

# Annual Report 2026

(July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026)

## God Cares, We Care



**Islington United Church**

**Let Love Be Here**



**Who We Are:** As an active presence in the Village of Islington for more than 200 years, we believe we strengthen one another by working together through God's grace for a better world. We are an intergenerational community of faith that doesn't think the same, vote the same, love the same, pray the same, but we are trying our best to follow in the way of Jesus.



### CALL

*Building Community  
with Compassion and Hope*

*The core of our purpose: sharing who  
we seek to be in this time.*

### VISION

*Called by God, as disciples of Jesus,  
The United Church of Canada seeks to  
be a bold, connected, evolving church of  
diverse, courageous, hope-filled  
communities united in deep spirituality  
inspiring worship and daring justice.*



### VALUES

*Generosity,  
Hospitality, Sacred Space*

*These values are lived in our actions:  
wondering, praying, singing, giving,  
and serving*

# Message from Lead Minister

*Rev. Maya Landell*



Nineteen years ago, The United Church of Canada ordained me as a Minister of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care. Soon after, an elder shared, "being a minister is the experience of having 100 bosses and no one ever showing you your job description until you make a mistake". They captured the many roles and understandings of ministry leadership within a community of faith: preacher, priest, pastor, administrator, writer, liturgist, creative, director, innovator, coordinator, shepherd. These roles are shaped by one's age, stage of life, and leadership style – coach, behind the scenes, directive, collaborative, generalist, specialist, delegative. They also shift as the needs of the Church change.

Over this decade of serving in ministry at IUC, it is a blessing to serve in my roles alongside gifted volunteer and staff leaders who shine their light in a variety of ways in, numerous roles, because they care about navigating change on IUC's behalf. For their faithful service, we thank four Council leaders as their roles transition: Sandra Tully served six years as Chair of Faith Formation and became Chair of Council for the past year and a half, John Leavitt (former Council Chair and Co-Chair of the Polaris Fundraising Campaign) served seven years as IUC Treasurer, David Allen (former Council Chair) served for seven years as Chair of M&P, and Catherine McPherson who served for four years as Chair of Worship & Music, and is now Council Chair incumbent. These leaders care deeply about this ministry and its future; their love for God shows up in how they love Jesus and the people God loves. God bless them and all those who serve together to make IUC's ministry thrive.

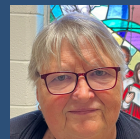
In John 4:11-12 we read: <sup>11</sup> Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us, and Christ's love is perfected in us.

This is the heart of my own ministry leadership and our leadership together at IUC. It embodies how we "Let Love Be Here". It is the "work" of the Church as we try our best to follow in the way of Jesus. It is the heart of pastoral care, learning to embody and offer Christ's grace and care to one another in love.

Thanks be to God for a love like that,  
Rev. Maya Landell, Lead Minister

# Message from Church Council Chair

*Sandra Tully*



This Report is a snapshot of the work of the IUC Church Council for FY2025/26. The information describes the activities of the Church. This group of hard-working people has met monthly to ensure the needs of the Church move forward in a positive manner.

These leaders have devoted their time to the theme "caring for ourselves and others." The Council has taken time to realize the importance of the decisions that were made and how these decisions affect the life and work of the committee members and the church.

The church committees and teams that report to the Council also followed the caring model in their committee work, including: respecting the diversity among themselves and others, feeding those who were hungry, providing newcomers to Canada support and life skills as they move their lives from other countries, and providing Christian growth through pastoral care for the congregation and community members at all ages and stages.

The staff at IUC, with the support of the Council, also worked diligently to develop teamwork plans so that they could offer care for all the people requiring their attention and ensuring that they as a staff team can stay healthy and effective.

For the past one and a half years, I have served alongside Church Council. As of the Annual General Meeting, I will be stepping down as Chair of the IUC Church Council. It was my pleasure to serve while Rev. Maya was away on restorative leave and during her return. Catherine McPherson will be the next Chair of IUC's Church Council. I will continue this year as Chair of Faith Formation and an active member of the Tuesday morning Knitters Group. Let's all look forward, as the IUC Church community enters strategic planning to ensure there is a clear vision that supports a realistic plan as IUC moves into the future, a future that lives God's compassion and hope.

