

Building on a firm foundation,

Stamford Lane United Church

**celebrates God's presence,
follows Christ's teachings and reaches out to all people
through
sharing the Word, sacrament, fellowship, and music
within
a supportive, caring and accepting community.**



Annual Reports/Financial Statements

2025

Linda Bruch
Shannon Fisher
Bryanna Johnson
Maggie Kilts
Leslie Maddalena
Sara Maida-Nicol
Lucie McCarthy
Kevin Monteith
Tiffany Sacco
Rev. Harvey Tobey

Welcome & Worship

March 1, 2026 @ 10:00

Call to Worship and Meeting

Worship with Stamford Lane United Church Council Leadership

Worship and Work with the church together in the Sanctuary

- *... **Motion to accept Minutes** of the annual meeting of Stamford Lane United Church
February 16, 2025 (as presented/amended)... pages 6-15

With the following changes: Two correction to the Mission Chart on page 22 of the 2024 Annual Report
Our donation of \$1,500.00 to the Niagara Nutrition Partners was omitted from the report and the Good News Unit total
donation was written as \$100.00, it should have been \$1,000.00

Questions.

Moved by

Seconded by

Action:

- *... **Motion to accept Minutes** of the special meeting of Stamford Lane United Church
August 31, 2025 (as presented/amended)...pages 16-20

Questions.

Moved by

Seconded by

Action:

- *... **Motion to accept Stamford Lane United Church Reports for 2025...**pages 1-5, 21-39

Questions.

Moved by

Seconded by

Action:

- *... **Motion to accept Stamford Lane United Financial Reports for 2025...** pages 39-42

Questions.

Moved by

Seconded by

Action:

New Business -

- *... **Motion to accept Proposed 2026 Budget & Mission & Service Goal**pages 43-44

Questions.

Moved by

Seconded by

Action:

Call for Nominations: x3

- *... **Motion to elect the Council members of Stamford Lane United Church and Executive as
Presented this day**, -as well as trustees, delegates and representatives as presented, pages 3,4,5,
with great thanks to, Wesley Bean, Dennis Gilmore, Paisley Janvary-Pool, Kristyn Wilson-
Schram and with the following changes:

Moved by

Seconded by

Action:

- *... **Motion to enable Council to conduct the business** of Stamford Lane United Church in the name
of Jesus, Saviour and Head of the church, and that any urgent matters may be dealt with by the
Council or Executive by email, zoom or in person as able.

Moved by

Seconded by

Action:

- *... **Motion to Adjourn** Moved by

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Message from Council Chair

It's been an incredible year of change at Stamford Lane United Church. We bid a fond farewell to our beloved minister of 29 years, Rev. Harvey Tobey, and our hard working search committee found us a new minister, Rev. Doug Neufeld, who we look forward to welcoming in January 2026.

The strength of our church family was in full display at our grand retirement celebration for Rev. Harvey on April 27th and the fun filled 100th Anniversary celebrations on June 8th. It was amazing to see the fellowship and everyone having such a fun time, especially on the slide and at the ice cream truck!

We've been blessed by having so many people assist with services and sermons over the summer months, and I want to extend our deepest thanks to Glad Klassen and Rev. Gwen Nicol-Macdonald for stepping up and providing excellent ministry and sermons, especially during the Christmas season.

We had a big change occur in our basement this year, with the Bargain Boutique, Transitions, Sewing Group and DSBN all switching rooms, which seems to have worked out to be the best for everyone.

Once again all our special events such as the Garage Sale & Turkey Supper were well attended and raised some significant revenue for the work of our Church.

I've been thrilled to continue to see new faces at our services & events and I can't stress enough the importance of taking the time to introduce yourself, welcoming these newcomers to our church, and thanking them for joining us. That is how we will grow and put our best foot forward. This is especially important to remember as we've had to mourn the passing of so many beloved members of our church family in 2025.

I continue to be impressed by the dedicated council members and volunteers, who work diligently in various committees and groups to make our Church a better place for everyone.

There are many wonderful reports here to help you gain a better understanding of all the great work being done by your Church family, and I encourage you to read them all.

I'm honoured to have been your chairman for the past year and see a bright future ahead for us, with our strong congregation, outstanding building and a vibrant new minister joining us.

May God Continue to Bless Us All.

Sincerely,

Dan Taylor, Council Chairman

2025 Stamford Lane United Church Statistics

Membership Roll as of December 31, 2024	263
Received by Profession of Faith & Transfer	3
Received by Action of Council	1
Removed by Death	9
Transferred out by request	4
Membership Roll as of December 31, 2025	254

Families under Stamford Lane United Church Pastoral Charge	240
Families who contribute financially to the operation of Stamford Lane United	180
Families who support the Mission & Service of the United Church	51
Average Attendance Website/Youtube Oct/Nov	65
Average Attendance In House Oct/Nov	113
Facebook Average Attendance Oct/Nov	55
Facebook Sunday Live followers	339

Stamford Lane Council 2025

Minister: Rev. Harvey Tobey
Past-Chair: Bryce Anderson
Treasurer: Ray Marshall

Chair: Dan Taylor
Vice-Chair: Bryce Anderson
Administrative Assistant: Leslie Maddalena

ARNOTT, Anne
BEAN, Wes
BROWN, Don
CHAPPLE, Herb
COLE, Barbara
COWAN, Sandra
DAVIS, Alastair
FARQUHARSON, Jeff
FAST, Paul
FOSTER, Will
GUERIN, Patrick
HACKETT, Jacki
HARRIS, Janet
JARVIS, Carole
JANVARY-POOL, Paisley
JOHNSON, Bryanna
LAND, Peter
LAPP, Vivian
LENNOX, Marion

MacDONNELL, Mary
MACKENZIE, Joan
MAIDA-NICOL, Sara
MALEKZADEH, Afshin
MONTEITH, Carolyn
MONTEITH, Dan
NICOL, Bobby
PATERSON, Ginny
RISTO, Nancy
SAUDER, Carol
SAUDER, Jim
SCHMAGALA, Mary
STEIP, Al
VERROCHE, Kevin
WALKER, Donna
WHITE, Cindy
YOUNG, David
YOUNG, Dawn

Stamford Lane Trustees

ANDERSON, Bryce
ARNOTT, Anne
DEMPSEY, Mary-(Chair)
GILMORE, Dennis

JANVARY-POOL, Paisley
LENNOX, Marion
MACKENZIE, Joan
ZAVITZ, Tim

Horseshoe Falls Regional Council:
Representative: Ray Marshall
Representative: Nancy Risto
Alternate: Dan Monteith
Clergy: Rev. Harvey Tobey
Rev. Lorraine Davis
Rev. Gwen Nicol-Macdonald
Rev. Roy Nicol-Macdonald
Rev. Doug Mitchell

Extension Council:
Representative: Afshin Malekzadeh
Cave Springs Camp Representatives:
Representative: Carol Sauder
Representative: Vivian Lapp

Director of Music Sara Maida-Nicol
Music Accompanist Linda Bruch
Director Bell Choir Laura Sparkman
Custodian Lucie McCarthy
Custodian Shannon Fisher
Custodian Kevin Monteith

Communication Assist. Bryanna Johnson
Children's Ministry Maggie Kilts
Sunday School Tiffany Sacco
Turkey Team Afshin Malekzadeh
Women's Group Vivian Lapp,
Suzanne Parnell

Council Committees 2025

** executive * committee member only

Minister: **Rev. Harvey Tobey
Past-Chair: **Bryce Anderson
Treasurer: **Ray Marshall

Chair: **Dan Taylor
Vice-Chair: **Bryce Anderson
Administrative Assistant: **Leslie Maddalena

Christian Education

Co Chair: **Sandra Cowan
Co Chair: **Sara Maida-Nicol
Vivian Lapp
Mary MacDonnell Carol Sauder
Nancy Risto Mary Schmagala

Finance

Chair: **Afshin Malekzadeh
**Ray Marshall – Treasurer
**Anne Arnott
**Bryce Anderson
Wes Bean
Herb Chapple
Jacki Hackett
Marion Lennox
**Leslie Maddalena--Treasurer
Kevin Verroche

Mission and

Outreach

Chair: **Alastair
Davis
Mary Dempsey Carolyn Monteith
Jeff Farquharson Ginny Paterson
Will Foster Cindy White
*Gail Goar
*Mary Ann Harrison

Bargain Boutique-sub committee

Chair: Ginny Paterson Alastair Davis

*Joanne Brown *Bonnie Fletcher
Herb Chapple

Ministry and Personnel

Chair: **Anne Arnott
**Bryce Anderson
Barbara Cole
Paul Fast
Paisley Janvary Pool
Nancy Risto
Cindy White

Property

Chair: **Dan Monteith
**Bryce Anderson *Dan MacDonnell
Cris Beal Joan MacKenzie
Don Brown *Mike Sandercock
*Doug Craig Jim Sauder
Patrick Guerin Dan Taylor

Rental

Chair: **Paisley Janvary-Pool
Don Brown Barbara Cole
**Ray Marshall
Sara Maida-Nicol Anne Arnott

Worship and Congregational Concerns

Chair: ** Barbara Cole
Paul Fast Peter Land
*Joanne Fast Marion Lennox
Janet Harris Sara Maida-Nicol
Carole Jarvis Al Steip
Donna Walker

Audio/Visual

Co Chair: *Dan MacDonnell
Co Chair: **Bryce Anderson
Paul Fast Afshin Malekzadeh
Bryanna Johnson Bobby Nicol

In Touch

Co Chair: *Diane Becken
Co-Chair: **Ray Marshall
Barbara Cole *Lynn Marshall
Jacki Hackett Carolyn Monteith
*Mary Ann Harrison Donna Walker
Paisley Janvary-Pool Dawn Young
David Young

The Council Chairperson is an ex-officio member of all committees.
The Minister is an ex-officio member of all committees, except Ministry and Personnel

Proposed Council 2026

Nominated to February 2027: Donald Brown, Janet Harris, Carole Jarvis, Bryanna Johnson, Leslie Maddalena, Sara Maida-Nicol, Ray Marshall, Dan Monteith, Nancy Risto, Donna Walker

Until February 2028: Bryce Anderson, Anne Arnott, Herb Chapple, Sandra Cowan, Alastair Davis, Jeff Farquharson, Patrick Guerin, Jacki Hackett, Peter Land, Vivian Lapp, Marion Lennox, Joan MacKenzie, Afshin Malekzadeh, Mary Schmagala, Kevin Verroche, Cindy White

Until February 2029: Barbara Cole, Paul Fast, Will Foster, Mary MacDonnell, Carolyn Monteith, Bobby Nicol, Ginny Paterson, Carol Sauder, Jim Sauder, Al Steip, Dan Taylor, Dawn Young, David Young

and anyone who volunteers by March 1, 2026.

Board of Trustees:

Bryce Anderson, Anne Arnott, Mary Dempsey, (Chair), Marion Lennox, Joan MacKenzie, Tim Zavitz.

Horseshoe Falls Regional Council:

Representative: Ray Marshall

Representative: Nancy Risto

Alternates: Dan Monteith

Clergy: Rev. Doug Neufeld
Rev. Roy Nicol-Macdonald
Rev. Gwen Nicol-Macdonald

Extension Council:

Afshin Malekzadeh-Representative

Cave Springs Camp Representatives:

Carol Sauder

Vivian Lapp

Stamford Lane United Church

Sunday, February 16, 2025 Annual Meeting

Prelude We are One in The Spirit,
We are One in The Lord.
We are One in The Spirit,
We are One in The Lord.
And we pray that all unity
may one day be restored.

Welcome : Dan Taylor – Vice Chair of Council 10:00

I declare this annual meeting open for all business that may
come before us in the name of Jesus, the head of the church.

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Hallelujah, hallelujah!

