

# Dalston-Crown Hill United Church



## ANNUAL REPORT 2024

AGM held on January 26, 2025  
in person and on Zoom

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**Dalston-Crown Hill United Church**  
**MINUTES for the 2023 Annual General Meeting - January 28, 2024**

1. Welcome - Joe Kelly

2. Check for Quorum - Minimum of 10 members required. A quorum was achieved.

3. Motion to grant Adherents the right to speak and vote:

Moved by Vera Cloes and seconded by Brian Honey that **Adherents be allowed to vote on all matters before the meeting.** Carried.

4. Moved by June Sanderson and seconded by Gord Gow that the **Agenda be approved as circulated.** Carried.

5. Minutes from the Annual General Meeting of: January 29, 2023

Moved by Niel Hickling and seconded by Susan Kelly that we **approve the minutes** of the congregational meeting of **January 29, 2023.** Carried.

6. Business arising from the Minutes: None

7. Review of the **Annual Report** for 2023 - We will vote to accept the reports, as a whole, at the end of discussions. The Financial Statement for 2023 and the Budget for 2024 will be handled separately. Thank you to Janet Panting for preparing and to those who contributed to the Report.

Moved by Nancy Partridge and seconded by Eleanore Honey that we receive the **Annual Report.** Carried.

8. Financial Statement for 2023 and Budget for 2024 - George Isaac & Al Panting

Moved by George Isaac and seconded by Al Panting that we approve the **2023 Financial Statement.** Carried.

Moved by Al Panting and seconded by Gord Gow that we approve the **2024 Budget.** Carried.

9. Presentation of the Leadership Team, the Formal Committees, and the Ad Hoc Committees, with the Exception of the Trustees which are voted on separately.

Joe thanked Linda Johnston for her many years of service to our church, especially for her guidance through the COVID years.

Moved by Niel Hickling and seconded by Brian Honey that we approve the appointments to congregational office as listed in the report of the Nominating Committee. Carried.

10. Trustees: Dalston-Crown Hill United Church; Dalston Union Cemetery; Lawrence Pioneer Cemetery.

Moved by Don Campbell and seconded by Eleanore Honey that the **list of Trustees provided by the Nominating Committee is approved.** No other individuals can be considered as Trustees. Carried.

11. Covenanting - Reverend Will Haughton

12 Other Business –

A question about whether we could receive offering envelopes was raised, and there will be envelopes available in the future.

Anyone with a social function idea, please speak to Don Campbell

13. Close of Meeting – 12:20 p.m.

**Dalston-Crown Hill United Church**  
**Agenda for the 2024 Annual General Meeting - January 26, 2025**

1. Welcome - Joe Kelly
2. Check for Quorum - Minimum of 10 members required.
3. Motion to grant Adherents right to speak and vote:

Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ that **Adherents be allowed to vote on all matters before the meeting.**

4. Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ that the **Agenda be approved as circulated.**

5. Minutes from the Annual General Meeting of: January 28, 2024

Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ that we **approve the minutes of the congregational meeting of January 28, 2024.**

6. Business arising from the Minutes

7. Review of the **Annual Report** for 2024 - We will vote to accept the reports, as a whole, at the end of discussions. The Financial Statement for 2024 and the Budget for 2025 will be handled separately. Thank you to Janet Panting for preparing and to those who contributed to the Report.

Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ that we receive the **Annual Report.**

8. Financial Statement for 2024 and Budget for 2025 - George Isaac

Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ that we approve the **2024 Financial Statement.**

Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ that we approve the **2025 Budget.**

9. Presentation of the Leadership Team, the Formal Committees, and the Ad Hoc Committees, with the Exception of the Trustees which are voted on separately.

Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ that we approve the appointments to congregational office as listed in the report of the Nominating Committee.

10. Trustees: Dalston-Crown Hill United Church; Dalston Union Cemetery; Lawrence Pioneer Cemetery.

Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ that the **list of Trustees provided by the Nominating Committee is approved.** No other individuals can be considered as Trustees.

11. Covenanting - Reverend Will Haughton
12. Other Business
13. Close of Meeting

## Minister's Report

One of the books that has influenced my thinking for a long time is the Harvard sociologist Robert Putnam's bestseller, *Bowling Alone*. This title was drawn from his observation that, in the 1990s, more people than ever were going bowling, but that fewer people than ever were bowling *in leagues*. This strange fact was used to illustrate the breakdown of social connections in our society over time. Since the 1950s, Putnam's research suggested, technological developments like television (privatizing entertainment) and improved automobiles (allowing people to live further away from work, friends, and family) had been pulling people apart and fraying our society's fabric. It is important to note that this is not a morally neutral development--as we spend less time together, we lose out on the many benefits of enjoying relationships. When we no longer know our neighbors, we tend not to care about them and their well-being either.

A recent article in *The Atlantic*, "The Anti-Social Century," shows that in the decades since *Bowling Alone*, the situation has grown far worse. As its author has observed at a favourite local restaurant in his neighborhood, almost all the customers now order their meals online, pick up their brown paper take-out bags silently from the bar, and then leave to eat their dinners at home, all without so much as speaking to a single, other soul. The internet, and now smart phones, allow us to live truly isolated lives almost all of the time if we so desire. Responses to the Covid 19 pandemic greatly accelerated this trend in recent years.

I am very thankful to say that in our church life, we are bucking this broader, social trend. We not only stay connected with long-time friends, we get to make many new ones, as we did in 2024. At Sunday morning services and at many other events both regular and occasional, we enjoyed good times together. Even as we sometimes meet each other online, over Zoom, we are doing our best to stay connected face-to-face. It is we who are taking advantage of the technology and its newer capabilities, never the technology taking advantage of us.

It is one of the joys of my life and work that I get to be part of a strong, faith- community and to help others find their own sense of belonging as well. Wonderful opportunities continue to arise in our midst not simply because we are innately social creatures, made by God to be together in a general sense, but also because so many in our congregation bring their particular gifts and passions to bear on the missions of building, strengthening, and serving community.

