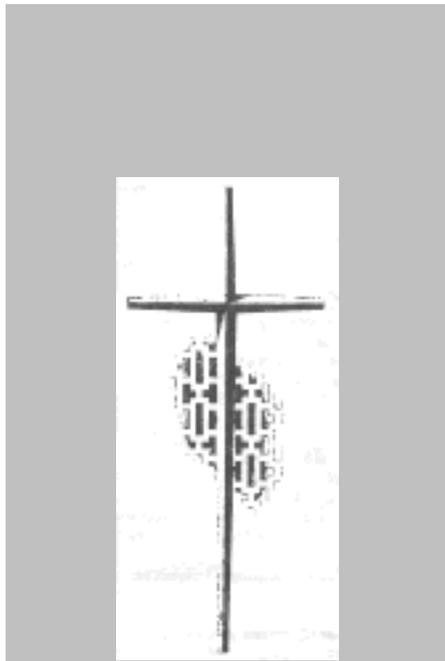


# Immanuel United Church Annual Report 2025



## Mission Statement of Immanuel United Church (revised May 15, 2013):

Nurtured and sustained by *God's* grace,  
we at Immanuel United Church  
seek continually to be formed as  
servants of *God*:

centring our life in worship and study,  
enjoying and sharing with one another in  
our diversity,  
offering hospitality to all who come  
through our doors,  
extending an open invitation to *God's*  
table,  
reaching out beyond our walls,  
affirming the worth of every person,  
working for justice and peace,  
and witnessing to our hope for *God's*  
world.

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# **Ministry Report by Rev Oluwajimi Dairo – Immanuel United Church**

## **Reflections on Ministry, Collaboration, and Shared Vision**

### **1. Introduction**

Since my resumption on September 1, ministry activities have been carried out faithfully and consistently across both churches. Worship services, including Holy Communion, Covenanting Service, Christmas Eve Service, and other special services, have been conducted in both congregations. Office hours have been observed, and various meetings attended, as part of my pastoral and administrative responsibilities. The ministry has been advancing progressively, with a hopeful and promising future for our collaboration.

It is both an honor and a privilege to serve within this community of faith. I want to express my heartfelt appreciation to the entire congregation for the warm reception and generous embrace I have received. The love and kindness shown to me during these months are truly beyond description.

### **2. Gratitude and Acknowledgements**

I wish to sincerely thank those who have offered their support and guidance during my onboarding period. In particular, I am grateful to Sharon, Peter, the Worship Team, the M & P Committee, the Pastoral Care Team, and all other groups and teams within the congregation. Your encouragement and willingness to share your knowledge made my transition smooth and helped me understand the context, culture, and dynamics of this community. Your support has been invaluable.

### **3. Collaboration as a Faith Journey**

I see our collaborative journey together as an act of God—God using us to serve divine purposes at this important time. Even as we engage in conversations, move back and forth in discernment, and acknowledge both our similarities and differences, I believe we are stronger together. With patience and trust, God’s plans and intentions will become clearer.

Although we may not always know the next step or the exact path ahead, I trust that as we follow God’s leading, one step at a time, God’s intentions will continue to unfold. In time, clarity will come, and we will be guided toward God’s desired future for us.

### **4. Observations on the Community of Faith**

As we continue to discern our shared journey and mission in the world, I see a congregation that is committed, dedicated, generous, and deeply willing to serve humanity. While the congregation includes an aging population, its true strength is internal. Our motivation is rooted not in physical capacity alone but in faith, purpose, and compassion. This inner strength is both inspiring and remarkable.

### **5. The Church’s Role in the Wider Community**

As we engage in the public life of our communities, the role of the church is clear. We are called to be a moral compass—encouraging society toward justice, equity, and compassion. Whether addressing economic reform, racial justice, environmental stewardship, or global peace, we must approach each challenge with the conviction that barriers can be overcome, divisions can be healed, and every person holds inherent worth and possibility.

### **6. Looking Ahead**

While this may not yet be the precise future we envision for our collaboration, the coming year

provides an opportunity to begin shaping that future intentionally. Together, we can take meaningful steps to outline the direction our ministry will take, strengthening our witness, deepening our faith, and expanding our service.

### **7. Conclusion**

I am truly grateful and delighted to be on this journey with you at this time. I look forward to continuing our shared work, trusting in God's guidance, and discerning together the path ahead.

## **Office Administrator's Report**

The office continues to be busy. Putting together newsletters, yearly statistics, rentals, announcements, annual reports and data entry for finance are just some of my duties.

We welcomed our new Minister, Rev. Oluwajimi this year. It has been a pleasure to work with him.

Thank you to the Ministry and Personnel Committee for all the hard work you do on behalf of the staff and especially continually checking in to see how things are going and welcoming any thoughts/concerns we may have.

*Sincerely, Sharon Vandenberg*



***Bydon-Gibb, Sheila  
Van Nest, Frederick  
Fenuk, Betty  
Shepherd, Jim  
Stewart, Paul  
McEwen, Bill  
Boyechko, Edward***

**Immanuel United Church Annual Meeting Minutes  
Sunday Feb 23, 2025**

Meeting opened with Paul Duval offering an opening prayer.

Motion to appoint Chair and Secretary

**Moved by Rob Smith, Seconded by Bob Kenyon to accept Marvee Stevens as Chair and Pat Schulz as secretary for the purpose of this Annual Meeting.**

**Motion carried**

Marvee Stevens then read the following Acknowledgment of Treaty #1 land:

Today we acknowledge the land that we are gathered on is Treaty 1 Territory – the traditional lands of the Anishinaabe, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota and Dene peoples, as well as the homeland and heart of the Métis Nation, all, who for thousands of years walked gently on this land with deeply-rooted gifts of spirituality, culture and ways of knowing. We respect the treaties that were made on these territories, acknowledge the harms and mistakes of the past, and give thanks for the stewardship of this land – in times past and also in the present day. Today we are called to seek a new relationship as indigenous and non-indigenous people, creating one based on friendship, built on respect, and one that produces peace, remembering that we are all treaty people.

Enabling motion/Constitution of the Court

**Moved by Jane Nicholls, Seconded by Marg Smith: Be it resolved that all participating in this meeting who are not members of Immanuel United Church have the rights to full participation including speaking and voting the same as congregational members.**

**Motion carried**

Motion to approve this agenda:

**Moved by Lorraine Kakegamic, Seconded by Anne Duncan that the agenda be approved.**

**Motion carried**

Time of remembrance: **Read by Joan Macdonald as listed in the Annual Report**

Motion to approve minutes from the previous Annual Meeting May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**Moved by Lynne Strome, Seconded by Jane Nicholls that the minutes from the Annual Meeting of May 12, 2024 be approved.**

**Motion carried**

Financial report presented by the finance team of Pat Schulz and Connie Kryschuk

Motion to transfer funds to offset the operational deficit

**Moved by Pat Schulz and seconded by Connie Kryschuk:**

1. **Transfer \$780.00 from Congregational Events Fund**
2. **Transfer \$1730.00 from Memorial Life & Work Fund**
3. **Transfer \$49.91 from interest earned on the accounts**
4. **Transfer \$15,626.53 from the Kimberly Terrace Transfer to offset the operational deficit of -\$18,186.44**

**Motion carried**

Motion to transfer funds from the Kimberly Terrace account to the Building Fund

**Moved by Pat Schulz and Seconded by Connie Kryschuk:**

**Transfer \$4,373.47 from the Kimberly Terrace Transfer to the Building Fund.**

**Motion carried**

Motion to approve the operations budget for the year January 1 to December 31, 2025.

**Moved by Connie Kryschuk and Seconded Pat Schulz that the operations budget for the year 2025 projecting an operational shortfall of \$18,722.00 be approved.**

**Motion carried**

Update on the Kimberly Terrace funds (Bob Kenyon).

**Moved by Bob Kenyon, Seconded by Lynne Strome that we request an audit on the period May 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024.**

**Motion carried**

**Moved by Bob Kenyon, seconded by Rob Smith that the GIC of \$8089.33 be cashed in and the money deposited in the Kimberly Terrace Savings account and the GIC renewing on May 17, 2025 be reinvested in a GIC for a 3 year term.**

**Motion carried.**

**Report on status of nominations to fill current vacancies**

Marg Smith provided an update on the need for someone to look after the table for children in the Sanctuary on Sundays when we are worshipping at Immanuel. She also stressed the need for additional council members. She asked that anyone interested or knowing of someone who might be interested to contact either her or Cindy Smyth.

### **Update of the work of the Kindred Spirits Transition Team**

Ian Donnelly advised that this committee consists of people from John Black and Immanuel and are to work at resolving any conflicts that may arise. They are also looking at the future – what are the next steps in our journey with collaborative ministry.

### **Update of the Kindred Spirits Search Team**

Lynne Strome provided the following report:

The Kindred Spirits Minister Search Team is comprised of the following volunteers: From John Black: Ann Reichert, Connor DesAutel, Peggy Aitchison, John Drewitt. From Immanuel: Rob Smith, Cindy Smyth, Ruth Campbell, Lynne Strome. We are involved in ongoing efforts to secure a minister for a minimum three year period beginning July 1, 2025 to lead John Black and Immanuel, jointly called Kindred Spirits.