Call to worship Mary Dempsey – Trustees

I am here on behalf of the Trustees. I am privileged to serve alongside: Bryce Anderson, Anne Arnott, Dennis Gilmore, Marion Lennox, Paisley Janvary-Pool, Joan MacKenzie, Paul Patterson, Tim Zavitz, and Reverend Tobey. Unfortunately, I have to announce today that Paul Patterson has resigned as a Trustee. Paul has been a valuable member of the Trustees for many years. We thank him, and we certainly appreciate his many contributions to the Church in this role.

Welcome to this place of love and grace.

Jesus invites us into loving community.

The Holy Spirit leads us in hope and perseverance.

We come as Bold Disciples,

We come seeking Daring Justice,

We come with Deep Spirituality.

We worship God together.

Candle of Hope Jacki Hackett for Diane Becken – In Touch Committee

(Remembering those who died in 2024 page 18 of the Annual Report)

Rev. Harvey read the names to honour them today.

Deep in our hearts there is a common purpose;
deep in our hearts there is a common goal;
deep in our hearts there is a sacred message,
justice and peace in harmony.

Life and work of the Church

Rev. Harvey welcome everyone in house and watching from home.

There are corrections to be made to the Annual Report:

Page 21: Vivian Lapp's name was listed as Vivian Ward in error and Noreen Bradshaw's name was listed as Maureen Bradshaw.

Back Page: Date for Maundy Thursday should be April 17th and the date for Good Friday should be April 18th. The Good Friday service will be held here at Stamford Lane.

Thanks to the people who have filled in to create wonderful services while Rev. Harvey was away.

Thank you as well to everyone for their support, to the staff team and choir and to the worship team under the direction of Barbara Cole.

Rainbow ringers Mary Dempsey

The Rainbow Ringers are a small group of dedicated musicians. We practice on Monday evenings from 6:30 to 7:30pm.

We played in church in June and again during advent and Sharon played three belltree solos this year.

Our choir members are Dan Monteith, Ray Marshall, Shani Waller, Carolyn Montieth, June Chevalier, Sharon MacDonnell, Mary Dempsey and Bryanna Johnson. We have a wonderful Director, Laura Sparkman.

We are looking forward to attending the Ontario Guild of English Handbell Ringer's Festival at Mohawk College in June 2025.

We would love to have more ringers. If you are willing to learn, we are willing to teach!

Submitted by Sharon MacDonnell

Dan Monteith – Property

Your property committee is working diligently to keep your Church building healthy. There's a group of 7 that meet most Tuesdays between 10:00 and 1:00, but it doesn't stop there. Many of us visit the building several times a week to check on it's status or assist with cleaning, brush removal, yard maintenance and so on. Ray Marshall, Don Brown, Dan MacDonnell and Michael Sandercock are among the hardworking individuals in the said category. I'd like to thank 'everyone' on the Property Committee for their time and efforts in maintaining and beautifying your Church build. If anyone would like to join us on a Monday or another day let me know. P.S.: if you see something, even a piece of paper on the floor, please pick it up. Many hands make light work. We've received a grant from the 'Ontario Anti-Hate Security and Prevention Program' for \$7500 and we're actively receiving quotes to upgrade the security system.

We also received a grant from the 'UCC's Niagara Extension Council' for \$5000 which the property committee feels would be best used for the outside sign repair. The expenditures, of which, have already been approved by council. The quotes for the sign work are yet to be finalized.

We will need Councils permission to use the said 'grant money' as mentioned.

Finally: There have been some quotes received for our main door replacement but they seem to be quite high, therefore your Property Committee is looking at ways to overhaul the existing doors when the weather is on our side.

Respectfully submitted: Dan Monteith, Property Chairperson

Anne Arnott - Ministry and Personnel

2024 was a busy year for the M&P Committee. We had new members join our team, additional staff were hired and the announcement by Rev. Harvey that he was retiring.

Thank you to our committee members Dan Taylor, Paul Fast, Jacki Hackett, Nancy Risto, and our long time member and consultant Paisley Janvary-Pool. Must also thank our treasurer Ray Marshall for the many calculations that were done for us.

Our committee and congregation is blessed to have such a caring and hard working staff. A pat on the back goes to Lucie, Sara, Linda, Leslie, Bryanna, Shannon, Maggie and Tiffany. A very special thank you to Rev Harvey. During his 28

years here at Stamford Lane, he has built us a very solid and strong foundation. 2025 will have changes and challenges but remember our congregation has so many positive attributes to be thankful for as we move forward. Let's have a round of applause for our great and amazing team!

Alastair---Search Committee

Good morning, everyone. We are members of your Search Committee, but not ALL the members. As you know, we lost Jane a few month ago. Even so, we light a change for her when we meet, so that her spirit of selfless service to this church will remain with us until the work of the Committee is complete.

We have been working behind the scenes to find a successor to Harvey; not a replacement, because he can never be replaced, but rather someone who fits the needs of this congregation, and who can help us grow in those areas that you yourselves have identified most important to you.

We understand that there are a lot questions surrounding the search process. Hopefully, as a result of what I am about to say, you will better understand what we are doing.

Harvey announced his intention to retire in February of 2024.

Our Community of Faith Profile was created, along with a description of the qualifications for the job of leading this congregation into the future. That took about two months before this Committee was formed, and it was placed on the UCC website called Church Hub, and advertised in the UCC publication "Broadview".

This Committee was formed in April of 2024. Our first meeting was on April 24th, 2024.

Before we could do anything, we were required by UCC policy to attend live, on line training as a search committee. That training was available only on certain dates. We attended the first available training session which was on May 21st, 2024.

Each of us reviewed the UCC Search Committee manual and precedents (about 200 pages).

Each of us learned how to navigate the UCC service designed to match ministers looking for work and congregations looking for ministers: called Church Hub. Every minister who is hired by a congregation must first be vetted by the UCC, and only then is allowed to register on Church Hub. They post their resumes and profiles and answers to a series of questions that allow search committees an opportunity to make an initial assessment about whether they may be a suitable candidate to interview.

There are over 200 profiles on Church Hub at any given time, and it updates regularly. And we review it regularly.

To assess candidates, we weigh their qualifications against the qualities that you identified as important. Those include: working with families and youth, love of music, passion for pastoral care, preaching a liberal theology, ability to adapt and lead through different situations, commitment to community outreach and leadership, focus on Christian education, a talent for storytelling and a healthy sense of humour.

So, we divide up those couple of hundred profiles on Church Hub, and bring our recommendations back to the Committee. We also discuss candidates who are not currently on Church Hub, but who we feel might be persuaded to register on Church Hub so that they become an eligible candidate according to the UCC rules.

We then search for videos of the most promising candidates to hear them preach. We watch and listen, sometimes on our own, and sometimes together, and then discuss the candidates and whether they meet the needs of this congregation. If we feel, unanimously, that the candidate has a legitimate chance of being offered this position, then we invite them for an interview. Sometimes via Zoom, if distance is an obstacle, and sometimes in person.

That invitation is a very sensitive communication because everyone registered on Church Hub expects complete privacy, and each one of us on this Committee has signed a Confidentiality Agreement in which we are sworn to maintain the privacy of potential candidates. Any communications with candidates must be done carefully; sometimes by email, sometimes by text, sometimes by phone; and replies are not always immediate. So we must wait.

Before we interview anyone, the Committee meets to craft interview questions designed to learn as much as possible about the particular candidate being interviewed in relation to the priorities required for the job.

Each interview requires careful planning, co-ordination of schedules and venues, and sometimes arranging travel and accommodation for the candidate.

After each interview, the Committee meets to de-brief, to discuss our impressions, and our concerns.

Throughout this process, we must remain mindful of the UCC Search Committee protocols respecting the privacy of the candidates. Those protocols also require that we be as transparent as possible with you about the search process, without compromising the privacy of the candidates and violating our sworn duty to maintain confidentiality. That is a delicate balance.

Up to now, we have told you only that our work is proceeding because that is all that we really can say. And it is proceeding. This Committee works very well together. We come from diverse backgrounds. We have created a safe environment to share freely our opinions, and concerns regarding various candidates. Our decisions are made unanimously. It has been a privilege to work together, and we look forward to completing what we started.

We hope that you now have a more complete appreciation of what we have done, what we are continuing to do, and why doing it well requires so much more time than any of us expected. We hope, also, that you now understand better why, if you ask us, we cannot be more specific about our progress. You will know that our job is done only when we report that it is done; and you will know that it was done well.

Thanks you for your ongoing support, understanding, co-operation, and patience as we continue our work towards finding the right person to lead us into the future, together.

Offertory Anthem Siyahamba

Offertory Hymn

Much more than talk of thoughts and prayers,
We hope to live a faith that dares,
And work for peace and justice too,
then will our prayers bring joy to you.

Offertory Prayer Ray Marshall - Treasurer

Time for Growing Souls

Rev. Harvey welcomed Ronald Murphy, Donna Henry and Teresa Cole as the newest members of Stamford Lane United Church

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the church:

to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.**

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

Sandra Cowan - Christian Education

Christian Education and Development oversees and plans for all things children. We support Sunday School and this year we hired two amazing enthusiastic teachers, Tiffany Sacco and Maggie Kilts. We plan special events and support the Summer Music/Art camp. We work closely in tandem with Sara as she plans for our children as well. For instance, her Halloween choir party, included all church children at large. We always welcome volunteers for events and would be pleased to have you volunteer at one of many of our events.

Hymn 679 Let there be light,
let there be understanding,
let all the nations gather,
let them be face to face;

Sermon Your Church Rev. Harvey Tobey

The follow are notes that Rev. Harvey read from a newsletter from the year 2000

Revelation

"To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands: "I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance. I know that you cannot tolerate evildoers; you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them to be false. I also know that you are enduring patiently and bearing up for the sake of my name, and that you have not grown weary.

But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. Remember then from what you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent.

Yet this is to your credit: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches. To everyone who conquers, I will give permission to eat from the tree of life that is in the paradise of God.

To the People of Stamford (Lane) United Church

I have watched you grow, during the past 50 years from a small church building with dark Sunday School rooms in the basement, with only a very tiny kitchen and a small meeting room just behind the Sanctuary, to your present building more than twice the size, church offices and a modern kitchen. You now have large bright Sunday school rooms in the lower floor.

You have grown in numbers with many new families joining, bringing many children too. It is a joy to see them each week enjoying a story just for themselves before leaving for classes. The hungry have been fed, clothes given to those who were cold, many were helped in many different ways, both in your area and in far off places. Your volunteers continue to work at all times.

You have been saddened by the passing of many good people but you must believe they are with you in spirit and love. The ministry of music is one of the best, and above all you have had excellent spiritual leadership over these 50 years, and this continues on a high level today.

An appreciation Letter to Stamford First United Church

Stamford United was the first United Church after union. The first annual report was from March 31 to December 31, 1927. Rev. A. Graham was the pastor. There were 111 members on the roll on March 31 and 117 on December 31, 1927. There was a strong Methodist beginning. We had more Methodist members than Presbyterian. We were influenced by their strict beliefs. Each minister presented a different outlook on the bible. We didn't question their teachings and tried to follow their Christian beliefs. They were strict, perhaps for the best, we sure didn't get into much trouble.

Our life was built around the church. As youngsters we learned how to conduct meetings, behave, stand up and recite memory verses, become leaders, sing in choirs, cook at CGIT meetings, run bazaars, wait on tables, help the elderly, work with young people, organize events. We had lots of fun times to look back on. Our church has always been strong Mission supporter, having had many missionaries as speakers home on furlough.

Politics has entered into our services, ministers have become more modern in their thinking and I feel a change is good for us. We have to look to the future with hope, knowing our church will be in good hands, by the younger thinking ministers. We have a challenge to carry on the work and devotion and sacrifices, made by the founders of Stamford United Church, who had the courage and fortitude to start a new church.