The gifts we have enjoyed this year, as a church, are almost too many to count. We received the majority of them from God--through the sisters and brothers in Christ around us. In trust and hope, we look forward to being touched by God's grace, at work in and among us, again in 2025! Thanks be to God.

William Haughton

## *From the Register*

<u>Name</u>	<u>Residence</u>	<u>Date of Death</u>	<u>Date of Burial</u>
SUTCLIFFE, Janet	Oro-Medonte	Jan. 9, 2024	
LARTER, Andrew James	Springwater	Jan. 11, 2024	May 21, 2024
McDOUGALL, Mary Donna	Barrie	Jan. 19, 2024	April 22, 2024
WEEKS, Susanna Claire	Barrie	Feb. 13, 2024	
TAIT, Karmangah D.	Springwater	March 18, 2024	
McKEEVER, Shirley Gertrude	Utopia	April 13, 2024	April 19, 2024
ROBERTS, Eric Alfred	Barrie	July 7, 2024	July 16, 2024
MILLER, Lorna Ann	Barrie	July 19, 2024	July 29, 2024
WOODROW, William Stuart	Oro-Medonte	August 18, 2024	Sept. 20, 2024
PARTRIDGE, June Phoebe	Barrie	Sept. 21, 2024	Sept. 28, 2024
THORNE, Terrell Dwayne	Barrie	Sept. 25, 2024	Oct. 1, 2024
McLEAN, Allan Kenneth	Orillia	Nov. 20, 2024	
AYRES, Murial Joyce	Barrie	Dec. 8, 2024	April 23, 2025

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### **Ministry & Personnel Report, December 2024**

As outlined on page 10 of the U.C.C resources manual:(paraphrased)

“The committee has three roles: consultive and supportive, healthy relationships, and supervisory. We provide resources and support for the staff and the community of faith regarding any issue affecting staff of our church, including ministry personnel and lay employees. We work to build positive, trusting relationships between staff and members and adherents in this community. If members have praise or concerns about ministry and/or lay employees, these can be shared, confidentially, in signed correspondence with the committee.”

As your M&P committee, we meet when requested by DCH employees and/or members/adherents. Once a year we meet to complete an Annual Performance Review (pages 5-31 in the resource manual).

In the past, this review was formal, was submitted to the UCC, and was often seen as a report card evaluating the leadership of the minister. Now the UCC does not collect these reports, but recommends a team approach - an opportunity for the minister and committee (representing the congregation) to look back on the year together.

The resulting report, prepared for the Leadership Team , follows:

Sept. 26 M & P meeting. Present: Brian Cloes, Susan Kelly, Will Haughton. Regrets:  
June Sanderson

Our conversation began with an exploration of the questions:

**Where are we in our growth together as a church family? How can we support each other and our minister at DCH?** This thoughtful, respectful conversation followed:

**\*Will feels supported.**

He continues to work on time management and tightening the length of the service. We appreciate his efforts to involve others, reaching out to the community (eg the golfers) and visiting those unable to attend in person. We are fortunate to have a minister who is so involved, is a caring leader, and is truly a key part of our church family.

**"Our church is important to all who attend"**

\* We appreciate the dedication, expertise, and caring of the people who look after our building, who keep everything working while being fiscally responsible. The exceptional efforts to "fix it ourselves, clean it ourselves, DO it ourselves do NOT go unnoticed! We recognize that we are an aging body, yet many continue to 'do', and then 'do some more'!

\* Summer and 'fill in' services led by teams of our own people, after service snacks, men's breakfasts, choir and individual musical moments are so important to all, for all, whatever the level of participation.

**\*Our church is a great place to be.**

A 'keep it simple' approach with a fair bit of freedom from bureaucracy, positive financial outlook, thoughtful Sunday reflections, willing sharing of our organizational, leadership, musical, media, literary, and financial expertise gifts, and continued efforts to offer opportunities for worship and social interaction describes D-CH...**Yes, Our church really is a great place to be!**

And now...**a huge thank you** to June Sanderson who has decided to 'take a break' from M&P...June, your thoughtful, caring input on this team will be missed for sure! Remaining members Susan Kelly, Brian Cloes (and Will of course!) are pleased to welcome Brian Honey to the M&P team. **Please talk to us! Your input, your questions, concerns, accolades... Any feedback (always confidential), is always welcome!**

Submitted by Susan Kelly, Chair

## LEADERSHIP TEAM

It is hard to believe that I have completed my sixth year as Chair of our Leadership Team. It has been a privilege and I appreciate the support I have received. Our Annual General Meeting was held on January 28, 2024 and this was followed by six formal Leadership Team meetings.

Dalston Crown Hill United Church is part of Region 10, known as “Shining Waters Regional Council”. This past year I had the opportunity to attend their Annual General Meeting and Budget presentation meeting. These were informative meetings to see how the district operates. We are also a member of the “North Simcoe Rural Cluster” which consists of different rural churches in Simcoe County. George Isaac attends these meetings and reports back to the Team.

Attendance at our Sunday Worship Service continues to grow and Zoom services continue on-line, through Zoom. The Communications Team of “the Janets” keeps us involved with the “Order of Service” and “Power Point” presentations. We are thankful to have Reverend Will lead us in thoughtful, informative, and spiritual worship and his pastoral care visits and calls are appreciated. Music, with Susan Kelly and Vera Cloes, and a growing choir continues to be a strong part of our worship. Special thanks to Eva Forbes, we now have a new musical digital keyboard to accompany our music program.

If you read our financial statement you will see we have had a successful year financially. This is the result of increased returns on our investments and increased offerings by you, the congregation. For this we are thankful. Our finance team led by George Isaac, (Treasurer), Sheila Knelsen, (Envelopes Secretary), Joe Kelly, and Al Panting keeps us informed and on track.

