

**St. John's United Church, Fall River**  
**Summary of Annual Reports, 2025**  
Please read the Annual Report for complete details.

*Minister's Report*

As a retired supply minister, Rev. David will continue with us through June, 2026 or until we have a new minister. He thanks all those who contribute to the congregation: Council and committee leaders, volunteers and those whose care is unseen. Rev. David sees God continuing at work among us.

*Children and Youth Program Leader*

Rev. Jenny Eisener thanks the many people who have helped the Children and Youth Program, including Sunday School teachers and leaders of Kids on God's Adventure (KOGA). Highlights this year were the Seniors' Epiphany Café and the Youth Ministry Clusters that brought together youth from other United Churches. Rev. Jenny is continuing on the path to become a United Church minister and thanks those who have walked this path with her.

*Church Council*

Council is the governing body of the congregation. 2025 was a year of transition: two congregations became one and our full-time minister retired. Council has welcomed these signs of growth:

- higher attendance at worship services
- more children and youth registered in our programs
- plans for more community-building activities
- involvement of former members of Wellington United Church

Chair Lois Miller thanks Rev. David Hann for his steadfast presence in these critical times.

*Ministry and Personnel (M and P)*

This committee supports our paid staff members. The committee thanks Rev. David Hann, Rev. Jenny Eisener, and music director Peter Thamer and the music team for their outstanding contributions to our ministries. M and P seeks several additional members for 2026.

*Funeral Ministry*

Since the last Annual General Meeting, this ministry has supported families during eight funerals or celebrations of life, and at a visitation. This small team acknowledges the help of the whole congregation and welcomes new members.

*Community of Faith Profile Team*

This team prepared the Community of Faith Profile, the document that describes our church and sets out the qualities we are looking for in a new minister. The Profile is available to ministers who may be interested in coming to St. John's.

### *Search Team*

This team has been leading the search for our new minister. Chair Jen Mallette thanks the congregation for their patience, trust and prayerful support during the search which is taking longer than hoped. The search is now in the interview phase.

### *Spiritual Oversight Committee*

This committee is concerned with the spiritual development and wellbeing of the congregation. During 2025, we had seven baptisms, three confirmations, and four membership transfers in addition to the 47 memberships transferred from Wellington. The number of persons taking communion increased 30 % over 2024.

### *Affirming Ministry*

St. John's became an Affirming congregation in 2024. During the past year, the Affirming Ministry has shared information and held several workshops. A workshop leader said that they found our church environment supportive of the queer community.

### *United Voices Choir*

Music Director Peter Thamer describes the contribution of our choir. About 12-15 singers participate regularly. While choir members mourned the loss of two members in 2025, they were pleased to welcome one new member and a returning member. Peter thanks choir director Jen Mallette and the pianists who filled in while he was at sea.

### *Christian Life and Growth Committee (CLG)*

This committee worked closely with Rev. Jenny Eisener to support Sunday School, KOGA, confirmation classes and local and regional youth activities. They celebrated graduations and kicked off September with Sundaes Sunday. With a Seeds of Hope Youth Grant, regional youth events can continue. CLG has developed a new policy on volunteer screening and record-keeping. The committee seeks additional members, especially those interested in adult learning.

### *Lay Representative to Bermuda-Nova Scotia Region*

Wendall Brown has been our lay representative to the Bermuda-NS Regional Council of the United Church of Canada. Wendall attended the 2025 annual meeting of the Region, which celebrated the 100th anniversary of the United Church and where nine persons were ordained as ministers. Both Regional Council and the national General Council have created resources to help congregations adapt to changing situations. There are strong church leaders in the Halifax area we can call on as we plan for the future of St. John's.

### *Beacon House*

The mission of Beacon House is "Neighbours Helping Neighbours." Beacon House operates a thrift shop and food bank on Cobequid Road, and a 24-bed shelter with another 27 individual units on Metropolitan Avenue in Lower Sackville. St. John's has a representative on the Beacon House Board of Directors. Members of our church are among the 100 active volunteers with this vital community service.

### *United Church Women (UCW)*

This vibrant organization consists of 21 members who meet regularly and contribute generously to our church and beyond. Fundraising events included a chowder luncheon, Turkey-a-la-King luncheon and bazaar and the 72nd annual Strawberry Festival. The UCW donated \$17,000 to St. John's, as well as making separate donations to KOGA and to many charitable causes.

### *Trustees*

The Trustees oversee insurance and administer the congregation's property and investment funds. The sale of the Wellington church brought in \$270,566, now invested as the Wellington Church proceeds fund. As of December 31, 2025, the Wellington Church proceeds fund stood at \$284,386, and the Glengarry Fund stood at \$326,148. The Trustees will recommend that the congregation approve withdrawals from these investment funds for the 2026 Operations budget.

### *2025 Financial Results*

Income increased by \$9,835 in 2025 over 2024. Offerings and donations increased, as did revenue from the Funeral Ministry. Expenses in 2025 were \$28,420 less than in 2024, mainly because we had a part-time minister for most of the year.

The operating deficit or loss for 2025 was \$8,325 before the draw from investments. The Finance Committee notes that the financial results for 2025 do not represent a typical year.

The Annual Report also includes financial statements of the Waverley Pastoral Charge (WPC). Salary and benefits of the minister and part-time administrator are paid through WPC. The income of WPC comes from St. John's United Church as well as interest from a GIC holding the proceeds from the sale of the former manse.

### *2026 Budget*

The proposed budget shows an operating deficit for 2026 of \$59,915. We will fund this deficit by withdrawing \$45,000 from the Glengarry Fund and \$15,000 from the Wellington Fund.

### *Mission and Service (M and S)*

Mission and Service supports outreach beyond our church community. St. John's collects the donations and sends them on to the United Church. Our M and S donations were a little below the goal of \$21,000 set at the last Annual General Meeting. The treasurer recommends \$20,000 as the goal for 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

Lois E. Miller  
February 20, 2026