On Christmas Eve just 1 station at the front, plus the roaming station served those who wished to receive. On Easter Sunday morning for our outdoors Son-Rise service there were a record number of 31 souls who received the Sacrament. This was also Rev Paul Dillman's last time as celebrant with us. He also celebrated at the Table for 1st Sunday in Lent – March 9th, Maundy Thursday and Palm Sunday – April 13th. On June 8th Rev Dr Jessica Hetherington was Celebrant and on October 5th – Worldwide Communion Sunday, Rev Brian Copeland led us, as well as on November 30th - 1st Sunday of Advent, and December 24th.

When offered in the Sanctuary 40 – 66 received Communion in-person, while there were also those who participated on Zoom.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Shaw.

World Day of Prayer

This day is traditionally observed worldwide on the first Friday in March, so in 2025 the designated day was March 7th. Unlike in the days before the Covid pandemic changed many things, there was no local service organized, however there was a gathering at Julian of Norwich Anglican Church in Nepean.

The service outline was prepared by the women of the Cook Islands, with the theme “I Made You Wonderful”, based on Psalm 139: 1-18. Participants were encouraged to make and wear, with the materials provided, a floral “crown”, similar to the headpieces which the ladies in the featured country wear. The service consisted of a video made and distributed by the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada, with those present joining in the hymn singing and prayer responses.

Approximately 45 people attended this service where we learned something of life in the Cook Islands. A hymn was composed for the occasion and was sung in their native language of Maori as well as in English. Lime Cookies, using a recipe from the Cook Islands, and lots of other goodies were enjoyed at the reception following the service.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Shaw

Affirming Ministry Circle Report:

Members: Wendy Graham (Chair), Wanda Maurais (Secretary), Paul Dillman, Karen Percy, Helen Hunter, Cat LaForce, Joan Sirrs

- March 2, 2025. Minute for Affirm. Wanda provided a report on Ageism in Canada.
- March 9, 2025, we celebrated PIE Day. (Public, Intentional, Explicit) with a blessing written by Ken Robinson, an inclusive hymn and tarts the colours of the rainbow. Wanda did a second report on Ageism in Canada.
- April 27, 2025. 6th Anniversary of becoming an Affirming Ministry. Rebekah Dillman presented a Minute for Affirm about Autism. Rainbow Chair pockets, made for choir chairs, were dedicated.

With 'Open Hearts' we continue to work towards being a welcoming and inclusive congregation.

Thank you to the congregation for your continued support. We are always looking for new members. Please speak to any of us if you are interested in joining the circle.

Respectfully submitted: Wendy Graham and Wanda Maurais

Book Club

The Book Club continued to meet on Zoom in 2025. In the early months, we discussed The Night Stages by Jane Urquhart and The Sleeping Car Porter by Suzanne Mayer. In April, we recognized Paul's faithful contribution as our guide for many years and decided that our reorganization would include leadership from a variety of members, usually the proponent of the book selected.

Moving into the fall, we read Remember by Lisa Genova and It Must be Beautiful to be Finished by Kate Gies. We welcome new members, whether or not they have read the book.

Patty Dixon

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

This report is prepared on behalf of those individuals who do what they can to provide information about RUC to the surrounding community. We do our best to maintain an online presence through our website (RiversideUnitedOttawa.ca), a Facebook page and by streaming our worship services through Zoom and YouTube.

Here is a list of those who have assisted with website maintenance and/or Audio/Visual system operations in the past year: John Gingerich, David Dean, Ken Smith, Theresa White, Louise Madaire, Paul Dillman, Rebekah Dillman, Richard Williams, Rosemary Hood, Steven Fearsythe and Jeannie Taylor. David Gray also enhances our communication efforts by preparing the weekly PowerPoint slides which accompany our worship service scripture readings.

Both Theresa and Paul have left us in the past year, so maintaining a Facebook presence now falls almost entirely to Jeannie. She would be very grateful to anyone who would volunteer to help with this. We have also set up an Instagram page but at the moment have no one to maintain it. Jeannie and John are mainly responsible for keeping our website current, updating links and/or adding new content as needed.

