Melville
United Church

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

March 8, 2026

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Melville United Church
Annual Meeting Agenda
Sunday March 8, 2026

(Please be sure to sign the attendance sheet)

1. Call to Order / Welcome / Opening Remarks
2. Devotion – Lara Johnston
3. In Memoriam – Pastoral Care Committee – Alison Rainford
4. Election of Chairperson and Secretary
5. Approval of Agenda
6. Voting Privilege and Meeting Protocol

   The members of a local church who are entitled to vote at all meetings are persons in full membership whose names are on the roll of that church. With the consent of those, adherents who contribute regularly to the support of the church may vote on temporal maters. (Section 5.2.2 of the United Church Manual)

7. Approval of the minutes of:
   a. Sunday March 2, 2025
   b. Sunday December 7, 2025
8. 2025 Financial Report – Presented by Kaillie Rawn, Treasurer
9. 2026 Proposed Budget – Presented by Kaillie Rawn, Treasurer
10. Approval of Committee Reports
11. Nomination Report by Stewardship – Ralph Rainford (Nominations will be accepted from the floor.)
12. New Business
    a.
    b.
13. A time of reflection and thanks
14. Benediction – Rev. Loree
15. Adjournment

Notes to Congregation:

I. Floor will be open for motions.

II. There must be a mover and seconder before the motion is read. (Motion must be in written form.)

III. The mover will speak to the motion first. There is a limit of 3 (three) minutes for each person to speak to the motion.

IV. The mover will have the final opportunity to speak to the motion before the vote.

Steps to a Motion:

9 STEPS TO A MOTION

1. Moved – a proposal from the floor
2. Seconded – another member's interest
3. Stated – by chair or secretary
4. Discussed – each member can speak once to each motion
5. Amended – changing the motion by:
   a) Adding or deleting words
   b) Replacing with different words (Each amendment has the same 9 steps)
6. Called – Time to vote
7. Restated – ensures everyone's understanding of motion
8. Voted – all in favour? Opposed? Abstaining?
9. Declared – Carried or Defeated

Pastoral Care Minister's Report 2025

Greetings again Melville friends. Another year has passed and I have again enjoyed providing Pastoral Care coverage for you. Visiting many of you in homes, hospital and senior residences as needed and connecting with others by phone brings great joy and fulfillment and the Friday coffee hour times are a wonderful opportunity to keep in touch. It has been my privilege also to provide end of life spiritual care and funeral and memorial services to some of our long-time and beloved members. And I was pleased to officiate at a lovely wedding in the sanctuary.

Sunday worship continues to inspire as the roster of Pulpit Supply Ministers arranged by Lillian Gohn and the Worship Committee continue to do a great job each week. Those experienced ministers, along with the occasional worship services led by the Social Justice Team and Faith Formation ensure that Melville continues to enjoy meaningful and stimulating worship services each week throughout the year.

We all hope that 2026 will be a year that brings positive things to Melville and the community we are situated in. I have been happy to help with Pastoral Care the past couple of years and, although I will miss you all, I look forward to 'retiring' again and to handing over these responsibilities as soon as a new permanent minister is in place.

My wish for you all going forward is good health, good friends, and a strong sense of the love of God that is in, around and part of you always!

Please do not hesitate to call me if you, or someone you know, has a need to speak with a minister. I will be happy to respond if I can.

Yours in Christ,
Rev. Marion Loree

Melville Congregational Meeting
Sunday, December 7, 2025

This meeting was held in the Sanctuary immediately following the Worship Service with forty-four people attending.

The purpose of the meeting was to share with the Congregation, Council's Ministerial options for Melville United Church.

The meeting was convened at 12:12 pm. A recorded attendance was taken.

Motion 1. Moved by Neil Dunsmore, Seconded by Eleanor Johnston, that
Lara Johnston be appointed Chairperson and Ralph Rainford be appointed Secretary for the meeting.

Carried

Lara explained to the Congregation that all who are present for this meeting are welcome to vote.

Motion 2. Moved by Neil Dunsmore, Seconded by Jane O'Leary, that all who are present for the meeting are entitled to vote.

Carried

Lara Johnston gave an explanation about the purpose of this meeting and the Ministerial Options that are available for Melville. She reported to the Congregation that Council has been looking at the options available since last June. Council has not been able to move forward on this until we received official confirmation that Rev. Lynda Goy-Flint will not be returning to Melville. We now have that confirmation that she will not be returning and we can move forward.

Council is in agreement that we should be hiring a Minister for leadership here at Melville. It is Council's hope that we can come to some agreement today to decide what amount of time we need from our Minister. Council is in agreement that a Minister is a valued part of our Congregation and will work in collaboration with the various committees. It is hoped that this person will provide motivation for the Congregation.
We have a Search Committee in place ready to start. We need to decide today on the amount of ministerial time we would like to have.

Here are our options:
1. Continue with our program of pulpit supply. No change in the budget.

2. 0.5 Minister (½ time). Net loss about $9,200.00 per year which includes two Sundays of pulpit supply per month.

3. 0.75 (¾ time). Net loss about $35,000.00 per year which includes two Sundays per month of pulpit supply per month.

4. 1.0 (full time). Net loss $53,000.00 per year. No pulpit supply.
*These dollar amounts are based on past years of givings.

Please note: ½ time plus two supply ministers leading worship per month allows the minister to work only on two worship services per month and lead pastoral care.

Lara also explained that we should be having a new renter coming to Melville with a day care program. This will hopefully will generate about $36,000.00 per year.

Motion 3. Moved by Neil Dunsmore, Seconded by Jane O'Leary, that Melville United Church Congregation instructs the search Committee to hire a permanent Minister for ¾ time (30 hours per week). The role will be supported through pulpit supply.

Questions from the Congregation.

Richard Wright spoke in favour of the motion and felt confident the additional money needed would be forthcoming. He also said that if necessary we will be able to re-negotiate terms with the new minister.

Susan Barth asked if there are ministerial candidates available. Lara explained that there are, but we will not know for certain until we begin the process.

Graham Chalmers wanted to know if ¾ time will be enough to handle pastoral care. Lara answered that it should be.

The vote by secret ballot was taken. **Carried.**
Results: Yes 38, No 1, Abstentions 5.

Motion 4. Moved by Mary Lloyd, Seconded by Eleanor Johnson, that the ballots be destroyed.
Carried

Motion 5. Motion to adjourn by Neil Dunsmore. Time 12:36

Melville Congregational Meeting
Sunday, December 7, 2025
Church Sanctuary
Attendance

Chris Hopewell	Graeme Chalmers	Millie Cumming
Lara Johnston	Margaret Frayne	Thelma Rawn
Lorri Wright	Barry Rawn	Richard Wright
John Cuming	Ralph Rainford	Edith Hons
Bunny Russell	Isabel Weaver	Eleanor Johnston
Mildred Perkin	Paul Lindsey	Paul Parkin
Marilyn Parkin	David Gohn	Lillian Gohn
Bev Anticknap	Linda Porritt	Norm Porritt
Jane O'Leary	Alison Rainford	Gaelina Terekhov
Shawna Dunsmore	Neil Dunsmore	Heather Halls
Helen Bradley	Elizabeth Moore	Greta de Boer
Jessie Jessop	Trudy Adsett	Doreen Broome
Larry Broome	Mary Lloyd	Kaillie Rawn
Mardi Steiner		Rev. Marion Loree

2025 Congregational Meeting Minutes

Melville United Church
Annual Meeting
Sunday, March 2, 2025

There were forty-one people in attendance including Rev. Marion Loree.
This meeting was conducted in person in the Fellowship Hall after the Worship Service and Lunch.

1. The meeting was called to order at 1:07 pm. by Council Chair
Allan Hons.
Allan welcomed everyone and made his opening remarks.

2. Devotion- This was led by Ralph Rainford who read a "h*umorous"* history of the Bible written by a young child, entitled "Judas Asparagus."

3. In Memoriam- Alison Rainford, Chair of the Pastoral Care Committee read the list of members and adherents of Melville who have passed during the 2024 year This was followed by a moment of reflection.

4. Election of Chairperson and Secretary for the meeting.

Motion 1. Moved by Neil Dunsmore, Seconded by Alison Rainford
that Allan Hons be elected as Chairperson for today's meeting.

Carried

Motion 2. Moved by Neil Dunsmore, Seconded by Jane O'Leary, that
Ralph Rainford be elected as Secretary for today's meeting.

Carried

5. Motion 3. Moved by Patty Foster, Seconded by Neil Dunsmore, that the Agenda be approved as amended.

Carried

6. Voting Privilege and Meeting Protocol: The members of a local church who are entitled to vote at all meetings are persons in full membership whose names are on the Historical Roll of that church. With the consent of those present, Adherents who contribute regularly to the support of the church may vote on temporal matters. (Section 5.2.2 of the United Church Manual)

Motion 4. Moved by Eleanor Johnston, Seconded by Lorri Wright, that Adherents be allowed to vote at this meeting.