Our “Property Guys”, Al Panting, Don Campbell, Niel Hickling, and Brian Honey have been very busy this year. New windows have been installed in the church hall and our steel roof has been painted. They have continued to deal with the ongoing issues with our elevator lift and the weekly cleaning and sanitizing of the church.

The Worship Committee, Pat Hastings, Susan Kelly, Vera Cloes, June Sanderson, and Gail Hankin have been very active in supporting Reverend Will in arranging candle lighters, scripture readers, preparing communion and securing pulpit coverage when needed. Janet Isaac, our Pastoral Care person, has kept us informed about members of our congregation. It is unfortunate that we no longer have a Youth Program, but it should be noted that we sponsored two children to summer camps in our area.

Outreach Programs for the community are ongoing. Don Campbell directed another successful “Murder Mystery” and dinner, followed by another challenging “Vehicle Rally”. Other social events, such as Men’s Breakfasts, concerts, silent auctions, card and games afternoons, have been enjoyed by many.

Read through the many reports! You will see that for a small rural church we have a lot happening! Many folks in our church family step forward to lead and support activities. We are thankful!

This year we plan to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the United Church of Canada and the 200th anniversary of a worshipping congregation in Dalston.  
For sure our Church is a good place to be!

Submitted by Joe Kelly, Chair



## **DALSTON – CROWN HILL CHURCH TRUSTEES**

The Trustees Committee is responsible for holding in trust and administering all properties belonging to the pastoral charge.

Will Marshall Insurance continued to be our insurance broker for 2024. However, since Commonwell Mutual Insurance Group no longer has an Abuse Limitation Endorsement, we requested that the account executive from Will Marshall's look to other insurers for us. Edge Mutual was recommended and the Trustees agreed to sign with them. Our premium for the year was \$5,227.20. The Directors and Officers Liability insurance is covered by the general church.

The TUCC fund of \$281,668.32 (the proceeds from the sale of the church manse) continued to do well in 2024 generating \$26,760.

Our Building Funds are invested at BMO - \$50,000 is in a Return Enhancing GIC with a max/min rate (9%/15%). It has been locked in for 3 years and matures on April 8, 2025. The rest of the Building Fund matured in March 2024. \$10,046.69 of the \$52,046.69 was deposited to our chequing account to help cover the cost of some of the upcoming repairs to the church. The balance was re-invested in 3 GIC's - \$15,000, \$15,000 and \$12,000 for one year at 4.9%.

A computer was purchased to replace the one in the sanctuary at a cost of \$1019, which was a Building Fund Expense.

In collaboration with the Property Committee, two repair projects were carried out in 2024. In February, Complete Windows and Doors Ltd. were selected to replace the 3 north basement windows at a cost of \$2352.60. In August, William Johnston of Roof Services was chosen to paint the church roof. This major project was completed for \$13,560.

In September the Trustees helped to organize the first annual Hazel Morgan Memorial Golf Tournament at Simoro Golf Course. A dinner was held at the church after the tournament, and a trophy and prizes were awarded. The trophy is being kept on display at the back of the sanctuary.

Our Property Committee ensures that the church is cared for and maintained. Al Panting and Don Campbell look after the bulk of this work, and special thanks goes out to them.

A sincere thank you to the Trustee Committee members: George Isaac and Al Panting as well as Rev. Will Haughton.

Respectfully submitted by Niel Hickling, Committee Chairperson

## PASTORAL CARE AND MEMBERSHIP

The year 2024 has gone by quickly. The fear of COVID still exists, and the winter flu, but the church is open for services and is accessible by ZOOM.

It was a sad farewell to June Partridge. She was very active in our Church and loved by all. June passed away Sept 21, 2024. Her Celebration of Life was held on September 28, 2024. Our condolences to Don (son), Doug (son), Brenda (daughter), Marilyn (daughter) and Glen (son) and all their families

It was a sad farewell to Jim Partridge. He was active in our Church and is known for laughter and love for his family. Jim's passed away Dec 23, 2024. His Celebration of Life was held on January 9, 2025. Our condolences to Judy (daughter), Peter (son), Jane (daughter), Paul (son), Kim (daughter), and Kathy (daughter) and all their families.

Our congregation members were very involved in helping those members/adherents that were in need. What a great congregation we have. Throughout the year the committee sent out cards, phone calls were made, and help was offered. The Christmas Eve service schedule, ZOOM information and Rev. Will's Christmas letter were sent via email by Janet Panting due to the postal strike.

Twelve Christmas baskets were prepared and delivered with the help of members of our loving congregation.

At present, the committee members for the year 2025 will be Janet Isaac (contact person), and Marjorie France (cards). We have been very appreciative of the help that other congregation members have given.

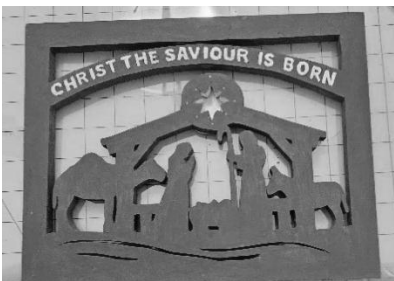
We encourage our church members to advise our committee if they know of anyone who is a concern and may be in need of our assistance.

submitted by Janet Isaac

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### Decorating Committee

Each year our committee decorates the church with seasonal flowers and special decorations fitting for each holiday or special day. These include Christmas, Valentines Day, Easter, Canada Day, Thanksgiving and Remembrance Day.



Cameron Isaac has added his wood pieces fitting for the season.

The J 'n J Decorating Committee is looking forward to adding to the atmosphere of the sanctuary in 2025. If you have any suggestions or contributions, let us know.