It is mainly John and David who provide support for Richard in running the A/V system for Sunday services, occasionally taking over when he is away. Louise frequently acts as Zoom co-host on Sunday mornings with David, Ken or John filling in when she is not available. Rebekah frequently operates the remote control for the Sunday morning PowerPoint presentations while Samantha often fills in when Rebekah is away. Cat, Luke, Karen and Ken have also taken on this task on occasion.

As always, we would be very pleased to receive comments or suggestions. We would be delighted to welcome aboard anyone who has an interest in learning about website maintenance, our Facebook or Instagram presence or our A/V system.

Submitted by,
John Gingerich for the Communications Team

FUNDRAISING 2025

Book Nook

The book nook did well in 2025. We had a total of 11 sales with a total amount brought in of \$7,325. This equals to about \$666 per sale. Our customers have been very faithful in bringing us good books for resale. Our jigsaw puzzles have also been a hit with many. The excellent organization and display of our books is thanks to Gail Kennedy and Sheila Snelling. I handle all the heavy lifting, finances and changing the sign at the front of the church. As word gets out about our book nook, we get customers from quite far away as well as the local community.

Respectfully submitted by Daphne Biggs

Garage Sale

The annual Garage Sale is held the last Saturday in April. It is one of the major fundraising events of the year - \$2800 was raised in 2025. It is a lot of fun but also a lot of work! Volunteers help with the sorting, pricing, sales and clean-up. As always we would welcome more help and more new ideas for this annual event.

Submitted by John Dixon

Christmas Bazaar

The 2025 Bazaar was held Saturday 22 November 2025 from 10-12, to match the hours of the Organic Farmers' Market. It included: knitting, sewn items, quilts and crafts; jewelry; attic treasures; and baking (including pies), jams and jellies. By the end of the day the Bazaar raised over \$8,600 (this included presales).

Subsequent to the formal sale date, remaining products were offered for sale after church on 23 November and 12 December. Final set sales were \$9995.55.

Our thanks to all those who:

- so generously contributed the many wonderful items for the various tables;
- participated in baking parties at the church for the rhubarb pies, and apple pies and crisps;
- set up, operated and cleaned up various tables after the Bazaar, and took care of arranging the floats and counting the proceeds;
- operated the mini-bazaar tables outside in the December cold.

I would also like to thank the members of the Bazaar Committee: Diana Desjardins, Patty Dixon, Jean Gingerich, Wendy Graham, and Susan Wade. Their energy, enthusiasm and

organizational abilities made it all happen. I also want to thank Rhoda Thexton for her donation of apples every year and her lead in getting the apples ready for pie-making and coordinating the production and packaging of the shortbreads, and Deborah Chaplin and Don Squire for organizing floats before and counting results after the Bazaar.

Respectfully submitted by Peg Brandon, Chair Bazaar Committee

Grocery/Gift/Cash Cards

The profit for 2025 was \$2,283.91 on sales of \$50,475. The sales were down \$15,000 from last year. The best-selling cards are PC \$250, Metro \$250, Farm Boy \$250 and Metro \$100.

The majority of sales occur from the office, and we thank Jeannie Taylor for this effort and thanks to Cheryl Page for selling cards on Coffee Sundays . Thanks to Joan Sirrs for being the Purchaser of all the cards, thanks also to Karen Tippet for her help with inventory control and her statistical record keeping.

Thanks to all of you that bought cards. New buyers are gladly welcomed. That is what keeps this fund raiser going.

Respectfully submitted by Ken Smith

Quilting and Crafts

The quilting and Craft group is very small now, with 7-8 members.
We meet on Thursdays at 1:00 p.m.

Between work that happens at home and that which occurs on site, a variety of activities take place. Quilts are pieced, hand or machine quilted, then bound. Items are knitted or crocheted or sewn or painted, and crafts of all kinds are created.

Most of our creations go to the bazaar.

Some of the quilts are sold, and some are donated to shelters or given to our members who are fighting a serious illness and need a little comfort.

It is very rewarding to see things being created. It is also rewarding to know that funds are raised for various good works; some in the church and some in the community.

Just as important is the fellowship and the welcoming atmosphere. While our hands are busy, conversation flourishes, connections are made, and friendships are formed and strengthened. We serve tea and take turns providing goodies. Anyone who is in the church is invited to partake.

Donations of fabric, yarn and craft supplies are always gratefully received.