Sandra Tully, IUC Council Chair

# Church Council 2025-2026

**Sandra Tully**, Chair

**Reverend Maya Landell**, Lead Minister

**John Leavitt**, Treasurer

**David Allen**, Chair, Ministry and Personnel Committee  
(retired in FY25/26)

**Isla Grady**, Chair, Hospitality Committee and  
Representative, United Church Women

**Jack Grady**, Chair, Pastoral Care Committee

**Ian Reece**, Representative, Ministry & Personnel

**Catherine Locke**, (staff), Executive Director

**Reverend Sheila Murray** (July - Aug. 2025)  
Pastoral Care Ministry Lead

**Jason Locke**, (staff), Minister of Music

**Catherine McPherson**, Chair, Worship  
and Music Committee

**Leslie Molin**, Representative,  
Board of Trustees

**Janet Wells**, Facilities Special Projects

**Deb Bradley**, Chair, Social Justice Network

**Patricia Conway-Willis**, Member at Large

## Our Staff Team FY25/26

**Rev. Maya Landell**

Lead Minister (40 hours/week)

**Jason Locke**

Minister of Music (40 hours/week)

**Catherine Locke**

Executive Director (40 hours/week)

**Rev. Sheila Murray**

Pastoral Care Ministry Lead (20 hours/week)

**Hannah Athanasiadis**

Pastoral Care Ministry Associate (Meditation Contract  
Summer Supply)

**Rabekah Wiseman**

Ministry Coordinator (40 hours/week)

**Erin Pellow**

Financial Administration Lead (40 hours/week)

**Scott Robertson**

Administrative Coordinator (40 hours/week)

**Brianna Coutlee**

Children, Youth and Young Adult Ministry Lead  
(40 hours/week)

## Voluntary Associate Ministers

Voluntary Associate Ministers are retired ministers or ministers serving in other appointments who are in formal relationship with Islington United Church as volunteers.

**Reverend Mark Aitchison** – supporting Mabelle Food Program, Stephen Ministry, preaching

**Reverend Janess Binns Landell** – supporting Right Relations Circle and Welcome Team

**Reverend Amy Crawford** – supporting Faith Formation and Worship leadership

**Reverend Nelsona Dundas** – supporting Pastoral Care coverage

**Reverend Adam Hanley** – supporting Hospitality and Faith Formation

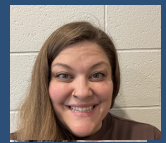
**The Very Reverend Dr. Carmen Lansdowne** – former UCC Moderator, strategic planning advisor

**Reverend Roger Landell** – supporting Pastoral Care coverage, weddings, funerals, Welcome Team, preaching

**Reverend Adele Halliday** – supporting Pastoral Care coverage, preaching

# Message from Executive Director

Catherine Locke



Hospitality is at the heart of everything we do at Islington United Church. It extends far beyond a warm welcome, it is reflected in the relationships we build, the care of our buildings, and the operational decisions that shape every person's experience when they walk through our doors.

My goal is to create spaces that are welcoming, secure, clean, safe, and, in many ways, feel like home. Whether someone is joining us for worship, attending a community event, renting our space, providing a service, or arriving for work, I want their experience to reflect the care and hospitality that are central to our ministry.

In FY2025/26, IUC's fire alarm panel required an emergency replacement following an unexpected failure. As part of this project, the new panel was strategically relocated from the boiler room to the rear entrance, now housed in a temperature-controlled environment. This proactive decision extends the lifespan of this critical piece of equipment while improving accessibility. Fire inspection deficiencies also identified the need to replace 43 smoke detectors throughout the building, several of which required scaffolding to access. This work was completed in October 2025.

At Bloordale campus, we completed significant repairs to the parking lot, and with the help of a government grant, enhanced security systems. This has helped us create a safer and more welcoming environment for our tenants and visitors alike.

The work of hospitality is reflected not only in our buildings, but also in the relationships we cultivate. I am grateful for the ongoing IUC partnership that has continued to develop with German International School Toronto. Together, we have collaborated on events and begun exploring future opportunities which benefits both organizations and strengthens our shared community.

The Bloordale campus continues to be a vibrant community hub, supported by strong relationships with our long-term tenants, including a daycare, a private school, a Korean Presbyterian congregation, Scouts, AA/NA, and more. We are grateful that these valued partners have renewed their agreements and continue to make Bloordale their home.