Once we have a recommendation for the position, we must follow all the United Church of Canada requirements. We must prepare various motions to be approved by Council, Region and at a separate congregation meeting of each church. As the eight of us work diligently together through various complications, we ask for your prayers for guidance to help in this process.

Approval of the annual reports as written (including the Finance Report)

**Moved by Marg Smith, seconded by Joy Jost that the annual report be received as printed.**

**Motion Carried**

New Business

Muriel Kenyon offered a huge thank you to our staff, Paul, Peter, Eileen, Sharon and Fahima for all their hard work.

Motion to adjourn

**Moved by Ian Donnelly that the meeting be adjourned.**

**Motion carried.**

## **Congregational Meeting for Immanuel (with John Black Memorial) United Church**

**June 9, 2025, 3:00 p.m. at John Black**

1. Welcome - Brenda Wedlake (process: both communities of faith will meet together and go to separate rooms after the discussion but before voting on Motion #2)
2. Opening Prayer – Peggy Aitchison
3. Election of Secretary: moved by Leslie Donnelly, seconded by Marian Mathews that Ian Donnelly be the recording secretary for Immanuel. Carried.
4. Election of Chair: moved by Joy Weizel, seconded by Marvee Stevens. that Teri Gartner be the chair for Immanuel. Carried.
5. **Motion #1** – moved by Judy Gierys, seconded by Muriel Kenyon  
That pursuant to Section B.3.7.2 of the United Church of Canada Manual, that all adherents present be able to vote on all matters coming to this meeting. Carried.
6. Report of Search Committee shared by the Search Team of Lynne Strome, Connor DesAutels, Rob Smith, Peggy Aitchison, Cindy Smyth, John Drewitt, Ann Reichert and Ruth Campbell. Financial considerations shared by Connie Kryschuk and Geoffrey McKnight.
7. **Motion #2** - moved by Lynne Strome, seconded by Cindy Smyth  
That the Community of Faith of Immanuel United Church, Winnipeg upon recommendation of the Joint Search Committee affirm the appointment of the Reverend Oluwajimi Dairo , Ordained Minister from the African Church in Nigeria in the Admissions process of the United Church of Canada to a fulltime position at John Black Memorial United Church to serve the Kindred Spirits Collaborative Ministry ( 50% time at John Black Memorial United Church and 50% time at Immanuel United Church effective September 01, 2025 until December 31, 2027 conditional upon relevant Immigration approvals and:
  - i. In accordance with the Collaborative Ministry Agreement and Joint position description for Kindred Spirits Collaborative Ministry approved by the Leadership Team of JBMUC on April 23,2024 and the Community of Faith at JBMUC on May 12, 2024 ;by the Council of Immanuel United Church of April 24,2024 and the Community of Faith at Immanuel on May 12, 2024 and by the Pastoral Relations Commission of Prairie to Pine Regional Council on May 14 2024 (Motion 2023/2024 # 15 E) and with the assurance that a Joint Worship Planning Team, Joint Collaborative Team and a Joint Ministry Personnel will be in place prior to the commencement of the appointment
  - ii. With the following terms:
    1. Minimum Salary Category C6 COL 4 as per salary schedule for 2025 \$ 71,720.00 per year ( 50% - \$ 35,860.00 per year )
    2. Basic telephone \$ 420.00per year (50% = \$ 210.00 per year)
    3. Continuing Education Allowance of \$ 1689.00 per year ( 50% = \$844.50)
    4. A minimum of three weeks study leave within each pastoral year, including Sundays

5. A minimum of one month vacation, within each pastoral year, including five Sundays
6. A minimum of three consecutive months of sabbatical leave after five consecutive years of service to the pastoral charge
7. Moving expenses based on reasonable estimates- not applicable because minister lives locally
8. Adequate administrative assistance defined as a paid office administrator (9 hours per week at Immanuel and 15 hours per week at John Black Memorial United Church).
- 9 Travel expense reimbursement based upon the 2025 United Church rate With the John Black Memorial United Church Pastoral Charge committing to remuneration of the ministry personnel through the pastoral charge payroll service -ADP #WOTL, and Immanuel United Church committing to reimburse John Black Memorial United Church Pastoral Charge for 50% of all employer costs at agreed upon intervals and timelines.

And conditional upon:

- i the approval of revised budget
- ii the approval of all similar motions by John Black Memorial United Church
- iii. The participation of the people of JBMUC and Immanuel United Church in a session on culture and diversity offered by the Pastoral Relations Commission, a date for which will be negotiated prior to the end of June 2025 to take place no later than mid-September,2025
- iv. the recruitment and appointment of a Pastoral Charge Supervisor by the Prairie to Pine Regional Council prior to the start date.
- v. the appointment of a Mentor for the Admissions Minister by the Office of Vocation prior to the start date of the appointment.

Carried.

**8. Motion # 3** – moved by Lynne Strome, seconded by Rob Smith

That the Community of Faith at Immanuel United Church in accordance with the motion made at the meeting of the Council of Immanuel United Church on May 21 , 2025 uphold the motion of the Council to approve the renewal of the appointment of Paul Duval to fulltime position at Immanuel United Church to serve JBMUC and Immanuel United in accordance with the Ministry Sharing agreement between JBMUC and Immanuel United Church effective July 01, 2025 but change the end date of that renewal request from December 31 2025 to September 30, 2025 (minimum 90 day appointment) conditional upon approval of the revised budget reflecting the payment of expenses of two ministry personnel for the month of September,2025 , conditional upon similar motions being approved by John Black Memorial United Church Community of Faith and noting that discussion of this proposed change were held between the parties prior to May 31,2025 (minimum one month notice of change)

Carried.

**9. Motion # 4** – moved by Lorraine Kakegamic, seconded by Pat Schulz

That the 2025 revised budget of Immanuel United Church reflecting changes to incorporate expenses of two ministry personnel for the month of September, 2025 be approved as presented.

Carried.

**10. Motion # 5** – moved by Connie Kryschuk, seconded by Bob Kenyon

That The Community of Faith of Immanuel United Church appoints Ian Donnelly to complete the Record of Appointment on Church Hub for Paul Duval once approvals from John Black Memorial United Church are known and to forward all required documents as attachments in ONE email to the Pastoral Relations Minister in a timely manner or no later than June 10, 2025 for final approval by the Pastoral Relations Commission of Prairie to Pine Regional Council at its next meeting in June, 2025. ( 2024 End of Year Financial statements for all accounts; 2025 Financial Statements Year to Date; 2025 revised budget; minutes of the meeting of the community of faith/Pastoral Charge where motions were approved.

Carried.

**11. Motion # 6** – moved by Cindy Smyth, seconded by Marg Smith

That the Joint Search Committee be thanked for their work and disbanded after the Covenanting Service planned jointly by them with the Pastoral Relations Liaison and the new Minister celebrating the new pastoral relationship.

Carried.

12. Recognition of the Search Team's work followed by a standing ovation and extended clapping. Recognition of the great contribution that Paul DuVal has made to our two communities of faith.

13. Motion to adjourn – moved by Debbie Crump. Carried.

## Council Elders Annual Report

Immanuel Council meets monthly to oversee the work of our community of faith. To keep us on track we begin each meeting by reading our mission statement. Occasionally we reflect on the relevance of the statement and, so far, have determined that it continues to describe who we strive to be. We keep on top of the work done by the cluster groups by liaising with the Guiding Elders of each group and reporting to the Council at each meeting. The Cluster groups continue to carry out our mission on our behalf. Council works to invite the elders of a different cluster group each month to attend a Council meeting so we can talk in person about what they are working on and any challenges they are facing. We are grateful for the work of the Guiding Elders and the other volunteers within each cluster. In case your memory needs a refresh, the cluster groups are: Caring For Our Faith Community, Discernment of Gifts, Faith Formation and Lifelong Learning, Living Our Faith in the World, Stewardship of Financial Resources, and Worship. You will find the details of the work the clusters are doing as you read their annual reports.

During the first half of 2025, Paul DuVal was our minister. We appreciated his work with us for his term appointment (which was extended to be a total of 3 years) as we transitioned to collaborating with John Black Memorial. We bid him farewell at an after-worship barbecue event at the end of June. In September we welcomed Oluwajimi Dairo as our new minister and are excited as we begin this new chapter in our collaboration journey. While Oluwajimi gets accustomed to the United Church of Canada we are also working with Phil Read, minister at St Mary's Road UC, who acts as our Pastoral Charge Supervisor for Council meetings and the annual meeting. A lovely covenanting service with Oluwajimi, Immanuel and John Black Memorial was held on October 19.

In addition to hearing from and responding to requests from cluster groups, we also respond to requests of the Prairie to Pine Region. Last January and February, in lieu of a presbytery visitation, we were asked to complete a self assessment for the Region. Thanks to Bob and Muriel Kenyon for gathering the required information and drafting that report.