Carried

7. Approval of the minutes of Sunday, April 14,2024.
Motion 4. Moved by Alison Rainford, Seconded by Jane O'Leary, that the minutes of Sunday, April 14, 2024 Annual Meeting be approved as presented.

Carried

8. Financial Report- Presented by Kaillie Rawn, Treasurer. Kaillie presented the Financial Report for 2024 as outlined in the Annual Report. A brief discussion followed. Mary Lloyd thanked the Fun, Funds and Fellowship Committee for their successful fund raising results during the year.

Motion 6. Moved by Kaillie Rawn, Seconded by Neil Dunsmore that the Financial Report 2024 be accepted as presented.

Carried

9. 2025- Proposed Budget. Kaillie Rawn presented the proposed budget for 2025. Brief discussion followed. Kaillie reported that we have a proposed deficit of $58,235.00. This includes the salary for Rev. Goy-Flint, if she returns. Neil Dunsmore asked about the on going window replacement and repairs. Kaillie reported that $13,400.00 has been allocated for this project. Additional money for capital repairs will be made available from U.C.W. The Trustees, Fundraising and possible Grants. Richard Wright suggested that we separate the Capital Budget from the Operations Budget. This was agreed on by the Congregation. The following motion was presented:

Motion 6.

Moved by Kaillie Rawn, Seconded by Mary Lloyd, that the Operations Budget be accepted as presented.

Carried

10. Approval of Committee Reports.

Motion 8. Moved by Karen Smillie, Seconded by Patty Foster, that the Committee reports be accepted as presented.

Carried

11. Nomination Report by Stewardship. Ralph Rainford presented the slate of officers for the Church Council and Melville Committees. Brief discussion followed. Ralph expressed our thanks on behalf of the Congregation to the Committee Chairs of Council. He thanked Lara Johnston for assuming the position of Council Chairperson for 2025. There is a vacancy for the Vice-Chair position which we will continue to attempt to fill.

Motion 9. Moved by Ralph Rainford, Seconded by Patty Foster, that the Church Council and Committees list be accepted as amended.

Carried

At this time Allan Hons made his closing remarks as Chairperson, reflecting on the past nine years. Allan thanked the staff for their hard work and dedication to Melville throughout the year, Lynda Rivet in the office, Colleen Weber and Suzanne Flewelling for their musical leadership, Suzanne for keeping the building so clean and Ann Ward working with the Youth. He also expressed thanks on our behalf to Rev. Marion Loree, Rev. Jeff Hawkins, Rev. Tom Watson, Rev. Ruth Brown and Rev. Felicia Urbanski for their fine leadership in our worship services. He is also grateful to the Committee Chairs for their

hard work on behalf of Melville. He presented Ann Ward with a thank you for her work here at Melville. Allan then turned the meeting over to Lara Johnston as our incoming Chair of the Melville Church Council. Lara took this opportunity to thank Mary Lloyd for her nine years as Past Chair of Church Council. She presented Allan with a card from Council for all his hard work and dedication.

12. New Business

12.1 Heating System. The system is very old (over 60 years) and in desperate need of replacement. Lara gave a brief update on what is proposed.
Barry Rawn and property are investigating replacement. Due to the age and condition of the boiler, replacement needs to begin almost immediately.

Motion 10. Moved by Mary Lloyd, Seconded by Phil Brown, that the Congregation of Melville United Church endorse moving forward on necessary steps to replace the heating system.

Carried

We will begin fundraising and other means to raise the money. Alison Rainford thanked Phil Brown and Dale Murray for their dedication to keeping the system up and running. They take turns attending to the boiler on a daily basis.

12.2 Designation of Melville as a Heritage Building.

Motion 11. Moved by Neil Dunsmore, Seconded by Mary Lloyd, That we proceed with this process of Heritage Designation of Melville and delegate authority for the Ad Hoc Committee and Council.

Carried

The Ad Hoc Committee will consist of Neil Dunsmore, Graeme Chalmers, Larry Broome and Dale Murray

12.3 Mission and Service goal for 2025.

Motion 12. Moved by Jane O'Leary, Seconded by Alison Rainford, that our Mission and Service Goal for 2025 be $17,000.00.

Carried

13. A Time of Reflection and Thanks.

Mary thanked Neil and Richard on our behalf for their work on the new build adjacent to the parking lot. Thanks was expressed to Colby Walker for his work on recording the weekly service and to Barry Rawn for his work on the sound and power point. Martha Duncan thanked many people (too numerous to mention) at Melville for their volunteer contributions. Thanks was expressed by Millie Cumming to Brad Halls for his wonderful weekly piano concerts so well received by the congregation and the community.

14. Benediction – Before closing the meeting, Rev. Marion expressed her thanks for allowing her to be part of the Pastoral Care Committee and asked us to call upon her when needed. She closed the meeting in prayer.

15. Adjournment- **Motion 13.** Moved by Neil Dunsmore, that the meeting be adjourned at 2:25 pm.

Attendance

Members
Doreen Broome
Larry Broome
John Cuming
Paul Lindsey
Lorri Wright
Graeme Chalmers
Millie Cumming
Allan Hons
Eleanor Johnston
Lara Johnston
Phil Brown
Alison Rainford
Ralph Rainford
Karen Smillie
Neil Dunsmore
Shawna Dunsmore
Jane O'Leary
Martha Duncan
Shannon Rawn
Kaillie Rawn
Thelma Rawn
Barry Rawn
Greta de Boer
Don Grant
Marlene Tosh
Mildred Perkin
Bunny Russell
Norm Porritt
Linda Porritt
David Gohn
Lillian Gohn
Patty Foster
Susan Barth
Margaret Frayne

Adherents
Richard Wright
Sophy Kachey
Ann Ward
Marguerite Ancliffe
Trudy Adsett
Marilyn Parkin
Paul Parkin
Annie Dennie

Rev. Marion Loree

Total: 42

Church Council and Committees 2025

Executive of Council
Chair: Lara Johnston
Past Chair: Allan Hons
Vice Chair: _____
Secretary: Ralph Rainford
Treasurer: Kaillie Rawn
Minister: Rev. Marion Loree

Social Justice and Outreach
Chair: Jane O'Leary
Heather Halls
Shawna Dunsmore
Martha Duncan
Marguerite Ancliffe

Pastoral Care
Chair: Alison Rainford
Linda Porritt
Marguerite Ancliffe
Millie Cumming
Barb Gregory / Diane Maloney
Rev. Marion Loree
Patty Foster / Patty Duncan
Roll Clerk & Historical Roll - Lorna Bevcar
Card Secretary – Bunny Russell

Faith Formation
Chair: Martha Duncan
Allan Hons
Jackie Parkin
Ann Ward

Trustees
Chair: Neil Dunsmore
Norm Porritt
Eleanor Johnston
John Cuming
Richard Wright
Don Grant
Graeme Chalmers

Library
David Ogilvie
Martha Duncan

Property
Chair: Barry Rawn
Larry Broome
Bruce Parkin
Dale Murray

U.C.W.
Chair: Lorri Wright
Treasurer: Helen Lecroix

Finance
Chair: _____
Kaillie Rawn (Treasurer)
David Gohn
Norm Porritt
Lynne Lamb

Stewardship
Chair: Ralph Rainford
Eleanor Johnston
Mary Lloyd

Fun, Funds & Fellowship
Chair: _____
Linda Porritt / Lorna Bevcar
Marguerite Ancliffe
Marg Frayne
Mildred Perkin
Doreen Broome
Chris Hopewell
Marlene Murray
Patty Duncan / Betty Black

Worship &Music
Chair: Lillian Gohn
Alison Rainford
Martha Duncan
Suzanne Flewelling
Colleen Weber

Ministry & Personnel
Chair: Karen Smillie
Richard Wright
David Ogilvie / Neil Dunsmore

Western Ontario Waterways
David Gohn

Congregational Meeting Historic Roll – 2025

In Memoriam:

* Dorothy Marilyn Allan
Havey Parlee Andrews
* Gary Merrill Brown
Susan Mary Brubacher
* Mervin Blythe Caldwell
Lorna Isabel Fletcher
* James Richard Gibbons
Rev. Stephen George Huntley
* (Carol) Emily Georgina Ingleby
Dianne Marilyn Lindsey
* Lloyd Millson
Jean Isabella Stewart
Olive Marilyn Stickney
George Marshall Warden
Dian Doreen Whittaker
Kenneth Peter Leonard Woodhouse

*Note: An *asterisk means "Not a Member of Melville"*

Welcome Through Baptism: Nil

Welcome Through Confirmation: Nil

Welcome Through Affirmation of Faith: Nil

Welcome Through Transfer of Membership: Nil

Marriages:

Paul Cecil William Wilson and Christine Elizabeth Cook
Barry Christopher Gerth and Mark Otto Heller

Church Membership Statistics - 2025

Total Membership January 1, 2025	**280**
New Members by Affirmation of Faith	0
New Members by Transfer	0
New Members by Renewal of Baptism (Confirmation)	0
Members re-instated	1
Removed from Roll by Death	9
Removed from Roll by Own Request or Council Action	15
Removed from Roll by Transfer	0
Total Membership as of December 31, 2025	**257**

Number of Weddings	2
Number of Baptisms	0
Number of Funerals	8
Number of Identifiable Givers to Local Expenses	167
Number of Financially Supporting Households Represented by the Number of Givers	102
Number of Identifiable Givers to Mission and Service	53

Average Weekly Attendance (Including Children) on Sunday Services in Oct. and Nov
In Person=65 Online=42

Estimate of Number of Adherents (including children and youth) who regularly participate, but not included in membership numbers. 98

Past Chairs of Council

The following people have served as Chairperson of Melville Church Council since its inception in 1995.

