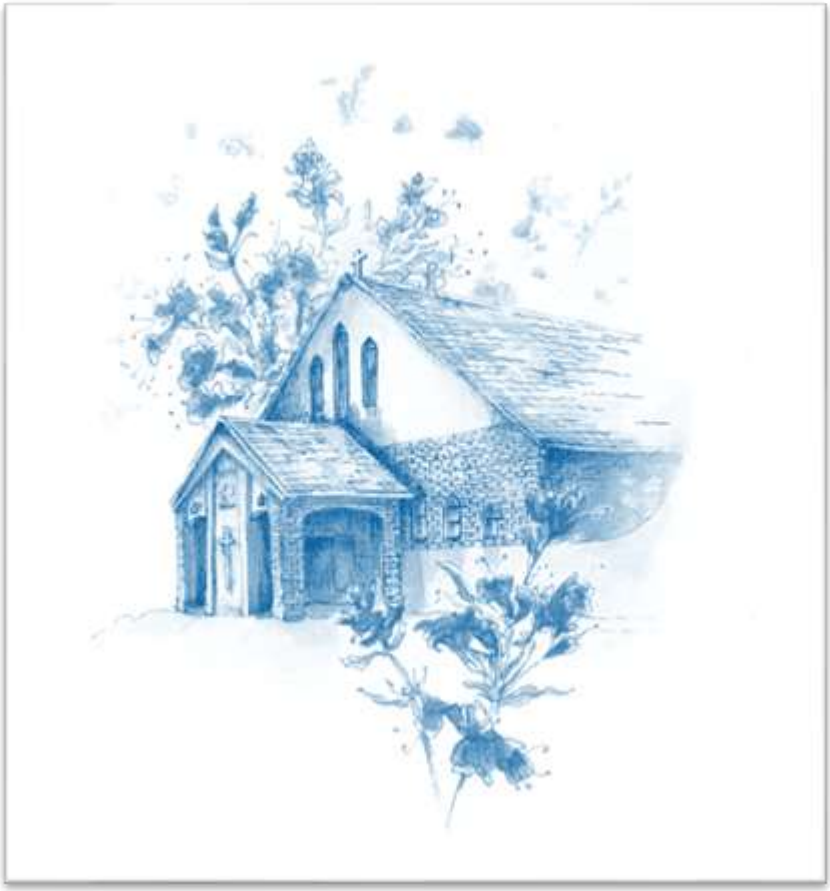
Church of the Nazarene Boksburg

2026 Annual Church Meeting

(Oct 2025-Nov 2026)



18 October 2026

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PRELIMINARIES

Welcome and opening prayer.

"From Attalia they sailed back to Antioch, where they had been committed to the grace of God for the work they had now completed. On arriving there, they gathered the church together and reported all that God had done through them and how he had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles. And they stayed there a long time with the disciples." (Acts 14:26-28 NIV11)

PASTORAL REPORT

Dear Nazarene family,

I would say that this has been the most memorable year of my life so far!

If the two 'families' God blesses you with are your relatives and your church community, how blessed I have been in both areas.

My Personal Journey

Shereen and I were overwhelmed by your kindness leading up to Abigail and Jonathan's birth. When they arrived much earlier than expected in January, how gracious you were as we found our feet and settled them in at home after their NICU stay. And later in the year, after an unexpected surgery which took rather long to recover from, how patient you have been with me as I have regained my strength.

Thank you, thank you for allowing me to take care of my family life first of all – this is, as I often preach, our primary ministry as Christians.

But church ministry has its place too, and what a privilege it was to have hands laid on me as I was ordained for the work of the ministry only a few days after the twins' birth. This didn't change my role in our community, but officially being ordained as an elder by our denominational leaders was something very special.

A memorable year, personally, indeed. I thank the Lord for His grace!

Our Church's Growth

We have seen a growth in numbers during this church year. We went from an average of 85 adults attending our Sunday service to 92. If that doesn't sound significant, think of this: last year we only had more than 100 adults in the service *four* times. This year, there were over 100 at *17* Sunday services.

