



163rd Regular Session of Synod

November 7 – 8, 2025

OTHER REPORTS TO SYNOD

ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF TORONTO FOUNDATION

Introduction

Incorporated in 1999, the Anglican Diocese of Toronto Foundation (ADTF), exists to provide financial support to the Diocese of Toronto or any parish of the Diocese. It is the key charitable arm of the Diocese of Toronto tasked with raising legacy and endowment funds for the Episcopacy, FaithWorks, diocesan parishes, and the wider needs of the church community.

Mission

The Foundation resources the Diocese of Toronto and local parishes as they plant and grow bold strategic initiatives for the future of God's Church.

Supporting Objectives

- To perpetually support the Bishop of Toronto in proclaiming the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
- To invest in new and emerging ministries
- To invite gifts of encouragement as demonstrated by the early Church (Acts 4: 36-37)

Funds

As of December 31, 2024, the Foundation retained assets of over \$14,800,000. In the last 5 years, over \$3,000,000 has been distributed. The Foundation currently provides financial assistance through the following funds and endowments:

- Anglican Community Development Fund
- Clergy and Theological Student Endowment
- John Strachan Trust to Fund the Office of the Bishop of Toronto
- The Archbishop Colin R. Johnson Fund for Clergy and Lay Education
- FaithWorks Endowment
- Canon Robert L. Falby Memorial Endowment for Aboriginal Ministry
- Most Rev. Fred Hiltz Scholarship
- Douglas C. Cowling Bursary in Liturgical Music
- W. Alex and Shirley Johnson Memorial Endowment (for St. John, East Orangeville)
- Howland Estate
- Canon Shea Fund

The ADTF invests its assets with two independent investment management firms: RBC Phillips, Hager & North Investment Counsel and Burgundy Asset Management.

Distributions

The Foundation made the following distributions totaling \$611,000 for 2024:

FUND	AMOUNT	PURPOSE
Anglican Diocese of Toronto Fund – Theological Education	\$19,120	To assist with theological education bursaries
Anglican Community Development Fund	\$3,441	Designated to children's ministries in "at-risk" neighborhoods (St. Bart's, Regent Park Breakfast Ministry)
FaithWorks Endowment	\$123,733	Allocation to FaithWorks
Howland Estate	-	To assist clergy at the discretion of the Bishop
Shea Fund	-	To assist clergy at the discretion of the Bishop
Samuel Chamberlain Fund	\$15,724	For FaithWorks ministries in the City of Toronto

Office of the Bishop of Toronto	\$375,594	Includes remuneration, expenses, and office costs (budgeted contribution)
Anglican Diocese of Toronto Fund	-	Travel grant for Bishops
Canon Falby Endowment for Aboriginal Ministry	\$29,175	Subsidy for cleric in Aboriginal Ministry
Douglas C. Cowling Bursary*	\$29,020	To a Parish Director of Music in the Diocese of Toronto
The Most Rev. Fred Hiltz* Scholarship	-	To assist with expenses in attending St. George College in Jerusalem
Alex & Shirley Jackson Memorial Endowment	\$1,368	Annual payment for operations of St. John, East Orangeville
The Archbishop Colin R. Johnson Fund for Clergy and Lay Education	\$13,825	Evenly split between Community of Deacons and Lay Education at discretion of the College of Bishops.

* Allocation withheld due to pandemic

Board Members

The Foundation is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of five (5) clergy and six (7) laity who are active members of the Anglican Diocese of Toronto. These include:

Mr. John Whincup ODT (Chair)
Mr. Stu Hutcheson ODT (Treasurer)
Ms. Leslie Hadju ODT (Secretary)

The Right Reverend Andrew Asbil
The Reverend Adrienne Clement
The Reverend Molly Finlay
Ms. Mary Pember, ODT

The Rev. Shelley Pollard
Reverend Jesse Parker
The Right Reverend Kevin Robertson
Mr. Stephen Rodaway ODT
Ms. Gail Smith ODT
Ms. Susan Graham Walker (2025)
Mr. Michael Cassabon (2025)

Direct staff support is provided by:

Ms. Mary Lynne Stewart, Executive Director
Ms. Keri Stilling, General Accountant

CHURCH OF SOUTH INDIA, TORONTO

With gratitude to God Almighty for the abundance of blessings during 2024, a year marked by vibrant ministry, faithful service, and renewed fellowship. Guided by our motto, *"Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up"* (James 4:10), our congregation came together in worship, service, and community life, experiencing both challenges and countless blessings.

The year began with our Annual General Body meeting in March, chaired by Rev. Binu Philip, where the 2023 reports and 2024 budget were approved. Regular worship services were held following the CSI Almanac, with Holy Communion celebrated each Sunday—alternating between English and Malayalam. Special services were conducted during Lent, on Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter, Christmas, and New Year's Eve, reminding us of the richness of our liturgical traditions.

Prayer and study remained central to our church life. The Intercessory Prayer Cell Fellowship met weekly online to lift in prayer the needs of many, while Bible study sessions every Wednesday provided deeper reflection on Scripture under the leadership of Rev. Philip. Our congregation also participated in Metanoia '24, the North American CSI Lenten meditation series.

In May, we held our 38th Annual Convention, with guest speaker Rev. Joji Jacob from Calgary and concluding sessions by Rev. Philip. It was a spiritually uplifting time centered on our annual motto. Fellowship was further strengthened through spring cleaning, a lively family picnic at Sibbald Point in August, and cottage prayer meetings organized by the Jordan, Shalom, and Gilead groups throughout the year.

The church also actively engaged in ecumenical activities. We hosted the Kerala Christian Ecumenical Fellowship's St. Thomas Day celebration in July, participated in the Bible Quiz competition in September—where our team secured second place—and contributed to the Christmas Choir Fest in November. Education Sunday, Senior Citizens' Sunday, and CSI Day were observed with special prayers, affirming the diversity of gifts within our community.

One of the highlights of the year was the Thanksgiving and Harvest Festival in November, which brought enthusiastic participation. Our Christmas season was filled with joy, from the Lessons and

Carols service titled *"Manger Throne"* to house-to-house caroling that reached 32 homes, concluding with a meaningful Christmas Day service and a New Year's Eve watchnight gathering.

We celebrated the births of Evika Molly Febin and Nevaeh Issac and rejoiced in the marriages of several young couples. At the same time, we mourned the passing of Mr. C.C. Cheriankunju, whose life and witness remain a blessing.

Behind the scenes, many dedicated members supported the life of the church. Our audiovisual and streaming teams ensured seamless worship experiences, while the PowerPoint, social media, and newsletter teams contributed to communication and outreach. The generosity of members who provided communion elements, VBS supplies, and other offerings was gratefully acknowledged. Outstations of CSI Toronto in London, Calgary, Edmonton, and Vancouver also continued their worship and fellowship, extending the church's presence across Canada.

As we reflect on 2024, we give thanks for the remarkable growth of our church family, seen in increased participation in worship and activities, and in the spirit of unity that binds us together. We are extremely thankful for all your kind gestures of care and love.

We are extremely thankful to Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil (Bishop, The Anglican Diocese of Toronto) and Rt. Rev. Dr. Malayil Sabu Koshy Cherian (Bishop, CSI Madhya Kerala Diocese) for the Episcopal supervision to our congregation. They continue to be pillars of support in our faith journey. The leadership of Rev. Binu Philip and the support of Roshen Philip have been invaluable, as has the dedication of our board, ministry leaders, and volunteers.

Looking ahead, we remain hopeful for the opportunities of 2025, trusting in God's guidance as we seek to live out His love and share His message of hope. On behalf of the church, I extend heartfelt gratitude to every member for your prayers, service, and generosity. Together, with grace of our Living Lord, we look forward to even greater blessings in the year to come.