## Ministry & Personnel/Human Resources (M&P) Update



**Committee:** *David Allen, Ian Reece, Stacey Reason, Stacy Lockard, John Goodwillie, Ken Lundy, Joan Cotton*

For seven years, David Allen led this "human resources ministry" with diligence and integrity. He navigated the changing needs in our ministry and staff team with adherence to the guidelines of The Manual of The United Church of Canada, even filling in as volunteer Manager of Operations to discern what IUC most needed next. Dave Allen's leadership was a gift of dedication, continuity and faithful service. He recruited and supported competent committee members like Joan Cotton whose meaningful contributions will be missed as she finishes her term. We are so grateful for her leadership and gifts on this team. As Dave Allen finishes his term, we offer thanks to him for his generosity of time and leadership in the provision of resources and support for IUC with respect to any issues affecting staff of our church. As the committee continues the work of building positive and trusting relationships between staff and members of the community of faith, we are working in a shared leadership model for this next season: Ken Lundy (Treasurer), Ian Reece (Council Representative), Stacey Reason (Secretary), Jon Goodwillie (Staff Support) and Stacy Lockard (Staff Morale). Questions are welcomed at [mandp@islingtonunited.org](mailto:mandp@islingtonunited.org).

Our current staffing compliment consists of five full-time personnel including one ordered minister, and seven part-time personnel (20 hours, 20 hours, 20 hours, 20 hours, 18 hours, 10 hours, 5 hours). This is a two year interim staffing plan preceding the Strategic Planning process, which will inform any future changes in order to meet the goals and plans for our congregation's ministry.

# Program Highlights by the Numbers

**12**  
thousand+ *people attended  
in-person worship*

**22**  
thousand+ *people reached on  
social media*

**15**  
baptisms *eleven weddings  
and  
twelve funerals*

**48**  
participated *in Week of  
Guided Prayer*

**264**  
children/youth *engaged in  
worship and  
programs*

**20**  
meditators *meeting weekly  
in person and online*

**26**  
walkers *participated in  
Walk the Walk  
for Social Justice*

**21**  
thousand+ *joined worship  
services online*

## Hospitality

- 10,500 cups of coffee at Coffee Hour
- 1,920 dinners served at Thursday night children and youth programs
- 900 dozen cookies donated
- 550 meals served at the Rummage Sale BBQ

We see some of the numbers, but not all the numbers, such as loads of dishes washed, tablecloths washed and so much more. What supports these numbers is our commitment to the Ministry of Radical Hospitality. We are blessed with amazing intergenerational Teams. Our Teams contribute thousands of volunteer hours. We are active, planning, cooking, cleaning, listening, and praying to "live the welcome," not only Sundays, but working with our Staff Team all week long. We read Romans 12:13: "Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality." We understand we were welcomed to welcome, without judgement or exception; to offer a safe space; to provide nourishment and support. To quote the poet Maya Angelou: "People will forget what you said. They will forget what you did. But they will never forget how you made them feel." We are doing our best to make people feel safe and cared for in our promise to share Christ's welcome.

# 2026 Highlights

## Music



Music inspires, connects, and enriches our shared life at IUC. Our robust Chancel Choir program, strong Summer Music Camp and our annual Christmas in Islington concert welcomed a full house. The Children's Choir presented its first Christmas musical in many years with tremendous success, reflecting the growth of our children's music program under the leadership of Rabekah Wiseman. Special instrumental music also helped shape meaningful worship on Remembrance Sunday, Christmas Eve, Good Friday, Easter, and Music Sunday. In April, Dr. Deb Bradley performed a successful organ recital in the theme *Celebrating the Organ Music of Black Composers*. As Resonance worship gains momentum, its music team grew in strength and helped nurture this vibrant and evolving ministry. This year also marked an exciting new chapter as we welcomed our first Dr. John Derksen Music Scholar, Adam Rokicki, who spent the year learning the many dimensions of church music ministry while contributing his gifts to the Chancel Choir, Handbell Choir, and Resonance Team. Across our music ministries, singers, ringers, instrumentalists, leaders, and volunteers continued to nurture community, deepen worship, and make music a vibrant expression of our shared ministry at IUC. Questions are welcome at [jason@islingtonunited.org](mailto:jason@islingtonunited.org).

A Fundraiser to Remember! On Saturday, May 9, the Stewart East Hall was magically transformed into *A Secret Garden*. Guests were treated to an amazing gourmet dinner, delectable appetizers, spectacular entertainment and electrifying auctions. The event sold out in two weeks. With 143 people in attendance we raised around \$30,000! Thank you so much to all who attended and supported this fundraiser so generously. Many people helped to make this event so special: Hospitality, Giving Garden, A&E, the Auction Teams and our fabulous musicians. Thanks as well to the members of the Chancel Choir who served our dinner so diligently! And not to forget - a huge thank you to all who donated items for our Raffle, Silent & Live Auctions. We could not have done this without you. Plans are already afoot for May 2027 - stay tuned!