1995	Sam Harrop
1996	Ruth Sproule
1997	Ted Ecclestone
1998	Alison Rainford
1999	Mary Lloyd
2000	Philip Brown
2001	Ralph Rainford
2002	Ralph Rainford
2003	Janet Johnson
2004	Alison Rainford
2005	Kirsten Boileau
2006	Dan Rooney
2007	Ken McManus
2008	Jane O'Leary
2009	David Gohn
2010	Ralph Rainford
2011	Patty Foster
2012	David Gohn
2013	Ralph Rainford
2014	Ralph Rainford
2015	Mary Lloyd
2016	Allan Hons
2017	Allan Hons
2018	Allan Hons
2019	Allan Hons
2020	Allan Hons
2021	Allan Hons
2022	Allan Hons
2023	Allan Hons
2024	Allan Hons
2025	Lara Johnston

There are so many ways we can direct our efforts to make a difference.
Life is full of opportunities to offer.
Blessings to each one of these people who have offered their gifts and skills
to the life and work of Melville.

Church Council Report 2025

As my first year as Council Chair comes to an end, I would like to take the opportunity to thank Council for their patience and support while I became comfortable with this role. I always knew, but now appreciate even more, how hard Council and their committee members work to keep Melville running!

As I mentioned in our Spring newsletter, the theme of 2025 at Melville was "looking to the future while celebrating the past". Our celebrations of the past included:

- Melville hosted a wonderful celebration of the 100th anniversary of the United Church of Canada in June where we welcomed the congregations and choir members of other United Church's in the area.
- At the end of September our formal relationship with Rev. Linda Goy-Flint came to an end. We wish Rev. Goy-Flint all the best in her journey.
- More recently, the Melville building has gained Centre Wellington Heritage status. This designation will allow us to preserve the unique features of our building while also allowing us to access grants to help maintain the building.

Thought, work and care have also been put into moving Melville forward in a sustainable way…

It was announced at our last Annual Congressional Meeting that the boiler system needs to be replaced. An engineering consultant has been retained and is working on design details. At the same time, we have begun targeted fundraising to help pay for the new heating system. This included the fantastic concert in October organized by Felicia Urbanski and Colleen Weber. In addition, the UCW has designated a portion of their proceeds from participating in downtown Fergus festivals last summer (providing parking and food) for the heating system fund. More events and programs are being planned for 2026.

The Search Team was re-activated in the fall to update key documents required by the WOW Region and to work with Council to prepare a proposal for permanent ministry at Melville. In December the congregation gave approval to our Search Team to post for a ¾ time permanent minister. That process is underway and in the meantime we will continue to enjoy our rotation of pulpit supply ministers on Sunday mornings.

Our new room booking software went live in April and is accessible on Melville's website. It has been a great support tool for our Office Administrator, providing booking/availability information at a glance. Related to this improvement, a dedicated team has been reviewing and re-designing Melville's website. The majority of this work is complete and we look forward to launching the new website soon. This update is part of an overall strategy to have a more co-ordinated and up to date online presence in our local community.

It is a delight to see the enthusiasm of our Kid's Church youth every Sunday. They clearly enjoy the program that has been created for them, and wonderful when they share their lessons with the congregation through occasional presentations.

Blessings to all who contribute to the work and life of Melville United Church.

Lara Johnston, Council Chair

Faith Formation 2025

Jesus said… “Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won’t collapse because it is built on bedrock.” Matthew 7:24-25 24

During 2025 **Faith Formation** has focused, in large part, with guidance and collaboration with **Ann Ward**, our **Youth Leader.** We met with Ann several times to discuss curriculum, resources and social issues. Ann is doing a wonderful job of providing the youth with opportunities to learn from Bible stories, activities and discussions about Jesus’ teachings. Under Ann guidance, the youth have created beautiful works of Art and crafts that demonstrate what they have learned. The youth enthusiastically participate in all of their weekly sessions and are truly flourishing in their faith journeys.

Kids’ Church youth performed several drama presentations for the congregation which were well received. On December 7 they performed **“Mary, Joseph and the Angels”**, and after their presentation the youth participated in White Gift Sunday by gathering donations from the congregation.

The number of youth attending Kids Church is increasing, which is wonderful! We are hoping that our youth can participate in a planned activity with the youth from Hope Springs United Church in the near future.

Martha, along with Barb Smith-Young, have kept in contact via Zoom, with several young adults **(YAYA)** who were members of our former combined Youth Group. These young adults are working or are attending post-secondary schools. It is a close knit, thoughtful group.

From March 28 through April 11 a **Lenten Discussion Gathering**, led by Martha, was held in the parlour during Friday coffee hour. It was a time to reflect on God, Jesus and what we think about the time of Lent and the Resurrection story. During one of our coffee hours Reverend Marion Loree led a discussion about angels.

On October 29 Martha, Lillian and David Gohn attended a workshop, at Melville, led by the **Reverend Donna Mann.** Reverend Donna spoke about her latest book, **Faithful Choices in Faith and Mission**, which discusses celebrations, uncertainties, and unique challenges in rural and small churches. Other presenters, Martin Anderson and Roxanne Beale led discussions about how vital it is to respect our seniors (elders) and to give them opportunities to share their stories with us. How we can learn from these stories and from the wisdom these individuals impart. There were many takeaways from the workshop. Several books were purchased for our library and possible book studies.

If you are looking for something to read, visit our **Library**. Our Library is full of inspiring, spiritual and cultural, fiction and non-fiction books waiting to be signed out. We also have many novels and books for children and teens. If you need something new to read, please have a look!

If anyone has ideas for a book study or other activity they would be interested in leading or attending, please let us know.

Faith Formation members: Martha Duncan, Ann Ward, Allan Hons, Jackie Parkin

Submitted by *Martha Duncan*

Fun, Funds and Fellowship 2025

The members of our committee for 2025 were: Marg Frayne, Linda Porritt, Doreen Broome, Marlene Murray, Patty Duncan, Mildred Perkin, Marguerite Ancliffe, Betty Black, Chris Hopewell and Lorna Bevcar. Note: We do not have a Chairperson! A huge "Thank You!" to each of you for your help throughout the year, to make the following possible!!!

Friday Coffee Hours from 10 to 11am in the Parlour, continue to be well attended, with an average of 9 people in attendance. And our Sunday Coffee after the Service is always well received with an average of 30 people attending, in the Parlour as well. We are looking for your help with these two events, and sign-up sheets are at the Parlour door. The task is not that difficult, and we are there to train you.

Every Wednesday from Noon until 1 pm, our own "Brad Halls" has been performing a Piano Concert in the Sanctuary. He's calling it "Mid-day Music at Melville!" Brad is an accomplished pianist, who also sings beautifully; and is a great storyteller! Before each song, he gives us some informative background history of the writer/composer's life, and of the songs and movies that the songs were in and who sang them. And all of his informative prelude and his music are without any notes! Brad starts his performances at the beginning of Oct, takes 2 weeks off at Christmas, comes back in January until the end of April. Each week he announces what years and who he will be focusing on next week. He always mentions: "Admission to the performance is free, but free-will donations to Melville, to help keep the lights on and the piano tuned are welcomed." And he always thanks the volunteers at Melville for making this possible. As a gesture, we have been having treats and refreshments at the last performance before Christmas and the last one in April. For the calendar year of 2025, Brad has raised a whopping $9213 over 30 weeks, averaging $307/wk, for Melville! The average weekly attendance has been 60, which includes 11 Melvillites. As a "Thank You!", we presented Brad with a $100 Gift Card for the Breadalbane Inn, and a bouquet of flowers for Heather. Brad always mentions weekly that he couldn't have done it without Heather! Please come out in support to listen and enjoy an hour of relaxation as Brad shares his time and talents, and as he takes us down memory lane. The information is kept up-to-date on social media and in the bulletin! A "Thank You!" to all of those who act as "Bouncers" to man the door throughout the Concert and operate the Lift when necessary! You know who you are, and are too numerous to mention, for fear of missing someone! "Thank you so much Brad and Heather! God bless you!"

We had a St. Patrick's Day Coffee Hour and used our teacups and saucers (which have been donated by various ladies in our Congregation), with good attendance.

On Good Friday Apr. 18th, Hot Cross Buns were served in the Parlour, following the Service.

