

Present: David Allen, Jane Allen, Karen Ashforth, Dana Bach, Virginia Beane, Joan Beaver, Carole Bennett, Jackie Blackwell, Kim Blackwell, Carolyn Booth, Marjorie Booth, Deb Bradley, Gail Brown, Jacqueline Carter, Riddick Chhetri, Pat Conway-Willis, Bob Cotton, Joan Cotton, Cynthia Cousins, Marilyn DaSilva, Paul Deeth, Rosemary Drinnan, Nelsona Dundas, Peter Dunlop, Frank Fairfax, Susan Fairfax, Lorraine Fait, Isla Grady, Jack Grady, Val Greenfield, Joan Holowell, Chris Humphries, Larry Humphries, Don Hunter, Joan Hunter, Debbie Jamison, Laura Johnston, Lindy King, Laureen Kinnear, Robert Kinnear, Margaret Kirakopoulos, Dale Kucharczyk, John Leavitt, Margaret Leet, Donna Leslie, Dorothy McAnally, John McCarthy, Elizabeth McEachern, Catherine McPherson, Ian McPherson, Leslie Molin, Jane Ann Murray, Sheila Murray, Patricia Nelson, Betty Nelson-French, Ruth Noble, Betty Ovenell, John Page, Laurie-Beth Page, Debra Perkins, Sue Peter, Kim Posno, Nancy Raithby, Peter Restivo, Lynda Sharpe, Barbara Sheffield, Peggy Sheffield, Shelly Shepherd, Julia Stavreff, Joanne Stenerson, Paul Summers, Judy Watson, Janet Wells, John Wevers, June Wevers, Meredith Whipp, Carol Wilson, Murray Wood, Pat Wood

Staff: Rev. Maya Landell, James Aitchison, Randee Marquez, Scott Robertson, Catherine Locke

Regrets: Brianna Coutlee, Erin Pellow, Finn Parks, Jason Locke, Tamil Savurimalai

1) Acknowledgement of the Land and Opening Prayer

Rev. Maya Landell, Lead Minister, welcomed the members and adherents of the congregation and offered the acknowledgement of the land and then lit a candle and shared an opening prayer.

Motion 1: Governance

MOTION by Carole Bennett, Seconded by Janet Wells, that the members of Islington United Church

- Appoint Peggy Sheffield as chair and Scott Robertson as secretary of this Annual Meeting;
- Adopt the agenda of the October 16, 2024 Annual Meeting, as circulated;
- Approve the minutes of FY2023 Annual Meeting held on October 11, 2023; and
- For the duration of this meeting, extend voting privileges to adherents* of Islington United Church.

**Adherents are those who participate in the life and work of Islington United Church but have not made a formal declaration of faith.*

CARRIED

2) FY2024 in Review – Peggy Sheffield, Chair of Church Council

- Paul Summers, Board of Trustees

Ian offered words of thanks and gratitude for Paul's service on the Board of Trustees. Paul was the longest serving member, having served since 1987.

Motion 2: Retiring Board of Trustees' members, Joan Hunter and Paul Summers

MOTION by Ian McPherson, Seconded by Rev. Maya Landell, that the members and adherents of Islington United Church remove Joan Hunter and Paul Summers from the Board of Trustees and recognize and celebrate with gratitude their many years of faithful service to the congregation. **CARRIED**

Treasurer's Report: FY2024 Financial Statements

FY2024 Summary

	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2024 Budget	FY 2023 Actual
Revenue	\$1,260,721	\$1,289,554	\$1,110,759
Expenses	\$1,347,776	\$1,388,162	\$1,183,821
Surplus/Deficit	-\$87,055	-\$98,608	-\$73,062



The audit was done again this year by Raskin and Associates. Just a reminder, that Islington now gets a full audit of our books, which is the highest level of accounting review. Audited statements allow us to apply for certain government grants. Raskin and Associates is a GTA based practice that specializes in non-profit organizations. The audit was exceptionally detailed this year. The auditor spent a lot of time on our policies and procedures. Given that there were no deficiencies pointed out in the audit notes, we can assume that our checks and balances are in order. Erin Pellow, our Finance Coordinator, was instrumental in getting the information to the auditor in an accurate and timely matter.

