

Dalston-Crown Hill United Church



ANNUAL REPORT 2025

AGM held on January 25, 2026
in person and on Zoom

TABLE OF CONTENTS

2025 Agenda	1
Last year's (2023) AGM Minutes	2
Minister's Report	3
From the Church Register	4
Ministry and Personnel	4
Leadership Team	5
Dalston-Crown Hill U.C. Trustees	6
Pastoral Care & Membership	7
Decorating Committee	7
200 TH Anniversary	8
Cooperative Ministry Team	9
Worship Committee	10
Property Committee	11
Shining Waters Region	12 & 13
North Simcoe Rural Cluster	13
Dalston Union Cemetery Trustees	14
Lawrence Pioneer Cemetery	15
Choir	16
Men's Breakfast	16
Treasurer's Report	17
Income and Expense Summary	18 & 19
2026 Budget	20 & 21
Nominations and Governance Structure	

Dalston-Crown Hill United Church
Agenda for the 2025 Annual General Meeting - January 25, 2026

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 26, 2025

Moved by _____ and seconded by _____ that we **approve the minutes of the congregational meeting of January 26, 2025.**

6. Business arising from the Minutes

7. Review of the **Annual Report** for 2025 - We will vote to accept the reports, as a whole, at the end of discussions. The Financial Statement for 2025 and the Budget for 2026 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 2025 and Budget for 2026 - George Isaac

Moved by _____ and seconded by _____ that we approve the **2025 Financial Statement.**

Moved by _____ and seconded by _____ that we approve the **2026 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

Dalston-Crown Hill United Church
MINUTES for the 2024 Annual General Meeting held on January 26, 2025

1. Welcome - Joe Kelly
2. Check for Quorum – Achieved – 18 in sanctuary, 7 on Zoom
3. Motion to grant Adherents right to speak and vote:

Moved by Jim Partridge, seconded by Al Panting that **Adherents be allowed to vote on all matters before the meeting. Carried.**

4. Moved by June Sanderson, seconded by Nancy Partridge that the **Agenda be approved as circulated. Carried.**

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

Moved by Susan Kelly, seconded by Niel Hickling that we **approve the minutes AGM of January 28, 2024. Carried.**

6. Business arising from the Minutes:

Joe explained that anyone who wants offering envelopes should speak to Sheila Knelson. He also acknowledged all those who wrote a report for the Annual Report.

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 Susan Kelly and seconded by Doug Roush that we receive the **Annual Report.**

8. Financial Statement for 2024 and Budget for 2025 - George Isaac
George read portions of the Treasurer's Report and thanked everyone who assists him with the Financial duties.

Moved by George Isaac, seconded by Al Panting, that we approve the **2024 Financial Statement.**

Al Panting highlighted entries in the 2025 Budget. Some questions were asked, and Al answered these enquiries.

Moved by Al Panting and seconded by George Isaac 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.

Joe informed us that there was one removal and three additions to the Committees. The nomination Report will be updated to reflect these changes.

Moved by George Isaac and seconded by Niel Hickling that we approve the appointments to congregational office as listed in the report of the Nominating Committee, *plus changes*.

10. Trustees: Dalston-Crown Hill U.C.; Dalston Union Cemetery; Lawrence Pioneer Cemetery.

Moved by Susan Kelly and seconded by June Sanderson 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

As I write on January 6th 2026, it just so happens that the theme of my sermon on Sunday past, based on the story of the Magi's visit to the child Jesus, was that we generally don't know the significance of what will happen in our lives or exactly what God is doing with us at any moment. All we can do is walk and live in trust and obedience to the call of God. A following thought would be that sometimes we can recognize what God has been doing in our lives--in hindsight. It is in looking back that events, circumstances, and decisions begin to come into clearer focus. While we don't want to be stuck in the past, it is helpful to engage in some occasional reflection on what has been, what we can be thankful for, and what lessons for the future we can learn.

In the wider world, 2025 I think will go down as a tumultuous year. Many of us will have been glad to turn the page on it. In our church-family, there were some times of difficulty and sorrow as we experienced personal challenges and losses. I hope, in hindsight, we can see that God has been with and strengthened us in those trials.

There have been times of friendship and laughter. We have made new connections and gotten to know one another more deeply. We have experienced overwhelming generosity and kindness. We have seen young people grow and mature. For these and many other reasons we have cause to give thanks!

What have we learned that we can carry forward in the year ahead? I suppose I can only speak personally. In my outside-of-church hours, I experienced a couple of challenges and frustrations that I couldn't resolve. These were in part inter-personal, in part circumstantial. What I had to learn (again) was that not everything can be solved or fixed. If it cannot be, it is because God does not care to see it resolved or fixed at this time. If a certain path is blocked, God is directing me down another, maybe that cannot be seen yet. I'm sure I will need to keep soaking that message in, accepting more and stewing less.

One lesson I have more gladly accepted is that I am blessed to share my journey with two wonderful communities of people at Dalston-Crown Hill and Forest Home. Even more, our wise and loving God is with us, and promises to be so forever. We can be assured of this promise because it is what God wants.

In faith, we look forward to many good times.

Will Houghton

From the Church Register

These are the burials from our wider church family:

Don Partridge	May 1
Gordon Emerson	June 8
Rev. David Vipond	August 11

From the community:

Larry Bray	January 15
Anita Wong	February 10
Ryan Wilson	March 26
Walter Adamovich	April 15
Richard McNutt	April 29
Irene Elliott	March 3

There were no weddings or baptisms last year.