At our June meeting, we welcomed two new Council Elders, namely, Jennifer Antymis and Teri Gartner. We are pleased to have a full contingent on Council now. At that same meeting we discussed possible ideas for further collaboration with John Black Memorial – something our two communities of faith could do together. One possibility which lines up with our mission statement and culture at both JBMUC and IUC was to implement a Democracy Speaking Series

similar to what Young UC has offered to their community. Discussions have begun to plan implementing something next Fall.

A Culture and Diversity Event for our two communities of faith was organized by the Prairie to Pine Region and held on Sept 11 at Immanuel. At the event we discussed local culture that we may not even be aware of but someone new to the community would easily recognize. The presence of cultural differences between Immanuel and John Black Memorial was also discussed. The event was helpful and eye-opening.

Council received a lovely letter from Joan Macdonald regarding her volunteer work as funeral coordinator at Immanuel over the last many decades and the need for her to resign from that position. This Council (and many Councils and Boards over the last many years) is filled with gratitude for the work Joan has so capably and thoughtfully done for and with families on our behalf for so many years. Thank you, Joan.

Council also received notice this fall from Eileen Metcalfe who has served as our volunteer Choir Director for the past decade or two. The choir has been and continues to be an important part of our worship together. Thank you Eileen for your gentle, kind and thoughtful choir leadership these many years. Now we will enjoy your voice being added to the others in the choir. We are grateful to Michael Dunbar who has agreed to step into the choir leadership role on an interim basis.

We are grateful for the thoughtful and care-filled work that is done all year by our staff at Immanuel: Oluwajimi, Sharon, Peter and Fahima. We are able to work towards fulfilling our mission through the work of staff and volunteers. As a volunteer, you may be approached by the Discernment of Gifts Elders to consider taking on one of the roles that have become vacant or continue to be vacant from last year. When asked, or before you are asked, please consider whether you are able to offer your talents in one of those roles.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Antymis, Ian Donnelly, Teri Gartner, Jane Nicholls, Pat Schulz, Marvee Stevens  
Council Elders

## Kindred Spirits Transition Team Report

Kindred Spirits Transition Team – and – Kindred Spirits Collaboration Team

Our team has two names because we have taken on two different roles. The “Kindred Spirits” (KS) name indicates that our team is made up of people from both of our communities of faith, namely: Art Bridges, Ian Donnelly, Anne Duncan, Judy Gierys, Liz Janzen-Drewitt, Ann Naylor, Cathy Sokolowski, Brenda Wedlake and Oluwajimi Dairo. We were originally the team who was tasked with envisioning our future together as a collaborative ministry considering such things as what are the community needs in N.E. Winnipeg and how could the needs be met with our building and people resources as well as what are our staffing needs within the collaboration. In addition to that, we took on the role of the KS Collaboration Team (a team required by our Collaborative Ministry Agreement) to help resolve conflicts that may arise as a result of the collaboration.

Early in the year we began work to develop a resource for our communities of faith to use in the light of conflict that will inevitably arise. At the end of May we shared a document that was ratified by our respective leadership teams titled, “Living in Community-Dealing with Conflict in Our Collaboration”. The document is available as a resource to any of our committees.

We planned some round-table meetings as opportunities to understand each other and make connections. The discussions help the team both learn from congregation members and allow the congregation to hear what our team has learned. The first after-worship meeting was on February 9. where we heard we need to talk about our Land Acknowledgements and explore social enterprise possibilities. We enlisted Jordan Cantwell (former UC Moderator, current Growth Animator) to help us with our work. She was able to arrange for us to receive demographic data for the areas surrounding both Immanuel and John Black Memorial which was shared with the congregation last May followed by an after-worship opportunity to talk about it. The demographic similarities around our church buildings suggest that a collaborative action on community outreach would be appropriate. On June 22 after worship we held a BBQ hotdog lunch to celebrate and talk about our first church-year of collaboration.

At a meeting with Jordan Cantwell, she asked us questions like, What is the purpose of our coming together? What is our bigger vision? What do we hope the collaboration will bring? How do we develop a vision for our future in N.E. Winnipeg? She helped us to see that we need to determine “why” it matters that we are here as collaborating United Churches before we start deciding what we do and how we will do it (re buildings and social enterprise partners).

We planned an event on Oct 26 called, “Who Are We and Where Are We Going” with leadership from Jordan Cantwell following worship and a soup lunch. We stated the event’s purpose: (1) to deepen our understanding of collaboration as a resource for discerning and offering effective ministry; and (2) to reflect on, and share, our personal and congregational faith stories in order to ground our collaborative work in these stories. Timelines for our two communities of faith were created and 6-word stories were written and analyzed for common themes (see next page). A final round-table discussion for the year was organized by the KS Worship Team and held during worship on December 22 to have us talk about “seeking new life” as a collaborative team of Kindred Spirits.

Our Team’s work continues.

# Who Are We and Where Are We Going?

Immanuel and John Black after-worship session on Oct 26, 2025

The prompt for the six-word stories was,

**Tell the story of the impact we want our collaboration to have on our community.**

Themes that arose from the Six-Word Stories

## **Community, Inclusion, and Welcome**

*Welcome, inclusive,  
open-hearted,  
gathering place, safe  
place, community hub*

## **Faith in Action**

*Faith, worship, grace,  
God's will, prayer,  
wisdom, forgiveness,  
study*

## **Service & Outreach**

*Meeting needs, helping  
others, social justice,  
within and beyond,  
compassion, grace, refuge*

## **Connection and Collaboration**

*Work together, play  
together, harmony,  
understanding,  
collaboration can work*

## **Growth, Renewal and Hope**

*New energy, rejuvenation, promise,  
longevity*

*Care, love, friendship,  
support, pastoral visiting*

*Loss,  
challenge,  
figuring out  
what will be*

## **Discernment and Uncertainty**

## **Caring for Each Other**

## Stewardship of Financial Resources Cluster

The goal for the Stewardship of Financial Resources Cluster is to organize and coordinate the Financial and Human Resources of the Congregation with a view to ensuring that the work of the Church faithfully serves its mission.

The Cluster encompasses the work of the Financial Team, Mission & Service Representative, the Memorial Fund and the Trustees.

The Finance Team has many responsibilities including day to day finances, payment of salaries and monthly bills, monthly statements to the Council, provide income tax receipts for the congregation and prepare an annual budget.

Some members of the Cluster communicates with the congregation in a yearly Campaign to encourage thoughtful stewardship of time, talent and resources.

The Mission and Service Representative issues regular appeals on behalf of the United Church of Canada.

The Memorial Fund receives contributions from people as a thank you for a service and/or an act of friendship to Immanuel United Church. The Fund is used to enhance our worship needs and some building needs.

The Trustees team monitor our insurance coverage, and deals with any legal work that is required.

Our Stewardship Campaign this year began with a short live presentation reviewing our needs for the coming year followed by communications by email to the Congregation.

The results of the Campaign was an overall increase in givings of \$2,334.00.

Sixty-five households support the local needs of our Church.

Thank you so much to all the members of the Cluster for their faithful dedication to the work and service of the Church.

The members of the Cluster are as follows:

**Finance Team** – Pat Schulz & Connie Kryschuk

**Signing officers** – Joy Jost, Judy Gierys, Lorraine Kakegamic

**Kimberly Terrace Financial Officers** – Judy Gierys, Lorraine Kakegamic,

Bob Kenyon

**Mission & Service Representative** – Lynne Strome

**Memorial Fund** – Joy Jost, Eileen Metcalfe

**Trustees** – Judy Gierys, Joy Jost, Bob Duncan, Bob Kenyon (Please refer to Trustees Report)

# Finance Report for

## January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025 Church Year

<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$167,611.70</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$170,224.44</b>
<b>DIFFERENCE</b>	<b>-\$2,612.74</b>

**Income:**

Operations	\$131,573.21				
Funds	\$28,823.15				
Interest (KT)	\$7,198.62				
Interest IUC	\$16.72				
				<b><u>\$167,611.70</u></b>	

**Expenses:**

Operations	\$134,359.07				
Funds	\$35,864.12				
KT	\$1.25				
				<b><u>\$170,224.44</u></b>	

**Difference**

**-\$2,612.74**

This is the first time we are reporting on a Jan 1<sup>st</sup> to Dec 31<sup>st</sup> year. The projected deficit for 2025 was \$18,722.00. A year ago, we were faced with three major unknowns which turned out to have a favourable impact on the church's finances. First, we budgeted for a full-time minister at maximum salary to be in place by July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025. Second, the carbon tax was removed in April 2025. From January to April of 2025, the carbon tax plus the GST on the carbon tax was \$2,050.00. Third, the organist's salary was adjusted to reflect his reduced hours of work. This year's operational deficit is \$2,785.86 and can be covered with our existing funds.

For the last two years, we have relied on money from the Kimberly Terrace account to cover the deficit; \$10,000.00 in 2023 and \$20,000.00 in 2024. This year, we have sufficient money in our funds to cover the operating deficit. The bottom line for Kimberly Terrace increased by \$7,197.37 due to the earned interest on the accounts and GIC's.

We wish to thank the congregation for their generosity and continued support to Immanuel United Church.