We started our Garage, Plant & Bake Sales on Fri. and Sat, Apr. 25 & 26th, on the Main floor, thinking that they would run 2-3 weeks of Fri's and Sat's from 8-4pm. But again, this year, every week there were new donations, and good donations coming in from 2-3 families and creating a fresh new look on our over-all Sale. So, we carried on, going week-to-week, which turned into 6 weeks in total and $12,830 later. We can scarcely believe it ourselves!!! Our bakers and plant diggers were kept busy constantly! We were able to leave the Sale set-up as there were not any renters on the Main Floor. We could just close the doors and open up again for Fri and Sat. And carry on. And the Community were so pleased that we were having the sales!!! They look for us doing them!!! And we had out-of-

towners from all over: Huntsville, Stratford, Hamilton, Toronto, Brampton, and London. These last 2 years of spectacular Garage Sales will probably never be repeated again!!!

We worked with the UCW with Bake Sales at: the Fiber Festival, the Strawberry Festival at the Museum, the Medieval Festival, the Steampunk Festival, and the Christmas Bake Sale with Christmas Decorations.

Our Memory Angels were a nice attraction this year in the Sanctuary! We had 159 Angels gracing the Sanctuary, on 2 trees at the back, on garland around the Choir Loft and on the windowsills, from Dec 14-Jan 11th. These Angels were handmade by ladies of our Congregation and are inscribed "In Memory of:" on the skirt, with the names of both parties involved. For a minimum of $5 each, an Angel is placed in the Sanctuary, in memory of your loved one, then, later is stored away safely until the next year. People like to do something in remembrance of their loved ones at this time of the year, and what better way than at your Church. Angels can also be in memory of your pet, or "Thinking of:" your family member living far away. We are pleased to announce that this year $1650 was raised for this project and went to Melville's coffers. "Thank You!" for taking part in this and, your generous donations!

A huge "Thank You!" to all of those who make Melville United Church your favourite charity, when donating "In Memory" of a loved one throughout the year!

We are in need of a Chairperson for our Committee! We do not have one at the moment.

If you would like to join our team of "Fun" –loving workers, who like to raise "Funds" for Melville, "and" create "Fellowship", please talk to us. We can use you!!!

Note: Postage Stamps: Please save yours and put them in the box on the shelf in the Lift Room! Marlene Tosh deals with them for Melville and needs them!!! Leave at least ½ an inch around the stamp, when cutting it off the envelope. Thanks!

By Lorna Bevcar (Past Chairperson)

Ministry and Personnel Annual Report for 2025

We were officially notified late in the year that Rev. Lynda Goy-Flint was unable to return to her position at Melville after more than two years on Long Term Disability. The Pastoral Relations Commission of the United Church approved the ending of the pastoral relationship with Melville effective the end of November. A meeting was held with Rev. Lynda and 3 members from Regional Council; Minister of Pastoral Relations, Office of Vocation Minister, and Pastoral Support Minister who provides pastoral care to ministry personnel. They let her know of the end of the pastoral relationship and provided her with an official letter. They expressed our gratitude for the ministry she shared with Melville along with the support and prayers of our congregation. We continue to pray for Rev. Lynda's complete recovery. Hopefully she will be able to return to the ministry one day to share her many gifts with others.

We were very fortunate this past year to have the familiar rotation of supply ministers cover for Lynda's absence. Each are wonderfully gifted, and we enjoyed a diverse spiritual experience each Sunday. Similarly, we were very blessed that Rev. Marion Loree continued to cover our pastoral care needs. It is great comfort to our congregation knowing Marion is there for us, with her many years of experience in the ministry. She knows so many of our congregation from her years at Melville, an invaluable connection.

In the spring 2024 we welcomed Anne Ward as our Youth Leader. Anne continues every week to bring her energy, enthusiasm, and imagination as our Youth Leader. It is interesting every week to hear what the kids are doing. The children learn about God and how important it is to be a good and kind person, and at the same time Anne makes coming to church school fun. She keeps the kids involved and interested. Many members of the congregation would love to join in on the kids' activities when they hear what is planned for any given Sunday. If you haven't already, you should visit the church school setting in the upper auditorium. It is such a fun and educational environment! We are so pleased to have Anne in our Melville community and to enjoy watching her engage our youth.

It is hard to find more meaningful words each year to describe how fortunate we are to have the staff we do. Apart from a regular minister and Anne being a more recent addition, other staff members have been with us for some time now. Each of them is dedicated, gifted and amazing! Having been on the Ministry and Personnel committee for quite a few years, I can't express enough how fortunate we are to have the group of staff that we do.

We have two very talented ladies, who, along with the Worship and Music committee, plan out and deliver a music program to Melville. Colleen Weber and Suzanne Flewelling offer a variety of music on a weekly basis and plan many special musical services. They invite various guest musicians to share their talent along with our Melville choir, the men's choir and the Spirit Praise Band. We are very blessed, and so appreciative of the work Colleen and Suzanne put in, as music is such an important and meaningful part of Melville's worship experience. Their biggest challenge is getting singers so if you like to sing and have even a little knowledge of music they would love to hear from you!

Lynda Rivet, our office administrator, has been in the position well over 5 years. She has a positive, calm attitude and takes on many unexpected challenges on top of regular day to day tasks. This is not always easy with many different groups using the church space and dealing with so many different people. This past year was busy with funerals, particularly for some long-time members. This adds a lot of extra work, generally on short notice. Lynda continued to work with our rotating supply ministers while Rev. Lynda was on leave. Each minister has a little different way of doing things, but they worked out a routine with Lynda from the beginning. She mastered the new rental software program added last year very quickly. It has been a time saver managing the room rentals, saving many a headache. As we know there is a lot of activity at Melville, day and night, not just on Sundays. Lynda will be focusing some of her time in 2026 managing Melville's website which is being updated. The goal is to have more current and interactive material on the site. We appreciate the effort Lynda puts into her job and her ongoing professionalism. Melville is very fortunate to have her.

Thanks to Lara Johnston, David Ogilve, Richard Wright and Neil Dunsmore, for their work and support on the committee. Richard and Neil in particular are a great resource with many years' experience dealing with personnel issues and a lengthy history with Melville.

I hope you will take the opportunity to thank our dedicated staff for their ongoing commitment to Melville. Wishing everyone the very best in 2026.

Karen Smillie
Chair, Ministry and Personnel

Melville Quilters 2025

In 2025 six Melville Quilters quilted 3 quilts. We were silent for most of the year as we did not have quilts. We donated $500.00 to the church in January for the 2025 year. We have moved into the Chapel for 2026 and have 3 quilts to quilt.

Submitted by the *Melville Quilters*

Pastoral Care 2025

Our committee consists of Millie Cumming, Barb Gregory (secretary), Marguerite Ancliffe, Linda Porritt, Diane Maloney, Patty Foster, Patty Duncan, Rev. Marion Loree, and Alison Rainford (Chair). Lorna Bevcar keeps the Historical Roll as well as making visits. All of the members of Melville are important in this role, too. You keep us informed of people in need and you make phone calls and visits to others, as Christ would want us to do.

This committee meets throughout the year to inform each other of needs and to make changes to the official list of members who need care. These people are visited, as well as receive gifts and cards at Easter and Christmas. This list must be kept current as needs change. We are very grateful to Rev. Marion for her support in this work. We also need to thank Millie for the beautiful cards that she designs.

We also keep prayer shawls that people have knitted or crocheted. Thanks to all those crafty people who prayerfully make these shawls. They are always well received. If you know someone who would like one for comfort in a time of need, please feel free to take one for them. Please inform us so there is no duplication. Some shawls are made for babies at their baptism, too.

We also have a prayer chain. When there is someone who needs prayers, a request goes out via email. These requests can be kept confidential when requested.

Our committee needs to thank Bunny Russell for sending greeting cards for illness, bereavement and special birthdays. Also, a special thank you to Diane for her Christmas baking that is included in the gift bags. Finally, thanks to Ruth Sproule and her fellow sewers who craft the bags. These can be reused in many different ways by the recipients.

Please remember to keep us informed of any needs that arise.

Yours in Christ, *Alison Rainford*

Pastoral Care Report for Bunny Russell (Card Clerk)
We thank Bunny Russell for doing a splendid job of active Card Clerk for Melville United! She is now in her third year! Each week, Bunny is at the microphone, announcing the up-coming birthdays for the week, and informing us if someone is ill. Bunny brings a fresh and up-lifting approach as she makes her presentation. Thank you Bunny for your energy and enthusiasm! The Congregation really appreciates your "Joys and Concerns" part of the Service!

This year of 2025, a total of 113 All Occasion cards have been: handed out, dropped off, or mailed out, mainly for milestone birthdays, for example: 50, 55, 60, etc.. The majority of them were for birthday, sympathy, get well, thinking-of-you. There were only 18 cards mailed.

Bunny needs to know your birth date, in order for you to participate in this! And it would help if she knows your age. Please inform her, if you wish to be included. She will not ask you!