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### **Ministry and Personnel**

“The role of the Ministry and Personnel Committee is” both consultive and supervisory in supporting the minister and lay staff, building positive trusting relationships between the staff and all members and adherents of our church community.” (paraphrased from page 10 in the U. C. C. resource manual.)

At DCH, we meet as needed to share updates from the U. C. C., and to discuss concerns , compliments, suggestions, as relayed to us by members of the congregation. Also, as directed by the U. C. C. we complete a yearly informal performance review . This review is an opportunity to confidentially speak (and listen) as we look back at our year together - to acknowledge and celebrate what we are doing well, and to consider relationships, actions, and areas that need our support in providing positive impact at DCH.

Our church is important, and valued by all who attend. Our committee members are here to listen to you. Please share your questions, concerns, suggestions with any committee member. Your feedback, always in confidence, is important and welcomed!

Submitted by the M. & P. Committee 2025  
Susan Kelly, Brian Cloes, Brian Honey

## LEADERSHIP TEAM

Once again it has been my privilege to serve as chair of your Leadership Team. Individually the team members are caring, respectful, and strong. Working together has made us all stronger.

Our congregational Annual Meeting held on January 26, 2025 was followed by seven formal Leadership Team meetings. At these meetings we received reports from our many Ad Hoc committees, as well as Ministry and Personnel and Trustees. Any decisions needed between meetings were done by email.

Dalston-Crown Hill United Church is part of “Region 10” (Shining Waters Regional Council), the revised structure of the United Church. We are also a member of the North Simcoe Rural Cluster which is a group of rural churches in Simcoe County.

I would like to recognize and thank the members of our various teams, formal and ad-hoc committees who work hard to make Dalston Crown Hill United Church a good place to be. They are: The Leadership Team, the Trustees, the Ministry & Personnel Committee, the Co-operative Ministry Team, all our ad-hoc committees in Communications, Finance, Mission and Outreach, Property Management, Pastoral Care, Worship and Christian Education, and Decorations. You will find their names at the back of this annual report and the work they do in their reports. There are a few groups that are missing and should be mentioned. There is our Zoom Team on Sunday mornings, the 200th Anniversary Team, our social outreach groups like the Men’s Breakfast Team, members who organize the Murder Mysteries, car rallies, and other social activities. You will note that a number of names will appear more than once and **ALL** have volunteered. We are thankful!

Attendance in the sanctuary and on Zoom continues to grow. George Isaac with the help of Al Panting produced a survey of weekly attendance. The median attendance for the calendar year 2025 on Zoom, 11, and in person 25, for a total of 36. This was consistent throughout the year. Our largest attendance was at our 200th Anniversary and it was 59! Zoom was very useful in reaching out to people not in our community.

We are blessed to have Reverend Will lead us in thoughtful, informative, and spiritual worship. His ongoing Pastoral Care visits and calls have been greatly appreciated. It is important to note that **all of** the people serving on committees doing God’s work on our behalf are **volunteers**.

We are grateful. Dalston-Crown Hill United Church is a good place to be!

Submitted by Joe Kelly, Chair

## Dalston – Crown Hill Church Trustees

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

Will Marshall Insurance continued to serve as our insurance broker for 2025, with Edge Mutual remaining our insurance provider. The total cost increased only slightly, from \$5,227.20 to \$5,287.68. Directors and Officers Liability Insurance continues to be covered by the general church.

The TUCC fund, totaling \$281,668.32 (representing the proceeds from the sale of the church manse), generated \$18,310 this year. While this is a decrease from last year, the fund still achieved a strong return of 6.5%.

Our Building Funds are invested with BMO. Of the \$96,047 that matured this year, \$74,000 was reinvested into two separate one-year GICs—\$50,000 and \$24,000—each earning a rate of 2.75%. The remaining \$22,047 was held back and placed into our regular BMO Building Fund Savings account to ensure greater liquidity should funds be required.

In September, the Trustees assisted in organizing the second annual Hazel Morgan Memorial Golf Tournament at Simoro Golf Course. A dinner was held at the church following the tournament, during which prizes were awarded. The tournament trophy is now on display at the back of the sanctuary.

The lift maintenance contract, which was on a three-year term, came up for renewal this year. The Trustees obtained three quotes from Elevator One (our current provider), Savaria, and Hytrac Elevator. Following review, the leadership team selected Hytrac Elevator as our new lift maintenance service provider for the next three years.

The Property Committee continues to ensure that the church building and grounds are well cared for and maintained. Al Panting and Don Campbell oversee the majority of this work, and we extend our sincere thanks to them for their dedication and ongoing efforts.

A heartfelt thank you is also extended to the members of the Trustee Committee: George Isaac, Al Panting, and Rev. Will Haughton.

Respectfully submitted,

**Niel Hickling**

*Trustee Committee Chairperson*

## **PASTORAL CARE AND MEMBERSHIP**

Wow!! Where did 2025 go? The fear of the flu and COVID still exists, but the church is open for services and is accessible by ZOOM.

It was a sad farewell to Don Partridge. Don passed away Feb. 21, 2025. Our condolences to his wife Shirley, brothers Doug and Glen, and sisters Brenda and Marilyn and all their families.

It was a sad farewell to Gord Emerson who passed away May 26, 2025. He was known for his love of music and his love for his family.

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

The committee members for the year 2025 were Janet Isaac (contact person), Dilys Haughton, Jean Cooke, 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 need 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.



Easter 2025

The J 'n J Decorating Committee along with Cameron Isaac are looking forward to adding to the atmosphere of the sanctuary in 2026.