You are invited! All genders are enthusiastically included, to come and try us out. We will provide instruction, where possible, if you want to try something new to you.

How about bringing your knitting along? You'll have someone to chat with!

Respectfully submitted by Wendy Graham

MEMBERSHIP AND ROLLS

	31 Dec 2023	31 Dec 2024	31 Dec 2025
Members/Adherents	441	432	426
Non-Resident Members	16	11	7
Households Under Pastoral Care	218	218	200
Baptisms Adult	0	1	0
Baptisms Child	0	0	0
Marriages	0	1	1
Deaths	7	10	5
Funerals & Memorial Services	7	1	0
Changes During the Year			
Members			
On by Profession Under age 18	0	0	4
On by Profession age 18 or older	0	3	0

In Memoriam: 2025 Deaths

Lois Cameron

Gord Cousineau

Glen Culham

Rod Ferguson

Joseph Pickard

***“In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.”
- The United Church Creed***

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Notice to Reader

February 14, 2026

NOTICE TO READER

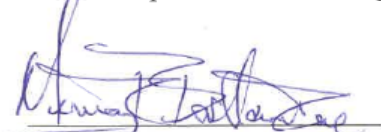
This information is provided for internal use only and may not meet the needs of a Third Party.

On the basis of the Information provided, we have reviewed the Income and Expense Statement and Balance Sheet for Riverside United Church, Ottawa, Ontario as of December 31, 2025 and for the 12 months then ended. This process included a review of the account of the Trustees (building) and the account of the Program/Operations of riverside United Church.

Our review consisted of a sampling of financial transactions for the period reviewed, a confirmation from external financial institutions that funds declared exist, and we have not found any items of concern in this process.

We have not performed an audit or a review engagement in respect to these financial statements and accordingly, we express no assurance thereon Readers are cautioned that these statements may not be appropriate for their purposes.

This Financial presentation is prepared internally by a person(s) and there is no assurances provided with this report.


Murray Ballantine
Deborah Chaplin

4:47 PM
2026-03-01
Cash Basis

Riverside United Church
Operation 2025
January through December 2025

	Jan - Dec 25	Jan - Dec 24
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Congregational Giving		
Envelopes -Local	57,865.75	75,445.00
eTransfer	13,028.75	17,996.55
CanadaHelps	9,980.60	14,224.25
PAR	86,556.92	88,097.22
Loose Offering	1,403.00	1,943.85
Initial Offering	167.00	75.00
Special Donations	5,428.67	1,245.00
Square	580.85	0.00
Total Congregational Giving	175,011.54	199,026.87
Trustee adjustment	353.19	0.00
Donations		
Donations for use of space	18,525.00	53,495.00
Sound System	200.00	450.00
Other Donations	1,840.00	2,667.51
Total Donations	20,565.00	56,612.51
Emmanuel Methodist	3,500.00	0.00
Ottawa Organic Farmers" Market	12,400.00	0.00
Riverside Park Nursery School	16,065.00	15,400.00
Bank Interest Income	622.00	1,520.06
Weddings, Funerals	550.00	250.00
Directed Capital Fund	330.00	634.00
Directed Financial Gifts	500.00	700.00
Fund Raising	25,163.09	20,105.02
Total Income	255,059.82	294,248.46
Gross Profit	255,059.82	294,248.46
Expense		
Administration		
Bank Service Charges		
In branch Cash deposited	5.18	0.00
Bank Service Charges - Other	758.25	565.77
Total Bank Service Charges	763.43	565.77
Depreciation	35,108.07	28,565.69
Directed Gifts	0.00	372.09
Donations Expense	50.00	0.00

Equip Purchases, Repairs, Maint	3,511.65	866.85
Fund Raising Expenses	58.20	0.00
Insurance	13,302.07	13,865.55
Miscellaneous	-593.64	185.04
New Minister Expense	810.70	0.00

