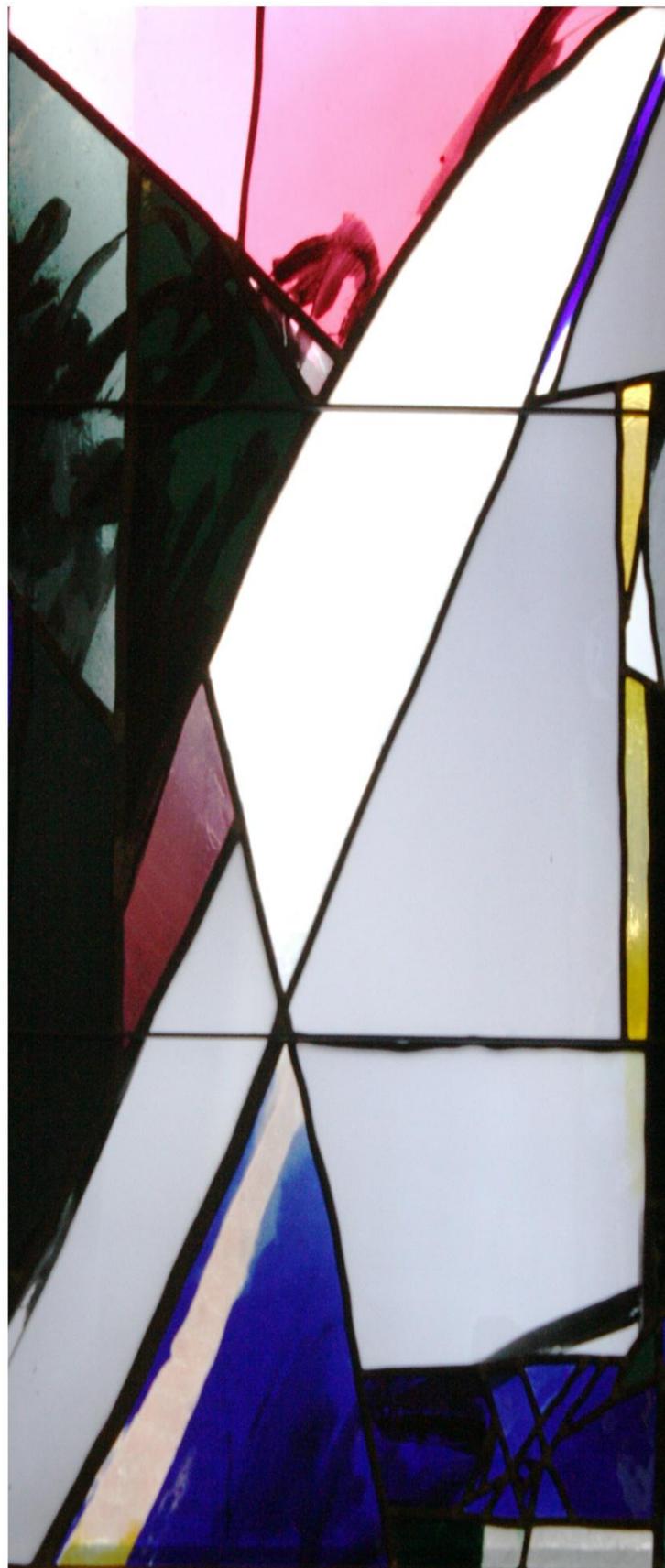




# 2025 Annual Report

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## **Pastor's Report**

Our Lord blessed us in so many beautiful ways in the year just ended. Beautiful people, both new and old, beautiful worship and fellowship, and beautiful ministries to one another and thousands across the city and around the world. Highlights for me in 2025 included "Discipleship Explored" in January & February, spending time most Wednesday with our youth, our "Good News for a Change" evangelism weekend in September, having the opportunity to present the Alpha Course in October & November, and our many meaningful worship services through December.



I am grateful to our volunteer leaders and all who serve the Lord and His people in so many loving ways! I am also very grateful to our church staff – their faith and faithful service make it a joy to come to the church each day.

Once again, I am very much looking forward to the year ahead. I know the Lord continues to bless and lead us all – individually and as His family. As you read the following reports, join with me in thanking the Lord for His steadfast love and work in our midst.

In His love,

*Pastor Greg*



## **Congregational Designated Minister's Annual Report**

The year began with a wonderful church wide program entitled "Discipleship Explored". My role over the course of this program was to support the small group leaders in preparation for the study and to provide leadership to the Men's Study Group as well as an evening group meeting on Zoom, both in partnership with Pastor Colin. I continued to lead the Men's Study Group (MSG) in partnership with Pastor Colin. (More information on the progress of MSG is in a separate report.)

At a personal level, I felt and continue to feel the loss of Pastor Colin very deeply. We were frequently in partnership for leadership and visitation over the years and I miss him. His life and work were wonderful examples of faith and love. I was also privileged to be a member of the Church Growth Team and the Volunteer Growth Team and to be included in retreats held in 2025. I was blessed to be included in Sunday worship support roles on many occasions.

Pastoral care continued in a variety of formats including visitation, telephone and e-mail. During 2025, there was a growing need for grief counselling, both individual and group. I expect this need to continue in the coming year.

I feel both privileged and blessed to serve and to be a member of the vibrant, loving congregation of Byron United Church.

*Ric Graham*

## THE LEADERS' BOARD

2025 was the fourth year of focusing on the **Growth of our Church**. We saw many new families from a variety of cultures and nations join us. Our flags on the pulpit represent the homelands of our church attendees. At each of our monthly Leaders' Board meetings we focused on one of our three growth areas.... **Church Growth, Spiritual Growth or Volunteer Growth**, and reviewed plans that were being considered by that Growth Team for the months ahead.

We met via Zoom technology and also held a full-day in-person Planning Retreat in November to review our **Growth Vision & Plan**. Members of the three Growth Teams, as well as the Team reviewing Visiting Elder needs, joined us that day as we reviewed and celebrated our 2025 accomplishments and clarified our goals for 2026. It has been rewarding to see the variety of ways in which we are **CONNECTING, GROWING** and **SERVING** within our church and beyond.

Throughout the year, the Leaders' Board oversees the work of all church teams and events. We recommend to Session decisions which require approval of the Elders. However, it is the work of the three Growth Teams that has been the catalyst for overall growth we have experienced this year. A particular focus was placed on Evangelism, with planning beginning in May and culminating in our special Evangelism weekend at the end of September. We wish to thank the members of these three teams, and Pastor Greg who chaired each Growth Team, for their time and creative ideas.

It is also through the numerous teams that we are moving forward in accomplishing our goals. The Leaders' Board wishes to thank the many members who lead or serve on those church teams. The generous sharing of your time and talents has been a major factor in making God's plan for our church become a reality.

The Leaders' Board consists of the seven Element Facilitators, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Chair, Vice-Chair and Senior Pastor. Three of these positions had no one in that role for all of 2025. For that reason, we continued a process begun in 2024 of including **Members at Large** as full Leaders' Board members to provide additional input into our decision-making discussions. Dave Wagg, Linda Sampel and Ron Carruthers have served as Members at Large during 2025. The members of the Leaders' Board for 2026 are included in the Governing Bodies report on the final page of this Annual Report. We owe a huge thank you to all Leaders' Board members for their dedicated efforts and considerable time on behalf of our church family throughout this past year.

The reports that follow are organized by groupings of Elements for **Connect, Grow** and **Serve** so that you can see some of the ways in which these groups of Elements share their specific focus. Those individual reports detail what Connecting/Growing/Serving really mean for our church family.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Linda Peck, Vice-Chair of the Leaders' Board

## **SESSION**

Session is the governing body of our church which makes decisions on behalf of the congregation. It is made up of all Elders, plus the Senior Pastor. It is a privilege to work with such dedicated church members. At their meetings, the Elders receive information about the life and work of our church. The Leaders' Board presents items which require Session review or decision, including priorities from our Regional Council and the denomination.

Duties of Elders also include visits to members of the congregation, serving Holy Communion. Most of our Elders have a visiting district. When they contact you, let them know if you have any comments or concerns that should be brought to our attention and how we can better support you throughout the year.

During 2025, Session met five times. All meetings continued to be held via Zoom video technology. In January, Session approved extending the term appointment of our Congregational Designated Minister, Ric Graham, for an additional five-year term. The Elders are very pleased that our congregation is growing. This has created a challenge of having more members than Visiting Elders to support them. A church-wide survey was conducted to determine how to best meet this growing need, through in-person visits, telephone contacts, or a combination of both. The Team reviewing this matter is now working to adjust the numbers in Visiting Districts to accommodate all our members. To support our Visiting Elders, we continue to offer a "**Day of Encouragement**" to share support strategies and information.

Session is also responsible for reviews of any church policies which were originally approved by the Elders. During 2025, they approved a few amendments to our **Social Media Use Policy**. We also reviewed suggested amendments from the Governance Team for the Church's 2010 **Liability Plan** to revise wording for consistency with current UCC and legislative terminology. The complete revision was approved in the fall of 2025.

We began 2025 with 34 Elders. When Linda Peck stepped back from the position of Chair of the Leaders' Board, to that of Vice-Chair, David Tennant offered to become Chair of the Congregation, Session, and Leaders' Board for the 2025 year. Sadly, in December, David went home to the Lord after a valiant battle with cancer. David served our congregation so faithfully not only in these Chairing roles, but also as an Element Facilitator and an active member of a number of church Teams, particularly the Church Growth Team. We are so very thankful for his example of Servant Leadership. The list of Elders to be elected for 2026 can be found in the Governing Bodies report at the end of this Annual Report.

I wish to thank all Elders for their dedicated leadership of our church. Special thanks to Pastor Greg for his caring commitment to growing our church numerically, and in spiritual maturity and service to others. We are blessed with a staff who share their special talents and gifts with us each week.

**"THANK YOU"** for all you do on a weekly basis for all of us.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Linda Peck, Vice-Chair of the Leaders' Board

## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Each congregation of the United Church of Canada is required to have a Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees holds legal title to all congregational property for the benefit of the of the congregation as part of the denomination.

The Board of Trustees meets as required, and in 2025, we met on four occasions. Sadly, one of our Trustees, David Tennant, went to be with our Lord in December.

Over the course of the year, the Trustees discussed and acted upon the following items of church business: the City of London's request that they place a bus shelter on church property (a permanent easement) once Boler Road is widened, the proposed apartment building across from the church (now appears withdrawn), various banking, signing officer, and investment requirements, the church's property insurance, and the request by Elders that our replacement eavestrough be funded out of our Memorial & Honour Fund.

## **GROWTH VISION & PLAN**

In 2014, after years of gradual decline, the Lord gave us a vision for becoming a growing, vibrant congregation as we developed our "Growth Vision & Plan." We did begin to grow, with attendance improving year after year until the pandemic shut down everything, everywhere. In more recent years, we have created a hard-working Church Growth Team, Spiritual Growth Team, and Volunteer Growth Team to drive growth in all three of these critical areas.

Thank you for your prayerful support and participation in what the Lord is doing in us and through this church family to bless people of all ages!

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>
<b>Average Attendance*</b>	121	137	143
<b>National Ranking in UCC</b>	18 <sup>th</sup> highest**	25 <sup>th</sup> highest**	not yet available
<b>Official New Members</b>	20	22	17
<b>General Fund Givings</b>	\$382,000	\$409,000	\$438,000

\* plus the children, youth, teachers, nursery volunteers in attendance downstairs.

\*\* includes each church's online worshippers.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pastor Greg



## WORSHIP ELEMENT

Welcome to Byron United Church where Jesus Christ is Lord!