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Adapted from Communion Liturgies for the Whole People of God *by Alydia Smith*

The Children of the Church and Rev. Harvey: Worship and Congregational Concerns

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts;

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to God!

It is right to give God our thanks and praise!

For you created the heavens, earth, and all that is in them:
you cast sunbeams through the snow, open eyes and ears,
to see and know that You could sustain all of your creation.

But you asked us to be your people.

Thank-you for the wonders of creation and for your great trust in us. Thank you for bold disciples, daring Justice, and deep spirituality as we continue building your kingdom.

Though humanity sometimes weeps,

We wait lovingly for you, God.

We still need you to be God.

We praise you for Jesus, Christ, who lives among us
as a teacher, healer, and friend,
giving us a sacred path to follow.

Eternal as your love, is our bond to one another.
We rejoice with all your people of every time and place,
and with choirs of 100 years,
we proclaim the glory of your name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one
Who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

On the night before Jesus died,
he took a loaf of bread,
gave thanks, broke it, and said,
“Take and eat; whenever you do this, remember me.”
After supper, Jesus took the cup, saying,
“This is the new covenant, remember me.”

We do remember.
In sharing this meal, we live out the mystery of our faith:

**Christ has died
Christ is risen
Christ will come again.**

Holy Mystery, God the Spirit,
we call on you to transform these familiar things,
as you continually transform the world around us,
empowering us to faithfully share your love with all of creation.
Bless this bread and this cup we hold,
the wheat and the grape, the seed and the sower,
all who taste and see.

That we might catch a glimpse of what it is to be
in communion with you and with one another,
this day, for tomorrow.

Through Christ, in Christ, and with Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory is yours, God most holy,
now and forever.
Our Father....

Breaking the Bread, Pouring the Cup

The body of Christ, the bread of life.
The cup of blessing. Remember Him.

Anthem *Teo Ordinario*

Prayer after Communion

Alastair Davis - Mission and Outreach

Your Mission & Outreach Committee had a very successful year with the active support and participation of you our Congregation.

We are a caring, giving and responsible church supporting people internationally and locally.

We continue to take actions that are having a significant positive IMPACT for our neighbours.

Mission/Service donations were strong as usual supporting important church projects nationally and in many other countries

Pancake Lunch - supporting the Niagara Falls Soup kitchen in 2024 and also in 2025. Next pancake lunch is March 2nd sales start after church today in the gym

Garage sale - proceeds to Pathstone Children's help support a new program. Thank you for the items donated and all the volunteers.

CNOY Walk- raised over \$9,000 for the Project SHARE food bank in 2024.

We are walking this coming Saturday in CNOY so not too late to sponsor one of 8 church walkers or e-transfer or cheque to the church stating Coldest Night.

White Xmas. In partnership with Project SHARE we sponsored 94 families with grocery gift cards.

We also supported Project SHARE providing funding for Back to School Packs.

New important accomplishment as we provided essential Start up funding for a Breakfast club at Orchard Park elementary school. The program is now self sustaining and having an amazing positive impact on all the students.

We are so thankful for the Bargain Boutique which provides annual sustainable funds for our Outreach program and also contributes to the church Operating Income. We appreciate the leadership by Ginny Paterson and the dedication of our volunteers to provide welcoming friendly service to our many shoppers.

My thanks to our hard working Outreach Committee members and the support and encouragement you provide.

Alastair Davis, Chair, Mission & Outreach

Thank you, O Christ, for this feast of life.

We are fed by your love;

we are strengthened by your life.

May our worship and work be one in this world

as we live into the visions

God has laid on our hearts.

We are now commissioned to:

Feed as we have been fed,

forgive as we have been forgiven,

love as we have been loved.

Thanks be to God.

Amen.

*... **Motion to accept Minutes** of the Congregational meetings of Stamford Lane United Church February 18 & April 21, 2024...
pages 7-15. Questions.

Moved by: Doug Craig

Seconded by: Alastair Davis

Carried

*... **Motion to accept Stamford Lane United Church Reports for 2024...** pages 1-6 & 16-36.
Questions.

Moved by: Anne Arnott

Seconded by: Doug Craig

Carried

*... **Motion to accept Stamford Lane United Financial Reports for 2024...**pages 32-34 Questions.

Moved by: Dan Monteith

Seconded by: Sharon MacDonnell

Carried

New Business

Fun Committee –Afshin

The FUN committee events are carefully designed to build social connections, with communal seating arrangements and a welcoming atmosphere that encourages interaction. We provide direct outreach, and a “bring a friend” policy to ensure everyone feels included and supported. Additionally, we aim to create intergenerational connections by organizing activities like card-making and craft nights with younger church members. Research shows that intergenerational programming significantly improves mental health, reducing feelings of loneliness, anxiety, and depression while fostering a sense of purpose by offering diverse and frequent programming, particularly during the winter months when isolation peaks, we help our church remain engaged, active, and connected to their community.

We have been blessed to receive a number of donations and free will offerings from our congregation in order to keep these FUN events low cost or free. We have applied for two grants, UC extension council and provincial gov, with another federal gov grant application in the works for June. Thank you for your support and to the volunteers for their hard work.

-After May 1 --

Rev. Harvey as been working with the Worship committee, along with the staff, to prepare for what happens after May 1st. They have prepared services right through the summer.

Rev. Harvey's last service is April 27th. Rev. Gwen Nicol-Macdonald has indicated she will help with the transition as a pastoral charge supervisor to be present for the Council meetings that will be taking place after Rev. Harvey retires. Other volunteers in the congregation will come and preach for us. Everyone is working together; there's a lot of support in place. Rev. Harvey is away but accessible. Don't worry about what's happening next. We look forward together for the future.

Celebration 100th Anniversary service to be held here service here on June 8th with the children and choirs and an ice cream truck. There's still time to purchase your Stamford Lane t-shirt with our anniversary logo.

If you have any questions about what is happening please feel free to ask.

*... **Motion to accept Proposed 2025 Budget & Mission & Service Goal...** page 35-36

Questions.

Moved by: Don Brown

Seconded by: Dave Arnott

Carried

Call for Nominations: x3

*... **Motion to elect the elders of Stamford Lane United Church and Executive as Presented this day**, -as well as trustees, delegates and representatives as presented, Page 6 with great thankfulness to Honours- Jane Shores give thanks to & Janet Kaine, Mary Ann Harrison & Cris Beal, Tim Zavitz and Trustee - Paul Patterson.

With the following changes...

Dan Taylor-Chair, Bryce Anderson -Vice Chair. We welcome Wes Bean, Herb Chapple, Jeff Farquharson, Patrick Guerin Kevin Verroche and Cindy White to Council, and Afshin Malekzadeh as our new Extension Council Representative

Moved by: Al Steip

Seconded by: Jacki Hackett

Carried

*... **Motion to enable Council to conduct the business** of Stamford Lane United Church in the name of Jesus, Saviour and Head of the church, and that any urgent matters may be dealt with by the Council or Executive by email, zoom or in person as able.

Moved by: Vivian Lapp

Seconded by: Mary MacDonnell

Carried

*... **Motion to Adjourn** Moved by **Jacki Hackett**

Hymn 402 We are one as we come,

***Blessing *Choral Blessing**

Love, love, love Love, love, love Love, love, love

There's nothing you can do that can't be done

Nothing you can sing that can't be sung

Nothing you can say, but you can learn

How to play the game

It's easy

All you need is love

All you need is love

**Stamford Lane United Church Congregation Meeting Minutes
August 31, 2025
In the Stamford Lane United Church Sanctuary**

**This special meeting was called by Dan Taylor, Council Chair,
on behalf of the Search Committee.**

**Mission Statement
Building on a firm foundation,
Stamford Lane United Church
celebrates God's presence,
follows Christ's teachings
and reaches out to all people through
sharing the Word, sacrament,
fellowship, and music
within
a supportive, caring and accepting community.**

Welcome: Dan Taylor, Chair of Council

Prayer: offer by Dan Taylor

Call to Order: by Dan Taylor, at 11:00 a.m. with 84 members and adherents in attendance.

Dan Taylor welcomes Alastair Davis to continue the proceedings.

Alastair offered his appreciation to the Search Committee and introduced them to the Congregation.

Alastair Davis, Mary MacDonnell, Anne Arnott, Sara Maida Nicol, Sandra Cowan, Michael Maddalena, Dan Monteith

Alastair mentioned that the congregation approved the appointment of eight members to this committee. The eighth member of the Search Committee is Jane Shores who passed away. Jane has been with us in spirit and inspiration and as a very special and valued member of this committee. I invite Mary MacDonnell to light a candle in memory of our dear friend Jane Shores with a moment of silence. Mary MacDonnell said it was important to us to include Jane in every aspect of the process. We light a candle today, as we did at every meeting and interview, to honour her memory.

Alastair welcomed Rev. Allison Playfair, Representative from Horseshoe Falls Antler River Region.

Rev. Allison Playfair will now take over as the Chairperson for the meeting.

Rev. Allison mentioned that she has been working with the Search Team throughout the whole process and that it has been a delight to get to know them and guide them as they worked diligently to find a new minister.

Recording secretary: That we approve Leslie Maddalena as the recording secretary for this meeting. All agreed.

Attendance sign: Please sign the attendance sheets as they come around so we have a record of everyone present at this meeting.

Voting privileges:

MOTION: To allow adherents to vote [once the members vote to allow this, adherents may vote on ALL matters (The Manual B.3.7.2)]

Moved by
Dan Taylor

Seconded by
Jacki Hackett

Carried

Report to Congregation offered by Sandra Cowan:

STAMFORD LANE UNITED CHURCH
SEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT TO CONGREGATION
(August 31, 2025)

The Search Committee is very pleased and enthusiastic to report to our congregation that we have a Candidate to recommend to become our new Minister at Stamford Lane. This recommendation was reviewed with our Council and was unanimously received.

We have carefully followed the guidelines and protocols provided by Horseshoe Falls Region while conducting all aspects of our Search. Accordingly, we will continue to respect and maintain the confidentiality of the Candidate until such time as the Region gives final approval following acceptance by our Congregation. Therefore, we will be referring to our new Minister as “Candidate”.

Overview

The Search Committee unanimously recommends the Candidate following extensive discussions, meetings, viewing online services, discussion with 3 references and spending 2 days with the Candidate and his wife at our Church. We toured the church when it was empty and also during the vibrancy of a weekday with the Boutique open, ESL students, and a busy church day. We had in depth conversations sharing our style, expectations and the culture of Stamford Lane as a committed action-oriented team working collaboratively emphasizing our love of fellowship, music, caring/pastoral care, community, worship, storytelling and much more. We had dinner with the Candidate and his wife and further experienced their relaxed and fun-loving approach to life. It was easy to see they so enjoy new experiences, meeting people and living and leading Christian values and beliefs.

I will now provide you with more details about the Candidate:

- a) He grew up on a farm and after leaving University entered into a long retail management career as a General Manager with Staples and Walmart.
- b) His mid-life vocational change to Ordained Minister has been one of the greatest blessings of his life. As he said “ I live in the satisfaction of knowing that this is the work that God intended of me”.