ST. JOSEPH'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

PERIOD UNDER REVIEW

2023/2024 year under review was a period of steady recovery even though slower than anticipated. It was a period of hope and an anticipation of a new ministry, merging with our sister community, St. Matthias. Several talks, meetings and works have happened concerning the hopeful merger. The canon administrator is currently working closely with St. Matthias to facilitate the process. St Joseph's Church continues to pursue existing programs; we added a few new programs to our portfolio to draw in slackening members and attract new ones.

Some of the programs embarked upon include the following below:

1. Online Worship services are still ongoing simultaneously with in person services.
2. Fund Raising programs initiated to help deal with our financial crises including:
3. Flea Market
4. Main Fundraiser in the last quarter of the year
5. Special Offerings on first Sundays of the month
6. Special Programs like: Monthly Youth Empowerment Talks, Spiritual Emphasis Month and Volunteering Talks
7. Worship after St Matthias St. Matthias is still ongoing.
8. St Joseph's Cultural Group (drumming, dancing, and singing) to connect the religion and the culture of the people.
9. Visitation to the Youth Without Shelter in Etobicoke
10. Periodic (at least twice a month) lunches ("Item 13") worship services.
11. Our popular BBQ was great as we invited the homes (we knocked on about 20 houses) in our immediate community.

CONGREGATIONAL POPULATION

Our weekly Sunday attendance ranges from the 30s to the 100s depending on the occasion or program for the day. A sizeable number of the congregation also attend services every other week due to work schedules. We however continue to receive an average of 6 visitors a month (especially new immigrants).

A1.	Total membership	80+			
A4.	Average Sunday Attendance	55	Adult Men	-	13
			Adult Women	-	20
			Young Adults	-	15
			Youth	-	3
			Children	-	4
A2.	Easter Attendance	-	80		
A2b.	Pentecost Attendance	-	68		
A2C.	Christmas Day Attendance	-	35		
Births	-	1			
Baptisms	-	5			
Average Weekly Givers (usually via cash and e-transfer)-			40+		

CHURCH LIFE

We continue to worship on Sunday mornings at 11:15am after our sister community, St. Matthias, have closed at 11:00pm. Our services are still streamed Online via our various online portals include 2 Facebook platforms (St. Joseph Anglican Church, Toronto, and Rev. Kenneth Korsah) YouTube. Zoom has always been used to connect persons to our live and in person services.

Social media has become a very important tool hence we employ it to the best of our abilities to embark on advertise and execute our Online Services (Bible Studies, Prayer Meetings and Teaching Services) Average attendance per week ranges between 35 and 100 depending on the program for the day. We however continue to receive an average of 6 visitors a month (especially new migrants).

SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND PASTORAL CARE

Currently all our midweek services are via zoom and on Facebook and YouTube including the following (except the monthly Friday night prayer vigil):

- Thursdays ARENA OF PRAYER
- Friday Relationship and Marriage Discussion via Zoom on all Social Media platform
- Sunday Thematic Divine Services (at 11:15am)
- Sunday Divine Services with St. Matthias at 10:00am
- Monthly Prayer Vigils (8:30pm – 12:00am) on last Fridays of each month.
- Periodic phone calls and visitations are made to members by priests and visitation team to check up on them and their families to help facilitate parishioner's pastoral care needs; where necessary.
- Monthly Bible Studies (Weekly Bible Studies Leaders Discussion)

The Lay leaders (Wardens) of the church included the following:

- Peoples Warden: Lily Agyarko
- Ass. Peoples Warden: Joyce Osei
- Priest Warden: William Akraasi Sarpong
- Ass. Peoples Warden: Charles Ebo Mayne Jnr.

CHALLENGES

Our biggest challenge throughout the period under review has been consistency in attendance and finances which impact every area of church life especially our rector's accommodation rent and indebtedness to the diocese. We hope our finances would improve even more as people keep coming to church.

CONCLUSION

The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her lord therefore we continue to press on the upward way in the hope of growth, commitment and most importantly the long-anticipated merger with our sister church community: St. Matthias. A rebirth of both church ministries can lead to newer possibilities and newer forms of the ministry for the Diocese of Toronto. We hope there would be a revitalized zeal and presence in the coming year.

THE REV. KENNETH KORSAH | PRIEST IN CHARGE

INCORPORATED MINISTRY OF FLEMINGDON PARK

Thank you to all members of the Synod for the opportunity to share an update on our journey over the past two years. This report reflects both the resilience of Flemingdon Park Ministry and the realities of working under constant financial pressure in a community where the need keeps growing.

Since 2023, we've experienced both hardship and hope. Securing funding has become increasingly difficult due to rising costs, increased competition, and fewer available opportunities, forcing us to operate with the bare minimum. Despite tireless efforts to raise additional funds, including successful grant applications and donor appeals, resources remain tight. At the same time, demand for our programs has continued to rise—particularly from newly arrived families, refugee claimants, and isolated seniors.

Still, we remain deeply grateful. One major step forward was our move into a newly renovated unit, made possible through the generosity of the Ontario Trillium Foundation. This clean and welcoming space now includes a demonstration kitchen, better accessibility, and more room to serve our growing number of clients with dignity and care.

Programs Overview

- **Drop-in:** Every week, around 80 people join us for breakfast, clothing, and household items. This program continues to be a safe and welcoming space where newcomers build relationships and access critical information.
- **English Conversation:** We run three weekly groups (two beginner, one intermediate), and in response to client needs, we have successfully launched a literacy group that now meets regularly.
- **Women's Program:** Our weekly women's group has gained momentum, offering opportunities for participants to share skills, build social networks, and engage meaningfully in their new environment.
- **Quran Class:** Around 10 participants gather weekly to learn Arabic and deepen their understanding of religious texts.
- **Health and Wellness:** This program expanded to four weekly sessions and continues to be a highlight for women seeking physical activity, routine, and social support.
- **Bread Distribution:** With thanks to Cobb's Bread, we continue to provide bread and pastries every two weeks to between 50 and 80 families.
- **Food and Friendship:** This well-loved community event ran successfully in 2023 and 2024, bringing over 100 residents together each time. Unfortunately, due to rising costs and a lack of funding, we will not be able to run this event in 2025.
- **Weekly Food Hampers:** Food insecurity has worsened across our neighbourhood. We provide weekly hampers to 80+ families but now carry a waiting list due to lack of resources.
- **Senior Wellness:** Over 40 seniors participate in our weekly wellness sessions—indoors and outdoors, depending on the season—building routine and reducing isolation.
- **Senior Food Distribution:** We provide fresh produce, eggs, milk, and staples to about 50 seniors each week. The impact of rising food costs is especially severe for older adults.

- Hair Cuts: This free, weekly service continues to support our clients' dignity and self-esteem.
- Bible Study: This group has seen increased participation and remains a valuable part of our spiritual outreach.
- Art Class: This trauma-informed program helps participants explore healing through creativity and self-expression.
- Tax Clinic: We returned to in-person tax support in 2023 and helped approximately 80 families access refunds and benefits.
- Back to School: Every August, we distribute over 400 backpacks filled with school supplies to primary and secondary school students.
- Senior Christmas Gifts: Each December, we celebrate with our seniors by distributing gifts—along with scarves, mittens, and hats—at our annual Senior Christmas Party
- Communal lunch: Our new kitchen allows our dedicated volunteers to cook lunch on Mondays and Wednesdays for approximately 40 people. We hope to secure enough resources to add an additional day each week.

The Common Table Farm

Despite significant financial strain, our farm remains a pillar of our work to alleviate hunger and build community. We continue producing fresh vegetables for distribution, and each year we run:

- Several hands-on workshops for elementary and high school students on food systems, sustainability, and growing practices.
- A Young Farmers program for youth in grades 9–12, focused on skill-building and food security.
- Community Volunteer Days: Open to corporate and private individuals and groups, these days offer participants the opportunity to learn about conservation, food cultivation, and support sustainable local food systems by helping grow produce for our clients experiencing food insecurity.