We also had our biggest ever Christmas carols and Tenebrae services. And we celebrated three baptisms, and took in 34 new members (bringing us to a total of 123).

Our Church's Ministries

This year I preached a series on "A Passion for Ministry", in which we looked at how we as a church might keep focused on our denomination's mission statement "to make Christlike disciples in the nations". We spoke about our passion for worship,

discipleship, mission, children, and care. Soon after we held a special vote electing members of the church board to head up those various ministries, and today you will hear from each of them how God has used us in these various areas to bring His Kingdom to Boksburg and surrounds. *(Note: Our special vote in May saw the current board elected to serve until the end of our 2027 church year. Hence, we are not voting for board members today.)*

I believe that we have seen more effective ministry take place in our church since this structure was put into place. A heartfelt thank you to each ministry leader for overseeing the work of God in your portfolio with such love and passion!

When I met somebody at the church recently, and it was just the two of us in the hall, he said to me, “How strange to see the church so empty and quiet!” Isn’t it amazing that it is *unusual* when nobody is at church doing something for the Lord?

Our church also stands out in the percentage of people we have volunteering in ministries. *So many* of you are involved, one way or another, in the work we do. *Thank you!*

Our Church’s Changes

This was a year of much *change* here in our community.

We took on two new staff members – Mary Saunders our church secretary, and David Mendes our youth worker – and both have been a tremendous blessing to me, and to our congregation at large.

We took on two new board members too – Maria Kaye as board secretary and Jacques Du Toit as trustee/properties. I’m grateful to both for their commitment and love for our church, and the work they have done.

We have a new monthly service on a Sunday night, new members, new volunteers, new courses and workshops being run, new ministries in various areas.

Even our property has been renewed in ways – new cameras and lights keeping us safe, new water lines and walling maintenance projects planned, and ideas for new buildings/classrooms being spoken of so we can do even more ministry here.

Perhaps our little church is a small foretaste of the words of Revelation 21:5 *"He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!”"*

Our Church's Afrikaans Friends

Let's not forget Rev. Pieter Joubert and the group of Nazarenes who once met here in the place we worship but now have started a new work in Dayanglen. This church is growing towards independence, and our continued prayer for them is much needed. We praise God for community of faith that is touching lives and spreading the holiness message in that part of Boksburg.

Our Church's Challenges

All of this is not to say that it's been an *easy* year. We have had our struggles.

Our youth ministry had a difficult start at the end of 2025. Thankfully, Dave came along in April, and we have seen fruit in this area now.

Attendance and tithing have both been erratic through the year – and so the budget Joanne will present today is a leap of faith for us.

Some of our ministries have seen a dip in volunteers, which has put more strain on the few.

And, as is normal in church settings, there have been moments of disagreement, personality clashes, and misunderstandings.

Our Church's Future

But these don't change the fact that we are certainly headed in the right direction. I find myself asking *where to from here?*

The words of Jesus come to mind: *"From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked." (Luke 12:48 NIV11*)

Could it be that God is going to be doing *more still* among us here?

I believe so. And I am here to ask you today to plug in to this community as we continue this journey! This is certainly not *my* church. It is *ours.* And of course, it is *God's* ultimately.

Will we be willing to keep doing the work He gives us to do, to keep seeing Christlike disciples in the nations being formed and kept, here in our town?

I pray so!

Thank *you* all for continuing to trust me as your pastor and leader.

A huge thank you to *Shereen* for your support, encouragement, and love.

Most of all, a huge thank you to our *Lord Jesus* for His ever-constant grace.

In Christ,

Reverend Luke Powell

MINISTRY REPORTS

NDI – Nazarene Discipleship International

Dear Rev Luke & Church board,

It has been a great honour and responsibility to serve as the Nazarene Discipleship International (NDI) representative for COTN Boksburg over the past few months. It is a role that I am still growing into, and I look forward with excitement to the year ahead.

It has truly been a blessing to see how many people within our congregation willingly take responsibility for and provide leadership in our various ministries. From Sunday School and Bible studies to Men & Women's Fellowship and Bible in Two Years, there is always someone willing to step up, take the lead and serve. Thank you to each and everyone.