- Janet Isaac and Janet Panting

## CHOIR REPORT, 2024

"If you are a chef, no matter how good a chef you are, it's not good cooking for yourself. The joy is in cooking for others. with others - it is the same with music."

will.i.am (Black Eyed Peas, the Voice)

Some of the people in our DCH choir are accomplished soloists, some are long-time choir members, and some (we have heard) are enthusiastic 'secret shower' singers. All are loyal, dedicated, and experience joy when singing our Ministry of Music selections - **together!**

Sheila, Sandy, Janet, June, Vera, Brian, Al, and Don - **THANK YOU!** Each week your individual and shared voices lift us up as your music "reflects who we are, what we stand for, and where we are going". (Bill Walton, NBA star and Grateful Dead fan)

**Special thanks** to Eleanore and Vera for beautiful piano selections. We are truly blessed that you have shared your exceptional gifts (and hard work!) with us!

Vera - my wonderful accompaniment partner - your friendship and support are appreciated more than you will ever know...thank you so much.

And...**thank you to our church family** for your caring words of support and encouragement...as always new singers are welcome!

.....as for me...I thank you all!

Pope John Paul the second once said "I have a sweet tooth for song and music"!

**ME TOO !**

Susan

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### ***A Little Bit of our History.....***

Protestant (Wesleyan Methodist) worship services on this property (Lot 26, Concession 1, Vespra) were led by Peter White, a Lay Preacher from England, who had settled this property. He had led worship services on route here, after the Penetanguishene Road opened in 1819.

When Peter's home was built, worship services took place there, then a succession of Meeting Houses (probably used for Church and School), and churches were built, due to the attendance constantly increasing, as this was the first and only Protestant place of worship in North Simcoe in the early settlement days. The first buildings were log, then possibly frame. There were at least 4 of these structures. Our present church was constructed in 1897, of red brick with black accents.

This year we will celebrate our 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Protestant worship on September 21<sup>st</sup> .

## Cooperative Ministry Team

This is a joint committee consisting of 3 members from each of the churches – Dalston-Crown Hill and Forest Home, plus the Minister. The members are Susan Kelly, Vera Cloes and Al Panting from D-CH and Audrey Cando, Esther Kelly and David Anderson from FH. Al Panting and Audrey Cando serve as Co-Chairs. Committee members have a 3 year term. At the end of 2024 both Al Panting and Audrey Cando retire from the committee and will be replaced.

Three meetings were held during the year to monitor the Cooperative Agreement and plan coordination of services. Emails to convey information are used when necessary. Scheduling of services for the Church Season i.e., Lent, Good Friday, Easter Sunday, Advent, and Christmas were discussed. The Communion Schedule was established.

This committee approves Rev Will's Vacation and Study Leave requests and advises the Worship committees so pulpit supply can be arranged. Again this summer, joint church services were held for 6 weeks. The services took place at each church and available over Zoom. This allowed the volunteers at each church time off. Each church was responsible for arranging half of the services. Dalston-Crown Hill was responsible for the first 3 Sundays at 10:30 AM, while Forest Home was responsible for the following 3 weeks at 9 AM.

Discussions on various topics happen such as making the worship committee aware of pulpit supply needs, issues at either of congregation or cancelling church because of weather. Information about activities at each congregation is shared.

Annual congregation meetings for year end 2024 are agreed to. Dalston-Crown Hill 's Annual meeting to be held on January 26, 2025, and Forest Home's on February 2, 2025. Both congregations will conduct their annual meetings at the regular worship time.

The Cooperative Ministry process works well between our two congregations. All members of the committee are respectful of the needs of each congregation and work in cooperation. Rev Will is a valuable part of this process.

Al Panting Co-Chair



## WORSHIP REPORT

"Do your best to preserve the unity of the body of Christ, *the Church*, which the Spirit gives by the means of the peace that binds you together." Ephesians 4:3

Another year has flown by, and we thank the Lord that He has guided us and His Holy Spirit has helped us to work together in God's love and peace.

D-CH celebrated Communion six times and we thank June Sanderson for preparation of the elements for these services.

Rev. Will has continued to nurture our Christian walk with messages that challenge us to be more aware of the need for individual, personal time with God's word and in prayer, in order to grow closer to, and know God better. He helps us understand Bible passages that we find difficult to understand. We are truly blessed by his knowledge, understanding, and instruction in how to apply Bible Truth to our own lives.

Whenever Will was absent for study leave we were blessed to have two accomplished, Qualified Lay Leaders to provide worship, Pat Edmonds and Jackie Whiston. In August Will had his vacation. D-CH was responsible for two Joint services which were very well done with worship in which our own lay talent shared parts of their faith journeys or reasons for them - insightful and memorable services!

The Fall services included one followed by a well-attended Plowman's Lunch of hearty soup and homemade breads followed by an indoor hymn sing.

Our Christmas service schedule was a little different this year: Advent Three celebrating JOY was a special one with many carols and special Christmas music. It replaced our usual evening of caroling.; Christmas Eve service with communion was held at 2:00 in the afternoon, rather than our traditional 7:00 evening service.

Many of our congregation work together to help Rev. Will provide our weekly worship services: those who regularly pray for D-CH's ministry, candle lighters, scripture readers, our musicians and choir members, decorators, power point and bulletin providers, our dedicated Zoom Team, refreshment providers for social hours, committee members and I am sure I have missed some. Please realize each one is appreciated as we work together in unity and love. I am reminded as I close this report of the song "They will know we are Christians by our love! " May we continue to follow our Saviour's new commandment "Love one another as I have loved you. By this shall it be known you are my followers if you love one another."

- Pat Hastings for the Worship Committee

## Property Committee

Our church facility remains an active spot with many events hosted again this past year.

January started off with the first of our 6 Men's breakfast events happening, with attendance in the high 20's – 30ish range, with community men and men from a few other churches.

A Murder Mystery evening with a chilli dinner returned again in 2024. Three 'card and board games' afternoons were held.

A car rally starting from the church then returning on completion for refreshments.

Four musical performances featuring Rick Groves and friends were held, and also a Ralph and Trish Guinn concert.

The Women's Institutes (Guthrie WI and Crown Hill WI) hosted meetings and social functions. The Crown Hill WI will be holding some of their future monthly meetings in our hall.