- c) He was Ordained in 2016 and has served at the same church since that time. The church has successfully experienced significant change including entering into a Collaborative Ministry Agreement with a rural united church sharing his time 75-25 respectively. The church is very active in fellowship, community, youth, music, inclusive affirming ministry, Christian education, worship, pastoral care and having fun. His favourite part of being a Minister is WORSHIP.
- d) His many years of extensive leadership experience in the retail industry made the transition to congregational ministry very natural, with his greatest gift being the ease with which he can grow relationships. He is very approachable, with an “Open Door” style to encourage people to drop in. He enjoys ministry and puts his energy into making it FUN.
- e) He is technology savvy with computers, A/V, video editing, streaming, etc.
- f) He has a great love of music and sings with the choir, regularly including guest musicians. He is very impressed with the music program at Stamford Lane and views it as one of the exhilarating aspects of our Church culture which involves all ages.
- g) Prior to being Ordained, he was active at his church participating in;
 - Property
 - Finance
 - Youth Group Sunday School Teacher
 - Pulpit Supply
 - Choir

And in his wider Community Volunteering at;

- Foodbank
 - And Fundraisers for
 - ❖ Special Olympics,
 - ❖ Back to School Supply Drive
 - ❖ Breakfast Learning
 - ❖ Children’s Miracle Network
- h) Our Candidate is very highly regarded for his many strengths which include;
 - ✓ Immediately after being Ordained, he was appointed to the Board of Directors for the seminary attended...and was Chair of the Board for 6 years.
 - ✓ Co-Chair at Regional Council
- i) Our Candidate is married, has 3 adult children and 3 dogs. His wife is open, engaging and actively participates in the choir and with AV support. They are both very excited and ready to move from out of the province to Niagara Falls as they are so impressed with the Ministry, leadership, community and the opportunities Stamford Lane provides.

10.Hobbies

- Working Out
- Golf
- Gardening
- Sports
- Movies
- Music
- Computer Repair

11.References

The 3 professional references all immediately expressed their immense appreciation for the value and passion he brings to his church, the community and the larger body of the United Church. They also were surprised he was accepting a Call to Stamford Lane as he was doing such amazing things at his church and was so admired and loved for all he did. They certainly respect his decision and note that Stamford Lane must be offering an exceptional opportunity for him to make a big decision to leave his current church community to move to Niagara Falls. They are happy for him but sad he is leaving.

CALL AGREEMENT

The following terms and conditions have been agreed to in principle with our Candidate;

- a) Years of Service - 9
- b) Increment - D
- c) Cost of Living Group - 4
- d) Salary minimum for Increment D is \$73,695 including housing allowance

*Recognizing the higher cost of living in Niagara Falls, salary top up of 30% for a total of \$95,803.

- e) Moving and Travel Expense will be paid by Stamford Lane. Candidate will perform due diligence to select quality and price balance and provide Stamford Lane with a quote for our budget purposes.
- f) Continuing Education Allowance \$1,689
- g) Study Leave - 3 Weeks
- h) Vacation - 5 weeks (July to June)
- i) Sabbatical - every 5 years
- j) Benefit Package - standard as provided by UCC
- k) Expense for Cell phone
- l) Expense for home internet
- m) Personal Vehicle Kms reimburse \$0.55
- n) Expense for meals, parking and incidentals
- o) Hours of Work - 40
- p) Start Date - January 1, 2026

MOTION: To accept the Candidate as our new Minister subject to approval by the Region.

Moved by
The Search Committee

Seconded by
Doug Craig

Carried

Pastoral Charge concur with the recommendation of the Search Team and that this request be forwarded to the Horseshoe Falls Regional Human Resources Commission for approval of the call/appointment.

MOTION: To disband the Search Committee after the Covenanting Ceremony.

Moved by
Ray Marshall

Seconded by
Carolyn Monteith

Carried

The Candidate will inform us when the announcement will be shared at his church and we will follow with the announcement sharing the Minister's name at Stamford Lane.

Closing prayer offered by Rev. Allison Playfair

As the stated business of the congregational meeting has been completed, meeting declared closed at 11:22 a.m.

Horseshoe Falls Region

Horseshoe Falls Region held 2 meetings in 2025 – a hybrid in June and a virtual meeting in November. Nancy Risto & Ray Marshall attended both meetings on behalf of Stamford Lane. At the two meetings, the Region created a number of funds that Communities of Faith may apply to. They are titled as follows: Bridge Loan Fund, Grant Searching/Writing, First Thirds Ministry Fund, Collaborative Ministry Fund, and Capital Projects Fund. There are some restrictions as to who may apply and Stamford Lane does not currently qualify for all of the funds. Once again, the Region approved its budget, and once again there were no dues added to the National Church Dues. Even though it is a second consecutive deficit budget, the Region's treasurer feels there are sufficient funds via National Grants and investments to meet the Region's obligations. This past summer, General Council 45 met in Calgary and one immediate result was an increase in the Dues we will pay to the National Church. Previously we were paying 4.5% of our adjusted income; in 2026 it will be 5.0% and in 2027, 5.5%. A task Committee has been struck to make recommendations for 2028, prior to General Council meeting that year.

At the Fall meeting, both Nancy & Ray had an opportunity to speak to the Region Chair, Rev. Sula Kosacky and she assures us that the Region continues to explore ways that it can be of more assistance and guidance to congregations and they have noted a disconnect with the loss of Presbyteries. To that end, they are continuing both gatherings of clergy and lay representatives. Commission reports and minutes are always available on the Region Website: <https://hfrucc.ca/> as are various "toolkits" to support work in Communities of Faith. The next regular meeting of the region will be on June 26-27, 2026 at the Lamplighter Inn & Conference Centre, London. Meeting jointly with Antler River Watershed Regional Council.

Respectfully submitted, Ray Marshall & Nancy Risto

In Memoriam

Helen Fitzgerald	January 7	Anna Crawford †	May 25
Margaret (Rita) Mein	February 13	James Kinman	June 24
Edyth Wardine Blain †	March 5	Ruth McDowell †	August 6
Ruth Vivian Grandoni †	April 1	Lorraine Ann Davis †	September 10
Paisley Janvary-Pool †	April 1	Dennis Gordon Gilmore †	October 12
Barbara Good †	May 9	Howard William Good †	October 31

† Member

Marriage Blessings

There were no marriage blessings in 2025.

Baptisms

Cameron Paisley Borghesi	Daughter of Allison Mussari & Martino Borghesi	March 30
Afshin Malekzadeh	Son of Parviz Malekzadeh & Tajmah Malekzadeh	April 13

Ministry and Personnel

This is a confidential and supportive committee for staff and parishioners. We meet as needed throughout the year.

Our volunteer committee consists of:

Bryce Anderson, Barbara Cole, Nancy Risto, Cynthia White and myself as chair. Our treasurer, Ray Marshall, must be mentioned for the support and assistance he provides when needed.

The committee appreciates our treasured and esteemed staff who have gone above and beyond their duties this year! You are a truly amazing team!

Rev. Harvey Tobey, Lucie, Sara, Linda, Leslie, Bryanna, Shannon, Tiffany, Maggie and in May, our newest member Kevin.

Rev. Harvey Tobey retired and on Sunday, April 27th a reception was held to honour him and his work with this church.

Shannon left her position at the end of October to explore new opportunities.

We welcomed Rev. Gwen Nicol-Macdonald in May as our Pastoral Charge Supervisor. Her guidance and direction has been valued and appreciated.

Glad Klassen, Licensed Lay Worship Leader, joined our congregation for three (3) months in September sharing duties with Rev. Gwen. Thank you to both for the support provided with your presence.

We eagerly await 2026 and look forward to Rev. Doug Neufeld joining our church family.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Arnott, M&P Chair

Search Committee Report

The Search Committee members collaborated very closely as they focussed intently on their responsibility to recruit a new Minister to fulfill the expectations established by the Congregation.

The Search Committee members;

Jane Shore (passed), Mary MacDonnell, Sandra Cowan, Anne Arnott, Sara Maida-Nicol, Michael Maddalena, Dan Monteith, Alastair Davis.

The committee worked together very effectively, cohesively and with full respect for each other's opinions, concerns and ideas. We met at least twice a month with meetings usually lasting about 3 hours followed by frequent exchange of emails and phone calls.

Using the online ChurchHub tools provided by the United Church of Canada we very carefully sifted through all registered candidates looking for the right Minister for Stamford Lane. We closely reviewed all applicants including listening to their online church services to assist us in identifying and discerning candidates to interview.

We received support and encouragement from Rev. Allison Playfair (Region Representative). We interviewed promising candidates yet with extensive research and consideration, we remained unable to find a minister who met the expectations.

To expand our search we decided to research and directly personally contact by email every active ordained Minister in the United Church of Canada. We divided up our geography amongst ourselves and with supreme focus and determination contacted over 1,000 Ministers.

It worked. Soon after sending these emails Rev. Doug Neufeld called us to learn more about Stamford Lane. This led to a zoom interview and subsequently an in-person meeting at Stamford Lane with Rev Doug and his wife Donna. We experienced and felt that "holy moment" knowing God was calling Rev. Doug to Stamford Lane. We finalized terms and conditions which Rev. Doug accepted in accordance with policies and practices of the United Church of Canada.

Rev. Doug's first service at Stamford Lane will be on January 18, 2026.

The members of the Search Committee thank the Congregation for your support and patience. We are also thankful for the support and guidance provided by Rev. Playfair and the staff at the Horseshoe Falls Region.

Respectfully submitted,

Alastair Davis, Chair, Search Committee

Christian Education and Development

The Christian Education and Development Committee supports children's, youth and adult activities within our church community. During the summer we hosted a Music/ Baking camp, organized by Sara Maida-Nicol, and co-coordinators Mary MacDonnell and Sandra Cowan. A huge shout out to the many wonderful volunteers who helped the children make muffins, jam, ice cream, gnocchi and pretzels. Participants received and used daily a personalized apron and their own set of measuring spoons. A big thank you to all volunteers who made this camp possible! We began our year in September, celebrating with our Sundae Sunday Event. That event kicks off our new church season, with Tiffany Sacco as our Sunday School teacher, and Maggie Kilts as our monthly youth leader. In October we celebrated Halloween with a costume party, enjoyed by our children's choir and church community. Great fun was had with the toilet paper mummy race! We had a visit from Santa Claus where all hopes and wishes could be shared, following our Charlie Brown Christmas play. Thank you to all who provided sandwiches and cookies for our Christmas luncheon. We continue to sponsor children for Cave Springs Camp for 1/3 of the camp registration fee within our budget. We are looking forward to an exciting 2026!

Respectfully submitted by co-chairs

Sandra Cowan
Sara Maida-Nicol

Bible Study

Bible study has provided a stable and consistent spiritual presence in this church since Rev. Tobey's departure in April. A faithful group of regulars meet each Tuesday morning in the Friendship Room at 10:15 am to read and discuss scripture. Attendance varies from week to week with as many as twenty showing up on occasion. We are a diverse bunch-many of us have come here from different denominations and each of us brings our own favourite English bible translation to read from. The groups eclectic nature provides us all with a free exchange of diverse perspectives and convictions. This exchange is carried on in an open, friendly and uninhibited atmosphere which can be quite lively. Since May, we have been examining the Book of Acts. Researching details in this book usually takes us from one end of the Bible to the other. Such comparing of scripture with scripture has provided a wonderful learning experience for all of us. Anyone wishing to drop in any Tuesday morning is more than welcome to do so.

Paul Fast

Kid's Night

To date, Kids Night has been successful, with an average attendance of 10 to 14 children per event. The program has focused primarily on crafts and interactive games, encouraging children to step away from screens and engage with one another. This approach has helped foster a stronger sense of community and connection among participants.

In addition to crafts and games, several movie nights were held during the Christmas season. These events were well received and helped create a festive atmosphere while adding variety to the program. Overall, Kids Night continues to be a positive and engaging initiative for the children involved.

Submitted by Maggie Kilts

FUN Committee

Throughout the year, the FUN (Fellowship, Unity & Nurture) Committee delivered a thoughtful and diverse program of events designed to foster fellowship, reduce social isolation, and strengthen intergenerational connections within the congregation and the broader community.

A key focus of the committee's work was the **"Beat the Winter Blues"** initiative, developed to address seasonal isolation during the colder months. This initiative included **four Sundays of after-service gatherings**, featuring a rotating menu of homemade soups, sandwiches, cinnamon buns, and pierogies. Attendance at these events consistently ranged between **80 and 120 participants**, providing a warm and welcoming space for conversation, relationship-building, and community care following worship.