This willingness to serve is a wonderful reflection of the commitment within our congregation to discipleship, fellowship and growing together in Christ.

We have a few exciting things planned for the year ahead, and I am committed to fulfilling my role to the best of my ability, supporting our ministries and encouraging opportunities for spiritual growth and discipleship within our church.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve and look forward to what God has in store for us in the coming year.

In His Service,

Ruhan

Wednesday Morning Fellowship

Dear Rev Luke & Church board,

The Wednesday fellowship group encourages and uplifts one another during challenging times and rejoices together when one or more is blessed. A core group of 6 ladies meet at 10am every second Wednesday of the month. Numbers fluctuate according to health needs and family commitments.

In His Service,

Karen

Men of Faith

Dear Rev Luke & Church board,

The Men of Faith ministry meets every Friday morning from 5:45 to 6:30 a.m. We are blessed to have between six and twelve men attending every week, come rain or shine, demonstrating their commitment to growing in their faith and supporting one another in Christ.

One of the highlights is that different men lead and present, bringing a variety of topics, perspectives and insights into our discussions. Over time, the men have grown in their faith and have become more comfortable sharing their thoughts and experiences with one another.

For me personally, these brothers in Christ have strengthened my faith, as well as one another's, and have brought the Scriptures to life, making God's Word more meaningful and relevant to our daily lives.

We thank God for this fellowship and pray that the Men of Faith will continue to grow spiritually, encourage one another and remain steadfast in their walk with Christ.

To God be the glory!

Grant Roach

Precepts Bible Study

Dear Rev Luke & Church board,

Since starting our verse-by-verse study of the Bible in May 2025, we have studied the following books:

- Mark
- Malachi
- 1 Timothy
- 2 Timothy
- Hebrews
- Revelation – this study will continue until next Easter.

We all read the Bible but that is not enough: we need to understand the historical setting, the culture of the people at the time and most importantly, how the book fits into God's plan of salvation.

Doing a verse-by-verse study like this, has opened our eyes to truths that we had previously overlooked. Each book has given us a better understanding of God's grace, His redemption plan in the Old Testament and how Jesus is the perfect sacrifice for our sins

The book of Revelation is more evidence of God's love for the Gentile churches and then, His focus returns to the Jewish people who He never stopped loving.

In His Service,

Joanne

Bible in 2 years

Dear Rev Luke & Church board,

We ended the year with 3 members active on the discussion group on WhatsApp and we were meeting on a Sunday afternoon. This however proved to be challenging for the international members due to daylight savings and other priorities in their daily schedules.

We started the second journey in July 2026 and are currently on week 16, with 15 members on the discussion group.

Weekly sessions always prove to be enlightening and blessed by all the input and shared insights.

Looking forward to the rest of this journey with everyone.

In His Service,

Felicity

B.L.A.S.T. Sunday School

Dear Rev Luke & Church board,

B.L.A.S.T., our Sunday School ministry, has run smoothly throughout the year. A variety of Bible lessons and stories have been incorporated into the programme, beginning in the Old Testament and progressing through to the New Testament. An integral part of our teaching is helping the children understand the values and lessons contained in each story and how these can be applied in their everyday lives.

Our attendance has fluctuated between 3 and 15 children each week. It is always a joy to welcome new children, with the hope that they will become regular members of our Sunday School. Depending on the number of children attending, we divide them into two age-appropriate groups, allowing the week's lesson to be presented in a way that is relevant and engaging for each age group.

We are also mindful that a few of our children will be entering high school next year. With this in mind, we plan to progress towards more substantial and age-appropriate Sunday sessions that will continue to support their spiritual growth as they enter this new stage of their lives.

A very big thank you to our teachers, who remain dedicated, adaptable and creative in the way they teach and engage our children. Their commitment plays an important role in helping our children grow in their knowledge, understanding and love of Jesus.

We are grateful for another year of B.L.A.S.T. and look forward to continuing to nurture and encourage our children in their walk with Christ.

In God's Service,

Gerda

Wise Guys

Dear Rev Luke & Church board,

Wise Guys is a group of young men who have lived enough life to have earned the title of "elderly" gentlemen.