### Four Year History

	2022-2023	2023-2024	May – Dec 2024	Jan-Dec 2024	Jan-Dec 2025	Jan-Dec 2025
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Budget	Actual
<b>REVENUE</b>						
Canada Helps						\$5,007.00
Envelopes	\$88,429.08	\$84,483.46	\$59,002.50	\$84,669.71	\$80,000	\$82,970.19
Co-Op Rebate	\$143.00	\$108.08		\$108.08	\$102	\$76.81
John Black/Salary					\$44,948	\$26,759.15
Miscellaneous	\$5,497.20	\$2,427.50	\$6,580.00	\$8,503.50	\$3,500	\$7,166.32
Open Plate & SS	\$428.00	\$676.00	\$643.00	\$983.00	\$450	\$573.00
Rebate – GST	\$1,831.68	\$604.79	\$472.40	\$472.40	\$600	\$605.74
Rent	\$7,912.35	\$7,585.00	\$3,065.00	\$6,285.00	\$6,000	\$8,415.00
<b>Total Operations</b>	<b>\$104,241.31</b>	<b>\$95,884.83</b>	<b>\$69,762.90</b>	<b>\$101,021.69</b>	<b>\$135,600</b>	<b>\$131,573.21</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>						
<b>Administration</b>						
Bank Charges	\$229.87	\$43.00	\$10.00	\$52.00	\$55	\$54.00

Conference Fees	\$375.00					
Office	\$1,480.04	\$1,824.90	\$737.02	\$1,616.75	\$1,700	\$2,149.84
PAR Charges	\$139.50	\$139.50	\$88.00	\$132.00	\$132	\$140.50
Postage	\$108.10	\$101.10	\$103.95	\$205.05	\$125	\$130.20
Telephone	\$1,900.22	\$1,916.46	\$1,132.54	\$1,765.66	\$1,700	\$1,460.66
<b>Total Administration</b>	<b>\$4,232.73</b>	<b>\$4,024.96</b>	<b>\$2,071.51</b>	<b>\$3,771.46</b>	<b>\$3,712</b>	<b>\$3,935.20</b>
<b>Building &amp; Property</b>						
Centra Gas	\$10,439.29	\$7,387.63	\$3,190.12	\$7,860.93	\$8,500	\$7,078.29
Insurance	\$9,399.08	\$6,212.49	\$4,954.12	\$7,126.80	\$7,500	\$7,600.78
Manitoba Hydro	\$3,790.62	\$2,922.15	\$1,231.35	\$2,479.10	\$2,600	\$2,664.49
Repair & Maintenance	\$3,632.43	\$4,371.99	\$1,592.91	\$2,896.63	\$3,100	\$2,699.75
Taxes	\$1,673.18	\$1,779.90	\$1,819.90	\$1,819.90	\$1,900	\$1,779.90
Water	\$1,460.08	\$906.91	\$253.69	\$602.82	\$900	\$938.84
<b>Total Bldg &amp; Prop</b>	<b>\$30,394.68</b>	<b>\$23,581.07</b>	<b>\$13,042.09</b>	<b>\$22,786.18</b>	<b>\$24,500</b>	<b>\$22,762.05</b>
<b>Clusters</b>						
CFOFC	\$125.00	\$25.00		\$25.00	\$200	
DOG					\$50	\$42.55
FF & LL		\$12.20			\$350	
LOFITW			\$153.35	\$153.35	\$225	\$210.87
SOFR					\$100	
WORSHIP	\$4,043.10	\$1,087.38	\$530.20	\$561.53	\$800	\$404.00
<b>Total Clusters</b>	<b>\$4,168.10</b>	<b>\$1,124.58</b>	<b>\$683.55</b>	<b>\$739.88</b>	<b>\$1,725</b>	<b>\$657.42</b>
<b>Pastoral Ministry</b>						
ADP Charges	\$460.02	\$421.31	221.60	\$428.35	\$364.80	\$289.15
CPP	\$1,102.88				\$2,217.24	
EI	\$715.24	\$1,214.42	\$743.88	\$1,234.84	\$1,501.06	\$1,120.32
Minister's salary	\$38,388.09	\$66,584.40	\$50,536.64	\$75,804.96	\$77,646.00	\$71,897.07
Pension & Insurance	\$3,719.08				\$7,322.40	
Travel	\$112.50					
Continuing Education	\$493.77				\$844.50	274.50
<b>Total Pastoral Min.</b>	<b>\$44,991.58</b>	<b>\$68,220.13</b>	<b>\$51,502.12</b>	<b>\$77,468.15</b>	<b>\$89,896.00</b>	<b>\$73,581.04</b>
<b>Assessment Fee</b>	<b>\$4,851.75</b>	<b>\$5,028.00</b>	<b>\$3,548.25</b>	<b>\$4,731.00</b>	<b>\$5,414</b>	<b>\$5,414.00</b>
<b>Support Staff</b>						
Associate Staff	\$10,125.64	\$10,589.68	\$6,588.06	\$10,980.10	\$11,309.40	\$11,309.50
Caretaker	\$5,558.96	\$5,113.24	\$3,893.12	\$6,509.76	\$6,655.90	\$6,655.90
CPP	\$823.01	\$927.73	\$573.84	\$999.40	\$1,002.90	\$946.50
EI	\$550.15	\$575.93	\$374.32	\$621.88	\$627.90	\$606.38
Organist	\$8,894.15	\$9,263.54	\$5,622.48	\$9,264.80	\$9,378.90	\$8,441.08
WCB	\$50.00	\$100.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$100.00	\$50.00
<b>Total Staff Support</b>	<b>\$26,001.91</b>	<b>\$26,570.12</b>	<b>\$17,101.82</b>	<b>\$28,425.94</b>	<b>\$29,075</b>	<b>\$28,009.36</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$114,640.75</b>	<b>\$128,548.86</b>	<b>\$87,949.34</b>	<b>\$137,922.61</b>	<b>\$154,322</b>	<b>\$134,359.07</b>
<b>Revenue less Expenses</b>	<b>-\$10,399.44</b>	<b>-\$32,664.03</b>	<b>-\$18,186.44</b>	<b>-\$36,900.92</b>	<b>-\$18,722</b>	<b>-\$2,785.86</b>

### All Funds and Accounts Summary from Jan. 1, 2025 to Dec. 31, 2025

	Bal as of May 1, 2025	Income	Disbursements	Bal as of Dec 31, 2025
1. Broadview	\$0.00	\$271.00	\$271.00	\$0.00
2. Building & Improvement	\$14,054.23	\$2,995.00	\$11,142.28	\$5,906.95
3. Choir	\$1,243.58	\$100.00	\$296.39	\$1,047.19
4. Congregational Events	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
5. FF & LL	\$504.80	\$0.00	\$121.63	\$383.17
6. Kindred Spirits	\$0.00	\$382.00	\$241.52	\$140.48
7. Leadership Development	\$316.32	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$316.32
8. Memorial Fund	\$2,755.55	\$225.00	\$20.00	\$2,960.55
9. Memorial Flowers	\$653.51	\$0.00	\$27.99	\$625.52
10. Memorial Kitchen	\$434.09	\$0.00	\$86.96	\$347.13
11. Memorial Life & Work	\$0.00	\$880.00	\$0.00	\$880.00
12. Memorial Pastoral Care	\$1,710.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,710.00
13. Messy Church	\$1,230.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,230.00
14. Minister's Benevolent	\$399.41	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$599.41
15. Mission & Service	\$0.00	\$14,403.00	\$14,403.00	\$0.00
16. Pre-Advent Gathering	\$71.88	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$71.88

17. Queer & Faithful	\$718.62	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$618.62
18. Sharing Basket	\$1,523.15	\$3,160.00	\$2,946.20	\$1,736.95
19. Sharing Christmas	\$0.00	\$2,315.00	\$2,315.00	\$0.00
20. Special Purposes	\$0.00	\$3,565.00	\$3,565.00	\$0.00
21. Special Relief	\$0.00	\$327.15	\$327.15	\$0.00
22. Youth Groups	\$363.95	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$363.95
<b>17. Sub-Total Funds</b>	<b>\$25,979.09</b>	<b>\$28,823.15</b>	<b>\$35,864.12</b>	<b>\$18,938.12</b>
18. Interest		\$16.72		<b>\$16.72</b>
19. Operations		<b>\$131,573.21</b>	<b>\$134,359.07</b>	<b>-\$2,785.86</b>
<b>20. Sub Total</b>		\$160,413.08	\$170,223.19	\$16,168.98
<b>22. Total</b>	<b>\$25,979.09</b>			<b>\$16,168.98</b>
23. IUC Chequing Account	\$25,677.82			\$15,862.91
24 .IUC Savings Account	\$301.27			\$306.07
<b>25. TOTAL IUC</b>	<b>\$25,979.09</b>			<b>\$16,168.98</b>
26. KT Chequing	\$16,121.89			\$16,133.00
27. KT Savings	\$9,757.05			\$38,659.82
28. KT	\$8,089.33			\$0.00
29. KT GIC May 17, 2028	\$52,740.25			\$34,640.71
30. KT GIC May 17, 2027	\$53,049.23			\$55,060.82
31. KT GIC May 17, 2026	\$52,356.74			\$54,817.51
32. Total KT	\$192,114.49			<b>\$199,311.86</b>
Jubilee #1	\$560.60	Matures	June 8, 2030	
Jubilee #2	\$738.93	Matures	May 15, 2028	

The following chart details the activity on the Kimberly accounts. The GIC for \$8,089.33 was transferred to the savings account on its maturity date. When the GIC for \$53,049.23 reached its maturity date in 2025, \$20,000.00 was transferred to the Kimberly Terrace Savings and the balance was reinvested in a GIC.