Pastoral Care by Lorna Bevcar (Roll Clerk)
Melville's Historical Roll Book is continually kept up-to-date regarding: marriages, baptisms, deaths, transfers, name changes, address and telephone changes, removal by requests, etc. Names are added to the Roll Book when someone: becomes a member of Melville, transfers their membership to Melville from another church, is received by Confirmation (usually at 14 years of age and up), Adult Baptism, Affirmation of Faith. If you are not a Member of Melville and wish to become one, please speak with myself or our office Administrator, Lynda Rivet. We would be pleased to assist you with that, and we would be happy to have you join us officially.

Property Ministry Team Report 2025

Again, 2025 has been another good year. It has been a busy year at Melville in many ways. There were many volunteers involved in our work. Thank you for volunteering, and thank you, everyone, for your prayers and support.

With the support and assistance of the congregation, a few maintenance and improvement projects for facilities at Melville United Church were carried out in 2025. Without the involvement of many church members who donate their time and talents, the upkeep of the property and church building would be difficult.

A few improvements and upgrades were completed in 2025:

- Boiler:
    - Thank you, Phil Brown (one of the friends of the committee), and Dale Murray, who arranged for inspections and repairs to the boiler, and monitored the boiler water with daily and regular testing.
- Painting:
    - With the consistent efforts of Ralph Rainford (one of the friends of the committee) and some helpers, several areas of the building were painted and spruced up again this year, including

        - Fireplace in the Parlour
        - The floor of the corridor between the Fellowship Hall and the workshop,
        - The floors in the Chapel and Parlour
    - Thank you Ralph.
- Stained Glass Windows:
    - In May, Trillium Glass completed the repair and re-installed the interior sections of the two medium sized west windows, which face the parking lot and go up through the balcony floor. Part of the work included straightening the windows and re-leading of the stained glass joints.
    - This project did not include the installation of an exterior frame, painting and storm glazing.
    - Thankfully, the UP Fund provided a grant to cover part of the cost for this project.
- Eavestrough Repairs:
    - In March some of the massive ice accumulation at the eavestroughs on Tower St. fell and also took down the eavestroughs, downspouts and sections of the soffit.
    - Eavestroughs, downspouts, and also soffit and fascia, along Tower St. were replaced.
- Plumbing Repairs:
    - The pump beneath the sinks in the main kitchen was repaired. The small hot water heater in the washroom at the Upper Auditorium was replaced.
    - In December, LS Plumbing realigned and replaced the main sanitary drain piping that passes through the boiler room, the old coal room and beyond to beneath the Sanctuary, which corrects a problematic section of piping.
    - Backflow preventer valve for the boiler water was replaced.
    - The hot water condensing boiler equipment was serviced, which supplies hot water for domestic use in the building and also heats the fluid for the Fellowship Hall in-floor heating system.
- New Sidewalk
    - Thank you to the Trustees who funded and arranged for the replacement of the concrete sidewalk, from St. Andrew St., down almost to the fire escape steps. A large concrete pad was also included that allows for a car to park and unload passengers in front of the door to the lift.

Weekly and periodic rentals of various rooms of the building have increased again, since last year. Melville rented various rooms for a few hours each week, to a diverse list of groups. The Blue Bonnet Lassies School of Highland Dance, Children's Drama group, classes for Yoga, Fitness, Zumba, Pilates, Irish Dance, Celtic Thunder Irish Dance classes and workshops, Fergus Scottish Country Dancers, dance rehearsals, Soulshine Dance Arts classes, Gleeful Sounds Choir, band group rehearsals, the Fergus Cadets and a prayer group are among the groups who have made steady use of the Upper Auditorium, the Fellowship Hall and the Sanctuary with weekly classes.

Several family birthday and anniversary events were also held at Melville. A summer camp was held in the Fellowship Hall by Soulshine Dance.

Also, as in the past number of years, the VON held exercise classes for seniors twice per week in the Fellowship Hall. The VON also presented workshops on various topics such as aging, falls prevention for seniors and first aid.

The Centre Wellington Singers held quite successful concerts in Melville's Sanctuary in April and in November.

Elora Singers held a quite successful concert in Melville's Sanctuary in July.

Melville received donations for the use of our parking lot during the Fergus Medieval Faire and the Cogs & Clockwork Steampunk Festival, which were held during the summer in downtown Fergus.

Heating System Replacement

- In 2026 or 2027, we plan to replace the boiler with equipment that is more efficient, and that can possibly be installed in stages. Design for this work has begun.
- We have contracted an engineering firm, Fortech Engineering, to review potential equipment options, complete the design and to provide tender documents for the replacement of the boiler and radiators. Scheduling and a cost estimate for the work is unknown at this time.

Long Term Rental

As a new long term rental, the Centre Wellington Child Care Co-Op plans to begin their child care operations at Melville by mid-year 2026. They will complete some renovations in the Heritage Room early in 2026. We have met with them a few times through the year, and they assessed Melville as a suitable location for establishing a child care co-op. They have been licensed for 15 toddler child care spaces, for 5 days per week.

This group has provided a draft lease agreement, which is being finalized. They are very enthusiastic about Melville and we look forward to working with them for quite some time.

In addition to the Heritage Room, the Child Care Co-op will be using the easterly grassed area of the garden for their outside play area, and will install a fence. They will share the use of the Library and Kitchenette, for staff, and also the cloak room area at the lift.

To allow space for the Child Care Co-op to operate in the Heritage Room, the Quilters group have been relocated to the Chapel, along with their wall curtain that encloses the current quilt, in progress.

Wellington Hall Academy is a private school who has been considering Melville for temporary classroom space for a year or two. Catherine Huntley is the principal of this school. Melville would be their potential plan 'B', for a couple of classes of students. They are also pursuing their plan 'A' at a larger location, which requires renovation, where they can accommodate all 80 students. They have been considering the Chapel, which is most available with current schedules, as well as other rooms. If they were to come to Melville they would be in the building 5 days per week.

Upcoming priority projects for 2026 include repairs and repointing of stonework and painting more of the building's exterior trim. Repointing was again postponed during 2025. This work needs to be completed in order to prevent further deterioration of structural components of the building.

There are other large projects to be undertaken in the future, including the rehabilitation of the remaining stained glass windows.

Painting of various interior and exterior areas of the building will continue in the coming year. Work continues in clearing up various areas and providing storage space for ourselves and also for groups who use the church building on an ongoing basis.

Improvements will be made to the sound system in the Sanctuary, with assistance in funding from the UP Fund. Thank you, Marg Frayne, for preparing and submitting the application for sound system equipment.

Council, the Trustees & the Property Team are pleased that the proposal to have Melville's building designated as a heritage building with the Township has been successful. We understand Melville will be eligible for grant programs for heritage buildings.

Thank you Lynda Rivet, Melville's office administrator, for managing and co-ordinating the rentals. Also thank you for co-ordinating other work that involves our volunteers and contractors.

Thank you also to our custodian, Suzanne Flewelling, who continues to clean this large building. Her work revolves around the normal weekly activities of Melville, as well as the fluctuating schedules of the various rental groups. Your efforts are really appreciated.

Thank you to Ralph Rainford and Barry for cutting the grass this year. Also, thank you to Barry for clearing the sidewalks during the winter.

Again this year, the members of the Property Ministry Team have appreciated the assistance and support they have received in carrying out its work. Several members of the congregation and the committee, as well as area residents have enabled us to carry out our work by volunteering their time and talents.

Blessings, for 2026.

Submitted with Thanks, by: *The Property Ministry Team: Bruce Parkin, Dale Murray, Larry Broome, Barry Rawn (chair).*

Social Justice and Outreach Report - 2025

The United Church of Canada's Call is for ***Deep Spirituality, Bold Discipleship, Daring Justice.*** It reflects the core of our purpose; sharing who we seek to be in "such a time as this" (Esther 4:14). This passage suggests God orchestrates events, and places individuals in specific roles, to fulfill a plan, even if they don't realize it. It is a powerful reminder for people today to recognize and act on their unique opportunities to serve God's purposes.

Our Melville community answers calls for support, and acts to make wonderful things happen. Thank you to our congregation and friends for their ongoing support and encouragement. Together, we raised awareness, and addressed needs within our congregation, our community and beyond. We give thanks for everyone who has given so generously of their time, talents and dollars to support our efforts.

This year's highlights!