The purpose of the Worship Element at Byron United Church is to plan and oversee worship services and prayer ministries. Members of the Worship Team schedule greeters, elevator, sound board, and multi-media operators, and nursery volunteers. We also prepare for Holy Communion, Baptisms and coordinate planning for Christmas and Easter celebrations and receptions for weddings and funerals. The average in-person attendance for Sunday worship services in 2025, was 143 plus children, youth and their teachers.

Other church members continued to use the livestream or YouTube videos for participation in Sunday worship each week. We were blessed to have 17 new members join our congregation in 2025. Pastor Greg and the Church and Spiritual Growth Teams led us through two major events this year - the sermon and small group study series: "Discipleship Explored" and the 3 day "Good News for a Change" special evangelical worship services.

Our wonderful music ministry, led by music director Tom de Gryp, our talented choir and musicians continued to bless us every Sunday. A particular highlight was the inclusion of the children's choir from the Jerusalem Mar Thoma Church during the annual "Four Choir Festival of Lessons and Carols".

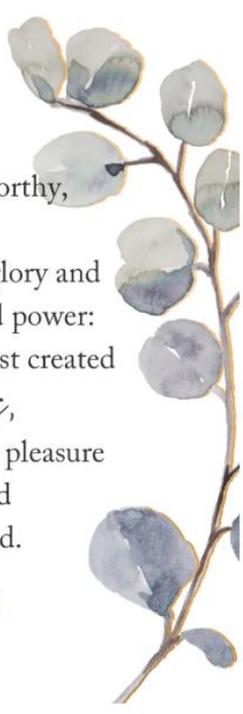
Our devoted Prayer Gathering Team and others continued to lead us in the Prayers of the People during Sunday worship and coordinated three "Prayer and Healing" evening services during 2025.

Each Sunday, during worship services, a dedicated team of eight volunteers offered support to our youngest children in the church Nursery. Through the reading of stories and other activities, the children were introduced to our Lord Jesus and the Bible.

We offer special thanks to the many volunteers who served the Lord as greeters, nursery helpers and elevator, soundboard, multimedia and livestream operators.

We also thank the following Worship Team members for their time and dedication to the Lord's church; Pastor Greg Brawn, Tom de Gryp, Marie Sample, Allie Stephens, and Jennifer Tennant.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dave Rusciollelli, Worship Element Facilitator



Thou art worthy,  
O Lord,  
to receive glory and  
honour and power:  
for thou hast created  
*all things*,  
and for thy pleasure  
they are and  
were created.

*Revelation 4:11*

## REPORT OF THE MUSIC COORDINATOR

The year was an encouraging time of continued renewal and commitment within the choir. As well, the Praise Band lead by Don Baker provides spark and vibrancy to our worship.

In early December we kept the tradition of our annual **Festival of Lessons and Carols**. Although the choir of St. George Catholic Parish could not join us this year, we continued our 30+ year tradition of joining congregations and choirs with **St. Anne's Anglican Church** along with our own **Stevie's Sliders Trombone Choir**. At first it felt a little disappointing to have to name the festival the "3 Choir Festival" - until I discovered something awesome two weeks prior to the festival. While entering the gym one Saturday afternoon I heard the heavenly voices of the **Kids Choir** of the **Jerusalem Mar Thoma** congregation who regularly worship in our building. They were preparing for their own Christmas pageant (that ultimately was cancelled). In short order, an invitation was offered to this newly discovered Byron church choir. It was accepted and these awesome young people participated in what became, once again, the **4 Choir** Festival of Lessons and Carols. They were not only an overwhelming "hit" but in many ways they "stole the show". The kids and their families were thrilled to be part of a big Christmas event like this and eagerly asked to be part of the festival in the future.



**Advent and Christmas** was a busy time as well with the **Shattered Joy** service and **Christmas Eve** services at 6:00 for the family service with music led by Don Baker and the **Praise Band** and the 8:00 carol service led by the choir.

Our annual season-end June social this year was held inside due to rain. Just imagine yummy food in Bethel, ring toss in the Sunday school hallway and axe throwing in Emmaus. Thank you, Sharon, for coordinating this – what a blast!

This year we were treated to the energy and enthusiasm of two new choir members (Tamara Chapman and Kevin Dupis) who found in our choir a welcoming place of music, worship and community. We will miss them when they move to Bancroft. So, we are certainly open to new members/singers looking for such an experience.

We also welcomed a brass quartet during the Easter service as well as the "Sliders" trombone choir to a service in July. Although we always enjoy our guest musicians, it was particularly special to have our own Sophia Brawn share her amazing talent on several occasions with flute solos accompanied by Steve Morley.

**Hymn Books.** Again, my report wouldn't be complete without encouraging folks to give the hymn books a big hug every Sunday morning. There is so much more there than just lyrics that flash on and off the screen. It can be a great experience to prepare for worship by looking at the hymns prior to the service to appreciate the messages and insights within them.

Blessings all as we look forward to another year of wonder and awe in the presence of our Lord and Saviour.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tom de Gryp, Music Coordinator, Organist and Choir Leader

*Psalm 95:1-2: "Oh come, let us sing to the Lord;  
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!"*

## **PRAYER AND HEALING MINISTRY**

Our Prayer Gathering continues in three formats: we meet in person on Tuesday mornings at 11 AM in the Family Room; we meet via Zoom for those who are prevented by distance or illness from joining in-person; and we share prayer requests by email with several other faithful members who do not gather, but who join us in heart and spirit.



We all faithfully bring before the Lord the needs of our church and the specific requests that have come from members of the congregation. We continue to grieve the loss of our dear Pastor Colin Lauchlan, who served us as an anchor, a mentor, and a visionary. Pastor Colin felt that the concept of a Prayer "Team" was somewhat "exclusionary", inferring that prayer, or praying, was only for a designated few. He wanted everyone in the congregation to become familiar and comfortable with prayer. Consequently, with his encouragement, individuals who have prayer requests are now invited to attend the Prayer Gathering on Tuesday mornings, to express their request to our Lord in the company of, and with the support of praying friends. Strict confidentiality is maintained with all requests, unless permission is given for Pastor Greg to share names/ situations in "BUC Wheat" so that the whole church family can lift them before the Lord.

This year, we welcomed three new members: Sue Lauchlan, Lorna Dixon and Beverley Carruthers. Individuals from the Prayer Gathering hosted three "Special Services" in 2025: Two "Prayer and Healing Services" (June and October) and the annual "Shattered Joy" Blue Christmas Service.

People tell us that they are always blessed by these gentle services. It is a joyous privilege to intercede regularly for our church, our Pastors and our church family. God is gracious in His mercy... extending His Love and Comfort to those who seek Him ! May Jesus Christ be praised !

Core members of the Prayer Gathering Group are Susan Badcock (Newfoundland), Tina Birkholm, Beverley Carruthers, Ed and Helen Cooper (Texas and London), Lorna Dixon, Margie Ferguson, Deborah Hiley, Marg LeBlanc, Joan and Ron Nicholls, Jerry and Val Reid, Don Scanlon, Donna Shortt, and Sally Waddell.

## FELLOWSHIP ELEMENT

Fellowship has continued with coffee service after worship each Sunday throughout 2025. We have had some members of our coffee team retire as well as a few new members join us. Like all teams we continue to look for new people to join us.



Sadly, there were several funerals this year that the funeral committee provided beverages for. As well they served the catered food the families provided. Many thanks to the members of the congregation who have volunteered to help in this ministry.

The Meals on Wheels team lead by Diane Veitch made meals for our BUC church members who were ill or recovering from an illness. This ministry is so appreciated by those folks who receive the meals. As always Fellowship looks forward to serving our BUC church family throughout 2026.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jan Harding

### Our New Members in 2025

Mike & Nwamaka Amu  
June Pemberton  
Margaret Tudor-Roberts  
Joan, Paul & Miriam Vogel  
Oliver & Lorna Dixon  
Ifeoma Amanchukwu

Jo-anne Bakker  
Rhonda Brown  
Nancy Addison  
Judith Elder  
Mariia & Rusland Khoroshev  
Doug Lynds

### In Memoriam

Beloved sisters and brothers within our church family who passed away in 2025:

Deb Farrell	January 4	Colin Lauchlan	July 5
Lee Lindsay	January 5	John Booker	July 8
Connie Baker	January 28	Velda Beeson	September 9
Eleanor Sharpe	February 12	Joan Irvine	September 26
Charlie Forret	February 28	Lorene Mills	September 30
Nancy Long	March 15	Graham Shouldice	October 6
David Crone	March 31	Joyce Mullin	October 25
Elaine Pettit	March 31	Doreen Walker	October 20
Dawn Turnbull	April 23	Marion Howlett	November 3
Lee Lindsey	May 1	David Tennant	December 11
Larry Rosevear	May 7		

## **CARD MINISTRY**

Cards are sent to those in our church family when there are health problems, bereavements, special birthdays and anniversaries. We also send cards to our young people graduating from high school, college or university. Baptism and new members cards are also sent.



In 2025, the following were sent:

- 25 birthday cards to those over 90
- 49 anniversary cards to those celebrating over 50 years
- 28 get well and thinking of you cards
- 26 sympathy cards
- 2 baptism cards
- 2 graduation cards
- 17 new members cards
- 30 Easter cards to our shut-in members
- 24 Christmas cards to our shut-in members

Respectfully submitted,  
Jan Williams

## **PICKLEBALL**

We have approximately 20 players who gather on Tuesday and Friday afternoons in the gym at BUC. To ensure everyone enjoys plenty of playing time we divide the time into two 90-minute sessions. Each player contributes \$2.00 per session, with proceeds going to the church group "Spreading the Love". This group prepares bagged lunches for Ark Aid, which are then picked up and delivered to homeless encampments throughout London.



Beyond supporting this meaningful outreach, playing together keeps us active, socially connected, and mentally engaged. Our players have shown excellent growth in their skills, and the games are filled with fun, energy, and some wonderful rallies!

Submitted by  
Dave Wagg and Shelley Scott

## **AGELESS GRACE**

Ageless Grace is an exercise program that is done while sitting on a comfortable chair and moving to 60s music. These exercises help maintain flexibility and movement without placing stress on the body. Our group meets every Tuesday at 10:00 in the church gym. There is no cost to attend. Participants bring a donation for Byron Cares Food Bank. Newcomers are always welcome.



Respectfully submitted,  
Cindy Knight, Instructor

## **20<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT**

Our annual BUC golf tournament was held on May 30<sup>th</sup> at Dorchester Golf Course. 37 players participated in our 20th annual tournament. Everyone had fun, fellowship and shared a delicious meal together. Everyone was a winner thanks to the generous donations by Byron businesses and members, and everyone left with a prize. This year's winners of the Murray Dale Trophy were the team of Bud Beaudette, Bill Ravensberg, Graham Shouldice, Cindy Butler and Len Butler. Our thanks to Tom and Ruth Dean for acting as our official starters and photographer. Mark your calendars for the 21st tournament on May 29th, 2026.

Thanks to everyone who participated  
Dave Wagg



## THE NIFTY KNOTTERS

We are a small group of gals made up mostly from the Wednesday Heart & Soul group who make quilts from donated material. These quilts are given to the Rotholme Family Center and from there sent home with clients when more permanent housing is found. This past year has seen our numbers grow and so, too the number of quilts we can finish. We also complete a few baby or crib quilts which are distributed whenever our Outreach Team decides. Our prayer is always that the warmth of the quilt will hint at the warmth of God's love.