### Kimberly Terrace Account Summary January 1 – December 31, 2025

Accounts	Starting Balance	Interest	Transfers	Fees	Balance at December 31, 2025
KT Chequing	\$16,121.89	\$11.11			\$16,133.00
KT Savings	\$9757.05	\$417.23	+\$28,486.79	\$1.25	\$38,659.82
GIC 25/02/25	\$8089.33	\$397.46	-\$8486.79		\$0.00
GIC 17/05/27	\$52,740.25	\$2320.57			\$55,060.82
GIC 17/5/28	\$53,049.23	\$1591.48	-20,000.00		\$34,640.71
GIC 17/05/26	\$52,356.74	\$2460.77			\$54,817.51
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$192,114.49</b>	<b>\$7198.62</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$1.25</b>	<b>\$199,311.86</b>

We do need to move some funds to cover the operational deficit.

**Moved by Pat Schulz and seconded by Connie Kryschuk:**

1. Transfer \$363.95 from the Youth Group Fund
2. Transfer \$880.00 from the Memorial Life and Work Fund
3. Transfer \$16.72 from interest earned on the IUC accounts
4. Transfer \$1,525.19 from the money transferred to the Building Account

**To clear the operational deficit of  $-\$2,785.86$**

**All Funds and Accounts Summary  
Post Annual Meeting Motion**

	<b>Post AGM Motions</b>	
1. Broadview	\$0.00	
2. Building & Improvement	\$4,381.76	
3. Choir	\$1,047.19	
4. Congregational Events	\$0.00	
5. FF & LL	\$383.17	
6. Kindred Spirits	\$140.48	
7. Leadership Development	\$316.32	
8. Memorial Fund	\$2,960.55	
9. Memorial Flowers	\$625.52	
10. Memorial Kitchen	\$347.13	
11. Memorial: Life & Work	\$0.00	
12. Memorial Pastoral Care	\$1,710.00	
13. Messy Church	\$1,230.00	
14. Minister's Benevolent	\$599.41	
15. Mission & Service	\$0.00	
16. Pre-Advent Gathering	\$71.88	
17. Queer & Faithful	\$618.62	
17. Sharing Basket	\$1,736.95	
18. Sharing Christmas	\$0.00	
19. Special Purposes	\$0.00	
20. Special Relief	\$0.00	
<b>22. Sub-Total ALL Funds</b>	<b>\$16,168.98</b>	
23. Interest/Adjustments		
24. Operations	<b>\$0.00</b>	
<b>25. Sub-total</b>		
<b>26. Total</b>	<b>\$16,168.98</b>	
27. IUC Chequing	\$15,862.91	
28. IUC Savings	\$306.07	
<b>29. IUC TOTAL</b>	<b>\$16,168.98</b>	
30. KT Chequing	\$16,133.00	
31. KT Savings	\$38,659.82	
32. KT GIC May 17, 2026	\$54,817.51	
33. KT GIC May 17, 2027	\$55,060.82	
34. KT GIC May 17, 2028	\$34,640.71	

<b>35. TOTAL KT</b>	<b>\$199,311.86</b>	
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$215,480.84</b>	
Jubilee Certificates	\$560.60	Matures June 8, 2030
	\$738.93	Matures May 15, 2028

### Charitable Donations

Our congregation had a considerable impact on our community and around the world.

**Mission and Service donations** are \$14,403.00. **Special Relief** donations for Congo and Food for the North totaled \$327.15.

The funds from **Sharing Christmas** supported five organizations that reach out and help those in need.

Our numbers continue to diminish along with our financial resources, but our response to the need in our city and our world remains unstoppable.

	<b>Sharing Christmas</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Total</b>
1 Just City	\$715.00	\$32.45	\$747.45
Agape	\$400.00		\$400.00
Interfaith	\$400.00		\$400.00
LITE	\$400.00		\$400.00
Sandy Saulteaux	\$400.00		\$400.00
Canadian Foodgrains Bank		\$201.15	\$201.15
Congo Relief		\$140.00	\$140.00
Food for the North		\$40.00	\$40.00
Indigenous Church		\$150.00	\$150.00
Harvest Manitoba		\$160.00	\$160.00
M & S		\$14,403.00	\$14,403.00
Salvation Army Sarah's Place		\$955.00	\$955.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,315.00</b>	<b>\$16,081.60</b>	<b>\$18,396.60</b>

## Immanuel United Church Operations Budget for 2026

	2025 Budget	2025 Actual	2026 Budget	
<b>OPERATIONAL REVENUES</b>				
Envelopes	\$80,000.00	\$82,970.19	\$85,300.00	
Canada Helps		\$5,007.00	\$4,456.00	
Co-Op Rebate	\$102.00	\$76.81	\$75.00	
John Black/salary	\$44,948.00	\$26,759.15	\$0.00	
Miscellaneous	\$3,500.00	\$7,166.32	\$3,500.00	
Open Plate	\$450.00	\$573.00	\$400.00	
Rebates – GST	\$600.00	\$605.74	\$600.00	
Rent	<u>\$6,000.00</u>	<u>\$8,415.00</u>	<u>\$8,040.00</u>	
<b>TOTAL Revenues</b>	<b>\$135,600.00</b>	<b>\$131,573.21</b>	<b>\$102,371.00</b>	
<b>OPERATIONAL EXPENSES</b>				
Administration	\$3,712.00	\$3,935.20	\$3,679.00	
Building & Property	\$24,500.00	\$22,762.05	\$22,575.00	
Clusters	\$1,725.00	\$657.42	\$1,725.00	
Pastoral Ministry	\$89,896.00	\$73,581.04	\$48,015.00	
Travel				
Assessment	\$5,414.00	\$5,414.00	\$5,840.00	
Support Staff	<u>\$29,075.00</u>	<u>\$28,009.36</u>	<u>\$27,191.00</u>	
	<b>\$154,322.00</b>	<b>\$134,359.07</b>	<b>\$109,025.00</b>	
<b>Deficit/Surplus</b>	<b>-\$18,722.00</b>	<b>-\$2,785.86</b>	<b>-\$6,654.00</b>	
<b>FUND REVENUES</b>				
Building Fund	\$4,373.47	\$1,525.19		
Congregational Events			\$1,000.00	Interest Earned
IUC accounts	\$50.00	\$16.72	\$15.00	
Memorial Life & Work		\$880.00		
Kimberly Terrace	<u>\$14,298.53</u>		<u>\$5,639.00</u>	
Youth Group		<u>\$363.95</u>		
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>\$18,722.00</b>	<b>\$2,785.86</b>	<b>\$6,654.00</b>	
<b>BALANCE</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	

The finance team has looked at the forecasted Operational Expenses for the next year and compared the numbers to the forecasted Operational Income and the result is a projected deficit of **\$6,654.00**. We only have three sources to draw upon to cover the deficit: proceeds from the upcoming congregational event, interest from IUC accounts which is a minimal amount and funds from the Kimberly Terrace Accounts.

Now that our year end has changed to December 31st, we can more accurately predict what our Pastoral Ministry, Support staff and Assessment expenses will be. Earned interest on the Kimberly Terrace accounts and GIC's should cover the deficit.

What we can't ignore is that even though our finances appear stable, once again we are facing potentially high repair bills to our aging building. Even with the new collaborative ministry, we are still projecting a deficit. Our ability to generate income continues to decrease while the expenses keep rising. We realize that the income from Kimberly Terrace will assist us in the short term but we need to look for a more sustainable way forward.

**Moved by Connie Kryschuk and seconded Pat Schulz that the operations budget for the year 2026 projecting an operational shortfall of \$6,654.00 be approved.**

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Schulz

Connie Kryschuk

Precise Accounting Services  
Accounting and Income Tax Consultants  
21 Everglade Place, Winnipeg, MB R2J 3C1  
Telephone 204-253-3949  
Fax 204-253-8025  
Email [jvanda@mymts.net](mailto:jvanda@mymts.net)

## REVIEW ENGAGEMENT REPORT

I have reviewed the attached balance sheet of Immanuel United Church as of December 31, 2024, and the statements of earnings & deficit, for the year then ended. My review was made in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements & accordingly consisted primarily of enquiry, analytical procedures & discussion related to information supplied to me by the Association.

Based on my review, nothing has come to my attention that causes me to believe that these financial statements are not, in all material respects, in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

Winnipeg, Manitoba  
June 30, 2025

# Trustees Annual Report

Jan 1, 2025 – Dec 31, 2025

The subscribing insurers are as follows:

	Primary Insurer	Excess Insurers			
	AIG Insurance	Intact	Northbridge	Wawanesa	Ecclesiastical
Section II Property Insurance	As per underlying Limits	34%	24%	22%	20%
Section III Machinery Insurance	Of Primary Insurance	50%	50%	N/A	N/A
Section IV Crime Insurance		100%	N/A	N/A	N/A
Section V Commercial General Liability		100%	N/A	N/A	N/A
Section VI Umbrella Liability	N/A	100%	N/A	N/A	N/A
Section VII Abuse Indemnity Form	As per the Underlying	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

	2024	2025
Church	2,365,987	2,484,286
Contents	370,935	382,063
Organ	41,800	43,054

## UCC Protect Members

We are pleased to confirm that your policy has been renewed effective December 1, 2025/2026 with a flat renewal, meaning there is NO increase in your premium for the upcoming term.