Janet Isaac and Janet Panting and Cameron Isaac

200th Anniversary of Protestant Christian Worship in Dalston

September 21, 2025 was a very special day for our congregation. We were celebrating the roots of Protestant Christian worship in this community. As noted on the historical plaque at the front of the Dalston Union Cemetery, it all began with Peter White, a Lay Preacher who settled in this area in 1819, shortly after the Penetanguishene Road had been laid for troops to travel to Penetanguishene. As more settlers came, this area was named White's Corners, later being renamed Dalston.

Peter White had held worship services along his way, and once he was settled with a home, he invited folks for Protestant Christian worship (Wesleyan Methodist) in his home. As the attendance rose, a "meeting house" was built, followed by at least 2 more buildings, before the current brick church we now worship in, was built.

The celebration of our 200th Anniversary was held at 2 pm in the afternoon, with decorations, balloons, cake, and a worship service full of our history over the past decades and years, **and centuries!**

Invitations were sent out to former ministers, former members, and the community. Greetings were sent from some who could not attend. Following the service, a social time was held, while a monitor was continually showing photos of our past events, members, and celebrations.

A stone monument celebrating this Anniversary was installed by Sanderson Monuments under the "community" sign which sits in the yard, on the south side of the church. The monument was dedicated during the worship service.

It was evident that this little church and it's rich history means so much to so many!



– The 200th Anniversary Committee: Janet Panting, George Isaac, Don Campbell & Rev. Will

Cooperative Ministry Team

The Cooperative Ministry Team was established when Dalston-Crown Hill church and Forest Home church entered an agreement to share the services on a Minister who would provide weekly Sunday services at each church and balance the remainder of the work week between the two charges. Minister expenses (salary, benefits, travel mileage costs, phone, continuing education etc) are shared by DCH and FH, but all other expenses are the responsibility of the individual churches.

The committee meets 3/4 times per year. Meetings alternate between the two churches and are chaired by the hosting church. We are responsible for scheduling of services, balancing special service times such as Christmas Eve times, Annual meeting dates etc. to avoid overlap or potential time conflict.

We confer with the minister regarding Study Leave requests and Vacation times (usually the month of August when a schedule is determined to allow one joint Sunday service weekly), and arrange, with the Worship Committee, for pulpit coverage when Will is away. Coverage is a combination of hiring pulpit supply or arranging internal, individual church coverage.

At our meetings we share dates and times for activities at each church (breakfasts, picnics, concert events, social planning etc) so there is no timing overlap between congregations.

There are three representatives from each church (one of these must be an M&P rep), (total of 6 on the team, plus Will).

DCH reps for 2026 are Vera Cloes, Don Campbell, and Susan Kelly.
Our next meeting is February 18th, 7:00PM at Forest Home.

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### A little Humour...

#### Ice Fishing

A man goes out ice fishing one morning. He reaches the ice and is about to cut a hole in it when he hears a voice from above: "There are no fish here."

The fisherman is shocked but gets up and moves to another spot. As he's about to cut a hole, he hears a voice from above again, "There are no fish here either."

He gets up and moves to a third spot. Before he's even finished walking, the voice says, "I'm telling you, there are no fish here."

The fisherman says, "God, how can you be so sure there aren't any fish here?"

The voice replies, "This is the ice rink manager."

## WORSHIP REPORT

Ephesians 4;1-6 "I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord urge you to walk in a manner worthy of your calling, with humility and gentleness, with patience for one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit. One Lord, one baptism. One God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all"

Your Worship Committee met four times in 2025 assisting Rev. Will as needed organizing details such as Candle lighters, Scripture readers, Communion elements and servers.

Services throughout Lent and Easter led by Rev. Will nourished our individual spiritual journeys as we applied his teaching to our own lives.

We enjoyed an outdoor summer hymn sing service at June Sanderson's home. Thank you to Susan, Don, June and Will for leading this highly popular event.

Summer services were shared with Forest Home arranged by Audrey Cando. Once again our D-CH talented Lay Leaders presented meaningful and challenging services when Will was on vacation. We are blessed to have so many members who are willing to plan, lead and share their individual faith journeys openly with us, recognizing their need for God and also recognizing how He has been at work in their lives.

Two special services, one celebrating the one hundred year anniversary of the formation of the United Church of Canada and the other celebrating two hundred years of Protestant Christian Worship at Dalston were held. A busy committee organized, and sent notices and invitations to many former clergy and congregants - just an outstanding effort and result. Sincere thanks to all those involved !

Throughout our Christmas and Advent season, we were encouraged to celebrate the Hope, Joy, Love, and Peace of the First Christmas, to be grateful for the one true gift of Christmas, reaching out to support those in our community needing our help. We are thankful for the generosity of our church family for an abundance of donations to support the food cupboard set up by Women's Institute.

We pray that worship services at D-CH have fed you spiritually, helped you to increase your faith, brought you Christian love and friendship and brought you to a closer walk with your Saviour and Lord.

Blessings to all from your worship Committee: Susan Kelly, Vera Cloes, June Sanderson, Sandy Roush, Pat Hastings

## Property Committee

Many activities took place again in our church facility during the 2025 year: The Men's breakfast attracts attendees from across the region numbering in the 30s. Social events continue to provide a gathering place for many, including the Coffee House music evening in January organized by Doug Roush; the annual Murder Mystery under the leadership of Don Campbell; and Christmas Tea hosted by the Crown Hill WI to mention only 3. The Women's Institutes (Guthrie WI and Crown Hill WI) use our Hall to host meetings and social functions. The Crown Hill WI now hold their monthly meetings in our hall. Bridal and baby showers are also events using our hall. Our sanctuary was used for the Stewart/Choka wedding. Election Canada had two polling stations located in our Hall. The Bone Zone exercise group held spring and fall session twice a week. This year, there will be a reduction to only Mondays. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Hazel Morgan Memorial Golf Tournament played at Simoro Golf Course came back to our hall for dinner and award presentations.