The local Hiking Group held their annual meeting and pot-luck supper gathering in our hall. A babies (twins) shower, a bridal shower and an Easter dinner for a community family happened also in our hall.

Our Hall was made available to the Bone Zone exercise group with a spring and then a fall session. They met at 9 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. on Monday and Friday mornings for the 10 week sessions. Plans are in place for them to return in 2025.

This past fall Bone Zone instructor Darlene Van Oorschoot offered a Cold Flu seminar with many attending.

The Hazel Morgan Memorial Golf Tournament kicked off in September at Simoro Golf Course with dinner and award presentations following afterwards in our hall.

In addition to set up/clean up associated with the above events, the Property committee was involved with the regular sweeping, vacuuming, dusting and whatever maintenance was required.

During the winter season, snow needs to be cleared from the entranceways and off the roof of kitchen and storage room. Geoff McLean does the parking lot snow removal and continues to do so this winter.

Other maintenance includes:

Refreshing of the caulking where storage room roof meets the church wall happens periodically.

Outdoor weed control from the Kitchen door to the front steps takes place.

Quarterly Water Sample testing is done.

Outside water tap is shut off for the winter and opened in the spring. Monitoring is done to ensure tap is turned off as this past year someone accidentally left it running which affected the supplier's water pressure.

Projects this past year include:

The installation of shelves in storage room was completed.

New windows were installed on North side of hall.

The church roof was painted.

Wind caused a problem with closing apparatus of kitchen door requiring a door specialist to be called to make repairs.

The most time-consuming and frustrating activity of the year was with the Lift. After a regular servicing of the lift on July 31, we have had many non-functioning lift days. Service calls would have the lift working for a day or two then stopping again. Hopefully the January repairs have now corrected the situation. We've paid close to \$2000 in repairs, have another +\$4000 in outstanding invoices and anticipate charges around \$2000 for the latest work. We estimate it will be over \$8,000 before we're finished.

We appreciate your involvement and assistance in keeping the church building functioning.

Al Panting, Don Campbell, Niel Hickling, and Brian Honey  
your Property Committee

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## **Shining Waters Region Report 2024**

We were asked to vote on Remit 1 on "Establishing an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization within The United Church of Canada." The Leadership Team decided at a meeting on February 27<sup>th</sup> to vote no. The United Church later approved Remit 1 by a considerable margin.

The Shining Waters Region Council meeting was held on June 7-8. Dalston-Crown Hill, with Fairlawn Avenue United seconding, presented a proposal entitled "Provide Financial Assistance to Shining Waters Region's Congregations." This proposal highlighted the tight financial situation for most congregations in the Region and suggested a way to help. However, the Region voted to table the motion and instead the Executive was directed to create an ad hoc committee to conduct a region-wide consultation about regional ministry and funding priorities. A survey was sent out to all congregations and the Dalston Crown Hill response, out of 11 possible priorities, was to support Region congregations with an emphasis on financial support. It should be mentioned that although congregations are struggling, the Region is not short of funds. They have substantial resources from the sale of property of closing churches. The Dalston-Crown Hill Leadership Team was not pleased with the recent survey and our partner Fairlawn United had the same reaction.

At a Fall Budget meeting of the Region on November 12<sup>th</sup> via Zoom, the 2025 Budget of \$2.3 million was approved with an approximately 30% increase in the Region salary budget. Although the Region is becoming more open with respect to their finances, partly due to the influence of Dalston-Crown Hill, they are still not reporting on how they are using funds from the sale of churches which have closed. Region meetings are not well attended so voting is done by a small portion of potential participants.

As your representative, with Joe Kelly as an alternate, we attend the Region meetings and actively participate and vote. Communications sent out by the Region and General Council are sent out to Leadership Team members. If you want to be included on this list, let Joe or myself know.

Many Webinars are done via Zoom, and I have found the ones held on Congregational Finances particularly useful, as do the several hundred participants across the country. You can find more Webinars on other church topics at <https://united-in-learning.com/index.php/webinars> . Registration is now done through "CHURCHx," another of the new Websites being used by UCC.

The Region Web site (<https://shiningwatersregionalcouncil.ca/> ) contains lots on interesting information for those interested.

George Isaac  
Elected Lay Representative to Shining Waters Region for 2024

## North Simcoe Rural Cluster Report 2024

The North Simcoe Rural Cluster met May 22<sup>nd</sup>, September 24<sup>th</sup> and November 13<sup>th</sup> during 2024, with all meetings being held at Midhurst United Church. Minutes for these meetings are available upon request.

The formal membership consists of six United Churches: Dalston-Crown Hill, Forest Home, Midhurst, Unity (Vasey), St. John's (Elmvale), St. Paul's (Midland) and Wyevale.

The outlook for the Cluster in 2025 is exciting. We are organizing a Presbytery-Like meeting for congregations in our area sometime in May at Midhurst United. Many Ministers miss the connections/conversations that occurred at former Living Waters Presbytery meetings, and we will attempt to fill that gap.

Dalston-Crown Hill does the banking for the North Simcoe Rural Cluster, with a balance of \$4884 as of December 31<sup>st</sup>.

You can find out more about the Cluster on our Web site at: <https://northsimcoeruralcluster.ca/>. All are welcome to attend the meetings. If you want to be added to the email distribution list, let me know.

- George Isaac

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## DALSTON UNION CEMETERY TRUSTEES

The members of this committee are Joe Kelly - Chairperson, Scott Brown - Treasurer, Alvin Jory - Secretary, Corry Wursten, and Gary McLean. Al Panting is a member and is liaison trustee to Dalston-Crown Hill United Church trustees. We are responsible for holding in trust, funds for administering and maintaining Dalston Union Cemetery. Our plots are available for members of our congregation and to those in the community. Please speak to one of our trustees if you are interested in purchasing one.