*Respectfully submitted, Bob Kenyon on behalf of: Bob Duncan, Judy Gierys and Joy Jost*

## Mission & Service



enthusiast Lynne Strome

According to Immanuel's Mission Statement we are:

A community of servants  
reaching out with our gifts to God's world  
working for justice and peace in God's world  
witnessing with our hopes and actions our hope for God's world.

Contributing to the United Church of Canada's Mission and Service (M &S) work is an efficient and real way for us to fulfill our mission. For example, a major focus of M & S is dedicated to working toward Indigenous justice, healing and moving toward reconciliation. Other social justice emphasis features funding to support anti racism measures as well as 2SLGBTQIA+ equity in the church and in the world. Ecumenical collaboration and denominational networking supports and strengthens the United Church efforts.

Approximately eighty five percent of our donations are used for programs right here in Canada. They include Sandy Saulteaux Spiritual Centre and 1JustCity along with others like them across our nation.

The other fifteen percent of funds becomes part of the ecumenical work overseas which is shared with other organizations.

For example, UCC M & S work with the Council of Churches in Zimbabwe. They teach climate smart agriculture, promote gender equality, teach water conservation and irrigation schemes as well as support financial resilience.

Here at home M & S continues to support initiatives to deepen climate integrity. It falls to M & S funds to also be integral for the continuing work of training church personnel.

On the first Sunday of each month, you have the added opportunity to feed the hungry by donating to the "Canadian Food Grains Bank Fishbowl". You also could live out our mission statement by mindfully and regularly supporting UCC Mission and Service.

Our members have decreased and so have our contributions. As a bold disciple I ask you, if you are able, please consider increasing your donation, which you can change at any time as needed.

If you want to become a M & S supporter, simply note that on your offering envelope under M & S or contact Connie about PAR. For more information Google United Church of Canada Mission and Service or ask me, Lynne Strome.

Let us witness with our hopes and actions our hope for God's world.

## **Immanuel Memorial Fund**

The Memorial Fund continues to be supported by donations in memory of loved ones.

~ Joy Jost, Eileen Metcalfe

Respectfully submitted,  
Eileen Metcalfe

## **Guiding Elders for Discernment of Gifts**

Guiding Elders, Margaret Smith and Cindy Smyth

Another year has gone by with our new friends from John Black Memorial United Church at our side. We continue to get to know one another in our Kindred Spirits Collaboration journey, sharing worship spaces, enjoying coffee time after worship, working together on worship and special events, and some outreach.

We'll continue to approach new challenges and changes with our new Minister giving us guidance and support.

Our current Governance Structure will continue the same way for NOW with some small changes coming for this coming year.

What our Church CONTINUES to NEED for 2026 is the following:

1. Stewardship Team (2 people) Vacant
2. Worship Team (1 to 2 people)
3. Caring for our Faith Community (2 person) Vacant
4. Council (2 vacancies)
5. Faith Formation & Life-Long Learning (2 people)
6. Living our Faith in the World (1 to 2 people)

Prairie to Pine held its regional meeting, on Zoom, in the fall of 2025. We greatly appreciate Debbie Crump for attending the Zoom meeting on behalf of IUC. We anticipate we will require someone to attend the next Regional Meeting (likely scheduled for fall 2026).

We greatly appreciate the people who continue to keep all aspects of our Church Life running with such grace and integrity.

Gratefully

Margaret & Cindy

## **Ministry & Personnel Committee Report**

Annual Report from Ministry and Personnel: January to December 2025

Immanuel's Ministry and Personnel Committee continues to meet monthly, usually on the first Wednesday of the month. We open the meeting with prayer, and over the next 1.5 to 2 hours, we share liaison reports from the staff and council and discuss issues that have arisen in the last month. The committee works to provide support to the staff and to build positive and trusting relationships between the staff and members of the community of faith. The work of M and P follows guidelines established by the United Church of Canada, and our committee members periodically attend workshops reviewing the roles and responsibilities of the committee. These are things that have stayed the same over the years. However, this past year we have seen many changes for our M and P committee.

We saw changes in the membership of our committee. After years of faithful service, Jennifer Antymis and Dianne Tucker left the committee. We thank them for their thoughtful and

conscientious work. We are happy to report that *Joy Jost* has joined *Anne Duncan*, *Sharon Doerksen* and *Bob Tate* on the committee.

The Kindred Spirits Collaboration and the alternating worship schedule has affected the job descriptions of some of the church staff. We appreciate the flexibility and understanding of staff to accommodate changing times. However, what remains the same is remarkable: *Sharon Vandenberg's* friendly presence continues to greet anyone who enters the church office, and her skills and experience as an office administrator keep the place running! *Fahima Fazely*, the caretaker, continues to adjust to rentals and changing schedules and ensures that the church is meticulously cleaned and ready for Sunday services.

*Peter Fyne's* expertise and dedication continue to shine in his carefully chosen musical selections and in the accompaniment of choir anthems and congregational singing.

Until October, *Eileen Metcalfe* continued to lead the choir, welcoming all with her support and encouragement and enhancing the worship experience for the congregation. We are very grateful for the many years of tireless service Eileen offered to the music ministry of the church. Feeling a bit bereft after Eileen's resignation, we were relieved when *Michael Dunbar* volunteered to lead the choir in the interim. We are grateful for his dedication to this work and for his willingness to step in at short notice.

Another visible change in the past year has been in the ministry personnel. This past summer, we bid farewell to *Paul DuVal* whose wisdom had guided us in the past three years of transition. In the fall, we welcomed *Oluwajimi Dairo* as the minister of our Kindred Spirits congregations. We are getting to know Oluwajimi and we appreciate his gracious presence and his commitment to the work of the church.

M and P planned a number of events in the past year recognizing the work of the staff. In February, we along with John Black held a staff appreciation event complete with homemade cards (by Jennifer Antymis) and cakes. The committee has also hosted dinners or lunches for the staff so that we can enjoy some social time and show our appreciation for all their work. In the coming months, the M and P committee will once again be conducting annual reviews. Annual reviews offer valuable feedback to our staff and we appreciate the thoughtful participation of the members of the community of faith. In the meantime, if anyone has praise or concerns about staff, these may be put into writing and signed, and then given to any member of the M and P committee.

Many thanks to the staff for their commitment to Immanuel and to the community of faith for their support.

Respectfully submitted by Sharon Doerksen on behalf of the M and P committee

## **Living Our Faith in the World Cluster**

Our Cluster involves many folks from both Immanuel and John Black. Harvest and the School Breakfast program remain our most active programs with Harvest meeting twice a month and the School Breakfast program is every week.

We have several other things that we are involved in: Sarah's Place where we gather clothing and toiletries for women in a Safe House; Sharing Christmas where we gather money for different agencies work with providing meals for those in need, and emergency housing for new immigrants etc.; our Sharing Basket to supplements extra needs for our Harvest folks; our new Bowling group includes some folks from the community who meet each week; Write for Rights Amnesty International; and other commitment to Justice as they continue to rise. The Volunteers who work in these areas are a faithful group of folks who share concerns about issues both locally and globally. It is my privilege to work with them and we thank you for all that you do to make this a hospitable, caring place and neighbourhood . *Thank you, Ruth Campbell*



The Food Bank held at Immanuel, as an agency of Harvest Manitoba, continues to run two Mondays each month.

The Harvest truck comes on the morning of the Food Bank with the food and list of 20 different families (60% adults, 40% children) to distribute the food to. Donations of food and/or money is appreciated to supplement this.

It's thanks to a dedicated group of volunteers from Immanuel and John Black that make this Food Bank possible. They help with the unloading, sorting and distributing of supplies.

Additionally they interact with clients, making it a welcome place for them to come.

Clients are very appreciative of the help to feed their families.

Respectfully submitted, Judy Bartlett

### **RIVER ELM SCHOOL**

The support to the River Elm Breakfast Program is a collaboration between Immanuel and John Black Memorial United Church. Every Wednesday morning, from 7:45 a.m. to 9:15 a.m., we volunteers help the staff with the preparation and clean-up of the breakfast meal. The big change this fall (after a two year wait) was the installation of a dishwasher. The volunteers from Immanuel are Marlene McNabb, Leslie Donnelly and Connie Kryschuk. Volunteers from John Black are Cathy and Rick Sokolowski and Bob Fabbri.

## **SARAH'S PLACE**

Once again we were able to support Sarah's Place. Many individuals donated personal items and gently used clothing, while others donated much needed money. Many thanks from the staff at Sarah's Place for our caring and sharing.