The regular routines of set up/clean up associated with the events held in our hall combined with the regular sweeping, vacuuming, dusting and whatever maintenance required continue to happen. The Winter season brings with it the need to clear snow from the entranceways and off the roof of kitchen and storage room. Geoff McLean provides the lot snow removal and last winter was required a greater number of times than 2023/4 but looks like 2025/6 will even surpass those.

To comply with Simcoe Muskoka Health Unit requirements, Quarterly Water Sample testing is done. This past October a site visit and inspection was carried out by the Health Unit. All is satisfactory but we are required to attend a training session on what procedures we need to be following with the Small Water System.

Project-wise, the area under the Penetanguishene Heritage Road sign had the flower bed relocated to make room for the monument recognizing 200 years of Christian Worship in our community. Although the monument was installed by Sandersons, the property committee prepared the area by installing additional Unistone and screenings to accommodate placement of the monument.

After the frustrating experience the last half of 2024 with the Lift not functioning many Sundays, the problems were finally resolved the first part of 2025. The existing maintenance contract expired at the end of the year and the next 3 years will see a new contractor servicing the Lift.

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

*Your Property Committee:*

Al Panting, Niel Hickling, Don Campbell, Brian Honey and Doug Roush

## Shining Waters Region Report

Shining Waters Region Council planned only one meeting during 2025 with it being held October 24 and Oct 25. It was held virtually only on Zoom. A Town Hall to prepare for this meeting was also held via Zoom on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. Much of the business part of the meeting was discussing the Ad Hoc Committee Report on the Review of Ministry and Funding Priorities. “The strongest and clearest priority named was support for existing communities of faith that are congregations – particularly through financial aid, collaboration, leadership development, and practical facilitation.” This aligns with the input from our congregation. The Ad Hoc Committee’s full report can be found on the Region Web site.

Dalston-Crown Hill congregation also submitted a proposal entitled “Financial Assistance to Shining Waters Congregations” which was seconded by Midhurst United Church and Coldwater Eady Pastoral Charge. This proposal called for distributing approximately \$33,000 to each of the Shining Waters Congregations without the need for any formal proposal. The money could be used to cover financial shortfalls or if not needed, be donated to local registered charities. It became evident that many, including the Executive, preferred a grant-based system over what we were proposing. On October 25th our proposal was turned down with a vote of 30 for, 47 against and 5 abstaining. Although disappointing, our proposal received a fair hearing, and it stimulated lots of discussion. The Ad Hoc Committee report was eventually “accepted” but it was decided that the 25 recommendations, which would have sweeping implications for the Region, would be discussed further at a Special Meeting held via Zoom on December 9<sup>th</sup>.

At the Special Meeting, it was decided that: Shining Waters Regional Council establish a pilot granting program in 2026 for congregations within Shining Waters to access program grants and capital grants of up to \$10,000, such program to follow the Funding Principals and application process as circulated, with a budget of up to \$300,000 to come from the Jubilee Designated Fund, and that the pilot granting program be evaluated and refined into an ongoing program for 2027.” “Funds will be designated for specific projects or programs, not for basic operating expenses.” Considering the resources of the Region, this is a very modest grant program which will only benefit a few of the 145 (2024 number) congregations in the Region, although many are suffering financial problems. The Ad Hoc Committee’s 25 recommendations were approved at this meeting.

It has been difficult to find out the assets the Region has available to support congregations. Jody Maltby, the Regional Staff Lead. Did indicate there was \$36M in a Property Trust and \$13.5M in Investments. These were to provide “Long Term Sustainable Income” for the Region. Jody’s numbers do not match the \$58.3M in assets identified in the 2024 CRA T3010 Registered Charity Report but there was no chance to ask questions on that aspect. Questions at the meetings are severely restricted. I did ask Jody in an email

about the differences in the financial reports, but she indicated it was complicated, and she could not provide an answer before the meetings on October 24-25, and she could not answer the same question posed at the meeting itself. I still have substantial concerns about the Region's financial reporting.

Communications sent out by the Region and General Council are forwarded to Leadership Team members. If you want to be included on this list, let the Region Rep know. I will not continue as Region Rep for 2026. 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. In this report, I have focused on activities specifically related to our congregation. You can find much more on the Web site.

Thanks to Joe Kelly who was the Alternate Rep for 2025.

George Isaac - Elected Lay Representative to Shining Waters Region for 2025

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### **North Simcoe Rural Cluster**

The North Simcoe Rural Cluster met January 8<sup>th</sup>, March 4<sup>th</sup>, and April 28<sup>th</sup> during 2025, with all meetings being held at Midhurst United Church. Minutes for these meetings are available upon request.

The formal membership consists of seven United Churches: Dalston-Crown Hill, Forest Home, Midhurst, Unity (Vasey), St. John's (Elmvale), St. Paul's (Midland), and Wyevale. St. John's is without a full-time ongoing minister. However, Rev. Kirsty Hunter, formally at now closed Minesing, started at St. Paul's, and Rev. Samuel Mavundu started at Unity in 2025.

The North Simcoe Rural Cluster organized a Presbytery-Like meeting for congregations in our area at Midhurst United on May 24<sup>th</sup>. Many Ministers miss the connections/conversations that occurred at former Living Waters Presbytery meetings, and this meeting helped fill that gap. The meeting was titled "Cluster Conversations." It was such a success that a second gathering was held for the same group at St. Paul's in Orilla on September 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Dalston-Crown Hill does the banking for the North Simcoe Rural Cluster, with a balance of \$2124 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.