This past year we have had four formal meetings to deal with the business of maintaining and servicing the cemetery. There were two cremation burials in our cemetery. We hired Dignity Restored to clean and restore twenty-four marble gravestones. The trustees were pleased with the work done, and have agreed to hire this company again to restore another twenty-five headstones. We have a computer digital program for updating our cemetery records. Alvin Jory and Scott Brown have been instrumental in gathering the information and entering it into this program for future use. An aerial drone photo was taken of the cemetery to assist in this process. In May we had our regular "Clean-Up" day in preparation our Memorial Service held in June.

Our financial report shows that we have two formal accounts. The first is considered to be our "working chequing account" and it is used for the maintenance and upkeep of the cemetery. It is from this account we contribute \$1,000 to Dalston-Crown Hill U.C. for our share of the insurance costs. As of November 30, 2024 this account had a balance of \$16,968.64. Our second account is for investments, mainly G.I.C.'s, and is there for future perpetual care of the cemetery.



On Sunday, June 2nd our Annual Memorial Service was held. Over thirty family members from the community, Barrie, Craighurst and the surrounding area attended. We would like to thank Corry Wursten for the candles of remembrance, and Reverend Will Haughton for conducting the service. We will be holding our next service on Sunday June 1st and all members of the church and community are invited to attend.

The Dalston Union Cemetery Trustees appreciate and thank the members of our congregation and community for their continued support.

Submitted by Joe Kelly

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## Lawrence Pioneer Cemetery

The Lawrence Pioneer Cemetery was originally a 2 acre plot of land established in 1844 by the Lawrence family. It is located on Penetanguishene Rd., south of Georgian Drive and now adjacent to Hospice Simcoe. It was one of the first cemeteries in this area and the resting place to our "Hickling ancestors".

No perpetual maintenance funds exist for the cemetery and all records were lost in a house fire back in the 1950's. Trustees from the Dalston-Crown Hill United Church are responsible for the care and maintenance of this inactive cemetery.

An Archaeologist's excavation of the rear portion of the property in 2012 determined no burials were made in that area. An agreement was then entered into with Hospice Simcoe who purchased that portion and it now serves as a parking lot with an area for future potential development to meet their needs.

Plans to develop walking trails on the wooded portion of this site exist. Two picnic tables were purchased in the spring and placed in the wooded area. These provide visitors the opportunity to stop and relax or meditate. Normal grass cutting, trimming and a dead tree removals/cleanup were performed in 2024 . Attention has to be given to the aging pine trees to ensure there is no danger of any falling and causing injury to walkers in the area.

The Trustee Board are still willing to be financially supportive to the church should this be necessary for programming and/or marketing plans - or - funding of Speaker/Workshops.

Expenses related to yard maintenance in 2024 which was carried out by the Hickling family were \$339.00. The two picnic tables were obtained for \$451.98.

Financial Position Dec 31, 2024

\$ 21,286.63	Current Chequing Account	
\$116,444.49	14 Month GIC	Maturity Jan 2026
\$ 240,000.00	5 Year Market Fund Investment	Maturity Date Mar 1, 2027
\$ 51,002.64	5 Year Market Fund Investment	Maturity Date Mar 1, 2027

Lawrence Pioneer Cemetery Trustees  
Al Panting    Niel Hickling    Pat Richards

## MEET, GREET, AND EAT MEN'S BREAKFASTS

This past year the men of Dalston-Crown Hill United Church hosted **six** breakfasts. These outreach breakfasts were for the men of the congregations and the surrounding communities. They came from Barrie, Midhurst, and Orillia! They came from the townships of Oro-Medonte and Springwater! Thirty to thirty five men were served an excellent meal of eggs, sausages, home fries, toast and beverages at each of these meals. A "Free Will Offering", over \$1800, was given to support the different activities and programs of the church.

It is our intent to hold these breakfasts on a bi-monthly basis beginning in January. Our next one will be on Wednesday, March 19th, and all men are welcome! We would like to thank Al Panting, Don Campbell, Charles Style, Niel Hickling, Cameron Isaac, and Reverend Will for their help in preparing and serving the meal. We would also like to thank the men of the congregations and the communities for their continued support.

Submitted by Joe Kelly, "Bon Appétit"

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### **Dalston-Crown Hill Finance and Treasurer's Report for 2024 January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024**

- 1) We ended 2024 with a surplus of \$15,923. This compares to the 2023 surplus of \$4,861 and a substantial 2022 deficit of \$12,636. Some bills related to the elevator repairs were not paid in 2024 because we were not satisfied with the contractor, Elevator One. The amount billed is approximately \$4500 which if paid in 2024 would have substantially reduced our surplus. Discussions with the company are ongoing.
- 2) Our total givings (PAR, Collection Plate, eTransfers, Canada Helps, etc.) for 2024 were \$59,028 which compares very favourably with 2023 (\$53,423) and 2022 (\$48,716).
- 3) The number of Identified Givers to Local Church Expenses was 41, up from 39 in 2023 and 31 in 2022.
- 4) The number of givers to M&S went down to 5 from 6 last year and 7 in 2022. The M&S donations in 2024 were \$3867 in comparison to \$3610 in 2023 and \$3830 in 2022.
- 5) Our Manse investment returned \$26,760 which is impressive and considerably more than \$12,676 in 2023 and \$2,817 in 2022. With interest rates falling, it is not anticipated that our investments will make so much in 2025.
- 6) It should be mentioned that \$7960 was raised from the Men's Breakfast, Murder Mystery, Rally, Concert+Auction, and Hall Use Donations, including Bone Zone. This is a substantial source of income.
- 7) The \$445 donated for the Camping Fund in 2023 was unspent and \$500 was spent in 2024 on helping send a child to Day Camp and another to Camp Simpresca.
- 8) Eva Forbes and family generously donated a new keyboard/organ for the sanctuary. The congregation is now enjoying the resulting music, both online via Zoom and in-person.
- 9) The three downstairs windows on the north side were replaced in early 2024. The roof was painted, and a computer to replace the old one in the sanctuary was purchased. These costs, totaling \$16,226, were billed to our Capital funds. Only \$9853 could be paid from the Capital funds into our Chequing Account. The remaining transfer will be done when the Capital GICs mature.