## Spring Event: A Secret Garden



# 2026 Highlights Continued...

## Pastoral Care



The Pastoral Care Committee and Rev. Sheila Murray have offered continued support for our key leaders in these ongoing ministries: Prayer Shawls, Prayer Link, care cards, community care packages, Stephen Ministry, Healing Prayer, hospitality meal packages, Life after Loss, and education workshops. They've prioritized in-person visitation, member re-connections and gathering pastoral care information updates for our confidential database. As Rev. Sheila transitions to 5 hours per week focusing on visitation, we welcomed Hannah Athanasiadis as Pastoral Care Associate & Meditation Lead. Her work on database updates and the gathering of information through the Pastoral Care Detail Form is helping IUC take the next steps in offering strong Pastoral Care. You are welcome to contact the ministry at [pastoralcare@islingtonunited.org](mailto:pastoralcare@islingtonunited.org).

This year, our Faith Formation Ministry has been woven into our communal spiritual life at IUC in so many ways. Children, Youth, and Young Adults have played vital roles in leading intergenerational worship, Week of Guided Prayer, and Resonance. With our growing number of youth, we were able to launch a weekly youth group during worship to offer a time of spirituality and connection alongside Godly Play. With these new connections forming, we dove deeper in our confirmation class with six youth and four young adults being confirmed this spring. Our youth love our annual youth retreat, and this year we travelled to Ottawa for Worshiplude. A highlight for our children was bringing back the Christmas musical, *We Knead a Little Christmas*, which they poured their hearts into for 12 weeks! Our faith formation team is grateful for the support of this community in lifting up the next generation to find their place here. Noisy Sunday was another highlight once again, thank you all for your ongoing support.

## Faith Formation



## Eight Grants



In FY26 we were the recipient of several grants. The United Church of Canada Faithful Footprints Grant in October 2025 in the amount of \$20,000 in support of Sacred Spaces, the United Church of Canada Foundation Seeds of Hope grant in June 2026 in the amount of \$10,000 in support of the Giving Garden project - Circuit & Soil: An Automated Hydroponic Expansion for Food Sovereignty, the Canada Summer Jobs Grant in May 2026 in the amount of \$22,764 to fund four summer students for eight weeks, and a Daily Bread Food Bank grant in June 2026 in the amount of \$41,887.21 to offset operating and capital requirements to operate the food bank. We are grateful for the ways this funding has supported the ministry and work of Islington United.

# 2026 Financial Summary: Statement of General Operations

On behalf of Council the pre-audit work was completed by John Leavitt (Treasurer), Mona Stirling (incoming Treasurer), and Erin Pellow (Administrative Lead). Audited financial statements prepared by Walsh & Co.

## Operating Revenue \$1,684,554

|               | FY 2026          |                |                               |                  |               |                                    |
|---------------|------------------|----------------|-------------------------------|------------------|---------------|------------------------------------|
|               | ISLINGTON        | BLOORDALE      | TOTAL<br>GENERAL<br>OPERATING | BUDGET<br>FY26   | VARIANCE      | FY25 TOTAL<br>GENERAL<br>OPERATING |
| Donations     | 933,984          | -              | 933,984                       | 915,350          | 18,634        | 961,095                            |
| Rental Income | 340,756          | 298,867        | 639,623                       | 604,623          | 35,000        | 582,870                            |
| Fundraising   | 90,212           | -              | 90,212                        | 66,000           | 24,212        | 73,116                             |
| Other Income  | 20,735           | -              | 20,735                        | 23,000           | (2,265)       | 8,279                              |
|               | <b>1,385,687</b> | <b>298,867</b> | <b>1,684,554</b>              | <b>1,608,973</b> | <b>75,581</b> | <b>1,625,360</b>                   |