The Wise Guys met on the last Thursday of each month, with an average attendance of approximately 8 to 10 men. Throughout the year, various topics were explored, with different speakers joining us to entertain, teach and spend time with the group. Each gathering was followed by a time of fellowship and, of course, a good cup of coffee.

We are grateful for the fellowship, conversations and wisdom shared throughout the year, and I look forward to broadening the collective wisdom bestowed upon us in the coming year.

In God's Service,

Rob

NCM – Nazarene Compassionate Ministries

Good morning, everyone.

It is a privilege to present the Compassionate Ministries Report for the Church of the Nazarene Boksburg.

The focus of Compassionate Ministries is to take Christ to those who are frail, elderly, financially struggling and living in poverty. We are reminded of Cornelius in Acts chapter 10, who actively sought God, generously met the needs of others and remained faithful in prayer.

These principles guide all our ministries as we seek to demonstrate God's love through practical assistance, prayer, encouragement and service.

1. Companions Ministry

Our Companions Ministry visits people in hospital, the elderly, and those who cannot attend church because of illness or other circumstances. Some are not church members but have been referred to us because they are lonely and need companionship.

Between five and seven members served in this ministry during the year. Each Companion is allocated a week, and whoever is on duty attends to hospital visits as needed.

Flowers from Sunday services are given to hospital patients, and small gifts are provided for birthdays. We have also introduced calling cards so that people know someone from our church has visited, even if they were asleep or unavailable.

All our hospitalised members have returned home to recover, and we continue to keep in touch with them. Every Companion visited the people assigned to them. We are working towards ensuring that everyone receives at least one visit a month, with a phone call or message where a personal visit is not possible.

A particularly touching moment was receiving a message from the daughter-in-law of one of our very frail ladies who recently passed away. She thanked us for visiting her mother-in-law regularly. This reminds us how meaningful these visits are and encourages our Companions to continue sharing God's love faithfully.

One major improvement is to have a dedicated person administering and coordinating the Companions Ministry.

2. Prayer Ministry

Our Prayer Ministry continues to provide confidential, compassionate and consistent support to the congregation and wider community.

The main prayer requests concerned health challenges, medical testing and results, as well as spiritual protection and support for those involved in ministry.

Team members maintained contact with individuals, received prayer requests, provided ongoing prayer coverage and followed changing circumstances. Several serious medical situations required continued prayer and regular updates.

We thank our prayer team for faithfully standing in the gap for others and providing spiritual support during difficult and uncertain times.

3. In-Reach Ministry

The In-Reach Ministry provides practical support to members of our church family experiencing hardship.

During the reporting period, we were able to provide monthly food parcels to two families who experienced extraordinary life hardships.

This was made possible through the generous donations and giving of our congregation. We are grateful that we can support our church family when they need it most.

4. Outreach and Skills Development

Outreach and Skills Development continues to make a positive impact on our surrounding community. Approximately 40 members and non-members serve in various capacities, and we are grateful for the continued support of our church board, congregation, volunteers and community.

Since June 2023, **1,082 Hope parcels have been distributed, and 805 jobseekers have heard the Gospel through our outreach initiatives**. New Bibles have been provided to jobseekers, blankets were distributed in March and June, and we celebrate that some jobseekers have found Christ and employment through the programme.

Our skills offerings have expanded to include Busy Hands ladies' devotionals and crafts, woodworking, machine sewing, domestic cleaning upskilling, health and

safety, food safety, mobile car washing, self-defence, first aid, entrepreneurial training through Create, Earn and Learn, and forklift licensing.

Kingdom Kitchen provides meals for people attending training, and a donation of five computers will enable us to begin online training.

We have also donated care packs and clothing to Tambo Memorial Hospital's emergency unit, regularly provided basic toiletry packs to House of Mercy, and shared our resources with other Church of the Nazarene congregations and organisations. Our work received coverage in the local newspaper through two articles. We also received a rice donation from the Dayanglen congregation for our Hope Jars.

Community support has been tremendous, particularly through donated goods and must especially to volunteers giving their time.