We are pursuing partnerships and diversifying funding sources to keep our farm and these vital programs alive.

Reflecting on the last two years, what stands out most is the strength of our community and the unwavering support of our donors, volunteers, and Board. Our staff—now just three full-time people—remain deeply committed despite overwhelming workloads. Every day, we stretch what little we have to meet needs that would otherwise go unheard.

We are thankful beyond words to the Synod for its continued belief in our mission. At the same time, we must be honest: the need is growing faster than our capacity to respond. We remain hopeful that, with faith and solidarity, we will find the resources necessary to continue walking alongside those who rely on us most.

MARIA REOLIN | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

POSTULANCY COMMITTEE

The Postulancy Committee exists to discern vocations to the priesthood, to advise the College of Bishops on the selection of postulants from those who apply, and to provide ongoing support and formation for postulants over the two or more years of their postulancy, as they anticipate ordination.

Canon 34 governs our work, and the Chair of the Committee is the Bishop of Toronto. Bishop Andrew Asbil attends all meetings where decisions are made. Additional leadership is provided by the new Coordinator, the Rev. Canon Lisa Newland, and the Diocesan Executive Assistant, Canon Mary Conliffe. The committee is made up of an additional 13 people, including 8 priests (the Rev. Alvaro Adderly, the Rev. Canon Julie Burn, the Rev. Canon Dr Alison Falby, the Rev. Canon Susan Haig, the Rev. Nathan Humphrey, the Rev. Canon Geoff Sangwine, the Rev. Canon Nicola Skinner and the Rev. Canon Kevin Wong), one Deacon (the Rev. Dr Michael Van Dusen) and four laypeople (Mr. Bill Benson ODT, Canon Anita Gittens ODT, Ms. Elizabeth Hill ODT, and Ms. Marge Watters Knebel ODT.) Both suffragan bishops and a representative from each of the Anglican theological schools (currently Professor Marsha Hewitt from Trinity College and the Rev. Dr. Peter Robinson from Wycliffe College) attend the regular meetings of the Postulancy Committee. Since our last report to Synod, we were sorry to lose the Rev. Canon Janet Read-Hockin and the Rev. Canon Mark Regis, who stepped down as Co-Coordinators. We are grateful for their many years of skilled leadership and deep wisdom in the work of discernment and formation.

After a few years of diminished numbers, the Postulancy Committee was pleased to receive 12 applications in 2025. Eleven applicants were invited to participate in Interview Day, after which eight were invited to become postulants. We proudly add those eight to the continuing four postulants to complete our current cohort: Bianca Mathews, Christine Ivy, Donya Xu, Elaine Vanderwerf, Grace Rockett, Jonathan Kang, Lutzen Riedstra, Maddy MacGregor, Michael Sande, Miranda Peters, Nathan Hodgson, and Sara Fornoff. Please pray for our postulants regularly.

We delight in the wide diversity of our postulants; we are intentional in selecting individuals who exhibit not only a call to priestly ministry but also illustrate the rich tapestry of our Diocesan family. As part of our Interview Day preparation in 2025, the Committee watched a helpful training video on unconscious bias, discussing it at length to mitigate against blocks or barriers to recognizing diverse vocations to priesthood.

Our commitment to recruitment continues, having commissioned a video on priestly discernment which will soon be ready for sharing. This is a companion video to the one produced on the Vocational Diaconate. We hope that these efforts will encourage more people to consider if God is calling them to ordained ministry.

In this Season of Spiritual Renewal, we continue to entreat the Holy Spirit to raise up for the Church ministers of Word and Sacrament to care for the flock of Christ's own fold. Please pray for us as we engage in this vital work.

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

- Under the new governance structure, the Finance Committee is responsible for all financial matters, including the management of the investments of the Consolidated Trust Fund (CTF) and Cemetery Fund. The Finance Committee has oversight of the Investment Committee which adheres to the parameters set out under Canon 39 (currently suspended). The Investment Committee meets three times a year to review the results of the Funds and to set policy directions. The Investment Policy Statement can be found in the Parish Finance Manual.
- Members of the Committee include - Mr. David MacNicol (Chair), Mr. Stephen Rodway, Mr. Peter Stanley, Mr. Kennedy Marshall, The Rev. Ian LaFleur, Mr. Billy Ng, The Rev. Louise Dightam and The Rev. Jo-Anne Billinger.

Consolidated Trust Fund

- The Investment Committee has given the management of the funds to four managers - Burgundy Asset Management, Letko Brosseau & Associates Inc., Manulife Investment Management, and Northleaf Capital Partners.
- RBC Investor & Treasury Services is the custodian for the Burgundy Asset Management and Letko Brosseau & Associates Inc.
- The fund managers' performance is measured against a moving five-year benchmark. The benchmarks used for each fund is shown in the table as follows:

Fund Manager	Benchmark
Letko Brosseau & Associates Inc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• FTSE Canada Universe Bond return Index• S&P/TSX• MSCI EAFE• S&P 500
Manulife Investment Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• FTSE Canada Universal Bond
Burgundy Asset Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• FTSE Canada 91-days T-bill index• MSCI EAFE• S&P 500
Northleaf Capital	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Annualized Canadian 3-month Treasury bill + 5%

- The dividend yield rate for 2025 is 4.5% and dividend distributed per unit for 2025 is \$12.16.
- The audited unit value as at December 31, 2024 is \$ 301.9241 and \$279.1426 as at December 31, 2023, which is an increase of 8.16%. The unaudited unit value as at June 30, 2025 is \$314.5620.

Cemetery Fund

- 1832 Asset Management L.P. is the investment manager for the Cemetery Fund and Scotiabank is the trustee.

- The fund managers' performance is measured against a moving five-year benchmark.

Fund Manager	Benchmark
1832 Asset Management L.P.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dex Universe Index • S&P /TSX • S&P 500 • SC 31 days T-Bill index

- The dividend yield rate for 2025 is 3.57% and dividend distributed per unit for 2025 is \$6.30.
- The audited unit value as at December 31, 2024 is \$193.3462 and \$178.8773 as at December 31, 2023, which is an increase of 8.08%. The unaudited unit value as at June 30, 2025 is \$196.0992.
- Historic information on the Consolidated Trust Fund and the Cemetery Fund investments can be found on the Diocesan website at the link below:
- <https://www.toronto.anglican.ca/parish-administration/finance/investments/>

Important Update regarding the Cemetery Fund:

For many years the Diocese has operated a Consolidated Cemetery Fund where parishes with cemeteries can deposit their perpetual care funds as well as pre-need and investment funds in a secure low-risk unitized fund at low cost. Since the passage of new legislation in 2012 and the establishment of the Bereavement Authority of Ontario in 2016, this structure has been offside of regulations which require each cemetery to have its own trustee to manage its perpetual care funds.

To bring our parishes in compliance with these regulations, we are currently transitioning the management of this function from Scotiastrust to the Guaranteed Funeral Deposits of Canada (GFD), an established financial services institution specialized in offering financial products tailored for the bereavement sector.

GFD offers a specialized Care & Maintenance program, which ensures compliance with BAO regulations. Through collaboration with an investment manager, Foyston, Gordon & Payne Inc. (FGP) and a Cemetery trustee, Comtech-Fire Credit Union, GFD expects to provide enhanced returns and ensure that our cemetery's long-term spending needs are met.

GFD will manage both perpetual care and pre-need funds and there will be no loss of value during the transition. We are managing the transition in phases and expect all cemetery funds to be transferred by December 31, 2025. Reporting under the new system will come from GFD and their staff will be available to answer questions from the various cemeteries and the BAO going forward.