Building on this momentum, the FUN Committee hosted a **Valentine's Day Craft Night**, welcoming approximately **50 participants of all ages**. This creative, family-friendly event encouraged intergenerational engagement and provided an accessible opportunity for shared expression and connection.

This was followed by a **St. Patrick's Day celebration**, which featured corned beef on rye and live entertainment. Musical performances were provided by **Patrick and Riley Geurin** (with **Donna Moffat** on the spoons). The event successfully combined food, music, and fellowship, creating a lively and inclusive atmosphere that was well received by attendees.

In June, the FUN Committee stepped forward to assist with and help deliver a **memorable 100th Anniversary Celebration** for Stamford Lane United Church. The event included a community barbecue and an ice cream truck and marked a significant milestone in the life of the church. The committee's involvement helped ensure a smooth, welcoming, and family-oriented celebration for congregational members, alumni, and the wider community.

The fall season brought another successful gathering with the **"Autumn in Full Bloom" Floral Workshop**, which welcomed approximately **45 participants**. This hands-on workshop combined creativity and fellowship, offering participants the opportunity to learn new skills while building relationships in a relaxed and supportive environment.

The year concluded with a **Soup Sunday in November**, once again bringing the community together through shared food and fellowship.

Upcoming events for 2026 include:

Jan 11 Ham & Cheese on Croissants After-service

Jan 17 Music Trivia & Pasta Night \$25/person

Jan 18 CinnaBun Sunday After-service

Jan 25 Pierogi Sunday After-service

Feb 1 Pie Sunday After-service

Feb 8 Roast Beef Sunday After-service

Respectfully submitted by: Afshin & Sara on behalf of the FUN Committee



Appreciation Garden

Nominations for the Appreciation Garden were opened on March 30, 2025 until April 25, 2025 when they were officially closed. The committee met on May 5, 2025 at the home of Janet Harris. Those present were: Bryce Anderson, Anne Arnott, Don Brown, Jeff Farquharson, Janet Harris, Vivian Lapp, and Dan Taylor. All committee members were present. There were few nominations this year. It did not take long for the committee to come to a unanimous decision. It was our honour to offer the name of Lynn Marshall to the council to be nominated to the Appreciation Garden.

Appreciation Garden Sunday was held on June 22, 2025 when we were all delighted to add Lynn Marshall's name to our garden wall. It was an honour well deserved for all Lynn's work over many years that she has done for the church.

Respectfully submitted
Janet Harris, Chairperson, Appreciation Garden Committee

Walking and Exercise Group

I am glad to say that the seniors exercise and walking group is still active this year. We have about 14 members that come.

Anyone is welcome to join us. We walk on Monday and Thursday mornings at 10 a.m. from September through to June.

I want to thank Lynn Marshall, Donna Thibert, and Diane Becken who have helped run it. Come and keep active.

Submitted by Gail Goar

The Sewing Mission Group

Our mission is to sew and knit baby apparel for the Niagara Warehouse of Hope, located at Port Weller in St. Catharines.

They ship cloth bags full of baby items to new moms who are in Guatemala and Honduras.

We meet on Friday mornings at the church at 10:00 am. We welcome anyone who would like to join us for a few hours on Friday.

We have made these items during 2025.

Bags 40	Knitted Hats 19
Blankets 13	Night Gowns 4
Dresses 29	Slings 31
Dolls 38	Sanitary Bags 11
	Shorts 6

Thank you, Alison Wills, Bonnie Fletcher, Carole Jarvis, Karen Corey, Donna Mongeri, Bessie Ladas, Vickie Rootes, Eileen Rossi, Lynn Young, Penny Soulsby.

Submitted by Penny Soulsby

In-Touch Committee

The In-Touch Committee met in February, September and November. Luncheons were held in March and November.

Paisley January-Pool passed away.

As taught us in the past by Rev. Tobey, get well, sympathy and thinking of you cards were sent. Cards were sent or delivered to our Veterans and Valentines, Easter, Summer and Thanksgiving cards were delivered or sent to our Shut-Ins.

Poinsettias were purchased again for our Shut-Ins and Bereaved families and 54 were delivered. Cards of remembrance were sent to those out of town.

After Rev. Tobey retired and while we await our new minister, Rev. Doug Neufeld, in 2026 we continued to follow the example set by Rev. Tobey.

As always, please continue to keep our church members in your thoughts and prayers.

In-Touch Committee: Rev. Harvey Tobey (retired), Paisley January-Pool (deceased), Diane Becken, Ray Marshall, Barbara Cole, Jacki Hackett, Mary Ann Harrison, Lynn Marshall, Carolyn Monteith, Donna Walker, Dawn Young, David Young.

Respectfully Submitted, Diane Becken and Ray Marshall, Co-Chairs

78th Annual Turkey Dinner

The 78th Annual Turkey Dinner was a tremendous success, and one we can all be proud of.

Over 300 dinners were served, a testament to both the strong community support for this longstanding tradition and the dedication of the volunteers who made it possible. The success of the dinner relied heavily on the commitment, teamwork, and generosity of those who gave their time, and sincere thanks are extended to everyone involved for their hard work and care.

The Turkey Sponsorship Program was once again highly successful. Combined proceeds from the dinner and sponsorships totaled **\$12,780**, providing meaningful support for the church and its community initiatives.

Sincerely, **Afshin Malekzadeh and the Turkey Team!**

Mission and Outreach Report

Mission & Service Fund - total contributed was \$22,742.37 to support initiatives of the United Church of Canada locally, nationally and internationally.

Local Community Outreach - responded to the unique needs of our community with proceeds generated by the Bargain Boutique and donations from our generous, caring and kind congregation. (see *Mission Givings Chart for 2025*)

- Garage sale and Boutique proceeds for the day sponsored a special program for Pathstone Mental Health and the GROW Community Food Literacy Centre
- Caribbean Farm Workers - served light luncheon to over 100 immigrant farm workers at a special Sunday church service in NOTL.
- Project SHARE
 - School Backpacks providing supplies, snacks, shoes, etc.
 - Thanksgiving Food Drive
 - White Gift contributions combined with Mission funds sponsored 111 local families to enjoy a Christmas dinner
 - -Coldest Night of Year team walked 5kms on a chilly evening and raised \$8,881.19 for Project SHARE

Bargain Boutique moved on Labour Day weekend to its new and larger location. Our appreciation to all who helped the move take place...the Property Committee and Lucie McCarthy for all you did so quickly to clean, paint and refresh the room. We had very strong sales of \$13,325.50 made possible by the leadership of Ginny Paterson and our volunteers who are focused on sorting and merchandizing donations and providing welcoming service to all our shoppers. The Boutique provides self-sustaining funding for the Mission Committee and also contributes a portion to the Operating Income of Stamford Lane. Thank you to our volunteers, Ginny Paterson, Bonnie Fletcher, Joanne Brown, Herb Chapple, Ron Russell, Camilla Murray and Alastair Davis.

Christmas Pizza Lunch - co-hosted with the English as a Second Language Instructors, this fun filled Christmas Pizza Lunch was held in the gym with 120 attending.

Toy Sale was the idea of Bobby Nicol a teen member of the Mission Committee. A special thank you goes to Bobby and his friends for initiating the event and following it through to the end. Thank everyone for donating very nice used and many new toys. The combined proceeds from the Toy Sale and Bargain Boutique totalled \$2,234.57 which was donated to the Niagara Children's Centre.

Our very special thank you to all the volunteers and congregation for your kindness, generosity and commitment to supporting the vulnerable in our community.

Alastair Davis, Chair Mission & Outreach

Stamford Lane United Church MISSION GIVINGS – 2025

World Mission	Member Givings	Good News Unit	Mission Committee	Garage Sale	Rainbow Ringers	Bargain Boutique	Toy Sale	Pancake Luncheon	J&A Thompson Endowment	Total
Mission & Service Fund (UCC)	\$17,657.96	\$1,000.00							\$3,454.41	\$22,112.37
World Development Fund	630.00									630.00
World Mission Subtotal	\$18,287.96	\$1,000.00							\$3,454.41	\$22,742.37
Local Mission										
Grow Community Food Literacy Centre				\$722.50		\$277.50				\$1,000.00
Niagara Children's Centre)	\$50.00			722.50		531.00	\$1,931.07			3,234.57
Niagara Falls Community Outreach	1,850.00		364.12					\$635.88		2,850.00
Project Share	1,945.00		3,000.00		140.00					5,085.00
White Gift	6,425.00		3,575.00							10,000.00
Local Mission Subtotal	\$10,270.00		\$6,575.00	\$1,445.00	\$140.00	\$808.50	\$1,931.07	\$635.88		\$22,369.57
Grand Total	\$28,557.96	\$1,000.00	\$6,939.12	\$1,445.00	\$140.00	\$808.50	\$1,931.07	\$635.88	\$3,454.41	\$44,911.94

Stamford Lane Coldest Night Walk: \$8,881.19 was donated to Project Share. Food & Mittens were also donated.

The Mitten Tree

Thank you to everyone who contributed the many mittens, hats and gloves that hung on our Mitten Tree this year. The tree stood proudly in the gym this year and was a reminder to Stamford Lane of the outreach that is so important to our community. The warm and cozy items that adorn the tree will be distributed to local schools to keep the children of Niagara Falls warm this winter.

Thank you once again for your generosity.
Submitted by Leslie Maddalena

Rental Committee

We do our best to make Stamford Lane an accessible, safe place for the community to gather. We are accommodating line dancing, Dance-it, Treblaires, Tops, Blue House Day Program and two meetings of AA in a safe, clean space at a reasonable cost. Our long-term arrangements with Unifor, Transitions Canada, and The District School Board of Niagara enable us to better meet our budget demands as all costs continue to rise. Stamford Lane also encourages our own programs, for example, our Good News Unit, In Touch, Sewing and Quilting, our Walking group, the Yoga program, and our adult and children's choirs.

We are grateful to the property committee who work tirelessly to maintain our building to the highest standards. Our caretakers Lucie, Shannon and Kevin work hard to keep our building sparkling clean and we appreciate that everyone has been adjusting to the increased use of this wonderful facility. While we continue to be available for events where families and children can gather and play together, we are aware of our limitations and liabilities that require booking ahead, insurance, and responsible supervision. We are an active church in Niagara Falls every day.

Submitted by Leslie Maddalena

Transitions Canada—Niagara

As we enter the holiday season, we extend our warmest wishes to you and your families. This time of year brings moments to gather, reflect and honour the strength, pride, and generosity of our families and the congregation.

We have made some changes over this past year, one of them being moving the day program to the activity room. Everyone is enjoying the new room immensely. Our bi-monthly dances have allowed us to develop friendships with people from all over the region.

Thank you to everyone that has come by to say hi and hang out with us. We would like to extend a warm welcome to the new Minister and look forward to the new year and connecting with everyone again. We would also like to thank Maggie and Pam for providing Yoga sessions for our group.

From all of us at Transitions Canada, we wish you peace, love and joy this season.

In community and friendship, Rose Quong and Judy Brandes

Yoga

The yoga group continued to practise this past year, evolving into a chair yoga practice with 2 qualified yoga instructors available to teach classes each week. Maggie Neuroth was the main instructor with Pam January Gillespie available as the supply teacher. This gentle yoga class was held on Thursday mornings at 11am in the Friendship Room and geared primarily to the senior population. There was an emphasis on gentle stretching, range of motion, joint mobility, balance, and mindfulness during the practices. Standing, sitting, and floor postures were also incorporated into the class and participants were encouraged to modify their practice to suit their personal needs. The cost of the classes remained at \$50 for a 6 class pass or \$10 for a drop-in fee. Class size was consistent with 3-5 ladies attending each week. We welcome any new people who may be interested in exploring chair yoga and who would like to join us each week.