Respectfully submitted, Joy Weizel

## **SHARING CHRISTMAS**

Your generous gifts were gratefully received and distributed as follows:

LITE: inner city employment	\$400
1 Just City: inner city supports	\$715
Interfaith Immigration: refugees	\$400
Agape Table: hot meals	\$400
Sandy Saulteaux Spiritual Centre: Minister training, retreats, and services for Truth and Reconciliation	\$400
Total	\$2315

Letters of thanks received will be posted on the bulletin board.

"We are called to be the church, to love and serve others." By God's grace may we continue.

## **2025 AMNESTY WRITE FOR RIGHTS DAY AT IMMANUEL**

This year's Write for Rights event, named "Kindred Spirits Write for Rights (W4R) 2025 Event", took place of Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at Immanuel United Church. Around 16-20 Members of both churches took part after the service that day.

In early November, Judy Rowan and Marg Smith looked through the 9 cases which had been sent to us as ones that had been chosen for this year's W4R letter writing campaign. We drew up a set of criteria before choosing the 5 cases on which to concentrate. These were:

1) **Norway** (The Sami peoples protecting the summer grazing grounds; 2) **Ecuador** (A group of young women defenders, seeking safety from intimidation and harassment as they fight against Texaco Oil Operations regarding the toxic flares, which are poisoning their people); 3) **Southern Madagascar** (Urgently asking for steps to be taken to preserve the human rights of people displaced by drought-induced famine); 4) **Myanmar** (Demanding the immediate release of a young photojournalist, being persecuted and beaten in prison for his work reporting on the effects of Cyclone Mocha); 5) **South Africa** (to demand that the Department of Basic Education expedite the investigation into the death of a preschooler, that

the results be made public and that those responsible be held accountable) **One extra case was added later, as an urgent one: 6) Tunisia** (A young Human Rights lawyer and media commentator who had been released from prison to house arrest on unfounded charges, demanding that all charges be dropped and the end of harassment and intimidation against her.)

Sample letters were available in each case. Some people chose to sign these and address them as is. Some chose to copy them in their own handwriting before tucking them into the envelopes. Some added letters to the people whose cases were highlighted, or to their families, or to the group, offering support and encouragement. There were also some people who could not stay to write at the church, but took the sample letters home, to write and mail on their own. Most letters were returned to the church to be mailed off in one box to Amnesty's office in Ottawa for distribution.

**6 petitions were signed by 18 people, accompanied by a total of 87 letters** (written to persons in authority, to persons, groups or family in support, or to Ambassadors or High Commissioners here in Canada). These were mailed in January.

Several people from both John Black United Church and Immanuel United Church have asked me for feedback that is received about any of these cases for this year. I receive a copy of "Candle", which is the newsletter that comes out from Amnesty International during the year, containing results of various cases over time. Sometimes the results are quick to come, but mostly it can take several years before authorities in some countries to respond, by releasing prisoners of conscience, or changing something that would make a difference for a person or group.

We can always use more people to organize, perhaps fund-raise for and conduct this event, so if you would like to become involved, please contact Marg Smith (431-337-5479) or by email [margshoney@gmail.com](mailto:margshoney@gmail.com)

. We would like to begin organizing in September next year.  
Submitted by Margaret Smith

### **Neighbourhood Coffee Group**

A small group gathers to enjoy coffee time, which has evolved to playing carpet bowling too. We meet each Wednesday from 10am to Noon. Fellowship is enjoyed very much with coffee and a cookie after bowling. We welcome anyone interested in joining us – no skill required!  
Judy Bartlett

## **Faith Formation and Lifelong Learning Cluster**

As has been the case for the past number of years, we are not offering regular Sunday School classes. During the weeks that worship is held at Immanuel, we are providing a table in the sanctuary with activities for children. While we do not get participation every week, this has been well received by the children who have partaken of the activities. In addition, we offered gift bags with activities and games for children during the Christmas Eve service.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Nicholls

### Wednesday Afternoon Study Group Report

In the more than 50 years that some members of this group have been studying and learning together, much has stayed but much has changed.

#### **What has endured:**

- ❖ commitment to deepening understanding of critical issues in our church (local and global) and world;
- ❖ taking action emerging from our shared learning;
- ❖ reflecting theologically on what we are learning;
- ❖ member-led with teams working together to plan and lead sessions;
- ❖ intentionality about offering care and support to one another...

#### **What has changed:**

- ❖ including our lives as the subject of our reflection -including how we are affected by the realities of aging and diminishing physical capacity;
- ❖ using a wide range of resources and methods to provide content for our discussion -e.g. songs, podcasts, poetry, contemplative prayer, art;
- ❖ meeting by Zoom has made it possible for all of us to participate, regardless of temperature, traffic patterns, distance from Immanuel.

We have also discovered previously hidden gifts of technology coaching in some members of the group!!!

Respectfully submitted by Ann Naylor

### Thursday Morning Study Group

We continue to meet in the lounge every Thursday morning at 10:00 a.m. There are between 4 and 8 ladies. In the spring we completed reading "Ragged Company" written by Richard Wagamese a Canadian Ojibway author. Our next book "All the Broken Places" by John Boyne was completed in the fall. The story follows a 91 year old Gretel Fernsby in London as she confronts her past as a daughter of a Nazi commandant, forcing her to face guilt and secrets while protecting a young neighbour. The novel delves into complicity, guilt and the long term impact of childhood trauma. In the fall we began reading a book by Nadia Bolz-Weber called "Accidental Saints". The book is a mix of Bible stories to help us see that we're all more alike than we are different, a mix of good and bad, but a beautiful family in God nonetheless. God uses all his adopted children. We are all broken.

We planned a Christmas luncheon but cancelled as it was the day after the storm in December.

Respectfully submitted by Joy Weizel

## **MEN'S STUDY GROUP**

If it is a Tuesday afternoon in September, it must be time for the men's study group to begin meeting once again. We did just that last September in a very comfortable room at Concordia Village, thanks to Al Mackling (including tea, courtesy of Al.) Attendance ranges from five to eight participants every second Tuesday.

Before our summer break we were unable to finish our book *At A Loss for Words* by Carole Off, so we discussed a chapter for each of the next few meetings, then decided a change of focus was needed and we fast tracked through the last chapters in a couple of meetings. The message for her chosen words is very clear. Words such as *Freedom, Democracy, Truth, Woke, Choice* and *Taxes* have literal definitions, but can be manipulated to mean very different things to different people and groups. For example, *freedom* to the convoy protesters in Ottawa a couple of years ago and *freedom* to the people of Gaza have very different meanings. This could be said for many words beyond Off's above examples. This book was certainly interesting and enlightening.

We then turned our attention to *Enemies and Neighbours—Arabs and Jews in Palestine and Israel* written by Ian Black, published in 2017. We quickly learned a few things about this book:

- There are very few copies in stock at book stores;
- It is a very tough, complicated subject; and
- It is a very thick book (think Eaton's catalogue thickness, for those who remember it!)

We all had our doubts about getting through the whole book, so we decided to do a combination of reading portions of the actual book and a comprehensive review of the book, chapter by chapter. This seems to be working well for us. The book opens in Palestine under Ottoman rule with Muslims, Jews and Christians living side by side. In the 19<sup>th</sup> Century Jews and Arabs live and trade together but eventually viewed the same land as their land. Black sees 1917 as a moral and political starting point of hope and grievance for both Arabs and Jews. Potential coexistence transformed into structured separation in the 1920's under British oversight. It would appear that things have gone downhill ever since. There lies a mess for the rest of the world to observe. Current news stories describe a very serious and sad humanitarian situation in this part of the world. There is still much more book for us to explore, so interesting discussion will ensue.

Bob Duncan for the Men's Study Group

## CARING FOR OUR FAITH COMMUNITY

It is Annual Report time again! We are the Elders in this cluster, Caring for Our Faith Community. As the name implies, we are responsible for caring for one another, for the building and the property. There are many people involved in this ministry. We just get to do the reporting!

The groups involved are: Pastoral Care, Funerals/Memorial Services, Hospitality, Affirm Ministry, Immanuel Players, Property. Reports from many of these groups will follow. Many THANKS to all who regularly and faithfully work at being community to one another. Many of you are behind the scenes workers and for that we say thank you.

Did you know George Stevens patiently crafted our new nametags? Did you know an office space was built in the large upper classroom? Rainbow Harmony Project Choir rent the space. Well done Jim Jost and helpers. Did you know the sky lites had extensive damage from hail about two years ago? They were replaced this past fall by insurance and with the patient planning and coaching of Glen Smyth.

And also a special Thanks to Joan Macdonald for her faithful service along with the clergy, in supporting and planning with families for Memorial /Funeral Services. Her informative and respectful leadership was very much appreciated . She retired this past fall.

Our caretaker, Fahiima Fazely, works eight hours a week and keeps the building clean and welcoming.

The Telephone Tree was again established as a way of keeping in touch with one another. So, to all who offer hospitality, the repair folks, the grass cutters, snow removers, visitors, sign changers, kitchen and other area cleaners, building organizers, we repeat, THANK YOU.

Presently the groups renting the building on a regular basis are, Rainbow Harmony Project, Betters Anonymous, Alanon, and Yoga. Elections Manitoba rented one time for a Civic election in October. Stroke Recovery have held a Valentines tea yearly for many years. We also have occasional one time renters for meetings or social events.