Submitted by,  
Deborah Hiley

## MONDAY GAMES GROUP

On September 11, 2025, we started a games group which is open to anyone interested in playing games. Our group meets on Mondays in the Emmaus room from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. We are not a competitive bunch. We enjoy being in a social gathering and getting to know each other while exercising our brain. 😊

There are a variety of games available each week. So far we have played Kings Corner, Euchre, Five Crowns, Kalooki, Boggle, Scrabble, Rummy and Dominoes. The games for the day are chosen depending on how many attend and which games appeal to them. Participants are encouraged to bring their favourite games, if they are not already on our list, so we also get to learn new games.



There is enough space in the Emmaus room to accommodate up to 6 tables of four comfortably. We currently have 8 ladies who attend when they are able. Both ladies and gentlemen are welcome, so if you like playing card or board games do stop by. We look forward to welcoming you and getting to know you.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lorna Dixon



## **COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS ELEMENT**

The Community Connections Element includes the Church Growth Team. The purposes of this element are to communicate to the congregation and to promote the church to the wider community with the goal of attracting new people to Byron United Church. This past year was our first full year with the position of a Communication Coordinator supporting our work to reach these goals. Kate Hendricks has improved our digital presence online and continues to add content to improve engagement.

We have been strengthened by many new families who have joined our church. Our congregation has grown in size and in diversity. We are also encouraged by a growing Sunday School and Youth Group.

### **CHURCH GROWTH TEAM**

We created this team in 2022 to work intentionally to grow our church family by promoting Byron United to the wider community through social media, physical advertising, and in-person events. Last year, our big project was our “Good News for a Change” evangelism weekend. Four other United Church ministers came to help lead these four special worship services which included testimonies, preaching, music, invitations to receive Jesus as Lord and Saviour and to come forward for prayer. The total attendance of the four worship services was about 400. In addition, we held an Easter Treasure Hunt (thank you Andrea Smith), invited new international attendees to place their home countries’ flags in the sanctuary, and encouraged the running of the Alpha Course in the fall. We are blessed to have Kate Hendricks on staff as our church’s Communications Coordinator. Sadly, team member David Tennant was unable to continue contributing to our planning meetings as his health deteriorated. David was a visionary member of the team, and we miss him greatly.

Our next “Good News for a Change” weekend will be this coming June 13 & 14. Please plan to attend the Men’s Breakfast, Women’s Brunch, Saturday evening worship, and of course Sunday morning too! It is likely that the Moderator of the United Church of Canada will be here to help with the leadership, Rev. Dr. Kimberly Heath, a good friend I’ve known through Cruxifusion.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pastor Greg

### **84<sup>th</sup> LONDON SCOUT GROUP**

Thank-you Byron United Church congregation, for your continued sponsorship and support of our programs and fundraisers. Your gracious provision of facility time and storage space allows us to continue to offer our unique program to area youth focusing on Scouts Canada’s mission “To help develop well-rounded youth, better prepared for success in the world.”



The Scouting program is heavily dependent on our adult volunteers to help run the program. If you have an interest in Scouting or helping to provide youth with fun adventures, please contact me. Training is provided and you can learn right along with the youth.

The 2025 Scouting year was a regenerative year for the 84<sup>th</sup> London Scout group as we only had a Beaver Colony running. We run Monday nights in tandem with the beavers from the 73<sup>rd</sup> London Scouting group. We share meeting space, equipment, and resources as well as Leadership teams. This has allowed our group to continue to operate despite the small number of adult volunteers.

The 84<sup>th</sup> Beaver Colony currently has 8 beavers and 3 leaders. This past year has seen us go skating in Victoria Park, build and race Beaver buggies, go on several hikes around the community, attend Beaveree with many other Beaver Colonies, participate in Apple Day fundraising, visit Reptilia Zoo, march in the Byron Legion Remembrance Day Parade and fill and donate several Christmas shoeboxes.

Our leadership team also helps the 73<sup>rd</sup> Scouting Group run Cubs and Scouts on Thursday nights as well. We would love to expand the 84<sup>th</sup> Scouting group by offering Cubs & Scouts as well, but we need the volunteers to run them.

I would like to thank our 84<sup>th</sup> Scout Group volunteer Scouters:

**Adam Kristoferson** (Beavers, Cubs and Scouts)

**Jason Perpich** (Beavers)

**Janet Taylor** (Cubs and Scouts)

**Robert van Dam** (Beavers, Cubs and Scouts)

These selfless volunteers devote their time and talents to better the lives of our scouting youth. The program would be nothing without you, so **Thank-you!**

Respectfully submitted,  
Robert van Dam  
84<sup>th</sup> Group Commissioner

### **WEDNESDAY YOUTH GROUP**

Our Youth Group continues to thrive. About 8 to 12 teens and young adults meet each week with Pastor Greg, Andrea Smith and/or Noah Toth. Noah has continued to be a blessing to our teens as he inspires them to attend at church and to grow spiritually. Each week the Youth enjoy dinner, Bible study and activities. The group includes youth from our congregation and from the community.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jen McKay



## **ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS**

Two AA Groups met here at Byron United on a weekly basis. One group met on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30 to 6:30 PM. And the second group met on Wednesday evenings from 8:00 to 9:30 PM.



## **FRIDAY AFTERNOON BRIDGE**

During the past year, approximately 12 to 16 men have met weekly for socially competitive Bridge on Friday afternoon. All men in the community are welcome as this is a church outreach activity. The number of players remains much the same over the past few years. There is a \$5.00 charge to cover expenses for cookies, coffee, small cash prizes and a donation to the church for use of the facilities. Again, this year during November and December, a weekly voluntary contribution for a charity was made by the players. \$420 was collected and donated equally to the Byron Cares Food Bank and Ark Aid Mission.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bob Coates

## **MONDAY BRIDGE**

Monday Bridge is for women and men and begins at 11:30 AM until about 3:00 PM. Seven rounds are played with the winning team moving to the next table and switching partners. There is an average of 35-40 players in attendance. This is a very welcoming group with an emphasis on friendship. Newcomers are always welcome, and it is not necessary to have a partner. Pat Orcutt oversees the group. Margot and Dieter Franke look after the refreshment time and Ruth Dean remains as Treasurer. It is a most enjoyable time of playing bridge and engaging in fellowship.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ruth Dean





## DISCIPLESHIP ELEMENT

The Discipleship Element focuses on providing opportunities for all members of the church family to deepen their relationship with God and strengthen their Christian walk. In addition to Sunday School and Sunday Youth, various Bible studies, Christian video and book studies are offered throughout the year in small group and short-term workshop formats. Everyone is encouraged to access the church Library and RightNow Media to take advantage of a wide variety of resources for all ages and stages of faith formation.

Small groups continued in-person gatherings, making use of hybrid and Zoom studies as needed. Andrea Smith and Noah Toth continued their beautiful ministries to the Children and Youth each Sunday. Andrea's efforts over the children's Christmas Eve presentation were exceptional and greatly appreciated by all involved and all that attended.



## SPIRITUAL GROWTH TEAM

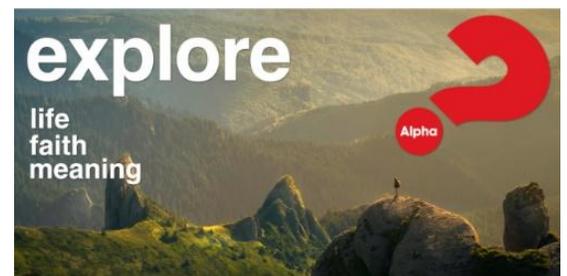
Focused on strategies to promote the spiritual growth and maturity of adults in the church family, the 2025 Team members included Pastor Greg Brawn, Pastor Colin Lauchlan, Don Scanlon, Andrea Smith, Sally Waddell and Angie Brawn. The Team met to discuss and initiate opportunities for the congregation to continue maturing as deeply committed followers of Jesus Christ. Some of the 2025 initiatives include

- the DISCIPLESHIP EXPLORED Church-wide study, exploring Paul's letter to the Philippians
- the Christian Life & Witness course in the Spring
- the Good News for a Change evangelism event followed by
- the Alpha Course, and
- A.I. Generated Daily Devotionals sent out each week by Pastor Greg since September

Pastor Colin's absence continues to be deeply felt by all.

## ALPHA

In the past year 2025 thanks to Pastor Greg Brawn, Byron United church hosted the 10-week Alpha course once again, engaging approximately 30 participants, mostly from our Church and some from other Churches around London. This course provided a vital space for individuals to explore fundamental questions about life, faith, and the meaning of Christianity. We (Alpha group leaders) witnessed numerous instances of personal growth and



spiritual discovery among attendees, with spirited small group discussions. Many appreciations to Pastor Greg for undertaking all but one of the 15 Alpha topic presentations. Many thanks to all volunteers who provided food and beverages for sit down coffee and dessert for a very enjoyable Alpha evening, and many thanks to the Alpha group leaders and helpers for their leadership, encouragement and support for all Alpha topics discussed.

Submitted by,  
Mike Power

## **CHURCH LIBRARY**

The contents of our Library, located near the church office, continue to grow with donations from many generous church members.



We have worthwhile study guides and DVDs regularly donated by our church's many small groups. We gladly accept all donations of Christian books and continue to be open to suggestions for materials you would like purchased, or ways in which the Library could better serve our church family. If you would like to be part of the Library Team, please don't hesitate to contact the Church Office. No experience required and the duties are quite light.

Respectfully submitted,  
Angie Brawn, Discipleship Facilitator

## **SUNDAY CHILDREN'S MINISTRY**

Sunday School in 2025 was a beautiful year of greater connection with church families. We saw more families making an effort to bring their children each week, and we welcomed in new families through out the year, getting to know them all in meaningful ways.

During class time we studied the lives and experiences of Jonah, Elijah, Moses, and Jesus. We saw how God spoke to His people through His prophets and His Son. The children were shown how to spend time personally talking to the Lord and how to discern His voice. We have seen the youngest of children pray in ways that were so full of God's Holy Spirit, and it is humbling and beautiful.

Another extremely important and meaningful moment we experienced in Sunday school was the washing of Pastor Colin's feet. The little girl that actually did the washing was so excited for the opportunity! We know that it was a blessing from the Lord to be able to do this to honour Jesus' life in Pastor Colin.



The children learned many scriptures and received rewards for memorization. The children truly love to look up scripture and read it aloud! We enjoyed more worship times with Jim from L'Arche. What a blessing he was to us! The Holy Spirit also directed us to focus on the armour of God and on Psalm 91 in 2025. This has been of such significance and value as we learn how our relationship with the Lord is one of resting in His provision for us.

We continue to work on our retell of the Good News; each one making a picture book. to help them explain what Jesus has done. Most noticeably we have seen the children moving into deeper levels of understanding and relationship with Jesus and one another. There is a love within the group that is tangible and so lovely. The children are able to give testimony to how Jesus is with them all the time.

Rounding out 2025, we asked the Lord what He wanted us to do with the Christmas celebration time. He brought us Becky Lenko who offered to make costumes. So, we asked the Lord, "what play do we do?" And He brought a telescope to us through another man. The only play I knew of with a telescope was a play we had hoped to do before 2020 called "The Unexpected Christmas". Then the Lord brought us a talented young woman named Ace (granddaughter of Julia Friend) who was experienced in directing children's theatre! Thank You Lord! Through each practice and the discipline of learning their lines, this opportunity brought the children together even more, trusting the Lord to help them remember their parts and places throughout the presentation.

God's message to us was that He can do things in very unexpected ways AND HE IS GLORIOUS! Thank You Lord for all that You did in 2025 for the children and their families. Praise the Lord!

Respectfully submitted,  
Andrea Smith

## **SUNDAY YOUTH**

The Sunday youth group has experienced noticeable growth, both in attendance and in depth of engagement. What was once 0-3 students many weeks has become 5-8 with regularity. That increase is significant!