The Transitions group of special needs adults continued to meet each Thursday at 12:15 pm. following the chair yoga class, for a 30 minute session with Maggie and Pam as the yoga instructors. They enjoyed practising many different yoga postures while stretching and strengthening their bodies. Class size remained steady with 4-6 participants each week with the cost continuing to be free for the group.

This year there was great appeal in both groups to continue practising yoga through the summer months and attendance remained consistent.

It was a pleasure to bring these yoga opportunities to Stamford Lane United Church again this year. Going forward into 2026, we plan to continue to run both yoga classes, for as long as there is an interest to practise yoga.

Namaste,
Maggie Neuroth and Pam January Gillespie

Worship and Congregational Concerns Committee

2025 was the 100th anniversary of the United Church of Canada's formation in 1925. Stamford Lane, a merger of several other United Church congregations through the years, also celebrated its 100th anniversary during the first six months of 2025.

Several special activities and events occurred to recognize and honour this special year. These included having a guest speaker from the national office of the United Church, Dr. Japhet Ndhlovo; using a logo designed for use on sweatshirts, tee shirts and hoodies; an extensive photo display put together by Janet Harris, the church historian at the time; two very well researched presentations of the history of this church by Al Steip in worship services; special music by the choirs and a well attended barbeque in the church parking lot. No one can forget the bouncy slide!

Early in 2025, Rev. Harvey formally announced his retirement date of April 30. With his assistance, this committee selected the worship service leaders occurring not only until his official retirement date at the end of April, but also throughout the rest of the summer.

While the Search committee was working diligently on finding a new minister to succeed Rev. Harvey, the Ministry and Personnel committee established a plan for the congregation to be led until the end of the calendar year by two short term worship leaders, the Reverend Gwen Nicol-Macdonald and Ms. Glad Klassen who are also members of this church. This plan worked very well.

In the fall, there was: the family Thanksgiving service, the Blessing of the Animals (which were mostly stuffies), and Remembrance Day. Before Christmas there were the four Sundays of Advent. The congregation was blessed on Dec. 21 by the performance of "A Charlie Brown Christmas at Stamford Lane."

Although not a direct responsibility of the Worship committee, our church has a music program to be exceedingly proud of. This is because of the leadership of Sara Maida Nicol and Linda Bruch, the two persons responsible for music every Sunday. The children's choir and the junior choir sing at a family service scheduled approximately once a month. The adult choir has more than 20 regular members; the whole choir sings every Sunday morning in the fall, winter, and spring. During the summer we are blessed with various soloists, duets, and quartets performed by various members of this group.

Holy Communion was served on February 16; this was also the date of the Annual General Meeting. Holy Communion was held again on Easter Sunday, during the Maundy Thursday service, on Easter Sunday and Worldwide Communion Sunday October 1. At the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, we ran out of candles!

There are two other groups of people who contribute to the worship services but who are not members of this committee. One group is the Flower committee who provide floral decorations every Sunday. These people are not directly members of the Worship committee, but serve quietly but regularly to enhance the beauty of our sanctuary. The other group are those individuals, led by Ray and Lynn Marshall, who decorate the sanctuary for Christmas and set up the Christmas trees in the Friendship room and the gym, as well as placing the mitten tree in the St. John's Street entrance.

The coffee hour is funded in part through the budget of the Worship committee although at least one other church committee transfers money it has raised through its luncheons to help subsidize this essential time. Donna Walker is in charge of organizing other church members to prepare the coffee and tea (and juice in the summer) for after each Sunday worship service.

Throughout 2025, Sunday morning worship services were shown live on Facebook and posted later in the week on the church's website. There were some problems with the sound recording on some of the services in the latter half of the year. In conjunction with the AV committee, the system used was adjusted as needed. However, on a long-term basis, it is the strong opinion of the Worship committee that a complete renovation of the audiovisual system needs to happen very soon.

All of us welcome Rev. Doug Neufeld and look forward to working with him to grow as members of this congregation and as children of God.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Cole, Chair, Worship and Congregational Concerns Committee

Music

What another meaningful and vibrant year it has been for the Music Ministry at Stamford Lane United Church. Music continued to play a central role in worship, outreach, and community life, bringing together people of all ages through faith, creativity, and shared celebration.

The Youth Choirs had an especially active and impactful year, with **33 children participating** in the program. In early March, the youth choirs led a special outreach weekend that included a karaoke dance party, a youth-led Sunday worship service, and a pancake lunch. This joyful and energetic weekend raised **\$1,000**, with all proceeds donated to the **Niagara Falls Soup Kitchen**, reflecting the strong connection between music, service, and community care.

In July, the youth choirs were honoured to sing “O Canada” at a **Niagara River Lions CEBL basketball game**, offering a memorable experience for the children and a proud moment for the church.

In August, in collaboration with **Christian Education**, we hosted a **Music and Baking Camp**, welcoming **32 children from the community**. This creative and engaging camp combined musical exploration with hands-on baking activities, fostering creativity, confidence, and connection among participants while strengthening the church’s outreach to families beyond the congregation.

October brought another successful **annual JR choir Halloween party**, continuing a much-loved tradition of fellowship and fun.

December marked a particularly special highlight as the youth choirs presented “**A Charlie Brown Christmas at Stamford Lane**,” a creative adaptation featuring **Michael Maddalena as Charlie Brown**. **This was also in celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Charlie Brown Christmas Special and the 75th anniversary of Charles Schultz’s beloved character**. The production brought warmth, humour, and a timeless message of hope and faith to the congregation during the Advent season.

Our Adult Choir continued to thrive in 2025, with **over 30 members** sharing their talents and commitment throughout the year. Their leadership in worship enriched weekly services and supported the broader liturgical life of the church.

There were a number of special services in 2025 that showcased the extraordinary depth of Stamford Lane’s music ministry. Highlights included **Easter Sunday**, featuring a powerful full choral arrangement of “*That’s My King*,” the much-loved **Elvis Gospel Service**, **Rev. Harvey’s farewell**, **Remembrance Day with Dan Portanova on trumpet** and the church’s **100th Anniversary**. This historic celebration brought together choirs and musicians of all ages in inspiring and uplifting worship and concluded with a joyful congregational rendition of “**Sweet Stamford Lane**,” bringing the anniversary service to a fitting and memorable close.

Throughout the year, the Music Ministry was further enriched by the involvement of community and student musicians, whose participation added depth and variety to worship while supporting the development of all musicians within the church. The **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** was particularly beautiful with violinist Mary-Beth Doherty.

The Music Ministry remains deeply grateful for the dedication of volunteer musicians, the support of church leadership, and the encouragement of the congregation. The generosity of time, talent, and spirit shared by all involved continues to make music a cornerstone of worship at Stamford Lane.

As we look ahead, we move forward with gratitude and hope, committed to nurturing participation, welcoming new voices, and continuing to use music as a powerful expression of faith that uplifts hearts and connects generations.

Submitted by Sara & Linda

Rainbow Ringers 2025

The Rainbow Ringers bell choir spent the first five months of 2025 learning eight pieces we would be performing at the Ontario Guild of English Handbell Ringers Festival. The festival was held at Mohawk College in Hamilton, June 5th-7th, where we had the pleasure of playing with over 325 bell ringers.

Seven of our nine ringers attended this festival and were incredibly grateful for the monetary support given to them so generously by *Stamford Lane United Church* and *The United Church of Canada Horseshoe Falls Regional Council*.

As an added feature at this festival, the biggest Bell Tree Forest in Ontario performed "*I'm Just a Poor Wayfaring Stranger*" arranged by Tammy Waldrop. Sharon was one of the forty performers ringing to help celebrate OGEHR's 40th birthday. She also performed this piece in church on November 23rd.

Anne Smallman was a bell ringer at this festival playing with the Ottawa bell choir right beside us. She mentioned to Dan that she was now living in the Niagara area. Well ... we needed a ringer and she needed a choir, so in September, we welcomed Anne as our newest Rainbow Ringer. She is a wonderful addition to our bell choir.

Bryanna, Ray & Sharon represented our Stamford Lane Bell Choir at a Post-Festival Concert held in Mississauga on November 1st. Proceeds from this concert were distributed to each participating church to donate to a charity of their choice. We chose to donate to Niagara Falls Project SHARE.

This year the Rainbow Ringers shared their music as part of the church services on Good Friday, Mother's Day, and Advent Peace Sunday. We also accompanied the adult choir on November 30th.

A special thank you goes out to our Director, Laura Sparkman. We couldn't do this without her!

Our very talented Rainbow Ringers are June Chevalier, Mary Dempsey, Bryanna Johnson, Sharon MacDonnell, Ray Marshall, Carolyn Monteith, Dan Monteith, Anne Smallman, Laura Sparkman, and Shani Waller.

Respectfully submitted by
Sharon MacDonnell

Audio Group

On behalf of Paul Fast and Afshin Malekzadeh, I would like to bid adieu to another wonderful year of assisting in the enhancement of your Sunday morning experience.

We have faced some technical challenges in the past but usually find a way solve them. We look forward to continuing this service in the year to come.

Thank you, Dan MacDonnell

Projection Group

The projection group consists of only two people and we are definitely in need of some backup. The operation of the projection computer can be learned easily and you can become a valuable asset for the church. The information for projection is all entered into the system by Bryanna Johnson and she has fulfilled that task for about 8 years and we thank her for her dedication to producing a high quality presentation. We have had problems this year with the recording of our service for posting on line. We think our sound problems are solved and purchasing a new phone should be a solution to the online problem.

Bryce Anderson

Property Committee

It was an honour and pleasure to be your Property Chair again this year. The success has been great and the team fabulous. We accomplished a multitude of items and the quantity and quality always amaze me.

Your church building and surrounding grounds are in great shape due to the dedication of these people, in no particular order: Bryce Anderson, Michael Sandercock, Dan MacDonnell, Don Brown, Doug Craig, Ray Marshall, Cris Beal, Dan Taylor, Jim Sauder, and Joan MacKenzie. Also, there's more than just the property committee that lends its support to the upkeep of this building and there are a few names I'd like to mention, secretary Leslie Maddalena, and custodians Lucie McCarthy, Shannon Fisher, and Kevin Monteith.

We're one hundred years young and have some pretty good bones, as the structure is holding together quite well. This is a busy church with multiple activities such as District School Board of Niagara, Transitions, Sunday school, choirs, Boutique, our own everyday activities, and so on. There's a lot to do and we're trying to keep up to make the church a wonderful place to worship and visit.

We appreciate your kindness and consideration while we continue and push forward with our work. A challenge has been placed before us, and we accepted this challenge, with God being our helper.

Dan Monteith, Property Chair

The Fundscrip Program

In November, we took orders for the purchase of gift cards through the Fundscrip program. The church receives a percentage of the value of all cards ordered. Thanks to the everyone's support, the church received a cheque for \$785.05 this year. Thanks to Barb Tobey and Anne Arnott whose assistance made running this program possible.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Dempsey

Trustees Report

The current Trustees are Bryce Anderson, Anne Arnott, Mary Dempsey, Marion Lennox, Joan MacKenzie, and Tim Zavitz. Reverend Gwen Nicol-MacDonald joined the Trustees this year in her role as pastoral charge supervisor. We have appreciated her insights.

The Trustees acknowledge with gratitude the service to our church by Paisley January-Pool and Dennis Gilmore. They both passed away this year, and were long serving and dedicated Trustees.

The Trustees hold congregational property in trust for the congregation as part of the United Church of Canada. Congregational property means all property and assets owned by the congregation, including land, buildings, funds, investments and any other kind of property.

Investments

The investments of the church are held by IG Private Wealth Management, and are managed by Huebert and Associates. Our portfolio is classified as a moderate/conservative portfolio.