This first slide is a summary slide comparing our 2024 actuals to our budget and to our 2023 actuals. Islington finished the year with a deficit of \$87,055 compared to the approved budget of \$98,000 and a prior year deficit of \$73,062. We will get into the detail in the next slide.

Treasurer's Report: FY2024 Financial Statements

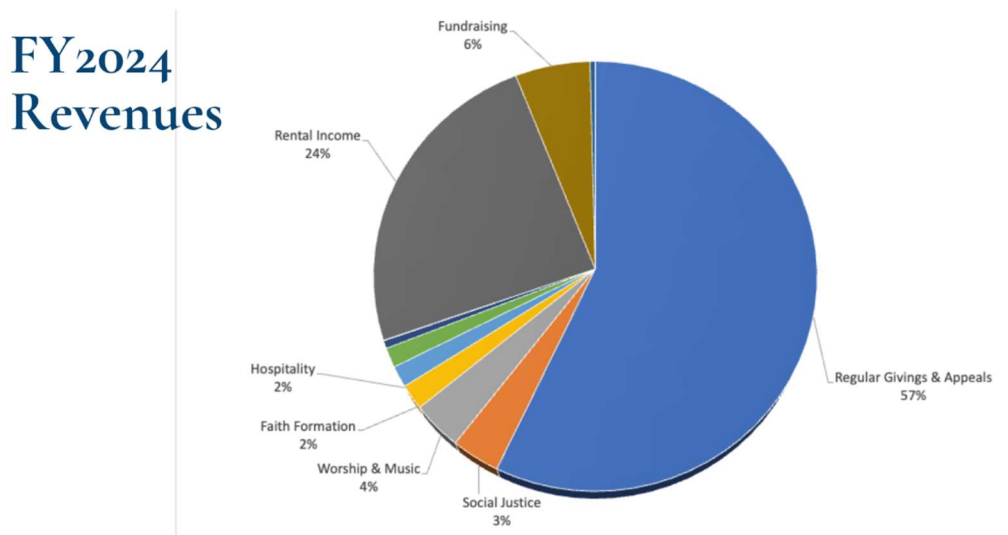
Revenue	2024	2023	Expenses	2024	2023
Regular Givings & Appeals	\$719,604	\$671,721	Salaries & Wages	\$787,670	\$686,129
Social Justice	\$43,442	\$37,600	Facilities	\$255,115	\$235,615
Worship & Music	\$45,217	\$36,206	Governance	\$174,948	\$152,283
Faith Formation	\$23,681	\$12,314	Worship & Music	\$100,799	\$83,412
Hospitality	\$19,989	\$7,154	Hospitality	\$15,475	\$10,521
Pastoral Care	\$18,542	\$8,241	Pastoral Care	\$11,921	\$4,071
Facilities	\$7,331	\$6,230	Social Justice	\$41,401	\$35,385
Communications	\$540	\$248	Communications	\$39,830	\$29,141
Rental Income	\$306,361	\$270,468	Faith Formation	\$19,323	\$10,330
Fundraising	\$71,079	\$57,515	Fundraising	\$16,065	\$19,397
Other	\$4,935	\$3,062	Other	\$9,729	\$7,537
			Interfund Transfer	-\$124,500	-\$90,000
	\$1,260,721	\$1,110,759		\$1,347,776	\$1,183,821

Total revenue for 2024 was \$1,206,721. While this was \$19,000 or 1.5% below budget, it was almost \$150,000 or 13.5% over the prior year. The difference was due to revenue increases in all categories. As we have all said before, revenue increase is the best way for us to tackle the deficit as it protects our programming and the work of the church.