Over the past months, we have worked through several sermon series with an emphasis on active recall and cumulative understanding. We spent multiple weeks on the Lord's Prayer, then moved through the Story of Jonah with *compassion & mercy* as central themes. Throughout this time, I have seen a deeper engagement emerging. Some students now take initiative in discussion, pose their own questions, and even hold one another accountable in constructive ways.



Perhaps more importantly however, theological language has begun to take on substance. Words like grace, faith, and mercy are no longer abstract vocabulary but are slowly becoming lived realities. I have seen this most clearly in the small things: students volunteering to pray, helping set up and take down, and intentionally including peers with exceptionalities in activities. These moments feel like faith translated into action. Themes we have discussed (invitation, love, dignity) are being embodied rather than merely discussed.

The primary challenge moving forward is the diversity within the group. There is a wide range of ages, cognitive abilities, social maturity, and socio-economic backgrounds. This diversity is a gift, but it complicates the conventional youth group model. As a result, lessons must operate at an accommodating level, which inevitably limits the theological depth we can sustain. This can be draining for students who are ready to move further and want to engage more deeply.

Respectfully submitted,  
Noah Toth

## **MEN'S STUDY GROUP**

During 2025, the Men's Study Group (MSG) met every Wednesday morning throughout the year with short breaks for the summer and at Christmas. The group faced great sadness this year with the loss of Pastor Colin Lauchlan and David Tennant.

The group continues to remember and honour the friendship and faith they shared with the group. The group is very grateful to Bill Ravensberg for taking leadership of the technology and music selection for the group.

The year began with the Men's Group participating in the church wide program entitled "Discipleship Explored" for the months of January and February 2025. Then the group began a 6-week study of Galatians, then a 5-week study of James. MSG also participated in the "Christian Life & Witness" program before beginning a summer break. The fall began with a study of Revelation, then a topical study called Walking the Broken Path that dealt with doubt, rejection, loneliness and anxiety. The final study of the year was Advent, leading to Christmas. The Men's Study Group continues to be a great way to share and grow in our Christian faith.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ric Graham



## HEART AND SOUL

Small groups provide a meaningful way to connect with God and other members of our church family during the week. The **Heart and Soul** small group provides opportunities for women to meet for weekly Bible study throughout the year. We invite women from beyond our church family as well, to grow in our understanding of God's Holy Word. Presently we have more than 40 women involved with an average of 28-30 attending each week.



During 2025, we continued meeting in person for our weekly gatherings. We meet for two hours on Wednesday mornings in the church from 9:30 to 11:30, from September to end of May, except during the month of December. Our first hour includes singing praise songs, sharing of some "Food for Thought" ideas, and a time of fellowship. We then divide into two smaller groups for our Bible study discussions. During January/February we participated in the church-wide **Discipleship Explored** eight-week study. We also participated in the three-week church wide study **Christian Life & Witness** in May/June. From September to November, we discussed Paul's two letters to the Thessalonians. In January 2026 we are again studying some selected chapters from the book of Psalms.

We are grateful for Deborah Hiley's leadership of one Bible study group, while I have the privilege of leading a second group. God remains our central focus and continues to inspire us each week. We include a time of prayer for ourselves and others. It has been my privilege to lead the Heart & Soul group for several years, experiencing the joy of connecting, growing and serving with sisters-in-Christ.

We welcome new members at any time. Please contact me at [linda.peck@sympatico.ca](mailto:linda.peck@sympatico.ca) for further information.

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda Peck

## SMALL GROUPS

We have had Small Group Ministries in Byron for many years. A variety of topics and Bible studies are explored depending on the interest and expertise of the group. The groups vary in size, ranging from six to thirty members each.

There are a number of groups who meet regularly. Some are open to everyone, some for women only, there is a men's group and there are a few couples' groups. They all gather at different times of the day and evening with varied schedules of frequency and topic of study. As varied as the groups are, the common theme is the building up of relationships with one another and most importantly the growth in one's Christian Walk.

Small groups at Byron meet in several different ways depending upon the group's preference. Some meet in homes, others at the church and there is still the opportunity to meet on Zoom for those not wishing to meet in person. In other words - there is something for everyone!!

Here are seven reasons to be in a Small Group:

(Excerpts taken from an article by Rick Warren Entitled "Why Start a Small Group")

1. You will understand the Bible better in a small group.
2. You will feel like part of God's family.
3. Prayer will become more meaningful to you.
4. You will be able to handle stress and pressure better.
5. You will have a natural way to share Christ with friends, relatives, and at work.
6. You will develop leadership skills you never knew you had!
7. You will deepen your understanding of worship.

If you are interested in joining a Small Group, please contact Allie Stephens at [stylist@gmail.com](mailto:stylist@gmail.com) or call her at 226-268-4857.



## **MINISTRY ELEMENT**

The purpose of the Ministry Element is to "guide and equip people for Christian service and leadership, and to encourage and support congregational Teams in their ministries". Serving in our Church is a simple way of serving God!

The life and work of our congregation is blessed by the many volunteers who have responded to God's call to lead and serve faithfully. Using your God-given gifts in service to our Lord is sincerely valued and appreciated. We pray that God is preparing the hearts of His people to use their specific gifts to serve in new ways. Whether you are a long-time member or new to our church family, as you read this year's Annual Report, please prayerfully consider how you can use your time and talents in serving our Lord through His Church in 2026.

The Ministry Element presently has no Facilitator. There are two main Teams in this Element: the Ministry and Personnel Team and the Governance Team.

### **MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL TEAM**

The Ministry and Personnel Team (M&P) is responsible for providing ongoing support and guidance to all our staff. The Team is involved in the hiring of new staff as needed, except for Ministerial personnel. M&P also addresses any personnel related questions or concerns that may arise.

Examples of duties of Ministry and Personnel Team:

- Review working conditions and remuneration of staff and make recommendations to the Leaders' Board.
- Oversee the relationship of the staff to members of the congregation.
- Oversee the relationships between staff members.
- Review and evaluate the effectiveness of staff.

Joel Dell retired from the M&P team during 2025. We thank him for his ongoing caring support for our staff. Joel continues his service to the Church as a key member of the choir and an active member of the Property Team.

We would like to thank Kate Brawn for her effective contribution to our Team. Although she retired from M&P during 2025, Kate will be continuing to serve the Church as she has assumed the role of Church Administrator. We know that she will be a great addition to the staff and, by extension, to the entire Church.

The current members of the Ministry and Personnel Team are Joan Estabrooks, Connie Constable, Don Van Vliet, and Paul Coates.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ministry and Personnel Team

## **GOVERNANCE TEAM**

The Governance Team continues to focus on completing regular reviews of congregational, denominational and government regulations and policies for compliance by our congregation and reporting findings and recommendations to the Leaders' Board. Over the past year a major project involving a full review of the BUC Liability Plan was completed with amendments approved by Session. Other policy reviews included the Social Media Policy and the Copyright Policy.

Many thanks to Governance Team members for their faithful service: Sandra Collier, Michelle Morant (served until October 2025) and Linda Peck (Advisor). The Governance Team is in need of additional members who wish to use their God-given gifts in this important work.

*“Work with enthusiasm, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people.” – Paul (Ephesians 6:7 NLT)*

In His Service,  
Anita Bacon, Chair

## **VOLUNTEER GROWTH TEAM**

Three years ago, we created the Volunteer Growth Team within the Ministry Element to help with the following: a) Recruit, b) Equip, c) Encourage, and d) Thank our volunteers!

Several members of the team resigned in 2025, bringing the current membership down to just Ric Graham and myself. We will be looking to invite several new people to join us in this ministry. In the meantime, we continue to place volunteer needs on the screen before worship and in BUC Wheat, celebrate teams, groups, and individuals during worship most Sundays, we hosted our second annual, “Elders Day of Encouragement,” and we complete reference checks for volunteers as needed. We are looking to have volunteers share testimonies about the impact their ministries have on others and themselves – if you have a testimony to share, please let us know!

Respectfully submitted,  
Pastor Greg



## MISSION ELEMENT

The purpose of the Mission Element is to share the love of Jesus Christ with those beyond our church family. This Element coordinates the mission appeals to the congregation. The Mission Element presently has no Facilitator. There are three Teams in this Element: Byron Cares Food Bank, the Outreach Team, and Spreading the Love. Please read the separate report for each of these Teams. Thank you to everyone who has so generously given your time and resources to support those in need in our local community and abroad during 2025.

### OUTREACH TEAM

The Outreach Team is deeply grateful for the strong support and encouragement we continue to receive from the congregation of Byron United Church. Once again, your generosity has touched countless lives — not only in our local community, but across Canada and around the world. Your kindness and compassion inspire and sustain all our Outreach ministries.



### Highlights of Our Outreach Ministries

- **Used Clothing Donations** - The bins located across from the church office are consistently filled with warm, high-quality clothing — a true testament to the generosity of our caring congregation. Our faithful Sunday Samaritans, Ken and Diane Minshull, regularly distribute the donated items from the bins. Most of these items are delivered to Ark Aid, while others are shared with Rotholme Women and Family Shelter, Indwell, the Men's Mission, or Byron Cares Food Bank, as needed.
- **Sock It to 'Em & Undie Sunday** - This year, 453 pairs of socks and 70 pairs of underwear were collected, along with \$85.00 in donations which will be used to purchase additional supplies.
- **Mission Sunday Special Guest** - We were honoured to welcome Jaime Cann, Executive Director of Fresh Start Support Services in St. Thomas. Jaime shared exciting updates about their new House of Homes project and described how Fresh Start provides early parenting interventions focused on trauma and attachment, supporting families through pregnancy and parenting.
- **Samaritan's Purse Shoebox Campaign** - Byron United Church was able to collect \$300 and fill 73 Samaritan's Purse Christmas shoeboxes for children in need at Christmas!
- **London Community Chaplaincy - Angel Tree** - Our congregation generously provided \$3,215 in Angel Tree Christmas gifts for children and families connected with London Community Chaplaincy.

• **Tom's Bike Ride** - A heartfelt thank-you to our music director, Tom de Gryp, who set and achieved his goal of cycling 1,000 km around London and area to raise \$2,000 for Outreach ministries. We are humbled by his dedication and grateful for the prayers and support that made this effort such a success.



• **Other Ministries** - In addition to these initiatives, Byron United Church supports many other worthwhile causes. For a complete list of supported organizations, please refer to the Outreach Team Budget below and/or the Outreach bulletin board in the Gym.

**Outreach Team Members**

Stephanie Carruthers, Diane Minshull, Ken Minshull, Val Reid, Dave Rusciollelli, Shelley Scott & Gaye Whaley. In May 2025, Helen Keenlside stepped down from her leadership role with the Outreach Team. After prayerful consideration, Shelley Scott graciously accepted the invitation to assume the position of Chair.