We are in negotiation presently with a faith community to regularly rent for worship [Sunday](#) afternoons, and for one evening a week for a prayer service. Stay tuned.

Along with the whole congregation, we welcomed Rev. Oluwajimi Dario in September. We thank him for his patience in the building while the skylights were being repaired. It took a while for him to have an office available.

So in conclusion, thank you to everyone involved in this ministry of caring, inclusion and in helping to create community.

Respectively submitted by,  
Eileen Metcalfe, Joy Jost, Muriel Kenyon

## **Property Report**

The Skylight replacement on the roof has been completed. Fortunately it was an insurance claim. It is nice not to have containers scattered in the sanctuary to collect the dripping leaks. We had the shed roof re-shingled. When the Rainbow Harmony needed a room built for their group, Jim Jost framed the wall, installed the door and drywall. Ian Donnelly used his drywall taping skills and then Jim finished off with the painting and trim. Great job. Jim also maintains the boiler heat system for us and we had no issues with the heating system this year. He also repaired chairs. We have 150 chairs available for the sanctuary use. We appreciate the Church helpers who did the yearly top to bottom cleaning of the kitchen shelves and cupboards etc. The grass and snow are taken care of and our building continues to serve us. The north side of the church roof has to be re-shingled this year so that will be a large expense. We have a leak/crack in the south west corner of the church's foundation which will have to be looked at this summer. If you notice something that needs to be repaired, send a quick email or phone call to the office and let Sharon know.

## **PASTORAL COORDINATOR**

This is an acknowledgement, as well as a yearly report. I acknowledge and give thanks for the Immanuel congregation as participants in caring for one another.

We think of Pastoral Care as a conversation at coffee time, a telephone call, a visit, a ride to worship or an appointment, a casserole, and a variety of other friendly gestures. We appreciate and encourage you to be in touch if you know how we could be helpful. So, many thanks to all.

The telephone Tree was reorganized this year. Eighteen phoners call people in our directory. Out of town folks and others who haven't been around for many years, received a letter introducing Oluwajimi Dairo and briefly describing our collaboration with John Black.

Thank you to Joy Jost and Judy Gierys for checking the telephone messages in summer when Sharon is off duty.

Thank you to Sharon for her assistance in a variety of ways.

Thank you to Oluwajimi for his willingness to be part of the Pastoral Care team.

Don't hesitate to be in touch or leave a message at the church office.

Muriel Kenyon, P.C. Coordinator.

## **Funeral / Memorial Report**

The Funeral Memorial Committee falls under the umbrella of Pastoral Care.

Thanks to of Immanuel Congregation who respond so graciously at the time of a death in our community.

Services in 2025

Paul VanNest

Betty Fenuk

Paul Stewart

Bill McEwen. Service at Neil Bardal.

It has been a privilege to chair this committee since 1972.

Thanks to all for the love, support and friendship in this important ministry.

Please continue to support my successor.

Blessings to all.

Joan.

## **Affirming Ministry**

In May 2005, we committed to become an Affirming Congregation within the United Church. We declared our commitment to inclusion and justice for people of all sexual orientation and gender identities.

By acknowledging this commitment frequently and with our visible signs, it is our hope that we are reminded to continue to be faithful to the commitment. It is also our hope that the stain glass hanging in the entrance, the rainbow painted wall and the rainbow candle on the communion table, are a welcoming sign to all who enter our building.

We feel fortunate that the Rainbow Harmony Project choir rent space from us, to meet weekly on Monday evenings.

We will support the Pride Parade in June, as we are able.

## **Immanuel Players**

Due to the success of the May, 2024 "Entertainment Variety Special", the fall of 2025 saw Immanuel Players beginning plans for a similar event in the spring of 2026. By the end of 2025, the "Play It Again" trio had been booked, quiz ideas were taking shape, and casting was begun for the one act play "12 Angry Villians" by Jason Pizzarello. The event dates are Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026. Hope to see you then!

Playfully submitted, Eileen Metcalfe

## **Kindred Spirits Worship Team (KSWT) Annual Report**

Leslie Donnelly, Edith Treller, Peggy Aitchison, Lynne Strome  
Paul DuVal, Oluwajimi Dairo

Kindred Spirits Worship Team (KSWT) continued to learn and evolve during the year of 2025, and we welcomed Oluwajimi Dairo to minister to us in our collaboration. As we progress as Kindred Spirits, the Worship Team members welcome and value your feedback.

John Black (JB) and Immanuel (Imm) volunteers have generously given their time and talents to support a meaningful worship service each week. We extend our hearty thanks to all involved. January 2025 began with Paul DuVal continuing as minister while the Search Team worked to find a permanent one. Last year the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Church of Canada flavoured our worship with a reflective look back at our last 100 years from the perspective of peace and justice and how we sometimes missed the mark. Paul's "moment to ponder" set the scene each week to help us deal with the world events as well as our own issues and Oluwajimi continues this practice.

The KSWT has had positive feedback about using the "contemplative music" to help people centre themselves for prayer. It is a time for personal reflection as well as a time to prepare for the community prayers of the people. We are very grateful to our talented accompanists, Elena and Peter for all their fine work including these thoughtful musical interludes.

The Kindred Spirits worship team members have been working to unify worship proceedings with JB and Imm members joining to be greeters, offering bearers, communion servers etc. We acknowledge that the process of change needs thoughtful time and considerations, and therefore, ask for your patience as we continue to work in the process of collaboration.

In June our two churches unanimously voted to hire Oluwajimi Dairo to take us forward into our collaborative future. In July we gave a heartfelt, grateful goodbye to Paul DuVal who had so generously and skillfully started us on this path. October 19 marked our covenant conjoining our two churches, our hopes and our new minister.

The JB/Imm Collaboration (now Transition) Team arranged a worship service using the UCC animator Jordan Cantwell on October 26 to help us get started on our way.

Our Leadership/Council teams have also collected and offered information and guidance to the KSWT to include voices from various corners of our churches

Meanwhile, our church worship year has run very much like any other year. We honoured Lent, Holy Week and Easter. We shared TBJIGGN services and events. Then we were into Advent planning and fulfilling those plans. This was a beautiful time of collaboration. We were blessed with the use of Ruth Cambell's sculptures to augment the theme of "Seeking New Life". Pat Schulz wrote and delivered the liturgy for the Advent and Christ Candle lighting. Jennifer Antymis offered her creative skills to decorate at Immanuel while Edith Treller and team did the same at John Black.

Mary Bradshaw, Cathy Sokolowski, Nancy Sanders and Sharon Doerksen each wrote and presented the prayers of the people for the four Advent Sundays. The KSWT received many positive comments about the effectiveness of these worship services. December 21, we tried a round table discussion for worship. Feedback indicated that rather than interrupt the flow of Advent, this format of inter congregational sharing would be suitable at another time.

#### THE CHOIR

These dedicated, flexible individuals flit back and forth every week never losing a beat. When it comes to worship our choir is a strong unifying force which we cherish on so many levels. Our gifted choir director of countless years, Eileen Metcalfe, stepped down in November in an unplanned way. KSWT extends our heartfelt gratitude for her leadership, flexibility, diplomacy and sheer musical talent. Thank you, Eileen.

A music director search committee was established quickly and just as quickly Michael Dunbar came forward to offer his skills temporarily, which have proven to be many and invaluable. There is no amount of appreciation that can express our gratitude to these two formidable leaders.

#### TBJIGGN Connections

Numerous and various activities were advertised from the seven churches all year.

There were opportunities to enjoy a pancake supper on Shrove Tuesday.

There were a few options to attend Ash Wednesday services.

Maundy Thursday service was hosted by Kindred Spirits at John Black

May 10 the UCC 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary "Singing for a Century" was staged at Big Red Church (Gordon King Memorial)

Churchorama did the rounds including Immanuel July 13, John Black July 20

All seven NE Winnipeg UCs came together with old church candles to melt them into wax from which each church fashioned their own TBJIGGN candle. We will use them at various times throughout the church year to keep our community neighbours in our prayers.

With your input, Kindred Spirits Worship Team is working diligently and carefully to address each congregation's concerns and ideas on our road of Seeking New Life together.

## **Combined Immanuel/John Black Choir Annual Report**



With the first full year of a joint Immanuel/John Black choir effort now complete, we

can say, with relief and joy, we made it! The weekly back and forth for practices and services, Peter Fyne's and Elena Levina's splitting of practices each week and alternating Sunday's accompaniments continues, as does the choir's cheerful dedication to providing a choral musical addition to each and every service. Several choir members and Peter also made a significant contribution to the United Church 100 year celebration on May 10<sup>th</sup> at Gordon King Memorial Church. Thank you so much! Thank you also to Rev. Oluwajimi Dairo and Paul DuVal, the Kindred Spirits worship committee, and our wonderful combined congregation for your unflinching support. Also, a very special thank you to Michael Dunbar for stepping in as choir director following my retirement in November. I have regained my seat in the alto section and "I hear music in the air. There must be a God somewhere."

Joyfully submitted,  
Eileen Metcalfe