2025 IG Investments

Dec 31, 2024 IG balance	\$989,939.54
Bequests received	2,500.00
Growth in investments	85,195.69
Dec 31, 2025 IG balance	1,077,635.23
Less: Extension Council grant	12,457.54
Value of investments Dec 31, 2025	\$1,065,177.69

The loan is a Niagara Presbytery Extension Council grant for the roof (2018) that was received in 2019 and is to be repaid when the church closes.

The investment value for December 31, 2025 includes \$25,000.00 of General Account funds.

Insurance

Our insurance plan continues to be administered by UCC Protect through HUB. In December, our renewal saw no premium increase and remains at \$8,433.72 for the time being. In October, the church had an appraisal for insurance purposes completed by Loss Control Consultants. It had been almost 20 years since our last appraisal. At the time of the appraisal, our insurance coverage was \$4,282,010.00 for property and contents. The October appraisal valued our property and contents at \$8,482,247.00. The appraisal has been submitted to HUB and we will be notified when HUB receives the endorsement indicating the changes and updated premium.

Planned Legacy Giving

The church continues to be blessed with the generosity of our members. This year, we received bequests from the Vant and Brittain families in memory of their loved ones.

Legacy gifts help fund our congregation's ongoing ministries, build reserves, and facilitate new programs. These gifts can come in many forms including a bequest, life insurance, annuity, RRSP/RRIF/TFSA or securities. If you have any questions about legacy gifts please speak to Mary Dempsey.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Dempsey, Chair

Women's Group - Good News Unit

Co-Presidents - Suzanne Parnell and Vivian Lapp, Secretary - Carolyn Monteith, Treasurer - Jacki Hackett

The Good News Unit meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm in the Friendship Room or at a member's home. The meetings open with a devotion, followed by planning for upcoming events, an activity or guest speaker and enjoy refreshments all provided by the members. We are a very busy group always welcome to new members.

Some of the highlights of 2025 included:

- January 15th we met at the home of Barbara Tobey for a pot luck supper. We discussed upcoming events and planned the annual Chili/Trivia night.
- February 9th we met in the Friendship Room after service to assemble the auction items for chili/trivia and enjoyed sandwiches provided to the congregation by the fun committee.
- February 15th we hosted chili/trivia with the silent auction. Thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of this event, our members for their efforts leading up to the evening and for preparing the delicious meal. Thanks to Dan Monteith for being the trivia master and to everyone who contributed auction items. The event was enjoyed by all in spite of the ice and snow storm which started on Thursday and continued through the weekend.
- March 12th we discussed our part in the Regional UCW meeting hosted by Nancy Risto. Plans were started for a fashion show on May 4th and also the Mother's Day service. The members enjoyed an Irish Trivia.
- April 9th we met in the Activity Room and finalized plans for the May 4th fashion show and also for the Mother's Day service. Suzanne Parnell led us in an Easter craft.
- May 3rd we met at the church to set up for the fashion show and start preparing the food.
- May 4th we hosted the fashion show featuring clothing and accessories from Licia's Boutique. There were 100 guests plus Licia's models and staff.
- May 11th the women led the Mother's Day service.
- June 11th we enjoyed a year end supper in the Friendship Room of beef on a bun, salads, dessert and much laughter.
- September 10th We started planning events for the upcoming year. These included a Ladies Christmas Luncheon with Communion on November 30th and a bake sale on December 7th. Suzanne Parnell taught us to make popcorn bowls and we enjoyed the popcorn.
- October 15th We discussed the bake sale and the Ladies Luncheon. The date for chili/trivia was set for March 21, 2026, pending approval by Dan Monteith. Nicole Guerin led the activity of making Journals/notebooks.
- November 12th We made the final plans for the Ladies Luncheon and the bake sale. The activity was provided by Nicole Guerin, a great time was had by all playing a game called Guesstures. The next meeting was discussed, a pot luck supper on January 14th 2026.

November 29th we met at the church to set up the tables, decorate and start food prep for the Ladies Luncheon.

November 30th the Ladies Luncheon was held after church with 50 women seated for lunch, several others enjoyed take out as they were committed to perform at a Treblaires concert. Reverend Gwen Nicol-Macdonald presided over the sacrament of Holy Communion. The ladies enjoyed a Christmas song trivia, connecting with old friends and making new friends.

December 6th we met in the Friendship Room and accepted donations of baked goods, packaged and priced them for the sale.

December 7th we held a successful bake sale following the service and also following a Treblaires concert in the afternoon.

Please refer to the Good News Unit Financial Statements to explain our fund raising successes and our contributions.

The women of the Good News Unit are a talented, dedicated, hard working group who provide peer support and great fellowship. Please feel free to join us at a future meeting, you are always welcome.

Respectfully submitted by Suzanne Parnell and Vivian Lapp

2025 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR GOOD NEWS UNIT

RECEIPTS

Balance forward Dec 31, 2024	\$ 1,647.83
Collections	\$ 219.00
Trivia Ticket Sales	\$ 2,080.00
Trivia Silent Auction	\$ 1,359.00
Trivia Kitchen Sales	\$ 290.50
Donation	\$ 60.00
Fashion Show Ticket Sales	\$ 2,060.00
Ladies Lunch Free Will Offering	\$ 31.00
Bake Sale	1,144.00
	<u>\$ 8,891.33</u>

DISBURSEMENTS

Mission & Service Fund	\$ 1,000.00
SLUC General Fund	\$ 5,000.00
Trivia Expenses	\$ 622.33
Fashion Show expenses	\$ 260.01
Ladies Luncheon Expenses	\$ 145.99
Bake Sale Expenses	\$ 286.87
Balance on hand Dec 31, 2025	\$ 1,576.13

\$ 8,891.33

Respectfully submitted, Jacki Hackett, Treasurer

Men's Club

The Church Men's Club is open to all male church members. We meet on a regular basis at either someone's home or a restaurant, for some great fellowship, lively conversations and fun. These networking meetings help us with ongoing and future projects as well as problem solving and logistics. Our group is responsible for the yearly Turkey Supper, which is a major fundraising event for the church, and continues to be successful. We are always looking for more men to join our group and get involved, so please don't be shy and come join us for some fun.

Finance Committee Report

The Finance Committee is pleased to report on the financial position of Stamford Lane United Church for the year ended December 31, 2025.

We begin by extending our sincere thanks to the congregation for their continued generosity and faithful financial support throughout the year. **As a result of this ongoing commitment, the church concluded 2025 in a stable financial position, with total income of approximately \$298,000 and total expenses of approximately \$264,000, resulting in a year-end operating surplus of approximately \$33,000.**

Regular financial monitoring continued throughout the year, with monthly reporting supporting sound oversight and informed decision-making by the committee and church leadership. Offering revenue remained the primary source of income, supplemented by rental income, which continues to provide important support toward ongoing operating costs. The continuation of the DSBN English as a Second Language program through 2025 contributed positively to this stability.

Expenses were managed prudently across the year, with the largest cost drivers remaining staffing, building operations, and mission-related commitments. Careful attention was given to balancing day-to-day operational needs with longer-term responsibilities related to maintaining an aging facility.

Consistent with prior practice, the Finance Committee also took steps to steward available funds responsibly, ensuring that cash balances were sufficient to meet obligations while seeking opportunities to manage resources prudently.

Looking ahead, the committee remains mindful of the financial pressures facing the congregation, including rising costs and the ongoing need for building maintenance. **The proposed 2026 budget of \$404,548 represents an increase in expenses of approximately \$31,017 or 8.3%, over the 2025 budget of \$373,531, driven primarily by staffing-related costs and planned building maintenance. The 2026 proposed budget also includes a 10.6% increase in estimated income and a 3.1% increase in the deficit.** The Finance Committee will continue to focus on responsible stewardship, transparency, and sustainability as it supports the ministry and mission of Stamford Lane United Church in the year ahead.

“Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act.” ~ Psalm 37:5

Respectfully submitted, **Finance Committee**

Church Givings for 2025--Church Donations by Families who supported the local church in 2025

<u>Donation</u>	<u>Number of Families</u>
Less than \$50	28
\$51-\$100	15
\$101-\$200	22
\$201-\$500	36
\$501-\$1000	25
\$1001-\$2000	33
\$2001-\$3000	9
\$3001-\$5000	6
More than \$5000	6

**Stamford Lane United Church
Receipts and Disbursements
for the year ended December 31, 2025**

INCOME	<i>Year to</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>% of Budget</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>2025</i>
Local Offering	\$166,947.20		92.7%	180,000	
Loose Collections	2,526.40		126.3%	2,000	
Initial Offering	70.00		70.0%	100	
Christmas Offering	1,842.00		122.8%	1,500	
FundScrip	785.05		196.3%	400	
Misc. – Bargain Boutique	13,315.50		111.0%	12,000	
Misc. – Easter Offering	0.00		0.0%	200	
Misc. – Good News Unit	5,000.00		250.0%	2,000	
Misc. – HST Rebates	5,575.79		185.9%	3,000	
Misc. – Summer Camp	938.14		93.8%	1,000	
Misc. – Thompson Endowment Fund	3,454.41		115.1%	3,000	
Rent Revenue	79,219.68		176.0%	45,000	
Sunday School Offerings	210.00		168.0%	<u>125</u>	
Turkey Dinner Proceeds	2,434.33		97.4%	2,500	
Turkey Sponsorships	<u>10,325.00</u>		137.7%	7,500	
Sub-Total Income, 2020		\$292,643.50	112.4%		\$260,325
Grant (Niagara Extension Council)	5,000.00				
TOTAL INCOME		<u>\$297,643.50</u>	114.3%		<u>\$260,325</u>
Surplus (Deficit)		\$33,205.72			(\$46,025)
EXPENSES	<i>Year to</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>% of Budget</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>2024</i>
SALARIES					
Salaries, Wages	\$122,913.77		67.1%	\$183,294	
Minister's Travel Allowance	457.60		11.4%	4,000	
Supply – Sabbatical, Pulpit, Organ, Custodian	<u>7,880.00</u>		175.1%	<u>4,500</u>	
		\$131,251.37	68.4%		\$191,794
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS					
Church's Share of Employee Benefits	20,145.06		53.0%	38,000	
Minister's Continuing Education & Book Allowance	<u>596.00</u>		33.3%	<u>1,788</u>	
		20,741.06	52.1%		39,788
100th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION					
Project				10,000	
Expenses	1,976.78		98.8%	2,000	
		1,976.78	16.5%		12,000
BARGAIN BOUTIQUE					
Bargain Boutique Disbursements	8,506.34		118.1%	7,200	
Bargain Boutique Expenses	<u>843.60</u>		168.7%	<u>500</u>	
		9,349.94	121.4%		7,700