Respectfully reported,  
Shelley Scott - Outreach Chair

	<u>2025 Expenditures</u>	<u>2026 PLEDGE</u>
<b>LOCAL/NATIONAL NEEDS</b>		
L'Arche	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500
Ark Aid	\$ 4,000	\$ 3,000
Cruxifusion	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Daily Bread Layette gift	\$ 119	\$ 200
ELUCO	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
ELUCO - Camp	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500
Fresh Start (formerly Rehoboth)	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,300
Harvest Hands	\$ 2,300	\$ 2,000
Indwell	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500
Karis Disability Services (Christian Horizons)	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
London Community Chaplaincy	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,000
Mission Services	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
London Community Chaplaincy Angel Tree	\$ 2,215	\$ donations
Spreading the Love Sandwiches for Ark Aid	-	\$ 500
Sunday Samaritans (Minshulls)	-	\$ 1,000
Youth For Christ: After School, Streetlight, etc	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,000
<b>LOCAL / NATIONAL TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 30,634</b>	<b>\$ 29,715</b>

**INTERNATIONAL NEEDS**

	<u>2025 Expenditures</u>	<u>2026 PLEDGE</u>
Canadian Foodgrains Bank	\$ 5,000	\$ 4,500
Latin America Mission	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500
Samaritan's Purse (Shoebox campaign)	\$ 309	\$ donations
Sleeping Children	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500
<b>INTERNATIONAL TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 10,309</b>	<b>\$ 9,500</b>
<hr/>		
Emergent Needs	<b>\$ 2,000</b>	<b>\$ 3,000</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 42,943</b>	<b>\$ 40,000</b>
<hr/>		
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	\$ 41,696	
<b>EXCESS RECEIPTS VS. DISBURSEMENTS</b>	\$ 1,247	
<b>RESERVE CARRIED FWD FROM 2024</b>	\$ 3,282	
<b>TOTAL AT HAND</b>	<b>\$ 2,035</b>	

**SPREADING LOVE**

A group of women began meeting almost 2 years ago with the sole purpose of spreading love. How you ask? By making bagged lunches for the Ark Aid Street Mission outreach team to deliver to those in need. These brown bag lunches include peanut butter and jam sandwiches (hence the spreading), cookies and a treat of some kind. We try to include seasonal treats such as ... chocolate bars at Halloween, clementines in December - we included home baked chocolate cupcakes at Christmas. Every Monday, this group makes 130 lunches which are picked up by Ark Aid that afternoon.



The group have been so appreciative of support they have received from the Pickleballers as well as frequent donations of bread which amounts to 16 loaves each week as well as our Byron congregation who are always willing to support this mission. We have also reached out to our own communities and have sent warm winter clothing, coats, hats, mitts and in summer more seasonal clothing that they might require. The need seems never ending!

Each "spreading love" session begins with prayer for Ark Aid and their staff and volunteers who so beautifully support their community and for the recipients of the lunches that they might come to know Him and experience His grace and love.

Respectfully submitted,  
Allie Stephens

## **BENEVOLENT FUND**

Your donations to our Benevolent Fund are used by Pastor Greg to anonymously assist people who need financial support, both within and beyond our church family. In 2025, **\$6013** was distributed to help people buy groceries not provided by the food bank (milk, meat, etc.), pay rent, utility bills, purchase medical prescriptions, assist with purchasing eyeglasses, and vehicle repairs.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pastor Greg



## **BYRON CARES FOOD BANK**

2025 was another year of blessings to share with our West London clients – 1667 families were served during the year, providing food, laundry soap, pet food and other items to 5,146 household members. The Byron Cares Food Bank welcomed 154 new clients while continuing to serve many 'regular' clients on a monthly basis.

Highlights for the year were many more boxes of blessings from Amazon and fabulous donations of locally grown fresh produce through the summer months. Thanksgiving and Christmas saw several local schools, businesses and organizations hold food drives on our behalf; they are so pleased to have an opportunity to participate locally. The Byron Cares Food Bank hosted a Community Christmas dinner on December 6<sup>th</sup> at St. George Catholic Church with a record attendance of over 150 people. Our partnering churches and the Byron community continue to remind us they are eager to partner together with us as we serve and minister to those in our community who need a helping hand.

We look forward to moving to opening one day a week in February, 2026, we will offer a morning shift from 10:00 AM to noon followed by an afternoon shift from 1:00 to 3:00 PM on Thursdays. Our clients are looking forward to having a morning option and it will be less disruptive for our faithful volunteers to open once per week.

Thank you to the Byron United Church congregation for your prayers, ongoing financial support and for providing a welcoming space for our food bank. We are also very grateful for our 40+ volunteers who generously shared of their time and continue to be great ambassadors for our food bank ministry.

***“But my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.” ~ Paul (Philippians 4:19)***

We have certainly seen this scripture come to life over and over again at the food bank in 2025.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lorilee Down



## **ASSETS AND FINANCE ELEMENT**

The Assets and Finance Element oversees the upkeep and needs of the church's property and monitors the income and expenditures of our financial obligations. This Element currently has no Facilitator. There are three Teams in this Element:

1. Finance Team: This Team prepares and reviews the proposed budget for 2026. The Team also monitored our income and expenditures during 2025. The 2026 budget will be presented at the March Annual Congregational Meeting.
2. Property Team: This Team has responsibility for maintaining the church property and gather on Tuesdays to accomplish various projects.
3. Stewardship Team: This Team focuses on ways to encourage congregants to give not only of their material gifts but also by volunteering.

### **PROPERTY TEAM**

The property team had, what I would consider, a fairly usual year in 2025. We completed our usual tasks such as routine painting, leaf pick up, general yard work around the church, and putting up and taking down decorations for various seasons. We had to deal with some damage to the eavestroughs on the exterior of the building and hired a company to repair the damage and to ensure the rest of the system was sound.

The Property Team consists of Joel Dell, David Smith and Greg Thurston. We are always on the lookout for new members; no experience or particular skill set is necessary. If you would be interested in joining this team, please contact the church office. We generally meet on Tuesday mornings from 9:30 till 12:00.

Respectfully submitted,  
Greg Thurston

### **MEMORIAL AND HONOUR FUND**

The Memorial and Honour Fund receives gifts in memory of individuals directed to the Church with no specific purpose designated by the donor. These gifts must be used to benefit the whole congregation in the long term.

The fund started 2025 with a balance of \$39,943. During the year, the fund received donations in memory of John Booker, David Crone, Deb Farrell, Charles Forret, Joan Irvin, Colin Lauchlan, Thomas McWilliams, Elaine Petit, Eleanor Sharpe, Graham Shouldice, David Tennant, Doreen Walker, and Marg White.

The balance of the fund as of December 31, 2025, was \$47,147. A portion from the Memorial Fund was used in 2025 to cover repairs to the eavestroughs. Thank you for your donations to the Memorial and Honour Fund.

## **STEWARDSHIP TEAM**

Our Byron United Church Stewardship Team consists of Sandra Collier, Ruth Dean, Ron Carruthers, Dean Radloff, Gary Coutts, (Chair) and Pastor Greg.

Christian Stewardship is defined as the faithful and effective use of all the gifts entrusted to us by God. Christian Stewardship allows us to acknowledge our blessings and live out our ministry, to nurture faith in Christ and serve the world God loves.

Our entire congregation is a Steward of Byron United Church. The Stewardship Team works to encourage all congregational members to step up and participate by giving the gifts that God has entrusted to you, including your time, your talents, your skills, your treasures and your physical resources.

Your Stewardship Team

- updates projected ongoing budgetary restraints
- updates the Annual Stewardship Letter
- assists with the update of the 5 Year Budget “What If Projections” in conjunction with the Finance Team
- updates / administers “Planned Gifts Program”
- promotes monthly pre-authorized donations “PAR”

Thank You for your continuing support of our many ministries in 2025. Your continued participation in this ministry is thriving. Our congregational leaders continue to act as trustworthy Stewards of your faithful offerings.

With God's help, the faithful stewardship of Byron United Church and His resources will continue stronger than ever. Thank you and God Bless you for your faithfulness and ongoing support.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Stewardship Team

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INDEPENDENT PRACTITIONER'S REVIEW ENGAGEMENT REPORT

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To the Members of Byron United Church

I have reviewed the accompanying financial statements of Byron United Church (the organization) that comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2025, and the statements of operations, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

*Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements*

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations (ASNPO), and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

*Practitioner's Responsibility*

My responsibility is to express a conclusion on the accompanying financial statements based on my review. I conducted my review in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements, which require me to comply with relevant ethical requirements.

A review of financial statements in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements is a limited assurance engagement. The practitioner performs procedures, primarily consisting of making inquiries of management and others within the entity, as appropriate, and applying analytical procedures, and evaluates the evidence obtained.

The procedures performed in a review are substantially less in extent than, and vary in nature from, those performed in an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Accordingly, I do not express an audit opinion on these financial statements.

*Conclusion*

Based on my review, nothing has come to my attention that causes me to believe that the financial statements do not present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Byron United Church as at December 31, 2025, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with ASNPO.

London, Ontario  
March 9, 2026

*Charles R. Summers Professional Corporation*

Authorized to practise public accounting by the  
Chartered Professional Accountants of Ontario

**BYRON UNITED CHURCH  
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION  
AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2025**

	2025			2024
	GENERAL FUND	RESTRICTED FUNDS	ENDOWMENT FUND	TOTAL
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
Bank and cash on hand	90,855	100,832		183,409
Short-term investments (notes 2, 4)	175,000	105,496		192,089
Total bank and investments	265,855	206,328		375,498
Accounts receivable and interest accruals	1,750	1,552		2,743
Harmonized sales tax receivable	3,889	381		4,301
	271,494	208,261	-	382,542
<b>PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT</b> (net of amortization - note 5 )		408,958		425,821
<b>LONG-TERM INVESTMENTS</b> (note 3)		-	58,600	93,096
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	271,494	617,219	58,600	901,459
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES:</b>				
Accounts payable and accrued	-			-
Payroll deductions payable	-			-
Deferred contributions - (note 6)	-	56,469		35,704
	-	56,469	-	35,704
<b>FUND BALANCES</b> (note 2)				
General Fund - unrestricted	271,494			247,984
Capital Asset fund		408,958		425,821
Outreach Fund		2,797		3,281
Memorial Fund		46,335		40,218
Anniversary Fund		55,284		43,925
Benevolent Fund		11,312		11,415
Trustees Bequest Fund		36,064		34,511
Endowment Fund			58,600	58,600
	271,494	560,750	58,600	865,755
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; FUND BALANCES</b>	271,494	617,219	58,600	901,459

Approved by the Board:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Vice Chair, Leaders' Board

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Treasurer

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

**BYRON UNITED CHURCH  
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS  
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2025**

	2025										2024
	GENERAL FUND	CAPITAL ASSET FUND	OUTREACH FUND	MEMORIAL FUND	ANNIV FUND	BENEVOLENT FUND	M & S FUND	TRUSTEES' BEQUEST FUND	ENDOWMENT FUND	TOTAL	TOTAL
<b>BALANCE - beginning of year</b>	247,984	425,821	3,281	40,218	43,925	11,415	-	34,511	58,600	865,755	851,483
Receipts	517,014	-	42,459	11,314	11,359	43,307	1,380	1,553	-	628,386	583,285
Disbursements	493,504	16,863	42,943	5,197	0	43,410	1,380	0	0	603,297	569,013
Excess (shortfall) of receipts	23,510	(16,863)	(484)	6,117	11,359	(103)	-	1,553	-	25,089	14,272
<b>BALANCE - end of year</b>	271,494	408,958	2,797	46,335	55,284	11,312	0	36,064	58,600	890,844	865,755

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

**BYRON UNITED CHURCH  
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS  
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2025**

	2025			2024
	GENERAL FUND BUDGET	GENERAL FUND	RESTRICTED FUNDS	TOTAL
<b>RECEIPTS (note 2)</b>				
<b>General Fund</b>				
General fund donations	466,727	480,432		450,201
Rental Income	17,500	26,085		18,332
Other Revenue	5,745	3,953		4,595
Investment Income	6,548	6,544		9,375
<b>Restricted Funds Receipts</b>				
		-	111,372	100,782
<b>Total (A)</b>	<b>496,520</b>	<b>517,014</b>	<b>111,372</b>	<b>583,285</b>
<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>				
<b>General Fund</b>				
Personnel	340,637	334,687		309,177
Property	62,595	58,575		56,587
Administration	21,630	21,012		19,942
Worship	39,200	37,845		31,646
Fellowship	2,700	1,438		2,408
Discipleship	5,750	2,500		3,127
Ministry	800	523		3,218
Mission	22,308	22,108		20,444
Community Connections	19,600	14,816		18,302
Stewardship	300	-		-
<b>Restricted Funds Disbursements</b>				
	-	-	109,793	104,162
<b>Total (B)</b>	<b>515,520</b>	<b>493,504</b>	<b>109,793</b>	<b>569,013</b>
<b>EXCESS RECEIPTS OVER DISBURSMENTS (A)-(B)</b>	<b>(19,000)</b>	<b>23,510</b>	<b>1,579</b>	<b>14,272</b>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