## Operating Expenses \$1,781,365

|                      | FY 2026          |                |                               |                  |                 |                                    |
|----------------------|------------------|----------------|-------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|
|                      | ISLINGTON        | BLOORDALE      | TOTAL<br>GENERAL<br>OPERATING | BUDGET<br>FY26   | VARIANCE        | FY25 TOTAL<br>GENERAL<br>OPERATING |
| Ministry & Personnel | 808,640          | -              | 808,640                       | 871,300          | (62,660)        | 793,108                            |
| Facilities           | 328,793          | 183,168        | 511,961                       | 432,064          | 79,897          | 444,233                            |
| Governance           | 185,328          | 23,012         | 208,340                       | 226,600          | (18,260)        | 245,616                            |
| Worship & Music      | 78,623           | -              | 78,623                        | 80,410           | (1,787)         | 131,769                            |
| Social Justice       | 48,584           | -              | 48,584                        | 45,650           | 2,934           | 41,050                             |
| Faith Formation      | 41,053           | -              | 41,053                        | 29,600           | 11,453          | 11,339                             |
| Hospitality          | 22,058           | -              | 22,058                        | 34,000           | (11,942)        | -                                  |
| Fundraising          | 21,732           | -              | 21,732                        | 21,500           | 232             | 11,902                             |
| Com. & Software      | 15,803           | -              | 15,803                        | 28,500           | (12,697)        | 24,387                             |
| Pastoral Care        | 12,310           | -              | 12,310                        | 12,000           | 310             | 12,697                             |
| Other Expenses       | 12,261           | -              | 12,261                        | 18,000           | (5,739)         | 18,736                             |
|                      | <b>1,575,185</b> | <b>206,180</b> | <b>1,781,365</b>              | <b>1,799,624</b> | <b>(18,259)</b> | <b>1,734,837</b>                   |

|                                                               |                  |               |                 |                  |               |                  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|---------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------|------------------|
| Excess of Revenue over<br>Expenses (Expenses<br>over Revenue) | <b>(189,498)</b> | <b>92,687</b> | <b>(96,811)</b> | <b>(190,651)</b> | <b>93,840</b> | <b>(109,477)</b> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|---------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------|------------------|

|                                                                             |                  |               |                 |                |                  |                 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Inter-fund Transfer                                                         | <b>85,000</b>    | <b>-</b>      | <b>85,000</b>   | <b>187,140</b> | <b>(102,140)</b> | <b>87,140</b>   |
| Net increase / (decrease)<br>in Operating Fund due to<br>General Operations | <b>(104,498)</b> | <b>92,687</b> | <b>(11,811)</b> | <b>(3,511)</b> | <b>(8,300)</b>   | <b>(22,337)</b> |

# 2026 Financial Summary: Statement of Funds

|                                                            | FY 2026        |                    |                      |                  |                  |                  |
|------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------|----------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
|                                                            | REVENUE        | EXPENSES           | INTER-FUND TRANSFERS | NET              | OPENING BALANCE  | CLOSING BALANCE  |
| <b>Internally Restricted Funds</b>                         |                |                    |                      |                  |                  |                  |
| Discipleship                                               | 1,994          | (1,419)            | -                    | 575              | 62,297           | 62,872           |
| Good Neighbour                                             | 4,491          | -                  | -                    | 4,491            | 69,672           | 74,163           |
| Memorial                                                   | 89,576         | (66,426)           | (395,770)            | (372,620)        | 2,102,787        | 1,730,167        |
| Operating Contingency                                      | -              | -                  | (114,230)            | (114,230)        | 114,230          | -                |
|                                                            | <b>96,061</b>  | <b>(67,845)</b>    | <b>(510,000)</b>     | <b>(481,784)</b> | <b>2,348,986</b> | <b>1,867,202</b> |
| <b>Externally Restricted Funds - Special Purpose Funds</b> |                |                    |                      |                  |                  |                  |
| Benevolent                                                 | 7,531          | (6,032)            | -                    | 1,499            | 15,631           | 17,130           |
| Giving Garden                                              | 23,621         | (24,951)           | -                    | (1,330)          | 3,996            | 2,666            |
| Helping Hands                                              | 123,941        | (123,079)          | -                    | 862              | 168,346          | 169,208          |
| Hospitality                                                | 9,448          | (52,034)           | -                    | (42,586)         | 431,082          | 388,496          |
| John Derksen Music Scholarship                             | 2,268          | (3,289)            | -                    | (1,021)          | 71,708           | 70,687           |
| Music Ministry                                             | 7,929          | (9,536)            | -                    | (1,607)          | 36,257           | 34,650           |
| Refugee Support                                            | 80,258         | (68,425)           | -                    | 11,833           | 93,251           | 105,084          |
| Resonance                                                  | 9,787          | (16,618)           | -                    | (6,831)          | 41,171           | 34,340           |
| Sacred Spaces                                              | 137,333        | (724,796)          | 425,000              | (162,463)        | 127,961          | (34,502)         |
| United Church Women's Fund                                 | 10,947         | (4,024)            | -                    | 6,923            | 54,512           | 61,435           |
|                                                            | <b>413,063</b> | <b>(1,032,784)</b> | <b>425,000</b>       | <b>(194,721)</b> | <b>1,043,915</b> | <b>849,194</b>   |