YORK RECTORY COMMISSIONERS (CANON 46)

- Under Canon 46, the Incorporated Synod of the Diocese of Toronto delegates to a board of three commissioners, the power to apportion the surplus income derived from the endowment of the First York Rectory and the Etobicoke Glebe funds.

Members of the current Board of Commissioners are:

- Ms. Marg Creal, Chancellor
- The Rev. Shelly Pollard
- Ms. Joy Packham

York Rectory Fund	Jan - Jun 2025	Jan – Dec 2024
<u>Capital Account</u>		
January 01	18,138,392	16,769,771
Change in Market value	759,234	1,368,621
Ending Balance	18,897,626	18,138,392
<u>Dividend Account</u>		
January 01	2,153,300	1,817,303
Grants Distributed – opening balance	(1,475,620)	(1,005,620)
Income Generated	365,262	695,079
Distribution to incumbents	(199,588)	(359,082)
Grants to Parishes	(50,000)	(470,000)
Ending Balance	793,354	677,680
Remaining Income – 2025	365,262	
Remaining Distribution to Incumbents – 2025	(207,080)	
Remaining Grant Commitments to Parishes	(25,000)	
Projected balance December 31, 2025	941,522	

Etobicoke Glebe Fund	Jan - Jun 2025	Jan – Dec 2024
<u>Capital Account</u>		
January 01	352,312	325,729
Change in Market value	14,747	26,583
Ending Balance	367,059	352,312
<u>Dividend Account</u>		
January 01	72,976	66,675
Income Generated	7,095	13,501
Distribution to incumbents / Grants	(3,600)	(7,200)
Ending Balance	76,471	72,976
Projected Income – 2025	7,095	
Remaining Distribution – 2025	(3,600)	
Projected balance December 31, 2025	79,966	

BISHOP'S COMMITTEE ON HEALING MINISTRIES

Healing arises from a deep listening and presence, to God, to God's love and, to all whom we meet and all who are beyond our borders and doors. This means we let go of assumptions, holding power, fear of the unfamiliar and learn what is needed, or wanted, with eyes and ears open. This is a casting of nets from the other side, for newness, possibility and transformation. "God is the possibility of healing, conversion, and most of all, new life." (James Martin, SJ)

This is continuous spiritual renewal. Jesus calls us to turn his way, with a willingness to see different lives, to participate in God's realm and open our hearts, to allow ourselves to hear and benefit from all the possibilities God brings to creation. We participate in the vast healing love given to us in Christ, individually and in community. The charter for our committee begins by quoting Paul's letter to the Romans, "'We, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another'" The work of healing ministries cannot be separated from Christ's love through whom we live well together.

Healing is a loving and active word. Involving mind, body and spirit. Each intertwine and weave together in our lives to support whole health. Sometimes the Spirit needs to carry mind and body. Healing work has a foundation that is spiritual, Spirit-filled in the trusted embrace of God, to bring healthy hope, peace, and joy. Sometimes the body is hurt, or unwell and healing ministries bring presence and prayer, and the support for care, recovery and wholeness, into the world of healthcare. Sometimes the mind is hurt or exhausted or lonely and the work of healing is active listening, accompaniment, rituals, prayer and seeking God together.

We can be contacted regarding the varying branches of healing ministries including, lay and ordained health-care chaplains, faith community (parish) nurses, lay anointers, lay pastoral visitors, deliverance ministry and seniors' ministry. The Committee provides for the coordination and collaboration of the Healing Ministries of the Diocese. We are a resource for the communities and people of the Diocese and promote the networking of resources. We support, develop, coordinate, and present educational material, events and retreats. The Committee is responsible for the ongoing support of Anglicans in our diocese engaged in the healing ministries, through education, training and fellowship. We would be very pleased to hear from you with your questions and about your ideas and needs.

Here are some ways we are living out our responsibility:

- The training for Lay Anointers has a format of one day in-person training. We continue to arrange for the training twice a year in a parish church. This works particularly well if a parish has a group of folks who are ready for training or discerning a call to be a Lay Anointer. We then send out a diocesan wide invitation. Please contact us about hosting a diocesan training day., or with any questions about the training and licensing. Lay Anointing has a page on the diocesan website.

www.toronto.anglican.ca/diocesan-life/healing-ministries/lay-anointers

On this page is general information, including the date of the next training as soon as we are sure, and contact information for questions.

- This is large diocese, and we are currently working to have members on our committee from various part of our diocese who will be able to provide Lay Anointer Training and Lay Pastoral Visitor training with more regularity and ease on a regional basis.
- Refresher Days, a time of gathering, sharing, prayer and learning, for folk from all healing ministries, are well attended. We look to have a Refresher Day in the spring of every year in various churches throughout the diocese. Please let us know you would like to host one and/or if you have a theme or topic, you would like us to offer for a Refresher Day. In 2024 we had a day with two workshops: How to start a conversation – about death and dying led by Allison Elliott, a licensed end of life educator. Modern Healing, Ancient Roots: Re-energizing the healing of the Early Church led by Kit Woods, a qualified Alternative Therapist

and part of the Healing Ministries team at All Saint's, King City. In 2025 we had an all-day event led by Allison Elliott, as a continuation of her 2024 workshop, on Future Healthcare Planning.

- Developing the diocesan education for Lay Pastoral Ministry is ongoing and a priority. We have prepared several templates for the one day of virtual or in-person general training. We can also create workshops according to the needs of a parish. Look for updated resources and references on the Healing Ministries pages of the Diocesan website through this fall and winter. Please contact Jo Davies if you have any questions, needs or want to be involved in training.
- The committee will continue to connect with healthcare Chaplains in the Diocese of Toronto who are Anglican (lay and ordained). We are pleased to be actively involved, and to support, a national Anglican Healthcare Chaplains network which continues to focus on Chaplains' needs and their contributions to the life, values, and mission of the church.
- If you would like a training session or a workshop on one or more healing ministries specifically for your parish, please contact Jo Davies.
- The committee continues our work of visioning and living a prayerful, spirit filled ministry offering resources, presence and responding to the need of healing prayer.
- On behalf of the committee Jo Davies led a Zoom session on Anointing for the Diocesan Season of Spiritual Renewal. Jo Davies was also pleased to attend and participate in the Momentum Retreat through leading sessions on the Healing Ministries.

We are grateful for the support, guidance, and participation of Bishop Kevin Robertson, who is our link bishop. Our current committee members are, The Rev. Canon Jo Davies (chair), The Rev. Greg Lane, Cheryle Pollock, Nancy Truscott, The Rev. Carol Shih, The Rev. Alexandra Stone, The Ven. Theadore Hunt, The Rev. Grace Caldwell, and Cynthia Majewski.

May all that we live, begin and end with the love of Christ.

THE REV. JO DAVIES

BISHOP'S COMMITTEE ON DOCTRINE & WORSHIP

The Bishop's Committee on Doctrine and Worship have not met in the period 2023-2025.

BISHOP'S COMMITTEE ON INTERFAITH MINISTRY

We are now in a season of spiritual renewal, and the Bishop's Committee for Interfaith Ministry has been doing its part to contribute to that renewal. The committee exists to promote interfaith ministry throughout the Diocese. We do that by encouraging individuals and parishes to reach out to their neighbours of other faiths, to learn from them (and help them learn something about Christian faith), to cooperate and partner together on community initiatives, to build friendship together, and ultimately to facilitate peace.

The committee currently has twelve members, supported by Bishop Kevin Robertson and the Rev. Canon Dr. Scott Sharman (ex officio) of the Diocese of Edmonton. Some turnover in membership occurred over 2024. We're grateful for the wisdom and many contributions of the Rev. Canon John Hill, who has now moved on to enjoy retirement. New to the committee are the Rev. Dr. Max Dionisio, who brings a wealth of experience in Buddhist-Christian encounter, and the Rev. Don Davidson, who is cultivating friendship and shared activities with a mosque in the North Peel region.