Riverside United Church
Operation 2025
January through December 2025

	Jan - Dec 25	Jan - Dec 24
Office General Supplies	241.66	226.85
Office Photocopy	99.76	195.36
Office Postage	128.89	275.02
Office Telephone	1,146.50	1,079.02
Social Activities	0.00	67.63
Vacation Replacement	1,091.00	0.00
Total Administration	55,718.29	46,264.87
Assessment - UCC	14,861.00	13,318.00
Interest expense	6.99	0.00
Copier Supplies	313.94	1,430.89
Copier Lease	3,040.79	2,748.36
A/V Maintenance	4,015.15	0.00
Utilities		
Electricity	8,757.00	8,533.74
Gas	6,120.68	6,050.71
Water & Sewer	3,359.63	3,281.16
Total Utilities	18,237.31	17,865.61
Cleaning Supplies	3,171.86	2,664.37
Repair and Maintenance	3,848.81	42,261.45
Yard Maintenance	14,021.38	11,089.06
Internet Services	661.64	623.52
Partnership Ministry	348.00	240.00
Programming		
Building Partnerships	-445.51	-117.00
Caring for One Another	0.00	137.78
Nourishing Our Faith	4,818.50	3,584.93
Communication Committee	664.77	620.74
Total Programming	5,037.76	4,226.45
Salary Costs		
Payroll Expenses	172,420.51	223,613.16
Training & Enhancement-Staff	0.00	150.00
Training & Enhancement-Minister	0.00	290.38
Travel	528.55	896.50
Staff - Other	625.00	550.00
Total Salary Cost	173,574.06	225,500.04
Total Expense	296,856.98	368,232.62
Net Ordinary Income	-41,797.16	-73,984.16
Other Income/Expense		
Other Income		
Grant	0.00	25,000.00

Mission & Service_

Envelopes

4,340.00

5,152.00

4:47 PM
2026-03-01
Cash Basis

Riverside United Church
Operation 2025
January through December 2025

	Jan - Dec 25	Jan - Dec 24
PAR	21,160.92	22,456.22
CanadaHelps	25.00	0.00
eTransfer	1,117.25	626.75
Total Mission & Service_	26,643.17	28,234.97
Directed Outreach		
Centre 507	530.00	540.00
Heron Emergency Food Centre	1,180.00	640.00
White Gift	0.00	1,287.03
Total Directed Outreach	1,710.00	2,467.03
New Investment Capital		
Endowment Gifts	1,535.00	1,225.00
Memorial gifts	681.25	6,714.29
Total New Investment Capital	2,216.25	7,939.29
Total Other Income	30,569.42	63,641.29
Other Expense		
Mission & Service Expense	26,643.17	28,234.97
Outreach.		
Centre 507	530.00	540.00
Heron Emergency Food Centre	1,180.00	640.00
White Gift	0.00	1,287.03
Total Outreach.	1,710.00	2,467.03
Total Other Expense	28,353.17	30,702.00
Net Other Income	2,216.25	32,939.29
Net Income	-39,580.91	-41,044.87

4:31 PM
2026-03-01
Cash Basis

Riverside United Church

Balance Sheet

As of 31 December 2025

	31 Dec 25	31 Dec 24
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Chequing!Savings		
Bank Operating	63,503.61	48,091.56
Bank Savings		
Savings ! Sabbatical	10,510.99	9,888.99
Capital Fund	1,045.79	1,045.79
Endowment Fund	10,207.18	7,990.93
Syria Refugee Program - Trust	22,000.00	8,000.00
Bank Savings - Other	-2.00	0.00
Total Bank Savings	43,761.96	26,925.71
Bank Trustees	0.00	15,911.33
Petty Cash	300.00	300.00
Total Chequing!Savings	107,565.57	91,228.60
Other Current Assets		
Canoe Financial-Investments	416,436.20	382,289.91
Accounts Receivable - GST	547.05	1,559.46
Accounts Receivable - PST	1,951.57	4,633.11
Grocery Card Imprest Account	20,367.13	23,134.40
Grocery Gift Certificates	22,197.34	19,429.23
Total Other Current Assets	461,499.29	431,046.11
Total Current Assets	569,064.86	522,274.71
Fixed Assets		
Building		
Chancel Renovation		
AV Upgrade	81,194.44	81,194.44
Construction	40,004.11	40,004.11
Total Chancel Renovation	121,198.55	121,198.55
Washroom Renovation	93,511.93	93,511.93
Buildings-Other	221,228.77	221,228.77
Depreciation	-156,387.56	-126,797.07
Total Building	279,551.69	309,142.18
Land & Land Development		
Driveway	51,969.95	51,969.95
Land & Land development - Other	82,715.00	82,715.00
Depreciation	-12,662.00	-7,465.00
Total Land & Land Development	122,022.95	127,219.95