- Services led by the Social Justice Team in 2025
  - **Black History Month**. On Jan 26th, Tracy Lee Johnson shared her inspiring and educational stories, and music, to shine a light on Canadian Black Heritage. A proud 5th generation Black Canadian from Brantford, ON, she highlighted the remarkable contributions and lasting legacy of Black Canadian pioneers who paved the way for future generations.
  - **Actively Responding**. On Apr 27th, we led a service linking Faith with Daring Justice. We raised up Earth Day, Climate Change, Food Insecurity and Youth Mental Health, and shared ways to take action, either individually or as a group.
  - **Pride Month**. On May 25th, the Sanctuary brightly proclaimed Melville's welcome. Barb Smith-Young delivered a loving, moving message as she shared her family's story. The Spirit Sings Band raised their voices in song. At the end of the service, we formed a circle and joined hands for the final song, "Draw the Circle Wide".
  - **National Day for Truth & Reconciliation.** On Sep 14th, Laura-Lee Campbell shared her message, "God Restores What Has Been Broken", with a focus on Restoration of Right Relationship. So many of our Indigenous kin have suffered. She reminded us that God continues to search, restore and celebrate whenever even one person is brought back into a good relationship. We are called to help and support the healing process.
- Our third annual **Cozy Closet** campaign was held in the Fall. Tremendous response to the request for new or gently used outdoor clothing/footwear for children and adults! Three weekends were set for folks to visit Melville and take what they needed … for FREE. Remaining items were dropped off to various spots which also provide necessities for free in Fergus.
- Ongoing support for the incredible work of our **CW Food Bank.** Shared their Most Needed List, and organized the drop-off of donated items. Melville contributed $1,420 this year.
- Ongoing support for the essential work of **The Grove Hub – Fergus.** We are so blessed to have this youth resource right here in town. Melville contributed $1,305 this year. This year, Fall donations were matched by The Co-operators, which increased our impact to $2,600.
- Co-ordinated our **Christmas Gift Program** run by the CW Food Bank. Melville donated $3,995, thank you!!! We sponsored 20 children across 6 families. Families received gift cards to purchase gifts along with food and necessities.
  - Surplus donations and budget $s were donated to **CW Food Bank** and **The Grove Hub – Fergus.**
- Promoted **Mission & Service** concerns and scheduled Minute for Mission Readers.
- Provided space for the **CW Black Committee's** fundraising event, Awakened Voices.
- Provided additional **Truth & Reconciliation** awareness and learning materials.
- Continued efforts to ensure Melville is, and conveys, a Welcoming Environment for all; including bulletin boards in main hallways and entry ways plus a table of materials in the Sanctuary.
- Shared information and news about local organizations offering various forms of support.

We continued to make Melville's beliefs and commitments visible throughout our building, especially entryways. We need our community to know where Melville stands on key issues, and know they are welcome to join in. In support of this, we proposed a set of **Guiding Principles to Uphold Melville's Mission, Vision and Values**, which were adopted by Council at the May 2025 meeting. It now serves as a reference document, and reminds us to consider the beliefs/values/actions of the leadership behind those we promote within Melville.

Melville's **Mission & Service** contributions reached $21,042.08 for 2025. Well done, Melville!!

Special thanks to Rev. Marion for her support and direction as we continued through 2025 without our permanent minister.

Special thanks to Lynda Rivet, our Office Administrator, for her valued support. She is essential to so many activities in our church, and so positive in her approach. We are so fortunate to have her.

For 2026, let's be guided by this quote from Rev. Tom Watson … "faith has nothing to do with being sure about tomorrow. Faith is quite the opposite. Faith means heading out into life with our faces to the wind. Not being sure of tomorrow but knowing that is where we must live."

With thanks, the Social Justice & Outreach Team:
Marguerite Ancliffe, Shawna Dunsmore, Martha Duncan, Heather Halls, Jane O'Leary (chair)

Stewardship Committee Report 2025

It has been another exciting year at Melville. Our attendance continues to grow slowly, and we have a dedicated congregation of enthusiastic parishioners. We are a kind and welcoming congregation.

Our committee welcomed two additional people in 2025. Lara Johnston, Chair of Council, and Allan Hons, Past Chair agreed to lend their expertise to Stewardship.

Finding sufficient finances are an ongoing challenge here at Melville. We continue to look for more convenient ways for people to donate. We still offer PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance) program. We remind all members to examine their PAR contributions and if able, please add a little more. If you are not on PAR, please consider doing so. Our expenses continue during these trying times. Ralph Rainford is the PAR representative if you wish to join or have questions. We have also added other ways for people to donate. These are explained fully on our website.

At the Annual meeting last year, the congregation voted to replace the aging heating system. Stewardship began to work on ways to help finance this expense. Along with the heating system, a major project, we are also looking at finishing the stained glass windows and re-pointing the stonework. We have been working on implementing a major fundraising.

Stewardship assists committees here at Melville in finding new members. As you read this, we will continue to fill any vacancies. We ask that you think seriously about your talents, and volunteer to help where you are able. Thanks to each chairperson for the excellent job of keeping their committee active and so effective.

Another role that we have is to look after subscriptions for the United Church magazine, "Broadview." Please consider signing up for this wonderful magazine. Contact Ralph Rainford for details.

Stewardship continued with the task of finding Sunday morning Welcomers to greet people as they arrive. To assist the Finance Committee, we also looked after finding Counters.

Many have given of their time, talents and financial support when asked. Thank you and keep up the great work.

Respectfully submitted,

Ralph Rainford, Chairperson

Along with Eleanor Johnston, Mary Lloyd, Lara Johnston and Allan Hons.

Thyme with God - 2025 in the Garden

Greetings from the Garden! We were blessed with another successful growing season, a huge shoutout to our team who kept the watering going through our very warm, dry summer. Since 2012, we have marked 13 growing seasons of providing weekly harvest deliveries to the CW Food Bank.

Two very important events happened in 2025:
- We were so pleased the weather cooperated for our 100th anniversary celebration service in June. The garden was the perfect spot for many people to enjoy their luncheon. Many people were interested in what we were growing and we were happy to answer all of their questions.
- During the CW Food Bank AGM this spring, we were pleased to accept a community appreciation award on behalf of Melville United Church.

Our harvest started in June, and continued until Thanksgiving with weekly deliveries, including: herbs, salad greens, peas, beans, carrots, tomatoes, zucchini, cucumbers, peppers, potatoes, gourds, rhubarb, apples and raspberries. This year might be the latest we harvested tomatoes as we were picking them into October!

We tried something a little different this year with our garlic. We kept it covered for most of the growing season to try and beat the leek moth. We were mostly successful and only encountered a few damaged bulbs. Yeah! The volunteers at the Food Bank are always curious about our deliveries each week - especially when we deliver the garlic! Whenever possible, we include a small bouquet of cut flowers for their desk such as lavender or sunflowers, to say thanks for their ongoing work.

Thank you again to everyone who generously donated their time, and resources throughout the season. This garden is a truly special space and your support helps it continue to thrive. We invite you to visit and enjoy the garden. It is a lovely area to sit and spend a few moments of quiet reflection.

With the increased demand for food banks, we are always looking for ways to increase our harvest. We welcome you to join us weekly for conversation, watering and just a little bit of weeding during the growing season.
See you in the garden!

Kaillie, Shawna, Karen, Barry and Linda Mae

United Church Women (UCW) 2025

Melville United Church Women had an active year in 2025. We got together three times for worship, a business meeting and a social time and did several fund-raising initiatives.

A very special project again this year was the impressive Remembrance Day poppy banners displayed over our front door. Several women donated yarn, crocheted and knitted the poppies and others got together at the church to sew the poppies onto the webbing, do repairs and to get the banners ready for display.

Our meat pie making was an ongoing effort. We got together in small groups several times to make the popular turkey and beef pies. We raised the price to $6 to cover the rising costs.

We served lunches at four funerals. We are very happy to provide this service to families. We served a soup and sandwich lunch for a book study group, an afternoon lunch at a party at Ennotville Library, and a hot lunch at our Anniversary Sunday. Our butter tarts and sweets are very popular at these lunches.

We participated in several Fergus festivals by setting up our bake sales in front of the church. We were at the Fibre, the Medieval and the Steam Punk Festivals. We held a popular Christmas bake sale as well. This year we sold hot dogs, pulled pork on a bun and drinks at two festivals and sold strawberries on cake and strawberries with chocolate sauce at the County Strawberry Festival. These were definitely learning experiences.

Melville UCW made donations in the late fall to the Mission and Service fund of the United Church, the local Food Bank, the Rural Women's Shelter, the Pregnancy Centre, the Youth Centre and to Melville's Social Concerns committee's initiative. We decided that the funds raised would also go to support the boiler project.

We give a big thank you to all who donated baking and did the work of the UCW. And thanks to our treasurer, Helen Lacroix, for her work. Our UCW ladies supported each other in faith and friendship and in working together for the church and our community. We also thank all who supported us in our work in any way.

Submitted by Marg Frayne

UCW Financial Report
Year End 2025

Balance as at Jan 1, 2025			$	10,030.86
Income				
Donation	$	-		
Fundraising	$	28,395.00		
Total Income			$	28,395.00
Expenses				
Fundraising	$	10,196.69		
Bank Charges	$	106.00		
Donations	$	4,000.00		
Cheques	$	655.33		
Total Expenses			$	14,958.02
Balance as of Dec. 31, 2025			$	23,467.84

Submitted by Helen Lacroix
UCW Treasurer

Western Ontario Waterways Report 2025

As the United Church of Canada celebrated its 100th anniversary on June 10th 2025, local churches celebrated the occasion. Melville had the privilege of hosting ten local churches on Sunday June 8th with a large combined choir. Rev. Tom Watson presided.