## Treasurer's Report John Leavitt

We should all be pleased and thankful for the financial results of this past year. It was a successful year on many fronts, including revenue growth, financial processes, and organizational capacity. On the financial front, we exceeded our budget across our three primary revenue streams: Regular Givings and Appeals, Rental Income, and Fundraising. The immense generosity of our congregation, coupled with the dedicated leadership of our staff and volunteers, made this possible. A gratitude highlight is the Rummage Sale which raised over \$44,000 *after* expenses in addition to the thousands of hours of volunteer contributions throughout the year.

Over the past year our financial processes have continued to be fine-tuned. These enhancements have allowed our staff and volunteers to use their time more efficiently while significantly improving the quality and accuracy of our financial reporting. None of this would have been possible without the hard work and dedication of Erin Pellow, Catherine Locke, and Mona Stirling.

Lastly, our organizational capacity to manage our finances has grown tremendously. Through targeted training, clear communication, and improved processes, our team has built a more resilient and sustainable financial foundation. The results speak for themselves. Our original budget predicted a deficit of \$191K, including a trust fund allocation of \$187K to level out to a deficit of \$4K. Instead, using only \$85K in trust fund allocation, we finished the year with a deficit of \$12K.

# Message from the Board of Trustees

*Rev. Maya Landell (Chair), Ian McPherson (Vice-Chair)  
Rod Haskin, Leslie Molin, Julia Stavreffe, Jill Stewart*

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The Manual 2026 of The United Church of Canada contains Bylaws which outline the role of Trustees: "They hold all congregational property in trust, on behalf of the United Church of Canada; this includes land, buildings, funds and investments. They must comply with the United Church's requirements for trustees and congregational property. They must give the same care and attention to congregational property as a reasonable person would give to their own property. They must comply with all decisions about congregational property that are made by the governing body and the regional council and all other United Church trustee and congregational property requirements. The congregation is responsible for appointing the trustees at a congregational meeting." (Page 122)

Trustees met a number of times in 2026 to discuss the overall financial situation and outlook for Special Purpose and Trust Funds. In general, IUC is in a healthy position. Discussions also included the use of monies within the Memorial Fund and Hospitality Fund to make sure that expenditures align with the guidance from the donors (estates).

With respect to Sacred Spaces, the project was completed prior to June 30. At the outset of the project, Trustees signaled financial support through the Memorial Fund by underwriting the difference between the final cost and the designated givings. On June 30, the Memorial Fund transferred \$425,000 to the Sacred Spaces and anticipates transferring an additional \$34,500 in fiscal 2027 to complete the project's funding. Thanks go to Carole Bennett and Shelley Shepherd for raising over \$400,000 for the project.

The largest request of the memorial fund is for capital projects: for example, the project completed during the summer of 2026 is the replacement and asbestos abatement of the gym floor in the Stewart East Hall. In order to forecast and prioritize upcoming campus needs IUC has commissioned an independent engineering firm, Brown & Beattie, to assess both the Islington and Bloordale campuses. The report, due in Fall 2026, will address the expected timing, the estimated cost, and the prioritization of each project (e.g. elevator refurbishment, boiler and flat roof replacement). This will inform stewardship initiatives in the years ahead.

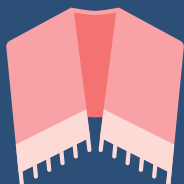
IUC's financial investments are currently managed externally by Fiera Capital. The Funds have different investment strategies with Fiera Capital. The vast majority are invested in a Balanced Fund that includes both equities for higher returns and fixed income securities for more defensive, predictable interest returns. The Refugee Support, Hospitality and Helping Hands (Food Bank) funds are invested only in the Fixed Income securities fund managed by Fiera. 2026 returns were 2.7% (3.1% - FY 2025) on the Balanced Fund and 3.6% (10.2% - FY 2025) on the Fixed Income Fund. Overall net investment income in FY 2026 was \$89,883 (\$230,157 - FY 2025)

The Bloordale Visioning Committee has been developing recommendations for the Bloordale property to both Trustees and Church Council. The pace of the action was slowed due to soft real estate markets over the past two years, but an external advisor (R.E. Millward & Associates Ltd.) was engaged in August 2026. An interim report is pending in early in 2027.