## DALSTON UNION CEMETERY TRUSTEES

These trustees are responsible for holding in trust funds for administering and maintaining Dalston Union Cemetery. We would like to welcome Peter Partridge as a new trustee to our committee. The remaining members are: Joe Kelly - Chairperson, Scott Brown - Treasurer, Alvin Jory - Secretary, Corry Wursten, and Gary McLean. Al Panting is a liaison member to the Dalston Crown Hill United Church trustees. Our plots are available to 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 had four formal meetings to deal with the business of maintaining and servicing the cemetery. There were two cremation burials and one casket burial. Dignity Restored was hired to clean and restore twenty-five marble gravestones. They have been hired once again to restore another group of headstones. Alvin Jory and Scott Brown have continued to gather information about our cemetery records and enter them into our digital computer program. We are about 90% complete!

Our financial report shows we have two formal accounts. The first is our “working chequing account” and is used for the maintenance and upkeep of the cemetery. It is from this account we contribute \$1000 to Dalston Crown Hill U. C. for our share of the insurance costs. As of the end of November this account had a balance of \$20,000. Our second account is for investments, mainly G. I. C.’s, and is there for perpetual care of the cemetery.

In May we had our regular “Clean-Up” day in preparation for our Memorial Service held in June. There was considerable work to be done following the **ice storm** we had in April. On Sunday, June 1st, our Annual Memorial Service was held. Over thirty-five family members from the communities of Dalston, Crown Hill, Barrie, Midhurst, Craighurst, and the surrounding area attended. We would like to thank Al Panting for the candles of remembrance and Reverend Will Haughton for conducting the service. Our next service will be held on Sunday, June 7th and all members of the church and community are invited to attend.

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

Submitted by Joe Kelly

## 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 adjacent on the south side of Hospice Simcoe. It was one of the first cemeteries in this area and the resting place to the “Hickling ancestors”. All cemetery records were lost in a house fire back in the 1950’s and no perpetual maintenance funds exist. Proceeds from the sale of a portion of the cemetery property to Hospice Simcoe was invested to provide for care and maintenance of this cemetery. Trustees from the Dalston-Crown Hill United Church are responsible for this inactive cemetery.

The wooded portion has walking trails that are available for use by attendees at the Hospice facility. 2 picnic tables in the wooded area provide visitors the opportunity to stop and relax or meditate.

Normal grass cutting, trimming and dead tree removals/cleanup are performed on a regular basis. As the pine trees age, attention has to be given to ensure there is no danger of any falling and causing injury to walkers in the area.

The following summarizes the financials for 2025.

Expenses related to yard maintenance carried out by the Hickling family were \$339.00. The April Ice Storm necessitated the hiring of a tree removal contractor at a cost of \$1,638.50 to cut down a Black Walnut tree on the south property line. This tree had broken limbs hanging over neighbouring yards potentially damaging their properties and fences. The removal and clean up of the associated wood and brush was performed by the Trustees.

Liability Insurance on the cemetery is and has been covered under the Dalston-Crown Hill United Church policy. A \$1,000 contribution towards the cost of that policy was made in 2025.

Financial Position Dec 31, 2025

\$ 18,309.13 Current Chequing Account

\$121,440.98 14 Month GIC Maturity Jan 2027

\$ 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

## CHOIR REPORT 2025

The Ten Commandments are listed in two places in the Bible: Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5. With thought, many of us can recall most of them.

But, did you know that the Bible contains over 400 references to singing, and there are at least 50 places where we are invited, directed.....even commanded.....to sing?!

Music in our worship unites us in our beliefs, supports us knowing we are not alone, and reminds us that we are blessed to sing together in praise, in love, and in joy.

At DCH we are blessed to have experienced musicians, an enthusiastic loyal choir, and a caring congregation that enjoys singing together.

To all of you who enrich our services sharing your many talents....Vera, Eleanor, Brian, Sheila, Al, Sandy, Don, Janet, June, & Corry....THANK YOU!

And to all in our congregation who encourage the choir and who join us in hymns throughout the service....THANK YOU!

Singing and praising together.....hmmm, I wonder,

could this be the eleventh commandment? 🎵 🎵 🎵 🎵 🎵 🎵 🎵 🎵

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

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

They came from Barrie, Midhurst, Dalston, Crown Hill, and Orillia! They came from the townships of Oro Medonte and Springwater! The men of Dalston-Crown Hill United Church hosted **six** of these breakfasts. We were able to serve thirty to thirty-five men an excellent meal of eggs, sausages, home fries, toast, and beverages. The "Breakfast Team" of Al Panting, Don Campbell, Charles Style, Niel Hickling, Cameron Isaac, Corry Wursten, and Reverend Will did a great job in preparing and serving the meals.

This is an Outreach program for men of the Church and community. A "Free Will Offering" of over \$1800 was given to support the different activities and programs of the church. These breakfasts are held on a bi-monthly basis beginning in January. The next one will be on Wednesday March 18th and all men are welcome. We would like to thank the men of the congregations and communities for their continued support and hope to see you at our next breakfast.