**BYRON UNITED CHURCH  
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW  
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2025**

	2025			2024
	GENERAL FUND	RESTRICTED FUNDS	TOTAL	TOTAL
Excess (deficiency) receipts over disbursements	23,510	1,579	25,089	14,272
ADD items not requiring an outlay of cash				
Amortization	-	16,863	16,863	16,863
	23,510	18,442	41,952	31,135
<b>Operating activities</b>				
(Increase) decrease in HST receivable	- 142	173	31	7,380
(Increase) decrease in accounts receivable and interest accruals	993	(1,552)	(559)	1,850
Increase in deferred revenue		20,765	20,765	14,223
	851	19,386	20,237	23,453
<b>Investing activities</b>				
Reclassification on GIC		34,496	34,496	(34,496)
<b>Net change in bank and investments</b>	24,361	72,324	96,685	20,092
Bank and investments balance, opening	241,494	134,004	375,498	355,406
Bank and investments balance, close	265,855	206,328	472,183	375,498

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

**BYRON UNITED CHURCH  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2025**

**1 PURPOSE OF THE ORGANIZATION**

The mission of Byron United Church (the "Church") is to celebrate and share the good news of new life in Jesus Christ through worship, fellowship, discipleship, ministry and mission in this church family, our community and beyond.

The Church is an unincorporated *Pastoral Charge* under *An Act Incorporating The United Church of Canada*. The Church is registered as a charitable organization under the Income Tax Act and is therefore exempt from income taxes.

**2 SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

These financial statements have been prepared by management in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations (ASNPO), the more significant of which are outlined below.

**Fund Accounting**

The Church follows the restricted fund method of accounting for contributions whereby assets, liabilities, revenue and expenditures are segregated into specific funds depending on their purpose.

The General Fund accounts for the Church's program delivery and administrative activities.

The Capital Asset Fund reports the property and equipment of the Church and the related amortization.

The Endowment Fund reports resources contributed for investment to generate revenue to fund the operation and programs of the Church. The investments of the Endowment Fund are not available for use. Investment income earned on resources of the Endowment Fund is reported in the General Fund unless otherwise restricted by contributors of funds for endowment.

The Memorial and Honour Fund reports resources contributed as memorial and honour donations to be used for the benefit of the whole congregation in the long term.

The Benevolent Fund reports resources contributed for use at the discretion of the Pastor for the benefit of members and others in need. The benevolent fund also accounts for the foodbank.

The Anniversary Fund reports resources contributed through bequests from estates and donations from individuals and other sources to be used for the launching or expansion of programs and activities approved by the Leaders' Board and the Session.

The Trustee Bequest Fund reports resources specifically donated to the Church to be used at the discretion of the Trustees.

The Outreach Fund reports resources contributed to support local, national and international charities.

The Mission and Service Fund reports resources contributed that are specifically directed to the Mission and Service Fund of the United Church of Canada.

**BYRON UNITED CHURCH  
 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
 YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2025**

**Cash**

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less which are available on demand. These are carried on the balance sheet at face value.

**Investments**

Investments are cash held in term deposits with original maturities greater than three months. These are carried on the balance sheet at their market value.

Investments of the Endowment Fund are recorded as long-term investments because the funds will never be available for use by the Church.

Investments of other funds have maturities of up to three years, some with optional redemption dates. Management intends to redeem the investments at the earlier of the first redemption date or maturity. When this date is within the next fiscal year, these investments have been classified as current assets.

**Property and Equipment**

The property and equipment are accounted for in the Capital Asset Fund. During the year, the Capital Asset Fund expensed amortization of \$16,863 (\$16,863 in 2024). This is a non-cash item. Property and equipment is stated at cost less accumulated amortization. Property and equipment is amortized over their estimated useful lives at the following rates and methods:

Buildings	70 years	Straight line	Organ	50 years	Straight lin
Furniture, fixtures and equipment	10 years	Straight line	Sign	15 years	Straight lin
Carillon	20 years	Straight line	Parking lot	25 years	Straight lin

**Pension Plan**

The Church is a member of a multi-employer defined benefit pension plan with other entities within the United Church of Canada. The Church is solely responsible for making the required contributions as defined under the plan and has no benefit or liability if the pension plan is over or underfunded as regards to the defined benefits to be paid out. Because of this, the Church accounts for its pension plan as a defined contribution plan and records the pension contributions as expenditures as incurred.

**Revenue Recognition**

Restricted contributions related to general operations are recognized as revenue of the General Fund in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. All other restricted contributions are recognized as revenue of the appropriate restricted fund.

Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue of the General Fund in the year received or receivable if the amount to be recorded can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assumed.

Other income (rent, program fees, etc) is recognized as revenue when the services have been

**BYRON UNITED CHURCH  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2025**

provided and there is reasonable assurance of collection.

**Financial instruments policy**

Financial instruments are recorded at fair value when acquired or issued. In subsequent periods, financial assets with actively traded markets are reported at fair value, with any unrealized gains and losses reported in income. All other financial instruments are reported at amortized cost, and tested for impairment at each reporting date. Transaction costs on the acquisition, sale, or issue of financial instruments are expensed when incurred.

**Measurement uncertainty**

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit enterprises requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amount of assets and liabilities, disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the period. Such estimates are periodically reviewed and any adjustments necessary are reported in earnings in the period in which they become known. Actual results could differ from these estimates. Measurement uncertainty relates mainly to the estimated life of property and equipment and the fair value of monetary assets as set out in note 8.

**Contributed services**

Volunteers contribute time to assist the Church in carrying out its programs and services. Because of the difficulty of determining their fair value, contributed services are not recognized in the financial statements.

**3 LONG-TERM INVESTMENTS**

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Sanderson Endowment		
Fairstone Bank, 4.54%, due July 19, 2026	\$25,000	\$25,000
Interest earned to be transferred to the General Fund and applied to Christian education in the Church. Interest received during the year was \$1,125		
McNiece Endowment		
Fairstone Bank, 4.540%, due July 19, 2026	<u>33,600</u>	<u>33,600</u>
Interest earned to be transferred equally between the Outreach Fund and the General Fund. Interest received during the year was \$1,512		
Total – Endowment Fund	<u>\$58,600</u>	<u>\$58,600</u>
Trustees Bequest fund		
Libro Credit Union, GIC, 4.5% due May 2026	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$34,496</u>

**BYRON UNITED CHURCH  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2025**

**4. SHORT-TERM INVESTMENTS**

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
General Fund		
Bank of Montreal, GIC, 2.5%, Redeemable December 2026	\$125,000	\$100,000
Bank of Montreal, cashable GIC, 2.5%, Redeemable December 2026	<u>50,000</u>	<u>50,000</u>
Total – General Fund	<u>\$175,000</u>	<u>\$150,000</u>
Restricted Funds		
Anniversary Fund		
Bank of Montreal, GIC, 3.0%, Redeemable August 2026	\$45,000	\$30,040
Memorial and Honour Fund		
Bank of Montreal, GIC, 3.0%, Redeemable August 2026	26,000	12,048
Trustees Bequest Fund		
Libro Credit Union, GIC. 4.5%, due May 2026	<u>34,496</u>	-
Total – Restricted Funds	<u>\$105,496</u>	<u>\$42,088</u>

**5. PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT**

At the end of the year the property and equipment is summarized as:

	Cost	Accumulated Amortization	2025 Net Book Value	2024 Net Book Value
Land	700	-	700	700
Buildings	767,199	443,024	324,175	335,137
Organ	121,766	46,265	75,501	77,936
Carillon	2,976	2,976	-	-
Sign	15,167	14,154	1,013	2,024
Furniture	162,601	162,599	2	563
Parking lot	47,341	39,774	7,567	9,461
	<u>1,117,750</u>	<u>708,792</u>	<u>408,958</u>	<u>425,821</u>

**6. DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS**

When donations are made to the Church with the requirement to be used for a specific purpose, the funds are considered restricted funds and can only be used for that purpose. At the end of the year, the benevolent fund held donations made to the Church specifically for the purpose of purchasing food for the foodbank of \$56,469 (2024 - \$35,704). These funds will be used in 2026 for food purchases.

**BYRON UNITED CHURCH  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2025**

**7. LEASE COMMITMENT**

The Church has a lease with respect to some of its office equipment. Future minimum lease payments as at December 31, 2025 are as follows:

2026	<u>\$ 2,268</u>
2027	\$ 2,268
2028	\$ 2,268
2029	\$ 2,268
2030	<u>\$ 2,268</u>
	<u>\$11,340</u>

**8. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS**

The Church is exposed to various risks through its financial instruments and has a comprehensive risk management framework to monitor, evaluate and manage these risks. The following analysis provides information about the Church's risk exposure and concentration as at December 31, 2025:

**Credit risk**

Credit risk arises from the potential that a counter party will fail to perform its obligations. The Church is exposed to credit risk through its investments.

**Liquidity risk**

Liquidity risk is the risk than an entity will encounter difficulty in meeting obligations associated with financial liabilities. The Church is exposed to this risk mainly in respect of investments, obligations under operating lease, contributions to the pension plan and accounts payable.

**Market risk**

Market risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. Market risk comprises three types of risk: currency risk, interest rate risk and other price risk. The Church is mainly exposed to interest rate risk and other price risk.

Interest rate risk is the risk that the value of a financial instrument might be adversely affected by a change in the interest rates. In seeking to minimize the risks from interest rate fluctuations the Church manages exposure through its normal operating and financing activities. The Church is exposed to interest rate risk primarily through its investments

Other price risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices (other than those arising from interest rate risk) whether those changes are caused by factors specific to the individual instrument or its issuer or factors affecting all similar financial instruments. The Church is exposed to other price risk through its investments.

**BYRON UNITED CHURCH  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2025**

**9. ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE**

The Church has a budget that anticipates future financial and volunteer support to provide programs to its members and the community at large. The Church is dependent of the continued financial and volunteer support of its members and volunteers to continue to carry out such work.

## **Foreword to the 2026 Budget**

Givings in 2025 began on an uncertain footing at Byron United Church. By the end of March, donations were trending approximately \$15,000 below our budgeted deficit of \$19,000, contributing to a projected \$34,000 shortfall.

Thankfully, April marked a turning point. Givings steadily improved, and by mid-year we were back on track with our financial targets. From July through the end of November, the positive momentum continued and by November 30, it appeared we would fully eliminate the \$19,000 budgeted deficit and close the year with a four-digit surplus.

Then came December — traditionally a strong month for donations — but this year was extraordinary. Contributions exceeded the month's expectations by \$15,000, resulting in a year-end surplus of \$23,510. All I can say in response to this is that we are truly blessed as a church. It has been another amazing year of God working through this congregation.

As we begin 2026, we do so on a solid financial foundation with General Fund reserves of \$271,494.

We must recognize though that each new year brings its own set of unique financial challenges. Over the past four years, the church has approved budgets that included significant deficits. Throughout this time, the Finance Team has worked thoughtfully to reduce the annual shortfall while remaining committed to our highest priority: faithfully carrying out our mission and delivering our programs in meaningful and effective ways.