The WOW Region has two meetings annually, one by Zoom and second at the Unifor Centre in Port Elgin. Weekly newsletters are sent electronically to keep members up to date with current events. Many seminars are available to offer assistance to individuals and committees, for example, they are available to church treasurers and committees such as the Stewardship and Search Committees. The programs offer opportunities for dialogue and questions. Information is made available for opportunities to apply for grants for making upgrades to buildings as well as church programming.

Local churches are encouraged to work together and share resources where possible so that individual United churches are not alone and often share the same challenges.

Having served as the WOW representative for Melville, I am pleased that my wife, Lillian, will be Melville`s future representative.

David Gohn
Western Ontario Waterways

Worship and Music Committee 2025

It is my pleasure to greet you and present a snapshot regarding the work of the Worship and Music Committee for 2025.

A special service was held early February to honour the Pulpit Supply Ministers that have offered worship leadership this year with Neil Dunsmore offering a tribute to each Minister. Melville is truly blessed to have thoughtful and stimulating worship services each week led by our Pulpit Supply Ministers.

In February the Melville congregation joined in with Hope Springs United in Elora for a special service to meet and hear our Moderator, the Rt. Rev. Carmen Lansdowne.

Rev. Tom Watson led the Good Friday Worship Service and Rev. Felicia Urbanski offered worship leadership on Easter Sunday.

Melville hosted the 100th Anniversary of the United Church of Canada on June 8th with 11 area churches participating in the service, a combined choir of 50 assembled to sing a couple of anthems and lead in the singing of the hymns. The 100th Anniversary Banner travelled to all 11 participating churches to be highlighted at church services and special events.

Kid's Church Coordinator Ann Ward guided and coached the children to present the puppet show "Jonah and the Whale", and for Advent three a play, "Mary, Joseph and the Angels".

The Anniversary Service Liturgical Dancer Cyntha Coker and Bria Moore danced their interpretation of "Where Your Treasure is" Luke 12: 22-34 with Flora Burke offering the spoken word.

The end of October our organist, Colleen Weber and Rev. Felicia Urbanski orchestrated an awesome fund raiser concert “Turn Up the Heat” with several groups and individuals from the community offering their time and talent to raise funds for a new boiler that Melville is planning on installing when the funds are available.

The month of November:
Blessing of the poppies, Remembrance Service and All Saints Sunday.

The Advent Journey began the first Sunday of Advent with lighting the candle of Hope.
Advent four Colleen Weber and Suzanne Flewelling organized an interesting musical presentation with the theme “Christmas Around the World” featuring the various Melville instrumentalists and vocal groups.

The annual Christmas Eve service included communion and following communion, the servers formed a line across the front of the church holding lighted candles during the singing of “Silent Night”.

Special thank you to the Social Justice Committee for leading worship at different times during the year providing information on Black History, Pride and the Indigenous community.

Lillian Gohn and the Worship and Music Team:
Alison Rainford, Martha Duncan, Ann Ward, Colleen Weber, Suzanne Flewelling.

Board of Trustees Annual Report – 2025

Members Neil Dunsmore (Chair), Eleanor Johnston (Secretary/Treasurer)
Richard Wright, Graeme Chalmers, John Cuming, Don Grant, Norm Porritt

Assets

Beatty Endowment	103,484
Housing Investment - Sale of Manse	261,002
Memorial Fund	37,082
Chequing Account	83,606
Total Assets at December 31, 2025	**485,174**

Beatty Endowment

Balance as at January 1, 2025	88,438
Deposit	44,000
Withdrawls	(36,000)
Administration Fees $1,437 ($1272 + $165 Tax)	-
Increase (decrease) in market value	7,046
Balance as at December 31, 2025	**103,484**

Note: $44,000 was returned to the fund, went to the housing investment in error in 2024 corrected in 2025

Housing Investment

Balance as at January 1, 2025	267,356
Deposit from Chequing	10,400
Withdrawls - Housing allowance - to Melville general account	-
Administration Fees $3472 ($3072+399 tax)	-
Transfer to Trustee chequing account (s/b Beatty Fund, see notes)	(44,000)
Increase (decrease) in market value	27,246
Balance as at December 31, 2025	**261,002**

Memorial Fund - TD Bank

Balance as at January 1, 2025	34,597
Income	
Donations received	1,772
Interest	716
Expenses/Disbursments	(3)
Balance as at December 31, 2025	**37,082**

Chequing Account		
	Balance as at January 1, 2025	**7,557**
Income		
	Housing Investment (re: housing allowance)	10,400
	Beatty Endowment	36,000
	Sale of Easement	76,983
	Donations	1,318
	Total Income	**124,701**
Disbursements		
	Legal Fees	5,937
	Housing Allowance - to Melville general account	10,400
	Reimbursement for sidewalk	9,000
	Hub insurance premiums	22,169
	Emergency plumbing repairs	1,045
	Bank charges	101
	Total Expenses	**48,652**
	Balance as at December 31, 2025	**83,606**

Financial Committee Report For 2025

The year 2025 has been a very busy one for Melville United Church. On behalf of the Finance Committee, I would like to thank everyone who has so generously contributed to Melville in every way, be it financial or volunteering. It takes a congregation working together to achieve the success that we have achieved! We are pleased to present a report with a positive balance. There has been a gradual increase in the number of people attending Sunday service.

The income portion of the report includes a healthy amount of rental income. With the anticipation of a new day care program beginning later this year we anticipate a larger income for rentals in 2026. For approximately seven months annually, Brad Halls provides music weekly. This event provides the audience with an opportunity to make a donation which Brad aptly suggests 'to keep the lights on and the piano tuned'. We truly appreciate his desire to provide his talents each week. You may notice that there are some items in the 2025 budget that did not occur and the amounts allocated to those items were not spent. The heating system account has $10,495.00 as of December 31st.

As we maintain our church home, a cautionary approach is necessary with finances as we are continually reminded that a century old building continually requires continual repairs and upgrades.

The Finance Committee extends a thank you to our treasurer, Kaillie Rawn, for her excellent work and looking after the financial work of the church.

The Finance Committee
David Gohn, Norm Porritt, Lynne Lamb and Kaillie Rawn

Melville United Church
Balance Sheet
As at December 31, 2025

	31 Dec 24	31 Dec 25
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Chequing/Savings		
1100 · CIBC General Fund	75,624.02	89,669.72
Total Chequing/Savings	75,624.02	89,669.72
Other Current Assets		
1203 · Petty Cash.	102.09	102.09
1402 · HST Recoverable-	4,644.99	7,317.76
Total Other Current Assets	4,747.08	7,419.85
Total Current Assets	80,371.10	97,089.57
Other Assets		
1600 · Capital Assets		
1603 · Grand Piano	14,999.43	14,999.43
1605 · Yamaha Keyboard	529.00	529.00
Total 1600 · Capital Assets	15,528.43	15,528.43
Total Other Assets	15,528.43	15,528.43
TOTAL ASSETS	95,899.53	112,618.00
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable		
2000 · Accounts Payable	4,142.82	14,019.93
Total Accounts Payable	4,142.82	14,019.93
Credit Cards		
2001 · Visa - 2325/1841	(189.84)	(301.71)
Total Credit Cards	(189.84)	(301.71)
Other Current Liabilities		
2007 · Social Justice	25.00	323.00
2008 · Adopt A Family Christmas	50.00	70.00
2012 · Trustees - In Memoriam	0.00	161.00
2014 · Mission & Service Fund	0.00	5.00
2015 · Leadership Fund	814.41	511.41
2016 · Building Fund	7,956.65	10,154.30
2017 · Camp Funds		
2017-01 · Annual Congregational Camps	306.06	0.00
2017 · Camp Funds - Other	0.00	306.06
Total 2017 · Camp Funds	306.06	306.06
Total Other Current Liabilities	9,152.12	11,530.77
Total Current Liabilities	13,105.10	25,248.99
Total Liabilities	13,105.10	25,248.99

Balance Sheet - continued

Equity		
2900 · Retained Earnings - Operating	78,623.61	65,457.44
2902 · Retained Earnings - Capital		
2902-04 · Capital Reserve	7,319.15	0.00
2902-05 · Garden		
2902-51 · Thyme With God	1,740.00	1,458.95
2902-52 · Landscapes	(128.25)	(128.25)
2902-05 · Garden - Other	(217.36)	0.00
Total 2902-05 · Garden	1,394.39	1,330.70
2902-07 · Stain Glass Windows	13,419.63	2,422.09
2902-09 · Audio System	(3,943.75)	2,400.00
2902-10 · Organ Restorations	2,523.30	2,523.30
2902-11 · Flat Roof Repair	(38,648.22)	0.00
2902-12 · Heating System		
2902-80 · Heating System Fundraising	0.00	5,485.00
2902-12 · Heating System - Other	0.00	5,010.79
Total 2902-12 · Heating System	0.00	10,495.79
2902-13 · Sidewalk	0.00	(1,377.04)
Total 2902 · Retained Earnings - Capital	(17,935.50)	17,794.84
Net Income	22,106.65	4,117.06
Total Equity	82,794.76	87,369.34
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	95,899.86	112,618.33