Submitted by Joe Kelly

## **Dalston-Crown Hill Finance and Treasurer's Report for 2025 January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2025**

- 1) We ended 2025 with a surplus of \$4270. This compares to the 2024 surplus of \$15,923 and a 2023 surplus of \$4,861. Some bills related to the elevator repairs were not paid in 2024 because we were not satisfied with the contractor, Elevator One. These (approximately \$4500) were paid in 2025, so it is remarkable we ended the year well.
- 2) Our total givings (PAR, Collection Plate, eTransfers, Canada Helps, etc.) for 2025 were \$57,923 which compares with 2024 (\$59,028) and 2023 (\$53,423). It should be noted that \$2483 was donated through Canada Helps which automatically issues receipts. When paying by eTransfer, addresses are not conveyed with the donation which sometimes makes receipts difficult. Donors should always make sure the church knows their current address.
- 3) The number of Identified Givers to Local Church Expenses was 42, up from 41 in 2024 and 39 in 2023.
- 4) The number of givers to M&S was 5 which compares to 5 last year and 6 in 2023. The M&S donations in 2025 were \$3890 in comparison to \$3867 in 2024 and \$3610 in 2023.
- 5) Our Manse investment returned \$18,310 down from the \$26,760 in 2024 and considerably more than \$12,676 in 2023 and \$2,817 in 2022.
- 6) It should be mentioned that \$8069 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. With the reduction in the Bone Zone program, we will struggle to raise as much in 2026.
- 7) The \$345 donated for the Camping Fund in 2025 was sent to Camp Simpresca.
- 8) The GST/HST CRA rebate amount for 2024 expenses (\$2654) was higher than normal because of the roof painting and organ purchase in that year. It is the current practice to apply for the rebate after the books close for that year.
- 9) No capital expenses were recorded in 2025, but \$6373 was transferred from the Building Fund to our Chequing Account. It was necessary to wait until the Building Fund GICs matured in 2025 in order to repay all the 2024 capital expenses paid using our Chequing Account
- 10) Dalston-Crown Hill is managing/tracking the money for the North Simcoe Rural Cluster. As of December 31<sup>st</sup>, there was \$2124 in this account.
- 11) The chequing account bank balance for December 31<sup>st</sup> has been adjusted to reflect 2025 expenses or payments made in 2026.
- 12) Our healthy financial situation is due to generous financial donations from the congregation, as well as the efforts of many in fundraising.
- 13) 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 2025 Current, M&S, and Memorial donation amounts from her separate bookkeeping, Joe Kelly and Jim Partridge agreed to help the Treasurer in 2025 and have full access to our financial records online using QuickBooks, and the BMO funds. The Trustees participate in major decisions including managing our investments.

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

**Dalston-Crown Hill Income/Expense Summary**  
**January 1 to December 31, 2025**

Number of Identified Givers to Local Church Expenses - 42

Number of Households in the Above - 41

Number of Identified Givers to Mission and Service Fund - 5

| Income                                                                       | Actual             |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>BMO INTEREST</b>                                                          |                    |
| BMO Operating Savings                                                        | 517.77             |
| Building Fund                                                                | 3,961.30           |
| Credit Card Collateral                                                       | 54.82              |
| <b>COLLECTION</b>                                                            |                    |
| Canada Helps                                                                 | 2,483.00           |
| Current - Other                                                              | 46,330.00          |
| Loose                                                                        | 545.00             |
| Par                                                                          | 8,565.00           |
| Dr. William's Trust                                                          | 50.00              |
| Memorial Donations                                                           |                    |
| Jim Partridge                                                                | 1,499.06           |
| Bev Rawson                                                                   | 700.00             |
| Fundraising General (Murder Mystery, Coffee House)                           | 755.00             |
| GST/HST Rebate                                                               | 2,654.35           |
| Hall Use Other                                                               | 2,225.00           |
| Hall Use Bone Zone                                                           | 3,125.00           |
| Camping Fund                                                                 | 345.00             |
| Men's Breakfast                                                              | 1,974.00           |
| TUCC Manse Investment                                                        | 18,309.73          |
| <b>Total Income</b>                                                          | <b>\$94,094.03</b> |
| <b>Expense</b>                                                               |                    |
| 200th Anniversary (Georgian Copy, Sign, Monument, Decorations, Food)         | 1,816.96           |
| CALENDARS AND BROADVIEW                                                      | 119.06             |
| CHARGES ADP, BANK, PAR                                                       |                    |
| ADP                                                                          | 294.57             |
| BANK                                                                         | 65.01              |
| PAR                                                                          | 22.50              |
| GENERAL COMMITTEES                                                           |                    |
| Pastoral Care                                                                | 257.97             |
| Worship Decorations                                                          | 106.49             |
| Worship Fellowship                                                           | 27.75              |
| Worship One License                                                          | 282.75             |
| Worship Other                                                                | 22.58              |
| GIFTS                                                                        | 208.64             |
| INSURANCE (includes \$1000 from Lawrence Pioneer & Dalston Union Cemeteries) | 3,287.68           |
| MINISTER EXPENSES                                                            |                    |
| Total                                                                        | 6,594.64           |
| FH Portion                                                                   | -3,066.18          |