Thexton Garden		
Original Cost	3,205.82	3,205.82
Depreciation	-1,923.48	-1,602.90
Total Thexton Garden	1,282.34	1,602.92
Total Fixed Assets	402,856.98	437,965.05

4:31 PM
2026-03-01
Cash Basis

Riverside United Church Balance Sheet

As of 31 December 2025

	31 Dec 25	31 Dec 24
TOTAL ASSETS	971,921.84	960,239.76
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable		
Accounts Payable	33.96	0.00
Total Accounts Payable	33.96	0.00
Total Current Liabilities	33.96	0.00
Total Liabilities	33.96	0.00
Equity		
Opening Bal Equity	235,466.01	235,466.01
Riverside Churches	-32,198.60	-32,198.60
Endowment Fund	414,427.42	380,281.13
Manse Fund	60,500.00	60,500.00
Restricted Ministry		
Brookfield Food Cupboard		
Canada Helps	20,143.10	7,500.96
eTransfer	1,425.00	400.00
Envelopes	15,555.00	6,011.00
PAR	1,850.00	750.00
Loose	2,559.80	0.00
Square-P.O.S.	461.78	0.00
Brookfield Food Cupboard - Other	-29,500.00	-9,500.00
Total Brookfield Food Cupboard	12,494.68	5,161.96
Compassion	1,541.17	1,701.69
Jamaica		
Canada Helps	1,770.99	1,770.99
Envelopes	1,745.00	1,745.00
Jamaica - Other	-3,515.99	650.00
Total Jamaica	0.00	4,165.99
Pause Table	130.00	130.00
Refugee-Talal Taimouti	0.00	8,000.00
Refugee-George Hanna	11,000.00	0.00
Refugee-Esber Hanna	11,000.00	0.00
Quilting and Crafts	6,702.71	6,692.71
Sabbatical	2,000.00	2,000.00
Serenity House	175.08	108.55
Total Restricted Ministry	45,043.64	27,960.90
Retained Earnings	288,230.32	275,853.20

Net Income	-39,580.91	12,377.12
Total Equity	971,887.88	960,239.76
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	971,921.84	960,239.76

3:42 PM
2026-02-10
Cash Basis

Riverside United Church

Budget 2026

	Jan - Dec 24	Jan - Dec 25	Budget 2026
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
Congregational Giving	199,026.87	174,811.54	175,000.00
Trustee adjustment	0.00	353.19	0.00
Donations			
Donations for use of space	53,495.00	20,525.00	25,000.00
Sound System	450.00	200.00	200.00
Other Donations	2,667.51	1,840.00	1,800.00
Total Donations	56,612.51	20,565.00	27,000.00
Emmanuel Methodist	0.00	3,500.00	6,000.00
Ottawa Organic Farmers" Market	0.00	12,400.00	12,400.00
Riverside Park Nursery School	15,400.00	16,065.00	17,000.00
Bank Interest Income	1,520.06	622.00	500.00
Weddings, Funerals	250.00	550.00	0.00
Directed Capital Fund	634.00	330.00	0.00
Directed Financial Gifts	700.00	500.00	0.00
Fund Raising	20,105.02	25,163.09	25,000.00
Total Income	294,248.46	254,859.82	262,900.00
Gross Profit	294,248.46	254,859.82	262,900.00
Expense			
Interest expense	0.00	6.99	
Copier Supplies	1,430.89	313.94	500.00
Copier Lease	2,748.36	3,040.79	3,200.00
A/V Maintenance	0.00	4,015.15	4,000.00
Cleaning Supplies	2,664.37	3,171.86	3,000.00
Repair and Maintenance	0.00	3,848.81	1,000.00
Yard Maintenance	11,089.06	14,021.38	15,000.00
Utilities			
Electricity	8,533.74	8,757.00	9,000.00
Gas	6,050.71	6,120.68	6,200.00
Water & Sewer	3,281.16	3,359.63	3,425.00
Total Utilities	17,865.61	18,237.31	18,625.00
Administration			
Total Bank Service Charges	621.67	763.43	800.00
Depreciation(moved to end of expenses)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Directed Gifts	372.09	0.00	0.00
Donations Expense	0.00	50.00	0.00