Over the course of 2024, the committee was involved in a range of initiatives. In March, several members helped plan and participated in the Vigil for Peace and Justice at St. James Cathedral, led by the late Dean of Canterbury, Robert Willis. In August we met online with the Rev. Rana Khan of St. Edmund's Crickhowell, Wales, who received a Lambeth award for interfaith work. Individual committee members are involved in important work. The Rev. Julie Meakin continues to serve on the steering committee of the Interfaith Council of Peel, which holds an annual interfaith prayer breakfast and June picnic. The Rev. Dr. Jim Leatch has been elected as Chair of the Christian-Jewish Dialogue of Toronto, a very noteworthy role. We are also grateful for the ongoing work of the Rev. Canon Philip Hobson (ecumenical liaison) and the Rev. Canon Maggie Helwig (social justice and advocacy liaison).

Our most significant work of the year was our education event, held in November at the Church of the Redeemer. About 30 attended in person, while another 70 watched the livestream on YouTube. The event featured a conversation with Raja Khouri (Palestinian) and Dr. Jeffrey Wilkinson (Jewish), co-authors of the acclaimed book *The Wall Between: What Jews and Palestinians Don't Want to Know about Each Other*. After the authors discussed their book and the current Palestinian crisis, the Rev. Dr. Jeff Nowers moderated a Q&A session, presenting questions from the in-person audience and online viewers. Those attending in person enjoyed Syrian sweets from Princes Pastries in Scarborough. In preparation for this event, the committee hosted two Zoom discussions of the book, held in September and October. All committee members played a role in planning, but we're especially grateful for the work of Hilary Keachie.

In the coming months, we look forward to planning our next education event. We are also hoping to expand the resources on our diocesan webpage. We are grateful to undertake this important work with our committee colleagues.

THE REV. JULIE MEAKIN | CO-CHAIR

THE REV. DR. JEFF NOWERS | CO-CHAIR

BISHOP'S COMMITTEE ON YOUTH MINISTRY COMMITTEE

Members: The Rev. Brian Suggs, Chair; Cormac Culkeen, East Archdeaconry Coordinator and YMAP Co-Coordinator; Rose St. Thomas, YMAP Co-Coordinator; Ian Physick, Central Archdeaconry Coordinator; Sarah Mair, South Archdeaconry Coordinator; Constance Kendall, West Archdeaconry Coordinator; The Rev. Alexandra McIntosh, The Reverend Yohan Dumpala, Michelle Clouter, and Tammy Bussey.

Events:

1. On January 20, 2024 we held our Theology Day event at All Saints, Kingsway. Participants engaged in theological reflection with professors from both Wycliffe College and Trinity College on the topics of Baptism and Eucharist, The Nicene Creed, and the Trinity. Participants also spent time praying and worshipping together and in an Instructed Eucharist led by The Reverend Shelly Pollard.
2. On February 24, 2024 we hosted a Mental Health Support Workshop with Dr. Wanda Malcolm at Christ Church, Deer Park. Participants learned more about how to support youth living with mental illness and were given resources to pass onto youth and their families.
3. April 24, 2024 we again hosted our VBS & Day Camp Leaders Workshop online. This event provides an opportunity for networking and sharing ideas and resources for those hosting VBS/Day Camp programs in the summer.
4. On Saturday, May 25, 2024 we held our SPARK Youth Leaders Retreat Day at Church of the Incarnation. We spent time praying, singing, reading scripture, eating a delicious lunch together, and enjoying connecting with colleagues. This was a great opportunity to be encouraged and refreshed as we worshipped together.
5. The annual Diocesan youth retreat, ReCharge, was held on September 27-29 at Muskoka Woods. In total there were 120 people in attendance from across the diocese. It was a beautiful fall weekend, and we enjoyed time together praying, worshipping, learning, eating, playing and even getting some sleep.

On Friday night, Bishop Andrew and Mary Asbil shared about times in their lives when they felt close to God and then led the youth in Night Prayers. On Saturday morning they shared about what prayer is, what The Lord's Prayer is, and then there were testimonies and stories of prayers being answered and some discussion on how we can respond when our prayers aren't answered.

The evening session was led by The Reverend Brian Suggs and focused on the Bible: what it is, what its purpose is, and what to do if you read it and don't understand followed by a 'Bible Lab' that focused on practical tips for studying scripture more deeply led by three of the youth coordinators: Sarah, Ian, and Constance.

On Sunday, The Reverend Jillian Ruch, Chaplain at Havergal College, celebrated Holy Communion and preached. Youth were invited to bring an orange shirt to wear on Sunday as The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation was marked. There was a new activity offered this year, a prayer and reflection space where youth could have quiet time, when needed, and engage in guided prayer and journaling exercises. The space was a huge success and organised by Rose St. Thomas.

YMAP

The Youth Ministry Apprenticeship Program (YMAP) is meant to equip and prepare potential leaders for a youth ministry position in the Diocese of Toronto. YMAP is led by Cormac Culkeen and Rose St. Thomas. We give thanks that there continues to be an uptake in inquiries for participating in the program. This program normally runs from October to June and includes mentoring, training, fellowship and lots of opportunities to network and build relationships in the Diocese.

THE REV. BRIAN SUGGS | CHAIR

BISHOP'S COMMITTEE ON CREATION CARE

The Bishop's Committee on Creation Care was formed in the Spring of 2020. The committee is comprised of both lay and ordained members. Every meeting begins with prayer and reflection, and we have been exploring how to pray not only for, but in and with, creation. We continue to discern God's call to us as a committee, but our mission, simply expressed, is this: we seek to invite Anglicans and Anglican parishes throughout our Diocese to **Christ-centred, creation-informed discipleship**, encouraging people to join in the saving work God has already begun in creation.

In the midst of the climate catastrophe, it is difficult to tell a good story about creation, as we witness the destruction of habitat, creatures lost to extinction and the most vulnerable in human settlements facing the devastation of fire, flood, extreme cold, and dangerous heat. The good story we are called to tell is real, Christian hope that is rooted in our relationship with Jesus. As Paige wrote in a recent article in *The Anglican*, "it is hard and gritty and does not make the hard stuff go away, but it gives us courage as followers of Jesus, to persevere in the work we are called to do... This is the alternative way that Jesus commands us to choose. This is our daily choice – a choice to live in God's reality in which all of creation is loved and cared for and in which abundant hope is real. It is a choice not to be complicit in a culture of destruction, exploitation, violence and hatred or be complicit in the destruction of our home."

The urgent call to us as disciples is to live out our primal vocation, which is to tend the garden of the earth, so that all human and non-human communities can flourish. We continue to promote initiatives that help Anglicans develop a relationship with creation through Hiking Church, observing the season of creation, shaping our worship to be creation-informed, and advocating for significant change in our stewardship of buildings and land by moving toward carbon net zero.

Engaging the Season of Spiritual Renewal

Following the Cast the Net visioning process, Bishop Andrew Asbil called us to a two-year Season of Spiritual Renewal. As a committee, we were inspired by the calls to respond to the climate crisis (call 8), deepen personal and collective discipleship (Call 1) and to participate in God's healing work in the world. (Calls 4 and 5) Our Chairs, the Rev. Susan Spicer and the Rev. Paige Souter met with The Rev. Canon Dr. Judy Paulsen as the season of Spiritual renewal began, which led to a workshop presented by Karen Turner, Carol Giangrande and Rev. Susan Spicer called "Renewing our Relationship with Creation" which focussed on what it means to be creation-informed in our discipleship, how we can respond to climate grief in liturgy, and how we can bring a creational lens to our engagement with scripture.