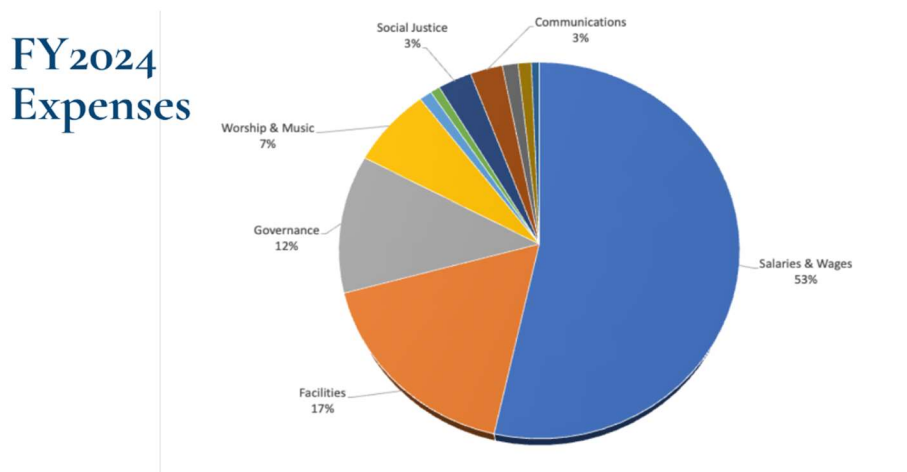
Total expenses for 2024 were \$1,347,776. Expenses were \$41,000 (3%) below budget and \$164,000 (13.8%) over 2023. Aside from increased ministry programming, there are a few notable year over year changes that drove the increase. In February 2024, Council approved the hiring of Catherine Locke into the Hospitality Ministry. Although the salary is offset by a transfer from our trust funds, the staffing change shows up in Salaries & Wages. As you may recall, Governance covers many things from insurance to our UCC denominational fees. Much of the increase in 2024 was due to the implementation of the new fee structure.

The last thing I would like to point out on this slide is the interfund transfer. Roughly \$90,000 of the transfer is from the McIntyre estate that is used to fund general programming. The balance of the transfer is to support the new Hospitality Ministry position.

This next slide looks at the breakdown of our revenue by category. As you can see, Regular Givings represents 57% of our total revenue. Last year, this number was 67%. This is a good trend. The strategic planning group highlighted that over the net number of years, Regular Givings should make up about 1/3 of the total revenue. We can already see that other types of revenue are gaining traction.



Here is a similar look at our expense breakdown. This chart has not changed as much as the revenue chart. Salaries & Wages is the biggest category at 53% which is down from 57% last year. The other categories have changed only slightly. Facility expense covers **things like cleaning, grounds keeping, repairs and maintenance and is unchanged from last year.**



- Refer to [FY2024 Audited Financial Statements](#), as prepared by Raskin & Associates.

Motion 3: Receipt of Financial Statements

MOTION by John Leavitt, Seconded by Ian McPherson, that the members and adherents of Islington United Church receive the Financial Statements of FY2024 (July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024) as presented at the Annual Meeting on October 16, 2024. **CARRIED**

Motion 4: Approval of Auditor

MOTION by John Leavitt, Seconded by Catherine McPherson, that the members and adherents of Islington United Church approve the appointment of auditor, Raskin & Associates, for FY2025. **CARRIED**

FY2025 Narrative Budget – Rev. Maya Landell

*⁶The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not regretfully or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. **2 Corinthians 9:6-8***

Where We've Been

As the neighbourhood around us has undergone significant construction, we give thanks for our continued stability as a community of faith. We remain grateful to the Legacy Gifts we have received, such as the McIntyre and Estlick bequests, that have allowed us to sustain our priorities.

Even so, in the post-COVID-19 economy, individual priorities and giving patterns have changed. In August 2023, the Ontario Nonprofit Network reported, “Charitable giving across Canada has fallen to a historical low, a downward trend that began twenty years ago but has accelerated given the COVID-19 pandemic which exacerbated an affordability crisis.” And while we and others like us are receiving fewer donations, the need for the community, compassion and hope we offer through our worship and programs is greater than ever before. Our response to this was to actively explore other revenue streams to sustain our ongoing ministries and programs.

Where We're Going

As we move into the next fiscal year, it is abundantly clear that the neighbourhood needs a healthy, compassionate community of faith. For Islington, that means expanding our outreach of hospitality to ensure we are that community — for people here and now, and

into the future. To identify and understand existing needs, in FY2025 we plan to research and analyze the impact of our programs in the immediate community and beyond.

Only four months in, FY2025 (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025) is already proving to be a life-giving year for our faith community. Thanks directly to your past financial support, our work of last year, including providing structure and staffing to sustain our recent growth, is allowing us to continue our efforts to support new and existing members of our community and respond to ever-growing spiritual needs in our midst. I'd like to share with you the plan for FY2025 in four key areas of ministry: Worship and Music, Pastoral Care, Faith Formation, Social Justice.