|                                              |                                                                                                                     |                     |
|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Minister Benefits</b>                     |                                                                                                                     |                     |
|                                              | <b>Minister ADP Benefits</b>                                                                                        | 22,389.20           |
|                                              | <b>Minister FH Benefit Portion</b>                                                                                  | -10,746.89          |
| <b>Minister Salary</b>                       |                                                                                                                     |                     |
|                                              | <b>Minister ADP Salary</b>                                                                                          | 88,343.16           |
|                                              | <b>Minister Salary FH Portion</b>                                                                                   | -42,705.25          |
| <b>Secretary Benefits</b>                    |                                                                                                                     | 46.56               |
| <b>Secretary Salary</b>                      |                                                                                                                     | 2,030.04            |
| <b>Supply Ministry</b>                       |                                                                                                                     |                     |
|                                              | <b>DCH Supply Ministry</b>                                                                                          | 756.29              |
|                                              | <b>FH Supply Ministry</b>                                                                                           | -455.18             |
|                                              | <b>Supply Minister Mileage</b>                                                                                      | 29.42               |
| <b>OFFICE EXPENSES</b>                       |                                                                                                                     |                     |
|                                              | <b>Stationary and Supplies</b>                                                                                      | 444.03              |
|                                              | <b>Postage and Delivery</b>                                                                                         | 0.00                |
| <b>PROPERTY COMMITTEE</b>                    |                                                                                                                     |                     |
|                                              | <b>Bell Internet</b>                                                                                                | 1,151.88            |
|                                              | <b>Cleaning Services</b>                                                                                            | 0.00                |
|                                              | <b>Elevator Expenses</b>                                                                                            | 6,517.20            |
|                                              | <b>Fuel</b>                                                                                                         | 2,908.96            |
|                                              | <b>Furnace</b>                                                                                                      | 243.84              |
|                                              | <b>Hydro</b>                                                                                                        | 1,180.24            |
|                                              | <b>Property Other (Carson Electric)</b>                                                                             | 791.00              |
|                                              | <b>Snow Removal (2024/2025)</b>                                                                                     | 840.00              |
|                                              | <b>Water</b>                                                                                                        | 440.00              |
|                                              | <b>Youth Expense</b>                                                                                                | 345.00              |
|                                              | <b>TECHNOLOGY (Upsight &amp; Sound, Computer Software)</b>                                                          | 1,692.97            |
|                                              | <b>UNITED CHURCH ASSESSMENT (Q1, Q2, Q3, &amp; Q4)</b>                                                              | 3,541.00            |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>                        |                                                                                                                     | <b>\$89,823.89</b>  |
| <b>NET INCOME</b>                            |                                                                                                                     | <b>\$4,270.14</b>   |
| <b>M&amp;S</b>                               |                                                                                                                     |                     |
|                                              | <b>Envelope</b>                                                                                                     | \$2,555.00          |
|                                              | <b>PAR M&amp;S</b>                                                                                                  | \$1,335.00          |
|                                              | <b>Total Remitted to UCC</b>                                                                                        | <b>\$3,890.00</b>   |
|                                              | <b>Building Fund Transfer into Chequing covering last year expenses</b>                                             | <b>\$6,373.47</b>   |
|                                              | <b>Building Fund Expense for 2025</b>                                                                               | <b>\$0.00</b>       |
| <b>Bank Balances as of November 30, 2025</b> |                                                                                                                     |                     |
|                                              | <b>BMO Chequing</b>                                                                                                 | <b>\$36,915.18</b>  |
|                                              | <b>BMO Investment Savings</b>                                                                                       | <b>\$27,500.05</b>  |
|                                              | <b>BMO Building Fund</b>                                                                                            | <b>\$15,895.22</b>  |
|                                              | <b>BMO Investment for Credit Card Collateral</b>                                                                    | <b>\$2,054.82</b>   |
|                                              | <b>BMO Building Fund: Two 12 month GICs: \$24,000, and \$50,000.<br/>Interest Rate 2.75%. Mature 22 April 2026.</b> | <b>\$74,000.00</b>  |
|                                              | <b>BMO Investment North Simcoe Rural Cluster Funds</b>                                                              | <b>\$2,123.54</b>   |
|                                              | <b>Manse Investment with TUCC</b>                                                                                   | <b>\$281,688.32</b> |

**Dalston Crown Hill Pastoral Charge Finance Statement  
Budget 2026**

|                                                      | 2025 Budget | 2025 Actual | 2026 Budget |
|------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>INCOME</b>                                        | \$          | \$          | \$          |
| <b>Offerings (Current, Loose, PAR)</b>               | 55,000      | 57,923      | 55,000      |
| <b>Special Donations</b>                             |             |             |             |
| <b>Outreach/Bequests/Memorials</b>                   | 1,000       | 2,199       | 1,000       |
| <b>Bank Interest</b>                                 | 4,000       | 4,534       | 3,000       |
| <b>Dr. Williams Fund</b>                             | 50          | 50          | 50          |
| <b>Fundraising Activities</b>                        |             |             |             |
| <b>Miscellaneous Fundraising</b>                     | 1,200       | 755         | 1,000       |
| <b>Men's Breakfast</b>                               | 1,800       | 1,974       | 1,800       |
| <b>GST/HST Rebate</b>                                | 1,500       | 2,654       | 1,500       |
| <b>Youth</b>                                         | 250         | 345         | 250         |
| <b>Hall Use (Bone Zone, Community Use, etc.)</b>     | 4,500       | 5,350       | 3,500       |
| <b>Manse Investment</b>                              | 20,000      | 18,310      | 18,500      |
| <b>INCOME TOTAL</b>                                  | \$89,300    | \$94,094    | \$85,600    |
|                                                      |             |             |             |
|                                                      | 2025 Budget | 2025 Actual | 2026 Budget |
| <b>EXPENDITURES</b>                                  | \$          | \$          | \$          |
| <b>Bank Charge, ADP, PAR</b>                         | 600         | 382         | 600         |
| <b>100/200th Anniversary Celebrations</b>            | 0           | 1,817       |             |
| <b>Broadview, Calenders</b>                          | 0           | 119         |             |
| <b>Benevolent Funds</b>                              | 300         | 0           | 100         |
| <b>Gifts Given</b>                                   | 200         | 209         | 300         |
| <b>Honorarium</b>                                    | 500         | 0           | 500         |
| <b>COMMITTEES</b>                                    |             |             |             |
| <b>Communication</b>                                 | 200         | 0           | 100         |
| <b>Christian Ed &amp; Faith Formation (Camp/Gen)</b> | 0           | 0           | 50          |
| <b>Pastoral Care &amp; Membership</b>                | 600         | 258         | 600         |
| <b>Decorations</b>                                   | 250         | 106         | 200         |
| <b>Property (General)</b>                            | 1,600       | 791         | 1,600       |
| <b>Property (Elevator)</b>                           | 8,000       | 6,517       | 2,000       |
| <b>Property (Snow Removal)</b>                       | 500         | 840         | 750         |
| <b>Trustees</b>                                      |             | 0           |             |
| <b>Worship: General i.e. Communion</b>               | 200         | 23          | 200         |
| <b>Worship: Fellowship</b>                           | 100         | 28          | 100         |
| <b>Worship: Music/License</b>                        | 300         | 283         | 300         |
| <b>Worship: Supply Ministry</b>                      | 1,000       | 331         | 850         |
| <b>Youth</b>                                         | 250         | 345         | 250         |