The proposed 2026 budget anticipates a \$22,738 revenue shortfall. However, thanks to a generous one-time donation of \$25,000 from committed member(s), we are able to present a budget with a projected surplus of \$2,262 — a remarkable improvement from the \$19,000 deficit budgeted for 2025 and the first balanced budget in four years. To help us achieve this goal, we are asking the congregation for a 4% increase in General Fund giving.

We are sincerely grateful for your faithful generosity in 2025. The work, we as a congregation have done, and are in the process of doing, has only been made possible by your loving generosity. As we look toward 2026, we ask that you prayerfully reflect on the church's financial needs and respond in the Spirit and joy of His love.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Brian Roth & The Finance Team

## PROPOSED 2026 BUDGET

	2025 BUDGET	2025 ACTUAL	2026 BUDGET
<b><u>REVENUE</u></b>			
Ongoing General Fund Givings	438,527	453,164	471,292
Loose Collections	3,200	2,268	2,250
Other Revenue (sales, hospitality, misc.)	5,745	3,953	5,103
Rental Income	17,500	26,085	28,500
Investment Income	6,548	6,544	6,273
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>471,520</b>	<b>492,014</b>	<b>513,418</b>

This budget requires an increase in Ongoing General Fund Givings of 4%

### **DISBURSEMENTS - CONNECT ELEMENTS**

#### **WORSHIP**

Musicians (band, soloists, pianists)	24,500	24,906	26,000
Music	700	1,369	1,000
Pulpit Supply	1,500	1,524	1,800
Soundboard	500	57	300
Decorations/Flowers	350	146	300
Music Copyright Licences	450	406	450
Multimedia	400	478	500
Instruments plus Maintenance	300	545	600
Communion/Baptism Supplies	100	89	150
Banners	200	68	100
Special Worship Services	10,000 *	7,999	8,000 *
Christmas Eve Gifts	150	259	150
Nursery	50	0	0
<b>WORSHIP TOTAL</b>	<b>39,200</b>	<b>37,845</b>	<b>39,350</b>

#### **FELLOWSHIP**

Refreshments & Meals	1,700	881	1,200
New Members	600	370	500
Card Ministry	400	187	350
Joy Fellowship Group	~	~	1,500
<b>FELLOWSHIP TOTAL</b>	<b>2,700</b>	<b>1,438</b>	<b>3,550</b>

#### **COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS**

##### **ADVERTISING**

Social Media Advertising	7,000 *	1,517	7,000 *
Print Advertising (Magazine, Paper)	6,400 *	8,685	8,000 *
Growth Advertising Campaign	1,000 *	968	500 *
Photography	100	0	0

	2025 BUDGET	2025 ACTUAL	2026 BUDGET
Web Site	500	468	500
Printing	100	0	0
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>15,100</b>	<b>11,638</b>	<b>16,000</b>
<b>CONNECTIONS</b>			
Community Events	2,500 *	1,335	1,000 *
Mid-Week Youth Group	2,000	1,843	2,000
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>4,500</b>	<b>3,178</b>	<b>3,000</b>
<b>COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS TOTAL</b>	<b>19,600</b>	<b>14,816</b>	<b>19,000</b>

**DISBURSEMENTS - GROW ELEMENT**

**DISCIPLESHIP**

Sunday School	2,000	578	1,300
Alpha Course	1,000	215	700
Sunday Youth (Sr. & Jr. Youth)	500	0	200
RightNow Media Subscription	1,000	1,057	1,060
Audio-Visual	200	0	100
Small Group Resources	750	362	500
Library Periodicals & Devotions	100	45	650
New Initiatives	200	243	100
<b>DISCIPLESHIP TOTAL</b>	<b>5,750</b>	<b>2,500</b>	<b>4,610</b>

**DISBURSEMENTS - SERVE ELEMENTS**

**MINISTRY**

AR Watershed Annual Mtg.	300	0	0
Training/Supplies/Conferences	200	420	200
Police Record Checks	50	103	100
New Initiatives	250	0	200
<b>MINISTRY TOTAL</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>523</b>	<b>500</b>

**MISSION**

(United Church General Council) National Assessm	22,108	22,108	25,015
New Initiatives	200	0	100
<b>MISSION TOTAL</b>	<b>22,308</b>	<b>22,108</b>	<b>25,115</b>

Our financial support to Christian charities is not part of our General Fund expenses.  
Please see our Outreach report on pages 26-27 for information on our Mission gifts totalling \$42,696

	2025 BUDGET	2025 ACTUAL	2026 BUDGET
<b>ASSETS &amp; FINANCE</b>			
<b>Administration</b>			
Financial Review	6,500	6,444	6,756
Photocopier	3,850	3,890	3,800
Office Supplies	3,500	2,701	2,800
Computers	6,000	6,212	6,700
Bank Charges	750	731	750
Membership (CCCC)	580	580	605
Postage	450	454	450
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>21,630</b>	<b>21,012</b>	<b>21,861</b>
<b>Property</b>			
Utilities	26,000	24,601	26,000
Maintenance & Supplies	18,500	17,415	20,000
Insurance	17,095	16,258	17,485
Equipment (new/repair)	1,000	301	1,000
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>62,595</b>	<b>58,575</b>	<b>64,485</b>
<b>Stewardship</b>			
Printed Resources	300	0	300
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>300</b>
<b>ASSETS &amp; FINANCE TOTAL</b>	<b>84,525</b>	<b>79,587</b>	<b>86,646</b>
<b>HUMAN RESOURCES</b>			
<b>Senior Pastor</b>			
Salary (includes housing)	88,813	88,813	91,701
Continuing Education	2,500	1,908	2,500
Travel Allowance	300	440	500
Employer's Share of Benefits	23,022	23,022	24,282
<b>Congregational Designated Minister (1/2 time, 20 hours per week)</b>			
Salary	31,601	31,601	32,628
Unpaid LOA (2 weeks)	~	~	-1,255
Continuing Education	225	0	225
Travel Allowance	250	89	250
Employer's Share of Benefits	727	727	4,161
<b>Support Staff (Office,Custodial, Music, Sunday School/Youth &amp; Communications Coordinators)</b>			
Salaries	158,887	156,863	170,800
Employer's Share of Benefits	28,712	25,828	29,292
Gifts/Payroll Admin. Fee	1,600	1,482	1,800
Cont. Ed./Travel/Hiring Expense	4,000	3,914	500
<b>HUMAN RESOURCES TOTAL</b>	<b>340,637</b>	<b>334,687</b>	<b>357,385</b>

	<b>2025 BUDGET</b>	<b>2025 ACTUAL</b>	<b>2026 BUDGET</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<b>515,520</b>	<b>493,504</b>	<b>536,156</b>
<b>REVENUE - DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<b>-44,000</b>	<b>-1,490</b>	<b>-22,738</b>
<b>EXTRAORDINARY DONATIONS</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>25,000</b>
<b>SURPLUS/DEFICIT FOR YEAR</b>	<b>-19,000</b>	<b>23,510</b>	<b>2,262</b>
<b>TOTAL RESERVE AT DECEMBER 31, 2024</b>		<b>247,984</b>	
<b>TOTAL RESERVE AT DECEMBER 31, 2025</b>		<b>271,494</b>	
<b>*CHURCH GROWTH PLAN DISBURSEMENTS</b>			

**BYRON UNITED CHURCH**  
**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**  
March 23, 2025

Notice of this meeting was given via the Church's email communications (BUC Wheat) and verbally during the in-person and online video worship service one week prior to the date of the meeting and the morning of the meeting.

MINUTES

The duly-called Annual Congregational Meeting of Byron United Church was held as a Hybrid Meeting in the sanctuary and via video conferencing on Sunday, March 23, 2025, at 11:30 a.m. Linda Peck, as Chair of Session, acted as meeting chair in order that the following enabling motions could be made:

Welcome – Process for voting on motions

Chair Linda welcomed everyone. Linda and Pastor Greg explained the general processes for the Zoom Hybrid meeting including the process for voting on motions and for asking questions.

Voting Privileges

Chair Linda explained that the *2023 Manual of The United Church of Canada* provides specific rules regarding when adherents may vote.

- Adherents may vote at meetings of the congregation if the full members decide to allow adherents to vote. The decision may allow voting rights on all matters or only specified matters. (B.3.7.2)

Chair Linda stated that only members may vote on this first motion.

MOTION: Moved by Greg Thurston, seconded by Lynn Boyd, that voting privileges be extended to all adherents present today. Carried.

Motions to Elect Chair and Recording Secretary of the Annual Congregational Meeting

For each of the following two motions, Chair Linda asked if there were any additional nominations from the floor for either of these positions. There were none.

MOTION: Moved by Jack Scott, seconded by Paul Coates, that David Tennant be elected as Chair of the Congregation and any Congregational Meetings up to the election of a Chair of the Congregation at the next Annual Congregational Meeting. Carried with one abstention.

MOTION: Moved by Anita Bacon, seconded by Linda Sampel, that Ruth Dean be elected as Recording Secretary of the Congregation and any Congregational

Meetings up to the election of a Recording Secretary of the Congregation at the next Annual Congregational Meeting. Carried with one abstention.

Pastor Greg thanked Linda for her ten years of faithful service and dedication to our Church. He stated that her organizational skills and attention to detail have been great assets. However, it has been her mature Christian faith and trust in the Lord which have proven to be invaluable. On behalf of the congregation Pastor Greg presented Linda with a bouquet of flowers. The members of the congregation rose to their feet to express their appreciation to Linda. Linda will become the Vice-Chair of the Leaders' Board.

1. Call to Order: David Tennant called the meeting to order at 11:55 a.m.
2. Opening Prayer: Pastor Greg Brawn
3. Accepting and Raising Reports for Discussion:

2024 Annual Congregational Meeting – March 10, 2024 (pages 42-46)

MOTION: Moved by Anita Bacon, seconded by Jack Scott, that the Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting of March 10, 2024 be accepted as printed. Carried.

#### Team and Group Reports

MOTION: Moved by Carolyn Scott, seconded by Jim Sample, that the Annual Reports of the Groups and Ministries be accepted as printed. Carried.

2024 Financial Statements (pages 26-36)

Brian Roth provided an overview and highlights of the 2024 financial statement. A budget had been passed which showed a deficit of \$25,000. Thanks to the generous and faithful support of members of the congregation coupled with expenses coming in lower than budgeted, the General Fund at year end showed a surplus of \$17,652. It was added that the Leaders' Board authorized Chair Linda Peck and Treasurer Brian Roth to review the 2024 financials for accuracy. They have now signed off on them.

MOTION: Moved by Greg Thurston, seconded by Gloria Austin, that the 2024 Financial Statements be accepted as printed. Carried.

4. Celebrating 2024:  
Slide Show Presentation – Pastor Greg provided a slide show of highlights of 2024. He will include the slide show in next week's BUC Wheat e-mail as well.

In Memoriam – Pastor Greg Brawn read the names of people within our church family who passed away in 2024. He then offered a prayer recognizing and thanking God for those who have served us here at Byron United Church.

5. Looking Ahead to 2025:

Elections:

a) Session

Chair David noted that there is double asterisk beside the position "Chair". This signifies that he is new to that position, although he has been an Elder for many years.

MOTION: Moved by Jerry Reid, seconded by Jim Sample, that the members of the Congregation listed as Elders on page 47 (of the Annual Report Book) be elected as members of Session. Carried.

b) Chair of Session

MOTION: Moved by Jack Scott, seconded by Linda Peck, that the following member of the Congregation be elected as Chair of Session: David Tennant. Carried.

c) Trustees

Dean Radloff is a new Trustee for 2025. Chair David explained that Tom Dean, who had previously been the Recording Secretary for many years, resigned as a Trustee as of December 31, 2024. He thanked Tom for his faithful service. At this point in time the Trustees have not determined which of them will be the Recording Secretary.