Worship and Music

Our vision is to provide life-changing worship every week of the year.

Where we've been

Last fiscal year, even more people than the year before were attracted to our Sunday morning worship. Even during the summer months, when we moved from the Sanctuary to the air-conditioned comfort of Stewart East Hall, worship attendance was up over previous years, both in-person and online. We offer children's programming and a choir experience all summer long. During December alone, more than 1,000 people joined us in-person for our Christmas concert and worship services. Special services last year included, among many others, Blessing of the Backpacks, Blue Christmas, Christmas In Islington, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Indigenous People's Sunday, Music Sunday and Affirm Sunday.

Where we're going

Your financial support over the 2025 fiscal year will allow the following:

- a fresh generation of seekers (who might not otherwise enter the doors of a traditional church, but who, nonetheless, deeply desire a relationship with God and others) will be nourished with the relaunch of our monthly contemporary service, *Resonance*
- the Senior Choir will touch hearts through inspiring weekly musical leadership and supported by amazing staff singers who also lead with their musical gifts worldwide
- the Children's Chorus will continue its exponential growth, thanks in part to a highly successful Summer Music Camp program
- the Handbell Choir will enhance our musical program
- sharing of Christine D. Pohl's ground-breaking work, *Making Room: Recovering Hospitality as a Christian Tradition*

- service of meals and hospitality each Sunday to continue to build community -- an extension of the worship experience

- participation in the launch of the new musical resource “Then Let Us Sing”.

What it costs

The cost for one year is \$576,692.¹

Pastoral Care

Our vision is to offer pastoral care and connection to each other and our neighbours

Where we've been

Pastoral care needs consistently focus on ways to offer uplifting care to those who were homebound, in hospital or grieving. We continued to gather important information on our community members, resulting in more immediate connection with individuals and their families, more detailed tracking of people's care needs, and quicker access to emergency contact information. The Bloordale Amalgamation has been a source of learning from their former committee members about offering compassionate ongoing pastoral response.

The Communications Ministry also played a vital role in helping us stay connected as a community online through various digital communication vehicles (e.g., e-mail, e-newsletters, graphics, social media postings). The Communications Ministry supports the initiatives of leaders in all areas of the church so people will be aware of all the life-giving programs, events and opportunities at Islington United Church and how they might be involved. This ministry designs and maintains our website, which serves as our virtual front door to the world, inviting people in whether they are seeking a place of worship, a venue for a life event, benevolence support, prayer and companionship, or a vibrant community in which to get involved.

Where we're going

Your financial support over the 2025 fiscal year will allow the following:

- a new website with a fresh design
- full-time hours for our Ministry Support Coordinator, Scott Roberson, to coordinate benevolence and pastoral care

¹ The Worship and Music cost includes a percentage of staff salaries and facility and operating expenses. It also includes such expenses as worship supplies, staff singers, guest musical leadership and others that fall under the Worship and Music budget.

- an Emergency Preparedness Plan in alignment with our duty of care
- continued connection by the Pastoral Care Ministry Lead, James Aitchison, with our faith community, both with regular in-person visits and with weekly pastoral prayers in worship
- a continued learning experience of our Pastoral Care Ministry Student, Adele Halliday
- support by the Stephen Ministry to those facing challenges in their lives, including providing grief books
- creation of hand-knitted and crocheted prayer shawls from the Prayer Shawl Team as tangible expressions of comfort for those experiencing distress
- the Card Ministry to express our love and prayers to others in times of joy and sorrow
- the Hospitality Team to provide welcome and both physical and spiritual nourishment, including food, for hundreds of people in need
- the Hospitality Team to support several special reflective worship experiences such as Blue Christmas and Week of Guided Prayer
- the online Prayer Wall to continue to be offered as a space for people to both post and respond to prayer requests
- the Healing Prayer Team to offer weekly prayer in the chapel each Sunday.

What it costs

The cost for one year is \$389,657.²

Faith Formation

Our vision is to nurture people of all ages in their faith formation, wherever they are on life's journey.