**Ian McPherson**

Vice-Chair

# Community Care & Acts of Social Justice



419

care packages, cards,  
and prayer shawls,  
distributed to those  
in need of comfort,  
hope and healing

37,724

individuals supported  
through the Mabelle  
Food Program and  
continues as a weekly  
program



73

benevolent clients  
supported with gift  
cards, take-home food,  
and toiletry kits

375

meals served by  
Islington volunteers  
through the Out of the  
Cold program



3

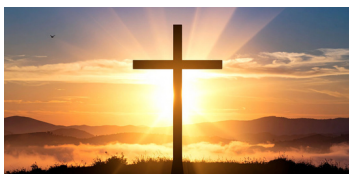
sponsored  
newcomers to  
Canada from Syria  
and Somalia

205

people of all ages  
attended the Pride/  
Community BBQ and  
Celebration



## In Memoriam



*Arn Bailey  
Betty Breckenridge  
George DaSilva  
Jill Donaghy  
Alyson Frankie  
Joy Goss  
Glen Hambrooke*

*Deborah Jamison  
Stanmore Jayetilleke  
Robert Leigh  
Susanne Luong  
Allister MacLellan  
George Martin  
Iain McGilveray*

*Roy McKinley  
Lynn Morrison  
Dragomir Mrkovic  
Betty Nelson-French  
Mary Owen  
Janet Ranney  
Nancy Raymont*

*Paul Stewart  
Albert Strickler  
Jack Thom  
Barbara Townsend  
Mary Wright*

# Generous Gifts: Stewardship



This year, many were remembered at their passing with **Memorial Gifts** from family and friends; these gifts go to where the church needs them most or to designated ministries that were important to their loved one:

|                            |                             |                           |                            |                      |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| <i>Arn Bailey</i>          | <i>Robert Graves</i>        | <i>Robert Leavitt</i>     | <i>Bert Medhurst</i>       | <i>Mary Owen</i>     |
| <i>Betty Breckenridge</i>  | <i>Joy Adele Goss</i>       | <i>Lester Locke</i>       | <i>Dolly Medhurst</i>      | <i>Nancy Raymont</i> |
| <i>Dr. John Derksen</i>    | <i>Kelly Grady</i>          | <i>Bob Mackenzie</i>      | <i>Dragan Mrkovic</i>      | <i>Paul Stewart</i>  |
| <i>Jill Donaghy</i>        | <i>Deborah Jamison</i>      | <i>Allister MacLellan</i> | <i>Lynn Morrison</i>       | <i>Glenn Tower</i>   |
| <i>Grace Everett</i>       | <i>Stanmore Jayetilleke</i> | <i>Genalda MacNeill</i>   | <i>Betty Nelson-French</i> | <i>Peter Tower</i>   |
| <i>Christy Alan Fisher</i> | <i>John Kucharczyk</i>      | <i>Ron MacNeill</i>       |                            |                      |

We also recognize the families who named gifts to Islington in the funeral notices of loved ones:

*Jill Donaghy Allister MacLellan Lynn Morrison Betty Nelson-French Nancy Raymont Paul Stewart*

**Celebration Gifts** to Islington mark special occasions for special people. We received Celebration Gifts celebrating:

*Joan Beaver Paul Deeth George Fair Heather Muir Bev Walton Meredith Whipp*

These enable the faith of these people to live on in the ministry of this congregation for generations to come as we continue "building community with compassion and hope."



Islington United Church is filled with many unique sacred spaces – serving as bridges between the sacred and the secular. For more than 75 years, our faith community has gathered weekly in the Sanctuary and other spaces to experience the divine, welcome friends and newcomers, and undertake the multi-faceted ministry we all share.

Over the past 18 months, work was carried out to replace the twelve clerestory windows and install air-conditioning in the Sanctuary – the first of four stages throughout the church. The sealed, double-paned, energy-efficient windows were completed in August 2025, recreating the pattern and colour of the original heritage windows. The air-conditioning system was completed in June 2026 enabling summer worship in the Sanctuary for the first time in decades.