- 10) Dalston-Crown Hill is managing/tracking the money for the North Simcoe Rural Cluster. As of December 31<sup>st</sup>, there was \$4884 in this account.
- 11) The Church acquired two credit cards in 2024: one to George Isaac and another to Joe Kelly. They have a spending limit of \$2000. These cards were necessary because some suppliers need immediate payment, which previously necessitated using personal cards. A \$2000 interest bearing account has been set up with BMO as collateral for these "business" credit cards.
- 12) The chequing account bank balance for December 31<sup>st</sup> has been adjusted to reflect 2024 expenses or payments made in 2025.
- 13) A new Hall Use Agreement and new policy for associated donation receipts was developed in 2024 with the assistance of Sheila Knelsen and Jim Franchuk.
- 14) Our healthy financial situation is due to generous financial donations from the congregation, as well as the efforts of many in fundraising.
- 15) It takes many people to manage the church finances. The help of Donna Sanderson, Treasurer for Forest Home, who manages the interactions with ADP and the associated payment of salaries, is greatly appreciated. Thanks to Joe Kelly, Chair of the Finance Committee, who also does the banking deposits after the collection on Sundays. Sheila Knelsen, our Envelope Secretary provided the numbers of identifiable givers and confirmed the 2024 Current and M&S donation amounts from her separate bookkeeping, Joe Kelly and Al Panting agreed to help the Treasurer in 2024 and have full access to our financial records online using QuickBooks. The Trustees participate in major decisions including managing our investments.

George Isaac,  
Treasurer and Finance Committee Member  
Dalston-Crown Hill United Church  
January 12, 2025

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## Dalston-Crown Hill Income/Expense Summary

**January 1 to December 31, 2024**

Number of Identified Givers to Local Church Expenses - 41

Number of Households in the Above - 40

Number of Identified Givers to Mission and Service Fund - 5

Income	Actual
BMO Operating Savings Interest	717.32
Building Fund Interest	2,372.31
<b>COLLECTION</b>	
Canada Helps	2,498.00
Current - Other	48,000.00
Loose	705.00
Par	7,825.00
Dr. William's Trust	50.00
Memorial Donations	
<i>(Hazel Morgan, June Partridge, Gordon Belshaw, and Eva Forbes &amp; Family)</i>	930.11
Fundraising General <i>(Murder Mystery, Concert+Auction, Rally, Cards)</i>	2,104.65
GST Rebate	991.47
Hall Use Other	1,020.00
Hall Use Bone Zone	3,015.00
Men's Breakfast	1,820.00
Camping Fund	0.00
TUCC Manse Investment	26,760.40
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$98,809.26</b>
<b>Expense</b>	
<b>CHARGES ADP, BANK, PAR</b>	
ADP	313.22
BANK	146.47
PAR	18.50
<b>GENERAL COMMITTEES</b>	
Pastoral Care	310.74
Worship Choir	46.49
Worship Decorations	151.15
Worship One License	281.00
<b>GIFTS</b>	320.23
<b>HONORARIUM</b>	500.00
<b>INSURANCE</b> <i>(includes \$1000 from Cemetery Board)</i>	4,227.20
<b>MINISTER EXPENSES</b>	
Total	6,991.44
FH Portion	-3,092.74
<b>MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL</b>	
Minister Benefits	
Minister ADP Benefits	20,776.17
Minister FH Benefit Portion	-9,972.59
Minister Salary	
Minister ADP Salary	85,770.84
Minister Salary FH Portion	-41,461.80

Secretary Benefits	45.84
Secretary Salary	1,971.00
Supply Ministry	
DCH Supply Ministry	1,800.00
FH Supply Ministry	-750.00
Other	-200.00
OFFICE EXPENSES: Stationary and Supplies	508.39
OFFICE EXPENSES: Postage and Delivery	44.75
PROPERTY COMMITTEE	
Bell Internet	1,078.43
Cleaning Services	0.00
Elevator Expenses	3,192.44
Fuel	1,274.47
Furnace	243.84
Hydro	1,106.38
Property Other ( <i>Shelving, Supplies, Backup Heater, Plumbing, Kitchen Door</i> )	1,500.27
Snow Removal	336.00
Water	428.00
YOUTH CAMPING ( <i>for sending Child to Day Camp and Camp Simpreca</i> )	500.00
TECHNOLOGY (Software and Web Site Renewal)	1,297.06
UNITED CHURCH ASSESSMENT ( <i>Q1 + Q2 + Q3 +Q4</i> )	3,183.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$82,886.19</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$15,923.07</b>

M&S	
Envelope	\$2,817.00
PAR M&S	\$1,050.00
<b>Total Remitted to UCC</b>	<b>\$3,867.00</b>
Building Fund Expense ( <i>Basement Windows, Church Roof Paint, Computer</i> )	\$16,226.07
Building Fund Transfers Done into Chequing.	\$9,852.60
<b>Bank Balances as of November 30, 2024</b>	
BMO Chequing (Adjusted for Year End))	\$21,975.04
BMO Investment Savings	\$34,484.54
BMO Building Fund	\$310.08
BMO Investment for Credit Card Collateral	\$2,000.00
BMO Building Fund: <i>Three 12 month GICs: \$15,000, \$15,000 and \$12,000. Interest Rate 4.9%. Mature 14 April 2025.</i>	\$42,000.00
BMO Building Fund: <i>Return Enhancing GIC Max/Min Rate for term 9%/0.15%. Locked for 3 y term. Matures April 8, 2025.</i>	\$50,000.00
BMO Investment Speaker Funds	\$4,883.78
Manse Investment with TUCC	\$281,688.32
Tangerine Funds moved to BMO Chequing ( <i>Accounts Closed</i> )	\$14.61