Where we've been

Our full-time Children, Youth and Young Adult Ministry Lead strengthened and created programs that support families and attract new families to our church community. Further, we were able to build a team of volunteers to serve in this ministry, including highschoolers

² The Pastoral Care cost includes Pastoral Care, Hospitality and Communications Ministries expenses, including a percentage of staff salaries and facility and operating expenses.

from our neighbourhood who are dedicated to the nurture and spiritual development of our children. Intergenerational worship services and family experiences are a way for us to live into our commitment to “let the children lead us”.

Where we're going

Your financial support over the 2025 fiscal year will allow the following:

- Godly Play training to build a nurturing, creative Montessori-style Sunday school classroom and culture for children
- weekly youth group experience
- a reinvigorated youth program in partnership with other local churches
- Child and Youth Sunday Ministry programming year-round so parents and caregivers can enjoy their own time of solace and worship
- regular young adult gatherings for meals and events to strengthen connections
- opportunities for people to meet, build relationships, grow in discipleship, receive pastoral care and grow commitment through participation in small groups
- ongoing established groups, including Bible Study, Meditation, Stephen Ministers, YOU Groups, and United Church Women
- an expanded number of onsite retreat offerings with two women's retreats in addition to Advent, New Year and June experiences
- existing online programs such as Islington Reads and our Lenten Learning series to provide education and spiritual nurture with a broad audience.

What it costs

The cost for one year is \$296,139.³

Social Justice

Our vision is to do the work of justice Jesus calls us to do for the healing of the world.

³ The Faith Formation cost includes a percentage of staff salaries and facility and operating expenses. It also includes such expenses as Child and Youth Ministry leaders, Toddler Ministry caregivers, art supplies, books, and Godly Play training that fall under the Faith Formation budget.

Where we've been

We have always been a community that responds to local, global and systemic needs in discerning and timely ways.

Last fiscal year, we continued to support members of our community who are often disenfranchised in many ways. We partnered with Mabelle Arts to double our bi-weekly Mabelle Food Program to weekly and fed a record 21,608 individuals (including children). We marked Pride month with celebrations and educational events. We expanded our participation in Out of the Cold by offering food and welcome to those experiencing homelessness by beginning in July instead of November. We reunited a family from Afghanistan through our refugee sponsorship program, while moving forward on Bloordale's former relationships to welcome two refugees in the near future.

We maintained our annual commitment of \$30,000 to the United Church of Canada's Mission & Service program. This life-giving work, delivered in collaboration with Canadian and international partners, assists so many people in fully tangible ways.

Where we're going

Your financial support over the 2025 fiscal year will allow the following to continue:

- growing fresh, nutrient-rich, organic produce for clients of local food banks
- receiving, sorting and displaying goods donated to our annual Rummage Sale, a source of quality, reasonably priced goods for those experiencing economic insecurity
- providing nourishing meals from our kitchen to offer hospitality for all
- participating actively in the Out of the Cold initiative
- strengthening our commitment to inclusion and justice for people of all sexual orientations and gender identities
- advancing reconciliation through education, programming and direct engagement with our Indigenous neighbours
- giving 3% (\$35,000) of our income to support the wider mission of the United Church of Canada in the world through its work of the many Mission & Service programs.

What it costs

The cost for one year is \$296,139.⁴

Total cost to respond to God's call in the world through four key areas of ministry:
\$1,558,627.

A detailed budget is available from the Church Office by emailing Erin Pellow, Finance Coordinator, at finance@islingtonunited.org or calling 416-239-1131 ext. 226.

Board of Trustees' Financial Report

Financial Task Force

In May 2023, Church Council established a Financial Task Force to assess Islington United Church's prospective operating deficits and to develop and implement a plan to explore new revenue opportunities to change the church's revenue model.

Four Revenue Opportunities Working Groups were formed to probe the prospects for generating new or increased revenue. The alternatives to new revenue would be reducing operating expenses significantly or merging with another church to generate cost savings.

The four Working Groups were as follows:

- Sanctuary and Other Space Rental
- Stewart East Hall Kitchen Rental
- Grants and Sponsorships
- Legacy and Endowment Giving

In late November 2023, each group submitted a report and met with the Financial Task Force to discuss their reports. In early January 2024, the Financial Task Force reported to both Church Council and Trustees. Its conclusions were as follows:

1. Opportunities for material new revenue are very modest if we consider the effort and resources required relative to the overall budget.
2. The best source of new revenue is Legacy Givings, but it impractical to incorporate revenue forecasts into the annual budgeting process.