Equip Purchases, Repairs, Maint	866.85	3,511.65	3,000.00
Fund Raising Expenses	0.00	58.20	0.00
Insurance	13,865.55	13,302.07	13,250.00
Miscellaneous	185.04	-593.64	300.00
New Minister Expense	0.00	810.70	0.00

Riverside United Church

	Jan - Dec 24	Jan - Dec 25	Budget 2026
Office General Supplies	226.85	241.66	200.00
Office Photocopy	195.36	99.76	100.00
Office Postage	275.02	128.89	150.00
Office Telephone	1,079.02	1,146.50	200.00
Social Activities	67.63	0.00	0.00
Vacation Replacement	0.00	1,091.00	1,200.00
Total Administration	17,755.08	20,610.22	19,200.00
Assessment - UCC	13,318.00	14,861.00	16,000.00
Internet Services	623.52	661.64	700.00
Partnership Ministry	240.00	348.00	350.00
Programming			
Building Partnerships	-117.00	-445.51	200.00
Caring for One Another	137.78	0.00	100.00
Nourishing Our Faith	3,584.93	4,818.50	4,500.00
Communication Committee	620.74	664.77	700.00
Total Programming	4,226.45	5,037.76	5,500.00
Staff			
Payroll Expenses	223,613.16	172,420.51	224,500.00
Training & Enhancement-Staff	150.00	0.00	0.00
Training & Enhancement-Minister	290.38	0.00	0.00
Travel	896.50	528.55	500.00
Staff - Other	550.00	625.00	600.00
Total Staff	225,500.04	173,574.06	225,600.00
Office Renovation	1,896.00		0.00
Thexton Garden	184.08		0.00
Petty Cash-Miscellaneous	1,546.92		0.00
Professional Services	727.58		0.00
Reconciliation Discrepancies	-230.65		0.00
Repairs and Maintenance	42,261.45		0.00
Depreciation	28,565.69	35,783.82	36,000.00
Total Expense	372,412.45	297,532.73	348,675.00
Net Ordinary Income	-78,163.99	-42,672.91	-85,775.00
Transfer from Endowment			10,000.00
Surplus/Deficit			-75,775.00
Actual Deficit (difference between Surplus/Deficit and Depreciation)			-39,775.00

NOMINATIONS REPORT FOR 2026 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Nominations Committee Mandate: In consultation with the Minister, Officers of the Church, and Chairs of Committees, to identify and bring forward for consideration to the Annual Congregational Meeting, the names of new replacement candidates and the names of persons continuing in their positions on Council and other committees of Riverside United Church. Persons elected by the Congregation will continue in their roles during 2026 until March 2027 where possible.

The members of the committee conducting nominations for 2026 were Bob Christy (Chair of Council), Charles Barrett (Chair Elect of Council), and Gail Christy (Secretary of Council). Reverend Carla Van Delen was kept informed throughout the process.

Members of Council

Position	Incumbent for 2026 -2027	Term of Office
The Minister (Obligatory)	Rev. Carla Van Delen	
Past Chair	Robert (Bob) Christy	A one-year term
Chair	Charles Barrett	1 st year of a 2 year term
Chair Elect	Not required this term	
Secretary	Peg Brandon	1 st year of a 3-year term
Treasurer	Ken Smith	No term, but ready to retire
Assistant Treasurer	Deborah Chaplin	
Trustee Representative (Obligatory)	Shirley Andrews	
Ministry & Personnel Rep. (Obligatory)	Samantha Wilson	
Member-at-Large	Ginette Williams	1 st of a 2-year term
Member-at-Large	Peter Griffiths	1 st of a 2-year term
Member-at-Large	Jean Gingerich	1 st of a 2-year term
Member-at-Large	Vacant	2-year term

Members of Ministry Teams

Ministry Team	Lead & Co-leads	Team Members
Nurturing Our Faith	Wendy Graham – Lead	
	Mary Shaw – Co-lead	Deborah Chaplin Rev. Carla Van Delen
Caring for One Another	Peg Brandon – Lead	
	Wanda Maurais — Co-lead	
Building Partnerships	Morag Pearce – Lead	
	Karen Ogston – Co-lead	