However, challenges remain. Kuselo has scaled back to food drops, as its safe house is no longer operating. Nifty Needles no longer meets. Many entry-level vacancies are not advertised, domestic employment opportunities are scarce, and accessing donations from industry remains difficult.

Despite these challenges, we remain committed to equipping people with skills, sharing the Gospel and providing hope for a better future.

5. Hope Ithemba Pregnancy Crisis Centre

Hope Ithemba supports an average of 23 babies each month, with approximately 30 to 40 donors, including church members and the wider community. Eight direct team members serve through sewing and making baby items, marketing and communication, preparing parcels, and coordinating deliveries.

One of the greatest highlights has been the growing interest in the ministry, with more people donating, asking questions and wanting to understand its work. Taking church members to experience the enormity of this ministry has helped them appreciate that we are not simply handing out gifts; we are offering hope, restoring dignity and helping mothers see possibilities for their future.

The baby quilts are especially meaningful, as they are made to help restore dignity to mothers after their difficult journey through pregnancy and training.

Following a presentation a few weeks ago, a generous contribution of R2,400 was received. This was used to purchase two large bags of pre-loved baby clothes worth

approximately R15,000 at new retail prices. This excellent value-for-money purchase will support another substantial donation delivery planned for October.

The generosity was an emotional reminder of God's abundant blessings and how He moves people's hearts to help others.

We thank everyone who contributes to this ministry and helps bring hope to mothers and babies in difficult circumstances.

6. Retirement Homes Ministry

We continue to conduct monthly services at Alan Woodrow in Boksburg and Alan Woodrow in Brakpan, and twice-monthly services at Cedar Manor.

These services are precious opportunities to preach the Gospel, worship and encourage residents who may no longer be able to attend church on Sundays.

We are humbled by the privilege of taking God's Word to them and reminding them that they remain valued and loved.

In closing

As we reflect on these ministries, we see Christ's love expressed through visits, prayer, food parcels, skills training, employment support, care for mothers and babies, and services at retirement homes.

We thank our church board, congregation, volunteers, donors and community partners. Every prayer, donation, hour of service and practical contribution makes a difference.

May we continue following the example of Cornelius in Acts 10: seeking God, praying faithfully and generously meeting the needs of others.

To God be all the glory for what He has accomplished through Compassionate Ministries at the Church of the Nazarene Boksburg.

Thank you.

Grant Roach

NMI – Nazarene Missions International

Dear Rev Luke & Church board,

It has been a privilege to serve our congregation through Nazarene Missions International (NMI) during this past year. Our focus has been to create greater awareness of missions, encourage involvement, and help our congregation connect more intentionally with the wider mission of the Church of the Nazarene.

During the year, the below can be highlighted for this ministry:

- *Monthly NMI themes*: The monthly NMI themes were presented to the Church Board to encourage greater alignment between NMI and the broader ministries of the church. This was approved, allowing us to regularly communicate these themes and mission opportunities with the congregation.
- *Care and Connect*: We explored opportunities to connect our local congregation with South African missionaries through the NMI Care and Connect initiative. We are especially privileged to have connected with Ronald and Shelly Miller, providing an opportunity to build a more personal relationship with missionaries and their ministry.
- *Getting involved*: Awareness was created around opportunities for members of the congregation to become involved in ministry and volunteer service within the church. As part of this, the Spiritual Gifts Workshop was promoted to encourage members to discover their God-given gifts and consider how these can be used in service.
- *Missionary visit and ministry*: We were blessed to have Ronald Miller share more about their missionary ministry with the congregation and also preach during Pastor Luke's absence. This gave the congregation an opportunity to hear firsthand about missions and the work being done beyond our local church.
- *Alabaster Offering*: Awareness was created around the purpose of the Alabaster Offering and how Nazarene congregations contribute towards providing buildings and property for ministry around the world. The response from our congregation was truly remarkable, with R16,400 raised during September.

Looking Ahead

As we move into the next year, the intention is to continue building on this foundation by keeping missions visible within our congregation, strengthening our relationship with Ronald and Shelly Miller through Care and Connect, promoting opportunities for

members to become actively involved in ministry, and continuing to support initiatives such as Alabaster.