The church team was guided by Lynch + Comisso, Architects with engineering design by Smith + Andersen. Construction was supervised by D.J. McRae, Historic Restoration with sub-contracting to Bliss Nor-Am Limited, Highland Mechanical Ltd., and Intervolt Electric Ltd. The three remaining stages of the Sacred Spaces window replacement project will be integrated into the whole-building audit to be completed in fiscal year 2027. That assessment will determine the schedule for the subsequent stages.

As of February 2026, donations from the congregation and friends totalled over \$370,000 with proceeds from special events and heritage glass sales adding \$16,000. These contributions along with a United Church of Canada Faithful Footprints grant of \$20,000 will cover 49 percent of the design, construction and project management costs of \$832,000. The balance has been financed by the Memorial Fund.

During this fiscal year in addition to the dozens of donations, gifts were made to Sacred Spaces in memory of **Grace Everett, Robert Leavitt, Ron MacNeill, Dolly and Bert Medhurst, Don Timmins and Peter Tower** and in honour of **Paul Deeth, Heather Muir, and Mary Owen**.

*Islington United acknowledges that we are hosted on the lands of the Mississaugas of the Anishinaabe, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy and the Wendat. Recognizing the enduring presence of all First Nations, Métis and the Inuit peoples, we are committed to acts of reconciliation and living into right relations, with deep gratitude to the Right Relations Circle and Anti-Racism Working Group for leading in action.*

## Affirm Statement of Commitment

Islington United Church is a congregation of God's beloved people, reflecting Creator's diversity in ethnicity, culture, gender identity, and gender expression. As an Affirming congregation of The United Church of Canada, we are becoming a community of belonging, justice, and mutual care with 2SLGBTQIA+ people and those marginalized for any reason (e.g. age, faith, ability, economics, race). Recognizing that racial injustice is pervasive throughout society, Islington United Church opposes all forms of racism and racialized violence. We stand in solidarity with Indigenous and racialized peoples by creating brave space to learn and listen with love.

## 2026 Toronto United Church Council Baillie Volunteer Service Award



Jay Armstrong

Jay Armstrong has been part of the Islington United Church (Shining Waters Regional Council) community for 10+ years and serves as a key support of Islington's Youth and Young Adult Ministry. They assist with retreats and fundraising, for example, offering beautiful artwork to support Islington's Week of Guided Prayer. As an integral member of the Affirm Team, Jay has worked to help deepen the congregation's understanding of issues affecting the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, including offering leadership in pronoun workshops and contributing their artistic talents to designing educational materials. Jay is also a faithful member of the Mabelle Foodbank team, serving over 200 families weekly.

## Envisioning Our Future Together: Strategic Planning



Eleanor Roosevelt once said, "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams". In these words, lies the power of hope and vision to shape what lies ahead. At an organizational level, Strategic Planning is important because it takes a very practical approach to current and projected future landscapes and it's simultaneously attentive to aspirational hopes and dreams.

IUC has a long history of looking ahead to our future at a strategic level. In 1994, the "Easum Report" (as it is known colloquially) and the resulting visioning action plan (We Have a Dream Report, 1996) were highly impactful, resulting in a new governance structure (from Board to Council) and several important new programs and initiatives in the areas of pastoral care, music, and social justice. Twelve years later, our congregation launched another strategic visioning process, known as Project 20/20 to address evolving needs of our congregation and community. Fast forward to the spring of 2020, when we started our next strategic planning process. Enter Covid and the consequent decision to suspend the process. At the Annual Meeting in October 2022, a Future Planning Team was formed to explore ways to ensure financial viability and sustainability far into the future.

This brings us to the 2026 launch of our next strategic planning process, instigated partially in response to the United Church of Canada regional (Shining Waters) request that we update our Community of Faith profile. In Spring 2026, your Church Council approved the initiation of the next strategic planning and visioning process, sent out a Request for Proposals, and hired consultant Grant Monck to carry out a major part of this work. Mr. Monck will be assisted by the Very Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne, former moderator of The United Church of Canada and now a voluntary associate minister (VAM) at IUC, who has graciously volunteered to guide our congregation through this process. This process will include broad consultation, starting with a survey to the entire congregation in September, feedback groups in November, interviews with key leaders, and an on-site session in January 2027.

It is our hope that **you** will participate in this process, sharing your experiences and your hopes and dreams with us, your voice matters.

Catherine McPherson  
Incoming Chair, Church Council





**Islington United Church**  
**Let Love Be Here**

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