|                                                                                                    |                                 |                 |                 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| <b>Insurance</b>                                                                                   | <b>5,000</b>                    | <b>5,288</b>    | <b>6,000</b>    |
| <b>Insurance Cemetery Contributions</b>                                                            | <b>-1,000</b>                   | <b>-2,000</b>   | <b>-2,000</b>   |
| <b>Minister Expenses</b>                                                                           |                                 |                 |                 |
| <b>Travel Expense</b>                                                                              | <b>1,600</b>                    | <b>2,133</b>    | <b>2,000</b>    |
| <b>Telephone</b>                                                                                   | <b>690</b>                      | <b>600</b>      | <b>690</b>      |
| <b>Office Expenses</b>                                                                             | <b>100</b>                      | <b>0</b>        | <b>200</b>      |
| <b>Con Ed \$1733/2 for 2026</b>                                                                    | <b>845</b>                      | <b>755</b>      | <b>867</b>      |
| <b>Expense Adjustments</b>                                                                         | <b>0</b>                        | <b>-92</b>      | <b>0</b>        |
| <b>Other Expenses</b>                                                                              | <b>200</b>                      | <b>131</b>      | <b>200</b>      |
| <b>Salary Rev. Will</b>                                                                            | <b>45,640</b>                   | <b>45,638</b>   | <b>46,825</b>   |
| <b>Minister Benefits (Pension, EI, CPP, Insurance)</b>                                             | <b>11,845</b>                   | <b>11,642</b>   | <b>12,652</b>   |
| <b>Secretary COLA 2.6%</b>                                                                         | <b>2,030</b>                    | <b>2,030</b>    | <b>2,083</b>    |
| <b>Secretary Benefits (EI)</b>                                                                     | <b>35</b>                       | <b>47</b>       | <b>49</b>       |
| <b>Leadership Team Secretary Expenses</b>                                                          | <b>100</b>                      | <b>0</b>        | <b>100</b>      |
| <b>Postage and Delivery</b>                                                                        | <b>50</b>                       | <b>0</b>        | <b>50</b>       |
| <b>Shining Waters Region Assessment</b>                                                            | <b>3,541</b>                    | <b>3,541</b>    | <b>4,089</b>    |
| <b>Stationary &amp; Supplies</b>                                                                   | <b>400</b>                      | <b>444</b>      | <b>500</b>      |
| <b>Technology</b>                                                                                  | <b>1,300</b>                    | <b>1,693</b>    | <b>2,000</b>    |
| <b>UTILITIES</b>                                                                                   |                                 |                 |                 |
| <b>Fuel</b>                                                                                        | <b>2,000</b>                    | <b>2,909</b>    | <b>2,500</b>    |
| <b>Furnace Service</b>                                                                             | <b>250</b>                      | <b>244</b>      | <b>300</b>      |
| <b>Hydro</b>                                                                                       | <b>1,200</b>                    | <b>1,180</b>    | <b>1,200</b>    |
| <b>Bell Hub/Internet</b>                                                                           | <b>1,100</b>                    | <b>1,152</b>    | <b>1,200</b>    |
| <b>Water</b>                                                                                       | <b>500</b>                      | <b>440</b>      | <b>500</b>      |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>                                                                          | <b>\$92,026</b>                 | <b>\$89,824</b> | <b>\$90,505</b> |
|                                                                                                    |                                 |                 |                 |
| <b>SURPLUS / DEFICIT</b>                                                                           | <b>-\$2,726</b>                 | <b>\$4,270</b>  | <b>-\$4,905</b> |
| <b>The 2026 projected Deficit will be covered using funds in our Chequing and Savings Accounts</b> |                                 |                 |                 |
| <b>Total Mission &amp; Service</b>                                                                 | <b>\$3,600</b>                  | <b>\$3,890</b>  | <b>\$3,600</b>  |
|                                                                                                    |                                 |                 |                 |
|                                                                                                    | <b>2026 Capital Costs</b>       |                 |                 |
|                                                                                                    | <b>UV System for Water</b>      |                 | <b>\$2,000</b>  |
|                                                                                                    | <b>Property-Church Entrance</b> |                 | <b>\$5,000</b>  |

## NOMINATION COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2026

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 2026

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 - Janet Isaac

Member at Large - Nancy Partridge

Member at 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, (Treasurer)

Corry Wursten, Alvin Jory, Al Panting, Gary McLean, Peter Partridge

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

Region Representative:

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

F. H. Members, update to come

### Ad Hoc Committees

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

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

Mission and Outreach: Pat Richards

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

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

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

Vera Cloes (Music), June Sanderson, Sandra Roush

Decorations: Janet Isaac, Janet Panting, Cameron Isaac

Respectfully Submitted by: Joe Kelly, Janet Isaac, Susan Kelly