As we reported in 2023, we invited parishes to complete a survey to find out what they were doing already around creation care and what they needed from us. We found that community and pollinator gardens have increased on church lands, as over 50 percent of parishes surveyed are observing the Season of Creation. About a third are engaging in outdoor worship, and eco-friendly landscaping, while some are renovating buildings to reduce their carbon footprint. People told us that they wanted liturgical resources, tips on going green in the parish and at home, and advice on reducing their carbon footprint. We were encouraged by the commitment of St. Clements, who reported an "overall change approach to build momentum in the paradigm shift to creation care – a more expansive form of Christianity where we love what God loves in all of creation." Other communities asked for updates on what is being done at a diocesan level, and whether our investments are "green." St. Mary Magdalene wrote: "we need to unpack our own role in how interpretations of "dominion" have

resulted in domination and ravishing the earth's resources. We're also going to need to develop new visions for appropriate role in a changed planet."

Season of Creation in 2025

As we write this report, we are planning for the Season of Creation 2025. Our celebration will take place on September 20th, in the parish of Craighurst and Midhurst. We are delighted to be working with the Rev. Andrew Kuhl on this day of repentance and renewal in our relationship with creation for our whole diocese

Mary Asbil attended our January meeting with great interest in the Communion Forest Initiative. The committee responded enthusiastically and a subcommittee, "Clapping Trees" (ref. Isaiah 55.12) including Mary, was struck to further investigate this global initiative and how we might respond as a committee and diocese. Several fruitful meetings led to connections with "Trees for Life" as a possible collaborator, the production of a new diocesan Communion Forest webpage under Social Justice/Creation Care, a morning prayer liturgy led by the Committee at the May Clergy Conference, and the production of a handout to promote the Communion Forest in the Season of Creation September 2025. As interest in and the scope of the Communion Forest Initiative grew it was decided that the work of the subcommittee would become the work of the whole committee as well as the focus of Season of Creation for this year. Many thanks to sub-committee members Susan Spicer, Alison Kemper, Mary Asbil and Stephen Kern. Check out the Communion Forest page for rich resources and information about how you and your community can help mark our diocese as one committed to care of creation.

THE REV. SUSAN SPICER | CO-CHAIR

THE REV. PAIGE SOUTER | CO-CHAIR

BISHOP'S COMMITTEE ON RIGHT RELATIONS

Under the strong leadership of the Rev. Leigh Kern and with the support of the Bishop's office, this collaborative was formed firstly to decolonize the language used in our liturgy which pertain to collects, prayers, music and symbols used to mark the National Indigenous Day of Prayer and the observance of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (Orange Shirt Day). Latterly, this collaborative on Right Relations aims to provide protocols and resources for non-Indigenous Anglicans and their parishes when learning from and engaging with our Indigenous siblings. We hope to cast the net and widen the circle of Anglicans who will commit themselves to Indigenous justice and translating for decolonization.

<https://www.toronto.anglican.ca/diocesan-life/social-justice-advocacy/indigenous-justice/?lang=en>

Two Zoom workshops were organised in 2022. The first was held on September 27, 2022 at 7pm when we had Jillian Harris, a knowledge holder, Elder, and former Chief of the Penelakut Tribe who offered teachings on the hidden histories of colonization. Jillian Harris is a Survivor of the notorious Kuper Island Residential School. Jillian also shared the traditions of her homelands and the impact of colonization on her Nation.

On October 11, 2022, at 7pm, Deborah Tagornak, an Inuk author, renowned public speaker, long-time Indigenous rights activist and knowledge keeper, offered teachings on "Inuit Principles and Societal Values: Empowering Capable Human Beings." She coordinates the family wellbeing program at Ottawa-based Inuit organization Inuuqatigiit and is the Inuit advisor to the Anglican Bishop of Ottawa. Deborah Tagornak is an organizer in Inuit health, wellbeing, and innovation. She utilizes traditional knowledge and language to build healthy families and communities. She is a leader, trailblazer, and inspiration to many. We were blessed to welcome and learn from her virtually.

The response to both these workshops was very good as there is a strong desire among Anglicans to learn and be better equipped to support Indigenous justice and be in right relationship with those on whose lands we live and worship.

The collaborative comprising the Rev. Leigh Kern, the 2 co-chairs, the Rev. Canon Simon Li, the Rev. Claudette Taylor and the Rev. Samantha Caravan met regularly by Zoom until the Rev. Leigh Kern went on parental leave. Thereafter, the Rev. Rajathy Gerlyn Henry and the Rev. Maria Ling provided online resources and support to parishes seeking to plan worship services held during the month of June 2023 when many churches observe Indigenous History Month & National Indigenous Day of Prayer. Much of the work of translation had been done before June 2022. The work continues as we hope to have more translation done into languages used in churches in the Diocese of Toronto.

As priests in local parishes, both co-chairs are actively pursuing Indigenous justice within their churches. It is indeed a privilege to share in this important ministry.

THE REV. RAJATHY GERLYN HENRY

THE REV. MARIA LING

DIOCESAN ANGLICAN CHURCH WOMEN

The purpose of the Toronto Diocesan Anglican Church Women is to be a focus for Christian community among all Anglican Women, affirming their gifts and encouraging their ministries through fellowship, worship, and service. This focus is achieved through the work of its sub-committees; namely, Chancel, Social Concern and Action; Finance; Public Relations and Nominating.

In 1966, by resolution of General Synod and with the agreement of all involved, the Anglican Church Women was formed by the amalgamation of the four existing women's ministries: the Mother's Union (family life and the needs of mothers and young children); the Chancel Guild (care for the furnishings of the chancel and sanctuary); the Federated Women's Church Year (visiting and free will offering); and the Women's Auxiliary (financial and material support for the needs of mission in the Anglican church). On November 22, 1967 the Toronto Diocesan Anglican Church Women was legally incorporated in the Province of Ontario, undertaking to carry forward the aims and programs of all four founding ministries.

Today, the Toronto Diocesan Anglican Church Women is an umbrella organization which assists, informs and encourages the Parish Women's Groups. Through the combined efforts of these Parish Groups, we are able to give financial assistance to various outreach projects. Through the Diocesan ACW newsletter: ideas are shared, Prayer Links for the quarter listed, messages from the Chaplain to reflect on, Parish ACW activities highlighted, Social Concern and Action projects discussed. The Board of Directors meet monthly via Zoom, to share ideas, discuss financial decisions and report on what is happening with Parish women around the Diocese. Most of the work in the Parishes involves learning about the needs of the changing world around us and providing service and/or funds to those who need our help. Our Women's Gatherings are for all women in the Diocese focusing on fun and fellowship and have continued to be enthusiastically received. The Gatherings were held at Church of Christ the King, Etobicoke (October 2023); St. James Orillia (June 2024); and Christ Church Stouffville (October 2024). Deanery Days were held in May 2024 and 2025 in the Nottawasaga Deanery (Trinity Barrie) and (Christ Church – St. Jude Ivy) respectively.

Some Anglican Church Women choose to meet in formal groups known as "the ACW." They provide fellowship and support for their members as well as structure for encouraging members' ministry and spiritual growth. The number of meetings/events per year, number of groups, time the groups meet, type of activities they wish to be involved in, are all decided by the interests of the women in their Parish.

At the Diocesan level, our outreach work includes:

Council of the North: supporting the work of the Council of the North through a major annual donation. In April 2024 we gave a one-time special appeal grant to the Sisterhood of St. John the Divine for their building campaign.

Theological Student Bursary: providing assistance to women theological students.

Lay Ministry/Vocational Deacon Bursary: providing assistance to women pursuing training in Lay Ministry or as a Vocational Diaconate.

Missionary Appeal Fund: providing assistance to women who are participating in missionary work usually outside of Canada.

Threshold Ministry: (formerly Church Army) helping their work and continuing support on behalf of the founding Chancel Guild commitment.