EXPENSES (continued)	<i>Year to</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>% of Budget</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>2024</i>
WORSHIP & SERVICE					
Advertising			0.0%	100	
Appreciation Garden	135.18		27.0%	500	
Choir Expenses					
Fellowship Hour	353.34		128.5%	275	
Licencing (CCLI)	406.00		62.5%	650	
Organ and Piano Tuning	-152.55		38.1%	400	
National & Regional Assessment	15,574.00		100.0%	15,574	
Sanctuary Flowers, Gifts	1,035.25		103.5%	1,000	
Worship Expenses ((+Conference Delegate)	<u>852.54</u>		34.1%	<u>2,500</u>	
		18,508.86	88.1%		20,999
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT					
Children's Time			0.0%	100	
Financial Assistance – Cave Springs Camp	185.00		92.5%	200	
Library	30.00		20.0%	150	
Special Events	298.04		37.3%	800	
Summer Camp			0.0%		
Sunday School Supplies & Curriculum	146.79		14.7%	1,000	
Youth Work	<u>-</u>		0.0%		
		659.83	29.3%		2,250
OPERATING EXPENSES					
Custodial Supplies	3,202.72		91.5%	3,500	
Fuel	9,849.08		82.1%	12,000	
Office Expenses	4,069.49		90.4%	4,500	
Equipment Renewal (Audio-Visual, 2024)	1,782.62		25.5%	7,000	
Office Telephone & Internet	1,692.84		84.6%	2,000	
Utilities	<u>8,525.72</u>		94.7%	<u>9,000</u>	
		29,122.47	76.6%		38,000
BUILDING MAINTENANCE FUND					
Elevator Maintenance Contact & Licence	1,685.46		56.2%	3,000	
Fire Monitoring	3,250.94		162.5%	2,000	
General Repairs, Equipment & Maintenance	20,659.43		98.4%	21,000	
Church Property Appraisal	<u>3,045.00</u>		60.9%	<u>5,000</u>	
Insurance	<u>16,137.92</u>		179.3%	<u>9,000</u>	
		44,778.75	111.9%		40,000
SEARCH COMMITTEE					
General Expenses	3,938.53		131.3%	3,000	
New Minister Expenses	<u>4,110.19</u>		27.4%	<u>15,000</u>	
		8,048.72	44.7%		18,000
CONTINGENCY	<u>0.00</u>		0.0%	<u>3,000</u>	
					<u>3,000</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$264,437.780	70.8%		\$373,531
RECEIPTS LESS DISBURSEMENTS(Deficit)		<u>\$33,121.48</u>			
GENERAL FUND BALANCE at BEGINNING of Year		\$ 50,776.62			
GENERAL FUND BALANCE at END of Year		<u>\$ 83,898.10</u>			

STAMFORD LANE UNITED CHURCH DIRECTED FUNDS YEAR END 2025

<i>Category</i>	<i>Balance, Jan. 1, 2025</i>	<i>Received this Year</i>	<i>Paid out this Year</i>	<i>Balance, Dec. 31, 2025</i>
Audio Visual	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	(\$ 0.00)	\$ 0.00
Benevolent Fund	1,373.16	0.00	(0.00)	1,373.16
Broadview (formerly Observer)	0.00	150.00	(150.00)	0.00
Cave Springs Camp	0.00	0.00	(0.00)	0.00
Choirs	3,265.42	380.00	(1,629.34)	2,016.08
Church Garden	229.45	0.00	(0.00)	229.45
Custodial Fees	0.00	8,327.04	(8,237.04)	0.00
Flower Fund	0.00	720.00		720.00
Fun Committee	469.82	2,859.35	(2,196.34)	1,132.83
FundScrip	0.00	12,360.00	(12,360.00)	0.00
Good News Unit	1,647.83	6,703.01	(6,774.71)	1,576.13
In Touch Committee	2,891.60	4,254.50	(2,671.33)	4,474.77
Kids Night	1,170.97	339.00	(519.04)	990.93
Library	568.05	0.00	(0.00)	568.05
Memorial Fund	4,962.20	6,410.86	(706.84)	10,666.22
Mission & Service	0.00	22,112.37	(22,112.37)	0.00
Mission Committee	7,828.72	11,956.42	(11,153.66)	8,631.48
Niagara Falls Community Outreach	0.00	1,850.00	(1,850.00)	0.00
Organ Fund	1,364.94	0.00	(0.00)	1,364.94
Pancake Lunch	0.00	813.81	(813.81)	0.00
Planned Legacy Giving (TD)	0.00	2,500.00	(2,500.00)	0.00
Project Share	0.00	1,945.00	(1,945.00)	0.00
Security Enhancement	0.00	7,500.00	(7,500.00)	0.00
Student Fund	3,669.78	0.00	(0.00)	3,669.78
Summer Camp	0.00	1,550.00	(1,550.00)	0.00
Tri-M	405.47	0.00	(0.00)	405.47
White Gift	0.00	10,000.00	(10,000.00)	0.00
World Development	0.00	630.00	(630.00)	0.00
Youth Work (Fisher Fund & McCall-MacBain Foundation)	1,591.12	0.00	(1,000.00)	591.12
TOTAL Directed	\$31,438.53	\$103,211.36	(\$ 96,239.48)	\$38,410.41

IG INVESTMENTS	
	Investors Group
December 31, 2024 IG Balance	\$ 989,939.54
Bequests Received	2,500.00
Growth in Investments	85,195.69
Value, December 31, 2025	\$1,077,635.23
Less: Extension Council Grant	\$ 12,457.54
Value of Investments Dec. 31, 2025	\$1,065,177.69

This loan is Niagara Presbytery Extension Council grant for the roof (2018) that was received in 2019 and is to be repaid when the church closes. The investment value for Dec. 31, 2025 includes \$25,000 of General Account funds.

STAMFORD LANE UNITED CHURCH PROPOSED BUDGET 2026

	Actual, 2025		Budget, 2025		Proposed, 2026	
<u>INCOME</u>						
Local Offering	\$166,947.20		\$180,000		\$170,000	
Loose Collections	2,526.40		2,000		2,500	
Initial Offering	70.00		100		100	
Christmas Offering	1,842.00		1,500		1,500	
FundScrip	785.05		400		700	
Misc. – Bargain Boutique	13,315.50		12,000		13,000	
Misc. – Easter Offering			200		200	
Misc. – FUN Ctte					2,500	
Misc. - Good News Unit	5,000.00		2,000		2,000	
Misc. – HST Rebate	5,575.79		3,000		5,000	
Misc. – In-Touch Committee			1,000			
Misc.—Summer Camp	938.14		1,000		1,000	
Misc. – Thompson Endowment	3,454.41		3,000		3,250	
Rent Revenue	79,219.68		45,000		75,000	
Sunday School Offerings	210.00		125		125	
Turkey Dinner Proceeds	2,464.33		2,500		2,500	
Turkey Sponsorships	<u>10,325.00</u>		<u>7,500</u>		<u>8,500</u>	
Sub-Total Income		\$292,643.50		\$260,325		\$287,875
Niagara Extension Council Grant	5,000.00					
TOTAL INCOME		\$297,643.50		\$260,325		\$287,875
Surplus (Deficit)		\$33,205.72		(\$113,206)		(\$116,673)
<u>EXPENSES</u>						
<u>SALARIES</u>						
Staff Salaries	\$122,913.77		\$183,294		\$193,847	
Minister's Travel Allowance	457.60		4,000		4,000	
Supply – Sabbatical, Pulpit, Organ, Custodian	<u>7,880.00</u>		<u>4,500</u>		<u>4,500</u>	
		\$131,251.37		\$191,794		\$202,347
<u>EMPLOYEE BENEFITS</u>						
Church's Share of Employees' Benefits	20,145.06		38,000		42,000	
Minister's Continuing Education & Book Allowance	<u>596.00</u>		<u>1,788</u>		<u>1,733</u>	
		20,741.06		39,788		43,733
<u>100th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION</u>						
Project			10,000			
General Expenses	<u>1,976.78</u>		<u>2,000</u>			
		1,976.78		12,000		
<u>FUN COMMITTEE</u>						
Expenses					2,500	
						2,500
<u>BARGAIN BOUTIQUE</u>						
Bargain Boutique Disbursements	8,506.34		7,200		7,500	
Bargain Boutique Expenses	<u>843.60</u>		<u>500</u>		<u>500</u>	
		9,349.94		7,700		8,000

STAMFORD LANE UNITED CHURCH PROPOSED BUDGET 2026

	Actual, 2025		Budget, 2025		Proposed, 2026	
WORSHIP AND SERVICE						
Advertising			100		100	
Appreciation Garden	135.18		500		500	
Choir Expenses					100	
Fellowship Hour	353.34		275		375	
Licencing CCLI	406.00		650		1,100	
Organ & Piano Tuning			400		250	
National & Region Assessment	15,574.00		15,574		17,593	
Sanctuary Flowers, Gifts	1,035.25		1,000		1,100	
Worship Expenses (including Region Delegate)	<u>852.54</u>		<u>2,500</u>		<u>2,500</u>	
		18,508.86		20,999		23,638
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT						
Children's Time			100		100	
Financial Assistance – Cave Springs Camp	185.00		200		200	
Library	30.00		150		150	
Special Events	298.04		800		800	
Summer Camp					100	
Sunday School Supplies, Curriculum, & Youth	146.79		1,000		<u>1,000</u>	
		659.83		2,250		2,350
OPERATING EXPENSES						
Custodial Supplies	3,202.72		3,500		3,500	
Fuel	9,849.08		12,000		12,000	
Office Expenses	4,069.49		4,500		5,000	
Equipment Renewal (Audio-Visual, 2024)	1782.62		7,000		5,000	
Office Telephone & Internet	1,592.84		2,000		2,000	
Utilities	<u>8,525.72</u>		<u>9,000</u>		<u>9,000</u>	
		29,122.75		38,000		36,500
BUILDING MAINTENANCE						
Elevator Maintenance Contract & Licence	1,685.46		3,000		3,000	
Fire Monitoring	3,250.94		2,000		3,500	
General Repairs, Equipment & Maintenance	20,659.43		21,000		21,000	
Church Property Appraisal	<u>3,045.00</u>		5,000			
Insurance	<u>18,137.92</u>		<u>9,000</u>		<u>24,000</u>	
		44,778.75		40,000		51,500
SEARCH COMMITTEE						
General Expenses	3,938.53		<u>3,000</u>			
New Minister Expenses	<u>4,110.19</u>		<u>15,000</u>		<u>30,000</u>	
		8,048.72		18,000		30,000
CONTINGENCY						
			<u>3,000</u>		<u>4,000</u>	
				<u>3,000</u>		<u>4,000</u>
TOTAL		<u>\$264,437.78</u>		<u>\$373,531</u>		<u>\$404,548</u>
MISSION AND SERVICE GOAL		<u>\$22,242.37</u>		<u>\$25,000</u>		<u>\$22,000</u>

A glimpse at the upcoming events happening at Stamford Lane 2026

January 18 We Welcome Rev. Doug Neufeld as our new Minister and his wife Donna.

January 17 Music Trivia 6:00, Pasta Dinner. Tickets \$25.00

March 1st Annual Congregational Meeting bring sandwiches or sweets to share

Coldest Night of the Year Walk Stamford Lane is once again participating in the **February 28th, 2026**, walk to raise funds for Project SHARE. Alastair Davis 905-641-5925 alastairdavis9@gmail.com invites you to participate as a walker or donor. Donations can be made online at **CNOY.org** for a Stamford walker, or to the church by cheque/cash or e-transfer to givings@stamfordlaneunited.ca (specify CNOY)

You are invited to:

Quilt With Us	Monday	10-2 pm
Walk With Us	Monday	10-11 am
Line Dancing	Monday	6:30 pm
Bell Ringers	Monday	6:30 pm
Bargain Boutique	Tuesday	10-2:15 pm
Bible Study	Tuesday	10:15-11:45 am
Treblaire's practice	Tuesday	6:30-9:30 pm
AA	Tuesday	7:00 pm
AA	Wednesday	noon
Kid's Night	Wed dates vary	6:00-7:30
TOPS	Wednesday	5:30-7:00 pm
Church Council	1 st Wednesday	7:00 pm
Good News Women	2 nd Wednesday	7:00
Bargain Boutique	Thursday	10-2:15 pm
Walk With Us	Thursday	10-11 am
Yoga	Thursday	11-12 noon
Adult Choir	Thursday	7:00 -8:30 pm
Sew With Us	Friday	10-2 pm
Children's Choir	Saturday	11:00 am
Junior Choir	Saturday	12:00 noon
Sunday School	Sunday	10:00 am
Worship Sunday	Sunday	10:00 am

www.StamfordLaneUnited.ca
Office@StamfordLaneUnited.ca
Choir@StamfordLaneUnited.ca
Minister@StamfordLaneUnited.ca
Givings@StamfordLaneUnited.ca
905-354-8841