⁴ The Social Justice cost includes a percentage of staff salaries and facility and operating expenses. It also includes other expenses that fall under the Social Justice budget.

3. A full-time staff person in the Hospitality Ministry could generate revenue but would require subsidization in the short term.

In February 2024, the Hospitality Working Group put forward a proposal to Church Council and Trustees to create a full-time Hospitality position. The proposal was approved and resulted in the hiring of a Hospitality Ministry Lead (specifically, Catherine Locke) on a full-time, contract basis. One of the major sources of funding is a sizeable, pending bequest from a former congregant earmarked specifically for the Hospitality ministry.

The Financial Task Force was also involved initially in the amalgamation discussions with Bloordale United given its potential financial impact. Bloordale had decided that it was at an inflection point due to a retiring lead Minister (Rev Brian McIntosh) on June 30 and an aging membership. Bloordale reached out to a few local churches to test interest in an amalgamation and decided to focus its efforts with Islington United in early February.

A new Islington United Task Force was established that had representatives from Trustees and Church Council. Its role was to determine if the amalgamation was in the best interests of Islington United, quantify the financial impact of a merger, and summarize the pros and cons from an Islington perspective. The report was shared with Trustees and Church Council in February and was highly supportive of the amalgamation.

For the remaining months of the year, the Task Force produced a formal agreement that was subsequently approved by each congregation and Shining Waters Regional Council.

Major decisions and conclusions of this work included

1. It is expected that the revenue generated by the Bloordale property + incremental givings will exceed expenses.
2. The name of the combined entity will be Islington United Church and there will be an Islington campus and a Bloordale campus.
3. The Sunday worship will be located at the Islington campus.
4. There will be one Church Council and one Board of Trustees.

The amalgamation became official on July 1 and the Bloordale campus continues to offer rental space to the local community. Within the next month, we will form a Bloordale Visioning Committee to determine what the optimal decisions could be regarding the property and the programs we would like to deliver in the surrounding area.

Bloordale-Islington Amalgamation

During the second half of the fiscal year, one of the major initiatives was to amalgamate Islington United and Bloordale United. The amalgamation was given blessing by both congregations and Shining Waters in June 2024 and the union became official on July 1.

In late 2023, Bloordale approached Islington, amongst other congregations, to test its interest in amalgamating. Bloordale was at an inflection point strategically and concluded it would benefit from partnering with a strong congregation. Bloordale's Senior Minister, Rev. Brian McIntosh was set to retire on June 30, 2024.

Islington was receptive and formed a task group with representatives from both Church Council and Trustees. Ian McPherson was asked to lead the Task Group which included Peggy Sheffield, Jack Grady, Jill Stewart, Jackie Carter with strong involvement from staff (Rev Maya Landell, Jason Locke, Catherine Locke).

Bloordale formally selected Islington United in late February at a congregational meeting. For the next few months, Bloordale, Islington and Shining Waters Regional Council worked collaboratively towards a formal agreement and an integration plan. Each church held congregational meetings to discuss the opportunity before congregational voting. Both congregations were unanimous on their support for the union.

The chosen name for the combined church is Islington United Church. It was decided that the Islington campus would be the primary location for worship and staff and that the Bloordale campus would continue to rent its facilities for the foreseeable future.

A Bloordale visioning committee will be formed in late 2024 to evaluate options to optimize the property, our programs, our staff & volunteers, and the historic connection to the Bloordale community. It is expected that the visioning committee may take upwards of a year to provide a report to Church Council and Trustees.

With respect to governance, there is one Church Council and one board of Trustees as of July 1, 2024. Patricia Willis-Conway of Bloordale joined Church Council and Julia Stavreff joined the Trustees. All staff employed on June 30 continued with the new Islington United.

Motion 5: Appointment of Board of Trustees

MOTION by Ian McPherson, Seconded by Sandra Tully, that the members and adherents of Islington United Church elect the following members to the Board of Trustees effective October 16, 2024:

CARRIED

- Rod Haskin
- Leslie Molin
- Julia Stavreff

Motion 6: Renewal of Board of Trustees Vice-chair

MOTION by Jill Stewart, Seconded by Jacqueline Carter, that the members and adherents of Islington United Church extend the term of Ian McPherson on the Board of Trustees for another five years as Vice-chair following the conclusion of his initial ten-year term, which expires at this annual meeting.