Diocesan Memorial Book: providing a permanent remembrance for any ACW member who has died.

Ecclesiastical Needleworkers: providing working space and support for the group of women who meet weekly to create and sell altar clothes and small linens as well as custom, hand-embroidered vestments and hangings. They also repair and remount old hangings and vestments.

Social Concern and Action Special Projects: facilitating increased awareness of social issues in our communities, archdeaconries, the nation and the world. Each of our 5 archdeaconries chooses an organization(s) to receive our annual Special Project financial support in keeping with the Social Justice theme which is voted on by the members at our AGM. Many groups invite speakers to address various social issues in their communities. Each Archdeaconry receives \$1,000 to disburse to groups they feel are most in need. The theme for 2023 was Mental Health for Children and Youth. Organizations receiving support in 2023 were: Carea Community Health Centre, The Neighbourhood Organization, New Path and Family Counselling Services of South Simcoe County, and Youth Without Shelter. In 2024 and 2025 the special project theme is Food Insecurity. Organizations receiving support in 2024 were Angus Foodbank; Elmvale Foodbank; Barrie Friendship Centre; Teresa Group and the Infant Formula Program; Feed the Need in Durham; Youth Without Shelter; York Region Food Network; and Feed Scarborough.

Newsletter: a newsletter is published four times a year. The newsletter is sent to every parish in the Diocese earmarked for the women's groups. Many women choose to have their own personal subscription sent through the mail.

Ecumenical work: being involved with various ecumenical activities in our Diocese such as World Day of Prayer Services, Catholic Women's League AGM, and Women's Inter-Church Council of Toronto.

Interfaith work: working with members of other faith communities.

The Diocesan ACW is funded mainly by donations from Parish Anglican Church Women groups, with the money designated for Council of the North and Special Projects. These donations are supplemented by the sale of public relations items such as ACW and chancel pins, newsletter subscriptions, memorial book inscriptions, and individual donations. The work of the Ecclesiastical Needleworkers and investment income cover the office expenses.

Annual General Meetings are held via Zoom with the themes of Peace and Hope (2024—Bishop Asbil) and (2025 Ministering with Compassion—Bishop Robertson) who brought greetings from the College of Bishops. In 2024 we had speakers from the Stephen Lewis Foundation who spoke about the challenges of HIV AIDS and the effect it has on the community. In 2025 we had a speaker from Lakeridge Health in Oshawa who spoke about her work as a Health Practitioner, Pastoral Councillor and Spiritual Care Chaplain. Chaplaincy in hospitals provide hope for those who endure many difficult trials.

The 2023 National Conference for the Diocesan Presidents of Anglican Church Women was held in October via Zoom. In 2024 the National Conference was held in Stratford, Ontario at St. James Church.

We extend our sincere thanks to all who support us through donations, encouragement and prayers.

JANICE HODGSON, ODT | PRESIDENT

TRINITY COLLEGE

I am pleased to offer this report to the Synod of the Diocese of Toronto on behalf of the Faculty of Divinity at Trinity College.

As the 2025-26 academic year begins, the faculty is home to 99 students. This Fall, we have admitted 34 new students, 17 of whom are entering the MDiv program – the largest number in recent years. This week, the faculty's orientation program re-gathers our community and welcomes new members. We anticipate a very busy year, with many exciting events and developments.

Some of these events and recent developments include the following:

(i) 2025 Divinity Convocation

On 13 May, 13 Faculty of Divinity students graduated with the following degrees: Master of Divinity (MDiv), Master of Theological Studies (MTS) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Theological Studies. During the ceremony, Trinity also conferred an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Divinity (honoris causa) upon John Franklin in recognition of his extraordinary service in promoting the deep interconnection between spirituality and the arts, his dedication to integrating artistic expressions into theological discourse, and his tireless support for others in the field, underscoring his belief that art is essential to our spiritual and emotional well-being.

(ii) Student Demographics (2024-25)

- 57% part-time
- 45% Anglican Church affiliation
- 33% Eastern or Oriental Orthodox
- 22% other church traditions
- 68% women
- 14% international
- 16 different countries of origin
- Average age: 43
-

(iii) Events over the past year

The Faculty has advanced a number of special events and workshops over the past year, including the following:

- “Making Accessible Churches: A Primer in Disability Theology” (18 June) – with the Divinity Associates
- “Finding Hope In Crisis: St. Anne's Gladstone and Church Outside the Walls” (9 June)
- “Sacred Music in a Sacred Space” – a series of noon musical performances in the chapel
- Kierkegaard Circle – Evaluating the Role of Recollection in Kierkegaard's, “Works of Love” (28 March)
- Concert - Trinity College Chapel Choir: A Season of Choral Music with Arthur Jones (17 March)
- Concert: The Trinity Bach Project (27 Feb)

- Webinar: Church Outside the Walls: Past, Present, Future (Anne Germond, Linda Nicolls, Victoria Matthews) – 6 Feb 2025
- Colloquy - Engaging East-Asian Religious Traditions Inter-Religiously (7 Nov, 2024)
- The Once and Future Parish – webinar and workshop with Alison Milbank (3-4 Oct, 2024)
- “Being With” – series of 10 sessions throughout the year
- “Memory, Truth and Reconciliation” – North American Academy of Ecumenists Annual conference (27-29 2024)

(iv) External Grants

The Faculty has been able to enhance its programs through three external grants:

- Pathways for Tomorrow, Phase 2 grant - Lily Endowment, Inc. (3 of a 5-year program now completed)
- Anglican Foundation - Ecumenical Embrace Grant – Anglican-Oriental Orthodox Dialogue (program for 2025-26) – focusing on South-Asian Christian communities
- In Trust – Resource Grant – supporting consultations, workshops and a student survey focused on disability and inclusion

(v) Developments at Trinity College

- (a) New Humphrys Chaplain. The Rev'd Paige Souter has been appointed as the new chaplain at Trinity College for a 5-year term
- (b) Lawson Centre for Sustainability. Trinity's Major building project is well underway, with the new residence and classrooms set to be ready in the Spring of 2026.
- (c) Trinity College is celebrating the 100th anniversary of its main building this year, and the 70th anniversary of the Trinity Chapel.

(vi) Coming Events and Developments in the Faculty of Divinity

- 18 November – A special Convocation ceremony will confer Honorary Doctor of Divinity Degrees (honoris causa) upon Bishop Michael Curry and Archbishop Linda Nicols.
- 18 Nov - Symposium – “*Sustaining Hope and Seeking Justice in Challenging Times*” – featuring Michael Curry and Linda Nicolls, 1-3:30pm.
- 19-20 November - [Sacred Space: Conflict and Convergences Conference](#)
- 29 Nov – Youth Ministry event – Theology Day for Youth Leaders
- This academic year, the Faculty of Divinity has launched a new degree program – The Master of Psychospiritual Studies (MPS). This program has three distinct streams: Spiritual Direction, Social Justice Ministries, and Spiritual Care. In 2026, the Spiritual Care stream will provide a pathway to CRPO accreditation for chaplains and psychotherapists in Ontario.

- Launch of the Institute for Humanistic Buddhist Thought and Practice. With the help of external funding from the Buddhist community (the Fo Guang Shan organization), Trinity will launch a new initiative that will contribute public lectures and courses focusing on Buddhism and on inter-faith engagement.

I trust that this report offers a glimpse of some of the achievements of the past year in the Faculty of Divinity at Trinity College, as well as a sense of the ongoing vitality of our programs.

Should you have any questions about any of these activities, please do not hesitate to be in touch.

THE REV. CANON DR. CHRISTOPHER BRITTAIN | DEAN OF DIVINITY & MARGARET
E. FLECK PROFESSOR OF ANGLICAN STUDIES

WYCLIFFE COLLEGE

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things. Philippians 4:8

The faculty and staff of Wycliffe College are focusing on this verse as they enter the new academic year under the leadership of a new Principal. Appointed after an international search, Dr Kristen Deede Johnson joined the College on July 1, 2025. A ceremony to install Dr Johnson as the 11th Principal will take place on October 3, 2025.