MOTION: Moved by Linda Peck, seconded by Dave Rusciolelli, that the members of the Congregation listed as Trustees on page 47 (of the Annual Report Book) be appointed as Trustees. Carried.

d) Members and Chairs of Teams

MOTION: Moved by Greg Thurston, seconded by Brian Roth, that the members and chairs of the Planning Teams listed on page 47 (of the Annual Report Book) be elected to these Teams. Carried.

e) Treasurer

MOTION: Moved by Ruth Dean, seconded by Jack Scott, that the following member of the Congregation be elected as Treasurer: Brian Roth. Carried with one abstention.

f) Regional Council Representatives

Background information was provided including the following:  
Congregations with more than 300 resident members can have four (4) lay representatives to Regional Council. We have 337 resident members.  
Brian Roth has been a lay representative for the last two years and has agreed to allow his name to be put forward to continue in this role.  
It was asked if anyone present was interested in becoming a lay representative but there was no response. It was stated that following the

meeting, if any members think that they might be interested in this role, they should contact Pastor Greg.

MOTION: Moved by Angie Brawn, seconded by Dean Radloff, that the following member of the Congregation be elected as lay representative to Antler River Watershed Regional Council: Brian Roth. Carried with one abstention.

g) Signing Officers

Chair David explained the need for six signing officers.

MOTION: Moved by Robert van Dam, seconded by Greg Thurston, that any two of the following people be authorized to sign cheques and other account documents for the General Fund, the Memorial and Honour Fund, and the Benevolent Fund accounts on behalf of Byron United Church: Stephanie Carruthers (Trustee), Gary Coutts (Trustee), Ruth Dean (Finance Team Member), Linda Peck (Leaders' Board Vice-Chair), Brian Roth (Treasurer), Jim Sample (Finance Team Member). Carried with four abstentions.

Appointment of Accountant for Financial Review:

MOTION: Moved by Jim Sample, seconded by Brian Roth, that Charles R. Summers Professional Corporation be appointed as the public accountant for Byron United Church to review the financial records of 2025. Carried.

6. 2025 Budget:

Brian Roth presented the 2025 budget printed in the Annual Report on pages 38-41 noting that it is calling for a 4% increase in ongoing General Fund givings over 2024, and including anticipated one-time extraordinary givings of \$25,000, will result in a \$19,000 deficit.

MOTION: Moved by Steve Brawn, seconded by Linda Peck, that the 2025 General Fund budget of \$515,520 be accepted as printed as a commitment to the life and work of the congregation, recognizing the Leaders' Board's authority to adjust expenses within Elements. Carried with four abstentions.

Chair David expressed the church's sincere gratitude to Brian Roth and Shelley Mercer for their diligent work for the past six months in preparation of this budget, and also to the Finance Team members who reviewed the draft budget prior to its final presentation to the Leaders' Board and then to Session.

7. Amendments to Limits for Exceeding the Annual General Fund Budget

Brian Roth explained that these limits had been set about 20 years ago and there is a need to have them increased to be more realistic with the present time.

MOTION: Moved by Jack Scott, seconded by Robert van Dam, that the *Governance Structure & Practices of Byron United Church – Policy B – LIMITS FOR EXCEEDING THE ANNUAL BUDGET* be reworded as:

“The annual General Fund budget for Byron United Church can only be exceeded with the following authority:

- Leaders’ Board for up to \$5,000
- Session for \$5,000 up to \$20,000
- Congregation for more than \$20,000”. Carried.

8. Community of Faith Profile Updates – 2025  
– Required by Antler River Watershed Regional Council.

Each congregation is required annually to complete four profile documents with statistical and other descriptive information about our church life. This year we updated sections that were the same as 2024 and also completed new sections that were required by the Region. All four profiles were forwarded to the congregation for review via BUC Wheat during the first week of March.

MOTION: Moved by Jerry Reid, seconded by Tamara Chapman, that the Living Faith Story Worksheet, Demographic Worksheet, Financial Viability Worksheet and Real Property Worksheet for Byron United Church for 2025 be approved as presented. Carried.

9. New Business: None.

10. Perspectives from the Pastor and Congregational Designated Minister:

Ric Graham reported that a highlight for him from 2024 was the church-wide study of “Life on the Frontline”. It was positively received and still generates conversation in the small groups about how God’s promptings have helped members during the week. The number of attendees at each Bereavement Group which he leads during the year is increasing and some of the members come from the community. He stated that he believes that our church, where Jesus Christ is Lord has a strong foundation to move forward. Ric feels blessed to be a part of Byron United’s staff and congregation.

Pastor Greg shared his positive feelings in relation to 2024. There were many new attendees and twenty-two became official members of the church. While we were sad to see Pastor Kwaku leave, we were happy to welcome Noah Toth as our new Youth Leader and Kate Hendriks as our Communications Coordinator. He thanked the leadership and the staff for their support and, in particular mentioned the beautiful ministry of the Prayer Team. Pastor Greg stated that he is full of optimism and excitement to see what the Lord will do at Byron in 2025 as our Congregation continues to be faithful and thankful.

11. Benediction: Pastor Greg Brawn

12. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Chair: David Tennant  
Recording Secretary: Ruth Dean

\*New Team Members

\*\*New to this Position

## 2026 Governing Bodies & Planning Teams

### SESSION

\_\_\_\_\_ (chair)  
Ruth Dean (secretary)  
Anita Bacon  
Angie Brawn  
Ron Carruthers  
Paul Coates  
Sandra Collier  
Connie Constable  
Tom Dean  
Wendy Dickinson  
Gwen Estabrooks  
Cathy Goetz-Perry  
Jan Harding  
Harry Huffman  
Marlene Law  
Jen McKay  
Diane & Ken Minshull  
David Osiri  
Linda Peck  
Dean & Jan Radloff  
Jerry Reid  
Brian Roth  
Dave Rusciollelli  
Linda Sampel  
Don Scanlon  
Allison Stephens  
Jeanne Taylor Hopkins  
Jennifer Tennant  
Greg Thurston\*  
Dave Wagg  
Pastor Greg Brawn

### TRUSTEES

Pastor Greg Brawn (chair)  
\_\_\_\_\_ (secretary)  
Stephanie Carruthers  
Gary Coutts  
Dean Radloff  
Robert van Dam

### LEADERS' BOARD

\_\_\_\_\_ (chair)  
Linda Peck (vice-chair)  
Ruth Dean (secretary)  
\_\_\_\_\_ (Ministry)  
Angie Brawn (Discipleship)  
\_\_\_\_\_ (Fellowship)  
Jen McKay (Comm. Connect.)  
Brian Roth (Treasurer)  
Dave Rusciollelli (Worship)  
Greg Thurston\*(Assets\Finance)\*\*  
\_\_\_\_\_ (Mission)  
Pastor Greg Brawn

### WORSHIP

Dave Rusciollelli (Facilitator)  
Tom de Gryp  
Marie Sample  
Allison Stephens  
Jennifer Tennant

#### Prayer Team

Don Scanlon (co-chair)  
Sally Waddell (co-chair)

### FELLOWSHIP

\_\_\_\_\_ (Facilitator)  
Jan Harding (spec. events coord.)  
Diane & Ken Minshull

### COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Jen McKay (Facilitator)  
  
Church Growth Team  
Pastor Greg Brawn (chair)  
Ric Graham  
Kate Hendriks  
Jen McKay  
June Pemberton\*  
Bill Ravensberg\*

#### Mid-Week Youth Team

Noah Toth (leader)  
Andrea Smith  
Pastor Greg Brawn

### MINISTRY

\_\_\_\_\_ (Facilitator)

#### Volunteer Growth Team

Pastor Greg Brawn (chair)  
Ric Graham

#### Ministry & Personnel Team

Paul Coates (chair)  
Connie Constable  
Joan Estabrooks  
Don Van Vliet

#### Protection Oversight Team

Barbara Bentley  
Tom Dean

#### Governance Team

Anita Bacon (chair)  
Sandra Collier  
Don Scanlon\*

### DISCIPLESHIP

Angie Brawn (Facilitator)  
  
Spiritual Growth Team  
Pastor Greg Brawn (chair)  
Angie Brawn  
Don Scanlon  
Sally Waddell

#### Sunday School/Sunday Youth

Andrea Smith (coordinator)  
~~NoahToth~~

### MISSION

\_\_\_\_\_ (Facilitator)

#### Outreach Team

Shelley Scott\* (chair)\*\*  
Stephanie Carruthers  
Ken & Diane Minshull  
Val Reid  
Dave Rusciollelli  
Gaye Whaley

#### Byron Cares Food Bank Team

Lorilee Down (chair)  
Mary Lou Van Vliet\*  
(+ members from other congregations)

### ASSETS & FINANCE

Greg Thurston\* (Facilitator)\*\*

#### Finance Team

Brian Roth (chair)  
Ron Carruthers  
Gary Coutts  
Ruth Dean  
Jim Sample

#### Property Team

Greg Thurston (co-chair)  
Joel Dell (co-chair)\*\*  
David Smith

#### Stewardship Team

Gary Coutts (chair)  
Ron Carruthers  
Sandra Collier  
Ruth Dean  
Dean Radloff  
Brian Roth\*

Pastor Greg supports each team.

8. Church members listed as Trustees on page 52 be appointed as Trustees.
9. Members and chairs of the Planning Teams listed on page 52 be elected to these Teams.
10. Church member, Brian Roth, be elected as Treasurer.
11. Church member, Brian Roth, be elected as lay representative to our Regional Council.
12. Two of the following people be authorized to sign cheques and other account documents for the General Fund, the Memorial and Honour Fund, and the Benevolent Fund accounts on behalf of Byron United Church:

Stephanie Carruthers (Trustee)	Linda Peck (Leaders' Board Vice-Chair)
Gary Coutts (Trustee)	Brian Roth (Treasurer)
Ruth Dean (Finance Team Member)	Jim Sample (Finance Team Member)

13. Charles R. Summers Professional Corporation be appointed as the public accountant for Byron United Church to review the financial records of 2026.”

#### Our 2026 Budget

##### Presentation & Questions

Motion: “That the 2026 General Fund budget of \$536,156 be accepted as printed as a commitment to the life and work of the congregation, recognizing the Leaders’ Board’s authority to adjust expenses within Elements.” (See pages 43-46)

#### New Business

#### Perspectives from our Congregational Designated Minister and our Pastor

#### Benediction

#### Adjournment

**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**  
**Sunday, March 22, 2026**  
**In the Sanctuary Following Sunday Worship**

Call to Order – Don Scanlon (appointed Acting Chair of this Congregational Meeting by the Leaders’ Board)

Welcome  
Opening Devotional & Prayer - Don

Opening Motion (Parts 1-2 handled as one motion unless requested to split.)

Motion that:

1. “Ruth Dean be elected as Recording Secretary of the Congregation and any Congregational Meetings up to the election of a Recording Secretary of the Congregation at the next Annual Congregational Meeting.

2. Voting privileges be extended to all adherents present today.”

Procedural Motion (Parts 3-5 handled as one motion unless requested to split.)

Motion that we:

3. “Approve the Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting of March 23, 2025 (pages 47-51)

4. Accept the Annual Reports of the Groups and Ministries.

5. Accept the 2025 Financial Statements as printed (pages 31-41)”

Remembering 2025

Slide Show Presentation

In Memoriam

Looking Ahead at 2026

Elections & Appointments Motion (Parts 6-13 handled as one motion unless requested to split.)

Motion that:

6. “The church members listed as Elders on page 52 be elected as members of Session.

7. Church member, \_\_\_\_\_, be elected as Chair of Session.