Most importantly, our desire is for NMI to help remind us that missions is not only something that happens somewhere else in the world. Every one of us has an opportunity to pray, give, connect and serve.

I am deeply grateful for the support of our Church Board, pastoral leadership and congregation, and for the willingness of our church family to embrace the call to missions.

To God be the glory for what has been accomplished, and we look forward with expectation to what He will do through our congregation in the year ahead.

In God's service

Marlene Vorster

NYI – Nazarene Youth International

Fellow Nazarenes, I greet you in the precious name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. What a blessed year 2026 has been! I joined this church congregation as a staff member as of April and I would like to share with you about the journey our youth ministry has been on its fledgling stages, so buckle up.. here.. we.. go!

The first few months of my time here saw me reaching out to a few high schools in the area, with many of them saturated with youth worker involvement. And so, I pressed into the Lord and asked for His guidance in where He would like the Church of the Nazarene Boksburg to minister, and in what capacity. The road has been one filled with twists, turns, speed bumps, and even the odd pothole, BUT – the Lord is good and has opened various doors of opportunity. When I started in April, we started with a Friday night youth ministry space as the primary and singular area of activity. Much has changed, with the following taking shape as we build towards 2027:

412 School Ministry

The Lord opened the doors to Boksburg High School in the form of a classroom and 45 minute beak-time slot to minister to any teens/students who would be interested. There used to be spiritual input from various individuals, but this came to an abrupt end with the COVID pandemic.

Attempting very poorly to conceal my excitement, I asked about whether Boksburg High School would be interested in a resident youth worker, to which they replied "yes!" Friends, the attendance of the teens in this space has gradually increased, with our first session having an attendance of 17 students, and our most recent session (14 October) having 35 – averaging 27 students per session!

Most recently we have begun a 4 week discipleship course at the request of the students. We now head into the exam period, and so I would ask that you please commit Boksburg High School to prayer as we seek to make a tangible difference in the spiritual lives of not only these young people, but the educators too.

East Rand Children's Haven

In searching for further opportunities to minister to young people, the Lord led me to East Rand Children's Haven, a place of safety that currently hosts 20 children – the youngest being 7 years of age, and the oldest 17.

Once again, attempting to conceal my excitement, I asked whether there was any regular spiritual input for the children, to which they answered, "no".

We are in the process of figuring out just what exactly our total involvement will look like, but in the interim it has been agreed that I may have access to the children every Sunday between 11h00 and 12h30 for Sunday school. My first session with the children was on Sunday the 11th of October and I am looking forward to sowing into the lives of these precious children moving forward.

Students of Promise

In partnership with Dr. Rochelle Moodey of RM Accounting, we have decided to offer a skills development and bursary gap program aimed primarily at young people who are either about to matriculate, or did so recently. These young people will be given the opportunity to complete an NQF level 2 course with the content including: debtors, creditors, inventory, petty cash, bank reconciliation, and trial balance. This course is available at a significantly reduced price and is specifically for the individual who does not qualify for NSFAS, but in equal measure does not have the finances to fund further studies. If you know of anyone who is about to matriculate (or has done so recently), please ask them to contact me if they are interested in such a course. We are currently in the enrolment phase of the program and are aiming to launch in the first week of February 2027.

Teen Church

Our Friday night youth attendance is something that has been somewhat erratic, by virtue of the fact that we do not have many teens in our congregation between the ages of 14 and 17 years of age. We have had one family that has brought between 11 and 13 teens along every second Friday, but being reliant on their attendance to host a Friday night is not viable in the long term. And so we have made the decision to try something bold. We have decided not to host Friday night youth every Friday evening, but to rather focus on a once-a-month event that is a non-threatening, low-pressure- to-commit space where teens can experience church without the pressure of having to attend regularly. This however does not mean that there will be no input for that age group. Rather, we have decided to begin work on our teen church "pipeline", focusing on the 11 and 12 year-old 'tweens with the aim of having them join Teen Church once they turn 13. This would take place at the same time as Sunday School, so if you know of any families with children around this age, please encourage them to come and visit.