Melville United Church

Income & Expense

	Actual		Budget	
	Jan - Dec 24	Jan - Dec 25	2025	2026
Revenue				
3000 · Givings - Receipted				
3010 · Envelopes - General Fund	122,180.65	125,963.33	125,000.00	125,000.00
3020 · One time Gifts	2,130.22	2,134.58	2,000.00	2,000.00
3040 · Miscellaneous Contributions	575.00	10.00	0.00	0.00
3050 · Memory Angels - Receipted	1,495.00	1,715.00	0.00	0.00
Total 3000 · Givings - Receipted	126,380.87	129,822.91	127,000.00	127,000.00
3100 · Givings - Not Receipted				
3110 · Loose Offering	1,540.50	1,994.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
3120 · Trustees	10,912.07	0.00	0.00	0.00
3125 · Trustees Housing Allowance	(2,400.00)	0.00	0.00	2,400.00
3130 · U.C.W.	31.00	0.00	4,000.00	0.00
3150 · Miscellaneous	0.00	65.00	0.00	0.00
Total 3100 · Givings - Not Receipted	10,083.57	2,059.00	5,000.00	3,400.00
3260 · Special Events				
3262 · Special Events - Other	0.00	0.00	4,000.00	6,400.00
3263 · Concerts	7,252.41	9,494.65	0.00	3,600.00
3266 · Church Calendar Sales	28.00	70.00	0.00	0.00
3268 · Coffee Hour	611.95	478.90	0.00	0.00
3271 · Garage Sale	12,423.59	13,206.80	0.00	0.00
3278 · Bake Sale	0.00	50.00	0.00	0.00
3279 · Parking	386.45	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total 3260 · Special Events	20,702.40	23,300.35	4,000.00	10,000.00
3300 · Operations Revenue				
3310 · Rentals	41,594.42	43,096.59	39,500.00	59,700.00
Total 3300 · Operations Revenue	41,594.42	43,096.59	39,500.00	59,700.00
Total Revenue	198,761.26	198,278.85	175,500.00	200,100.00
Gross Revenue	198,761.26	198,278.85	175,500.00	200,100.00
Expense				
4000 · Staffing Costs				
4010 · Salaries				
4010-01 · Music Leadership	17,625.00	17,740.00	14,930.00	15,300.00
4010 · Salaries - Other	40,331.71	40,132.63	62,084.00	82,991.00
Total 4010 · Salaries	57,956.71	57,872.63	77,014.00	98,291.00
4013 · Custodial Service	19,571.00	24,246.00	21,000.00	27,100.00
4014 · Treasurer Honorarium	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,600.00
4015 · Sound System/Camera	688.50	1,188.90	800.00	1,300.00
4040 · Travel	1,408.55	1,697.08	1,400.00	1,600.00
4051 · Staff Telephone	0.00	0.00	180.00	240.00
4061 · Books/Subscriptions	0.00	0.00	760.00	933.00

Income & Expense - continued

	Actual		Budget	
	Jan - Dec 24	Jan - Dec 25	2025	2026
4070 · Supply Ministry	13,923.68	14,592.85	15,000.00	12,117.00
4080 · Music Supply	1,400.00	250.00	2,700.00	2,700.00
4090 Special Ministry/Music	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,400.00
Total 4000 · Staffing Costs	97,948.44	102,847.46	121,854.00	149,281.00
4100 · Staff Service Costs				
4110 · Employment Insurance	641.11	662.20	1,034.00	1,225.00
4120 · C.P.P.	1,432.76	1,507.56	2,710.00	3,195.00
4140 · W.S.I.B.	364.68	(168.54)	550.00	550.00
4150 · U.C.C. Group Insurance	2,682.72	2,958.40	5,154.00	6,099.00
4160 · U.C.C. Pension	2,457.97	2,570.04	4,232.00	4,832.00
4170 · ADP Charges	763.19	743.13	850.00	800.00
Total 4100 · Staff Service Costs	8,342.43	8,272.79	14,530.00	16,701.00
4500 · Directed Expenses				
4510 · UCC Assessment	9,184.00	9,346.00	9,346.00	10,190.00
Total 4500 · Directed Expenses	9,184.00	9,346.00	9,346.00	10,190.00
5000 · Church Facilities				
5010 · Heat & Hydro	19,592.90	20,503.99	21,000.00	21,000.00
5030 · General Maintenance				
5030-01 · Church Fix ups	1,236.48	282.48	3,500.00	14,200.00
5030 · General Maintenance - Other	5,949.86	11,562.45	19,800.00	13,300.00
Total 5030 · General Maintenance	7,186.34	11,844.93	23,300.00	27,500.00
5040 · Boiler Maintenance	5,800.60	7,573.08	2,500.00	5,000.00
5060 · Custodial Supplies	5,335.83	5,157.77	5,300.00	5,100.00
5070 · Grounds Maintenance	3,743.25	6,815.83	5,500.00	5,500.00
Total 5000 · Church Facilities	41,658.92	51,895.60	57,600.00	64,100.00
6000 · Church Office				
6009 · Office Equipment	31.17	0.00	0.00	1,000.00
6010 · Equipment Lease	764.49	1,335.05	1,100.00	1,100.00
6020 · Copier Supplies	408.08	447.04	600.00	600.00
6030 · Telephone Service	1,657.71	1,621.31	1,750.00	1,700.00
6070 · Bank Charges	328.30	323.00	500.00	400.00
6090 · General Supplies	1,002.03	1,509.34	1,500.00	1,500.00
6110 · Postal Service	1,062.49	351.43	1,000.00	500.00
6130 · PAR Service Charges	291.00	295.50	300.00	300.00
6150 · Givings Envelopes	461.83	343.57	500.00	400.00
6180 · Internet	1,008.62	990.90	1,050.00	1,050.00
6190 · Software				
6190-01 · Scheduling Software Leasing	3,503.71	2,508.87	2,500.00	2,550.00
6190 · Software - Other	931.24	1,366.66	5,350.00	1,300.00

Income & Expense - continued

	Actual		Budget	
	Jan - Dec 24	**Jan - Dec 25**	**2025**	**2026**
Total 6190 · Software	4,434.95	3,875.53	7,850.00	3,850.00
Total 6000 · Church Office	11,450.67	11,092.67	16,150.00	12,400.00
8000 · Committee Expenses				
8010 · Music Supplies	1,112.00	1,472.00	550.00	1,600.00
8020 · Worship Supplies	179.63	1,099.60	3,700.00	1,450.00
8030 · Faith Formation	627.54	835.30	1,000.00	1,000.00
8040 · Organ & Piano Maintenance	1,999.06	1,825.48	3,080.00	4,280.00
8050 · Audio/Visual Maintenance	89.69	213.13	600.00	1,200.00
8070 · Council Executive	468.88	1,358.07	750.00	750.00
8100 · Social Justice Team				
8101 · Benevolent Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8100 · Social Justice Team - Other	1,675.00	2,874.04	2,675.00	2,675.00
Total 8100 · Social Justice Team	1,675.00	2,874.04	2,675.00	2,675.00
8110 · Stewardship	0.00	0.00	250.00	500.00
8130 · Pastoral Care	463.21	178.58	500.00	500.00
8140 · Ministry & Personnel	500.08	204.00	400.00	425.00
8141 Search Committee	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,600.00
8160 · Fun & Funds	955.06	647.07	750.00	850.00
Total 8000 · Committee Expenses	8,070.15	10,707.27	14,255.00	16,830.00
Total Expense	176,654.61	194,161.79	233,735.00	269,502.00
Net Surplus (Deficit)	22,106.65	4,117.06	(58,235.00)	(69,402.00)
Mission & Service	16,219.36	21,042.08	20,000.00	20,000.00

Melville United Church

Capital Projects

Capital Projects	Organ Restorations	Flat Roof Repair	Garden	Stained Glass Windows	Audio/Visual System	Heating System	Sidewalk	Captial Reserve	Retained Earnings - Capital
Balance Jan 1, 2025	2,523.30	(38,648.22)	1,394.39	13,419.63	(3,943.75)	0.00	0.00	7,319.15	(17,935.50)
Funds In - donations/fundraising	0.00	0.00	370.00	0.00	0.00	12,785.00	9,000.00	0.00	22,155.00
Up Fund Grants	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,400.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,400.00
Adjustments/Reallocations	0.00	38,648.22	345.61	0.00	3,943.75	0.00	0.00	(7,319.15)	35,618.43
Expenses	0.00	0.00	(779.30)	(10,997.54)	0.00	(2,289.21)	(10,377.04)	0.00	(24,443.09)
Balance December 31, 2025	2,523.30	0.00	1,330.70	2,422.09	2,400.00	10,495.79	(1,377.04)	0.00	17,794.84

Capital Projects Budget 2026		
Longterm Building Repairs Capital	3,000.00	
Boiler Replacement (multi-year)	300,000.00	Estimate
Stone Work	42,000.00	