CARRIED

Staff and Church Council – Dave Allen, Chair of M&P

Motion 7: Changes to Church Council

MOTION by Carole Bennett, Seconded by Isla Grady, that the members and adherents of Islington United Church approve the changes to the Church Council presented at the Annual Meeting on October 16, 2024.

CARRIED

Motion 8: Election of Church Council

MOTION by Jack Grady, Seconded by David Allen, that the members and adherents of Islington United Church elect the following members to Church Council for a one-year term effective October 16, 2024.

- David Allen, Chair, Ministry and Personnel Committee
- Deb Bradley, Lead, Social Justice Network
- Patricia Conway Willis – Member-at-Large
- Isla Grady, Chair, Hospitality Committee and Representative, United Church Women
- Jack Grady, Chair, Pastoral Care
- John Leavitt, Treasurer
- Catherine McPherson, Chair, Worship and Music Committee
- Peggy Sheffield, Chair, Church Council and Chair, Communications Committee
- Jackie Carter, Representative, Board of Trustees
- Sandra Tully, Chair, Faith Formation Committee
- Janet Wells, Special Projects

CARRIED

Note: The Vice-chair and Secretary positions are currently vacant.

Leaded Windows Replacement

Islington United Church needs to undertake the replacement of 100 leaded glass windows over the next five years in the two oldest parts of the building – the Sanctuary (built 1947-49) and the Chapel/Youth wing (built 1954-55). These are the windows with amber, white or clear glass, not the beautiful pictorial stained- glass windows in the Sanctuary and Chapel.

Priority 1 High risk Summer 2025	Replace 24 clerestory windows in the Nave of the Sanctuary; Install air-conditioning system in the Sanctuary, if financially and technically feasible	\$ 191,130 \$ 305,000 – \$ 451,000
Priority 2 High risk Summer 2026	Replace 24 windows in the Godly Play, Toddler and Youth Rooms	\$ 198,800
Priority 3 Medium risk Within 5 years	Replace 32 windows in Scout Hall, adjacent storage rooms, Church Office and Operations Office	\$ 182,625
Priority 4 Medium risk Within 5 years	Replace 11 windows in the ministry offices and Room 210; Replace or restore 9 windows in the Reception Room; Install air-conditioning in the Reception Room, Chapel and Room 210	\$ 69,115 ~ \$ 60,000 \$ 20,740

The total project of four stages over five years has an “order of magnitude” cost of \$1.027 million to \$1.174 million (as of April 2024), assuming air-conditioning the Sanctuary proves financially and technically feasible. Actual costs will only be available when each stage is tendered competitively.

Funding will be provided by a multi-year fundraising campaign at each stage backed by the assets of the Memorial Fund – much like the *Raise the Roof* campaign when we replaced the slanted roofs of the church in 2019. We will also investigate the opportunity for grants in light of the environmental and heritage impacts of the work.

At a joint presentation on August 7 Church Council and the Board of Trustees examined the situation, research and recommendations. Both Church Council, our governing body, and the Board of Trustees, which has ultimate responsibility for our property and assets approved the project. Because it has a value over \$100,000 the project and Islington’s financial position were also reviewed by the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council and the project has been approved.

On Sundays after the Annual Meeting there will be an information table in Stewart East Hall and tours of the Sanctuary and rooms. We invite you to join one of the task groups if you have the interest and experience we need for this project:

- Contracting and installation
- Fundraising
- Communications

And bring your questions to the Annual Meeting.

Retirement of Carole Bennett

Rev. Maya honoured the work and legacy of Carole Bennett, including her work as Vice-Chair of Church Council, Chair of Church Council, and Past Chair of Council. Rev. Maya thanked Carole and gifted her flowers on behalf of the entire congregation for the incredible work she has done.

Closing Reflection and Prayer

Rev. Maya offered three questions as a closing reflection, “I wonder what’s most staying with you?”, “I wonder what you’re most energized and excited about?”, and “I wonder what you are praying about for our community?”, and then closed with a prayer.