Common Ground

As a by-product of our change in approach to Friday night ministry, we have decided to host a young adult cell group every second Friday of the month, called "Common Ground". This is aimed at young people between the ages of 18 and 30.

Our young adults had their first meeting on the 9th of October and I am very excited about what God is going to do in this space!

In addition to the exciting happenings above, we will be doing our police clearance for our volunteers who work with minors on Saturday the 31st of October. If you would like to know more about this, please contact the church office.

I am also in the process of completing the Evergreen Parenting facilitator's course, which I look forward to running in 2027!

God has done so much between April and October of 2026. I cannot wait to see what He has in- store for 2027! Thank you so much to our community for your support. It takes a village, as they say, and what a wonderful collection of God's people we are blessed to call our proverbial village!

None of this is possible without God, and so we give Him all the honour and glory for the doors He has opened. Please join me in committing our NextGen Ministries to fervent prayer in the times to come.

If you are interested in getting more involved with our youth ministry, please contact the church office and leave a message for me with our church secretary, the incomparable Mary Saunders.

Blessings,

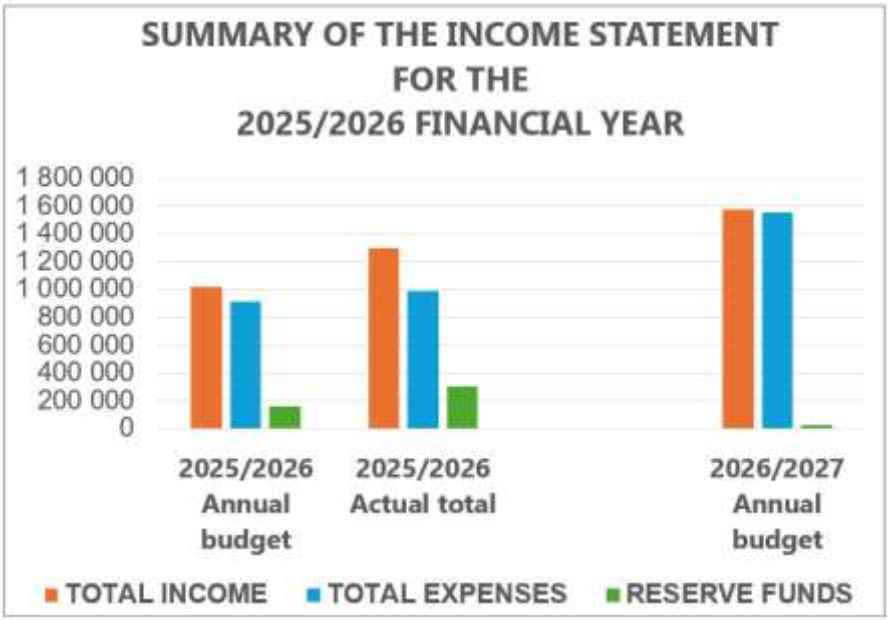
Your Friendly Neighbourhood Youth Worker

David Mendes

FINANCE REPORT

The most important things to understand are:

1. How much money came in **(INCOME).**
2. How much was spent **(EXPENSES).**
3. What was left over **(RESERVE FUNDS).**
4. How this compares with the 2026/2027 budget.
5. How are the reserves going to be used. (**PLANNING)**



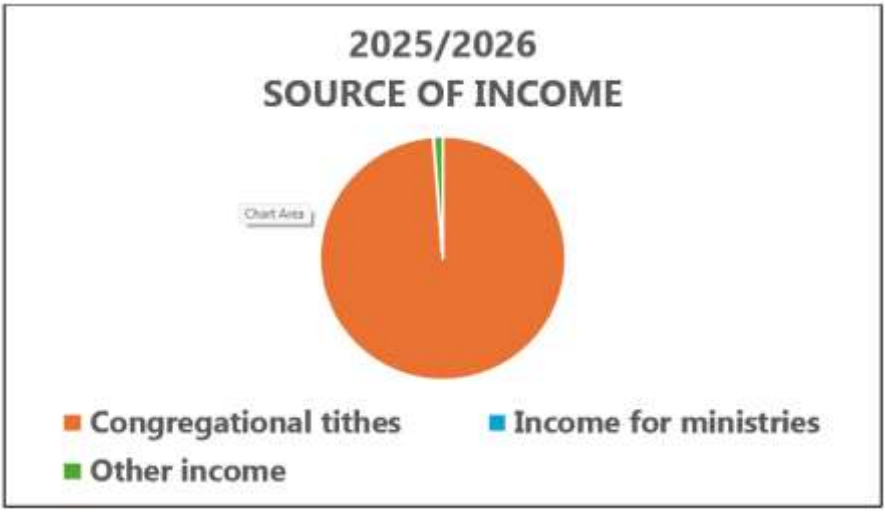
Although the Board spent more than originally budgeted for, it also received considerably more income. As a result, we ended off the year with R151,415 over budget.