12-Jan-25

**Dalston Crown Hill Pastoral Charge Finance Statement**  
**Budget 2025**

	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	2025 Budget
	\$	\$	\$
<b>INCOME</b>			
Offerings (Current, Loose, PAR)	50,000	59,028	55,000
Special Donations			
Outreach/Bequests/Memorials	1,000	930	1,000
Bank Interest	3,000	3,090	4,000
Dr. Williams Fund	50	50	50
Fundraising Activities			
Miscellaneous Fundraising	1,200	2,105	1,200
Men's Breakfast	1,800	1,820	1,800
GST Rebate	1,000	991	1,500
Youth	500	0	250
Hall Use (Bone Zone, Community Use, etc.)	4,500	4,035	4,500
Manse Investment	14,000	26,760	20,000
<b>INCOME TOTAL</b>	<b>\$77,050</b>	<b>\$98,809</b>	<b>\$89,300</b>
	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	2025 Budget
	\$	\$	\$
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>			
Bank Charge, ADP, PAR	600	478	600
Benevolent Funds	300	0	300
Gifts Given	200	320	200
Honorarium	500	500	500
<b>COMMITTEES</b>			
Communication	200	0	200
Christian Ed & Faith Formation (Camp/Gen)	200	0	0
Pastoral Care & Membership	550	311	600
Decorations	200	151	250
Property (General)	1,600	1,500	1,600
Property (Elevator)	1,500	3,192	8,000
Property (Snow Removal)	450	336	500
Trustees		0	
Worship: General i.e. Communion	200	46	200
Worship: Fellowship	100	0	100
Worship: Guest Speaker/Music/License	100	281	300
Worship: Supply Ministry	750	850	1,000

	<b>Youth</b>	500	500	250
	<b>Insurance</b>	4,000	5,227	5,000
	<b>Insurance Dalston Union Cemetery Contribution</b>	-1,000	-1,000	-1,000
	<b>Minister Expenses</b>			
	<b>Travel Expense</b>	1,500	2,583	1,600
	<b>Telephone</b>	600	600	690
	<b>Office Expenses</b>	100		100
	<b>Con Ed \$1689/2 for 2025</b>	820	561	845
	<b>Other</b>	200	155	200
	<b>Salary Rev. Will</b>	44,309	44,309	45,640
	<b>Minister Benefits (Pension, EI, CPP, Insurance)</b>	11,237	10,804	11,845
	<b>Secretary COLA 3%</b>	1,971	1,971	2,030
	<b>Secretary Benefits (EI)</b>	33	46	35
	<b>Leadership Team Secretary Expenses</b>	200		100
	<b>Postage and Delivery</b>	100	45	50
	<b>Shining Waters Region Assessment</b>	3,183	3,183	3,541
	<b>Stationary &amp; Supplies</b>	300	508	400
	<b>Technology</b>	1,300	1,297	1,300
	<b>UTILITIES</b>			
	<b>Fuel</b>	2,200	1,274	2,000
	<b>Furnace Service</b>	250	244	250
	<b>Hydro</b>	1,200	1,106	1,200
	<b>Bell Hub/Internet</b>	1,000	1,078	1,100
	<b>Water</b>	500	428	500
	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	\$81,953	\$82,884	\$92,026
	<b>SURPLUS / DEFICIT</b>	-\$4,903	\$15,925	-\$2,726
	<b>Total Mission &amp; Service</b>	\$3,200	\$3,867	\$3,600
		<b>Capital Costs</b>		
		<b>Property-Other</b>		\$5,500
		<b>Property-Church Entrance</b>		\$5,000
		<b>Property-Hall Acoustics</b>		\$5,000
			12-Jan-25	

## NOMINATION COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2025 (REVISED)

The Nomination Committee has produced a slate of candidates for the Leadership Team. We have also had a number of our members volunteer to serve on a number of Committees. This was greatly appreciated by the Nominating Committee.

### THE LEADERSHIP TEAM 2024

Chairperson - Joe Kelly

Minister - Rev. Will Haughton

Trustee Rep - Neil Hickling

Treasurer & Past Chair - George Isaac

M & P Rep - Susan Kelly

Secretary - Janet Panting

Member at Large - Al Panting

Member at Large - Pat Hastings

Member Large - Janet Isaac

Member Large - Jim Partridge

### Formal Committees

Ministry & Personnel: Susan Kelly (Chair), Brian Cloes, Brian Honey

Trustees: Dalston Crown Hill Trustees: Neil Hickling (Chair), Al Panting, George Isaac

Dalston Union Cemetery Trustees: Joe Kelly (Chair), Scott Brown,

Corry Wursten, Alvin Jory, Al Panting, Gary McLean

Lawrence Pioneer Cemetery Trustees: Al Panting, Neil Hickling, Pat Richards

Region Representatives: George Isaac, Joe Kelly (alternate)

Co-operative Ministry Team: Susan Kelly, Vera Cloes, Don Campbell

David Anderson (F. H.), Esther Kelly (F. H.), Donna Plue (F.H.)

### Ad Hoc Committees

Christian Education: Pat Hastings

Communications: Janet Panting, George Isaac, Janet Isaac (Power Point)

Finance: George Isaac, Joe Kelly, Jim Partridge, Sheila Knelsen (Envelopes' Secretary)

Mission and Outreach:

Property Management: Al Panting, Neil Hickling, Don Campbell, Brian Honey, Doug Roush

Pastoral Care: Janet Isaac (Contact), Jean Cooke, Marjorie France, Dilys Haughton

Worship: Pat Hastings, Susan Kelly (Music and Choir Director)

Vera Cloes (Music), June Sanderson, Sandra Roush

Decorations: Janet Isaac, Janet Panting

- Respectfully Submitted by: Joe Kelly, Janet Isaac, Pat Hastings  
NOMINATION COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2025