	2025/2026 Annual budget	2025/2026 Actual total		2026/2027 Annual budget
TOTAL INCOME	1,020,000	1,296,766		1,572,000
TOTAL EXPENSES	913,560	989,411		1,549,092
RESERVE FUNDS	159,340	307,355		22,908

INCOME

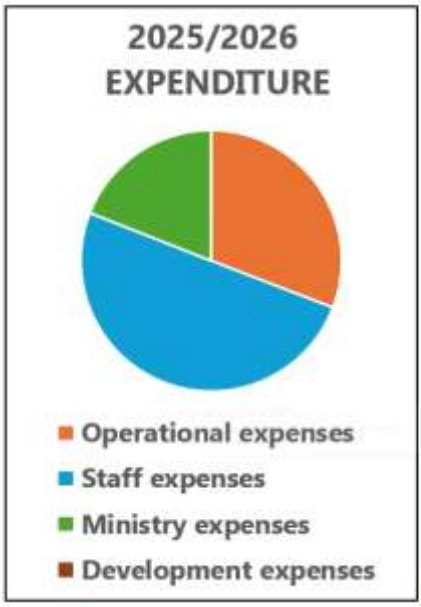
The financial health of the congregation depends primarily on the **faithful giving of the congregation**. The Board would like to thank everyone for their contribution

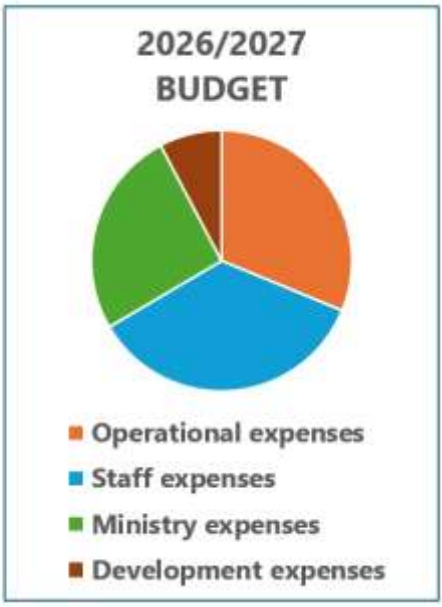
	2025/2026 Annual budget	2025/2026 Actual total		2026/2027 Annual budget
Congregational tithes	1,020,000	1,178,294		1,560,000
Income for ministries	1,000	59,540		0
Other income	12,000	58,932		12,000
TOTAL INCOME	1,033,000	1,296,766		1,572,000



EXPENDITURE

	2025/2026 Annual budget	2025/2026 Actual total		2026/2027 Annual budget
Operational expenses	269,460	414,312		483,720
Staff expenses	438,000	387,562		546,972
Ministry expenses	166,200	179,575		398,400
Development expenses	0	7,962		120,000
TOTAL EXPENSES	873,660	989,411		1,549,092





VOTING

The only matter we need to vote on this year is the election of our delegates to the District Assembly. Our church board was elected earlier this year and continues in office until next year's annual meeting.

Under Manual ¶201, the newly elected NDI, NMI and NYI presidents (or their vice presidents) attend the District Assembly by virtue of their office, representing our church. In addition, our church is entitled to send two lay delegates from among our active membership (¶201.2).

Maria Kaye and **Richard Pratt** are nominated.