A Principal Retires

After serving for 10 years as Principal of Wycliffe College, the Rt Rev. Dr Stephen Andrews, and wife Fawna, packed up their belongings and moved east to be close to family. The College celebrated Bishop Stephen with a special service and dinner on April 8, 2025, with stories shared by Senior Students past and present and gifts, including bowties coloured by children of the College, as well as a formal dinner with members of faculty, staff, and Trustees on June 16, when his official portrait was unveiled.

A Principal Begins

Dr Kristen Deede Johnson began her role as Principal and Helliwell Professor of Theology, Ministry, and Culture on July 1, 2025. Dr Johnson comes to Wycliffe from Western Theological Seminary, Holland, MI, where she served as Dean and Vice-President of Academic Affairs and G.W. and Edna Haworth Professor of Educational Ministries and Leadership. She is well published, with her 2017 co-authored book, *The Justice Calling: Where Passion Meets Perseverance* (Brazos Press) having been awarded Book of the Year from *Christianity Today* in the Politics and Public Life Category.

Dr Johnson has now begun her first year at Wycliffe's helm. The academic year has also begun, with a vibrant and engaged new group of students joining the Wycliffe community, participating in the Daily Office, and entering into their studies.

Faculty and Staff Transitions

The Rev. Chris Dow, Wycliffe grad, most recently of the Diocese of the Arctic, joined the Wycliffe team as College Chaplain in August 2024. He also serves as our Director of Field Education, overseeing student parish placements.

The Rev. Dr Victor Ezigbo joined Wycliffe's faculty on January 1, 2025, as our Professor of World Christianity and Intercultural Ministry. Dr Ezigbo comes to us from Bethel University, Minnesota, where he served as Professor of World Christianity and Contextual Theology, bringing with him an expertise in Majority World scholarship that will help prepare our students to serve the growing diaspora and ethnic communities in our Church.

As of July 1, 2025, Dr Justin Stratis now serves as Vice Principal and Academic Dean, while Mr. Paul Patterson's title is now Chief Operating Officer at the College.

Convocation 2025

Wycliffe's Convocation was held on Monday, May 13, in Wycliffe's Sheraton Hall. Thirty-two students graduated with the following degrees: PhD, ThM, MA, MDiv, MTS, MTSD, CCTS, and Diploma in

Christian Studies. This year the honorary degree, Doctor of Sacred Letters, was bestowed on Lorna Dueck and Paul Henderson.

Special Events

Annual Principal's Dinner – in September 2024 Wycliffe welcomed the Rev. Dr Michael Bird to a sold-out crowd as the speaker at our Principal's Dinner. This year's dinner in October will feature Principal Johnson as our speaker.

Our Jocz Lecture was held in March 2025 when Dr Jennifer Rosner spoke on "The Jewish Gospel and Christian identity: an exploration in contextual discipleship." Dr Roxner is Affiliate Assistant Professor of Systematic Theology, Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, California.

Looking Ahead

On Friday, October 3, 2025, Wycliffe College will install Dr Kristen Deede Johnson as the 11th Principal in a ceremony that will begin at 7pm. We look forward to an evening of celebration with friends old and new, as we move into this next chapter at Wycliffe College.

KAREN BAKER-BIGAUSKAS | EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATOR

A PLACE CALLED HOME

For over 30 years, A Place Called Home has been a beacon of hope, operating the only homeless shelter serving the residents of the City of Kawartha Lakes and Haliburton County. Inspired by Acts 6:10, we believe we are "Chosen to tell the Good Story" -through our actions and support. Each year, we provide a safe place to sleep, meals, advocacy, and housing support to hundreds of men, women, and families with children. Our compassionate staff offer moral support and guidance, helping those experiencing homelessness to regain stability in their communities.

Our agency also provides critical Drop-In Services to those who have recently moved out of our shelter and to those at risk of becoming homeless, enhancing their housing stability. These essential supports include hot meals, packed lunches, access to showers, laundry facilities, private phones, access to a computer, internet, and Wi-Fi services. Most importantly, clients accessing this essential program have the opportunity to meet with our qualified staff to develop new housing stability plans and receive important community referrals to specialized services as needed.

The individuals who access our services come from diverse backgrounds but share the traumatic experience of losing their housing. From clients with histories of addiction, incarceration, or mental health struggles to families displaced by fire or floods, and youths and seniors escaping abusive environments, our client pool is varied. Despite their challenges, they all share one positive outcome: when they arrive at our agency, they are in crisis, and when they leave, they are stable and moving towards a sustainable future.

The past five years have been particularly challenging for our clients and staff. During the Covid-19 pandemic, we had to move our clients and staff into a hotel to meet restrictions. Faced with this monumental decision, we launched our largest fundraiser to raise \$1.5 million for a new purpose-built shelter. Thanks to the generosity of our community members and faith groups, we succeeded. In June 2022, we moved back into our new shelter, but the need for affordable housing remained critical. We took immediate action, renovating our two old shelter buildings to provide both transitional and permanent housing options for clients ready to move out.

Faith Works has been an essential partner since 2001, when a \$22,000 donation supported our early outreach efforts. In the past three years, your donations of \$15,000 in 2023 and \$18,000 in 2024 have provided critical food resources for our Shelter and Drop-In Services program. This year, the \$14,400 we received helped us purchase new mattresses for our shelter, which were direly needed as we increased our shelter capacity from 19 to 30, and many of our mattresses were in poor condition.

Since moving into our new shelter in 2022, demand for our Shelter and Drop-In Services has doubled. Your generous donations provide food to hundreds of vulnerable individuals each year, many of whom are living rough or in precarious situations as our community faces a housing shortage and inflationary pressures.

Currently, our agency provides three nutritious meals a day, plus snacks and school lunches to shelter residents, and up to 50 additional meals per day for our Drop-In Services clients. Our modest kitchen will provide approximately 45,000 meals this year. Sharing meals in a communal setting fosters positive social interactions, builds trust, and provides opportunities for clients to share their experiences, helping them move forward.

Recently, we were awarded funding to develop a new strategic plan to guide our agency for the next five years. We are eager to build a positive future for our organization to support the homeless in our

community effectively. We work tirelessly at telling the “Good Story” to inspire others to give and share how even a little support can go a long way to help those accessing our services to get back on their feet and back to into the community.

As we strive to ensure everyone has a safe place to call home, we deeply appreciate FaithWorks' continued support of our mission.

ANGELA RICCUITI | EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR

JENNIFER LOPINSKI | FUND
DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR

ALL SAINTS CHURCH – COMMUNITY CENTRE

For over 50 years, All Saints has been a leader and innovator in helping Toronto's most vulnerable people. Rooted in Jesus' commandment to love one another, All Saints seeks to share in God's love in action at Dundas and Sherbourne. It is a place of care, connection, welcome and practical support for a high-needs population including street-involved adults, newcomers and refugees, people living in poverty, those who use drugs, and many who are unsheltered and sleeping rough. This population has borne the brunt of growing income inequality, the affordable housing crisis, poisoned drug supply, and the continued effects of COVID 19. Yet, All Saints remains a place of shelter and dignity that produces stories of hope, survival and belonging.

Since early 2024, post-pandemic attendance at All Saints Drop-in has gradually returned to our early 2020 level of community participation. On average, we welcome between 80-120 people each day we are open, compared to 50 people each day during the spring and summer of 2023.

In response to rising food insecurity, All Saints hired a full-time Kitchen Coordinator in January 2024. Having a designated cook, along with an increased number of kitchen volunteers, has resulted in significant growth in the number of meals served. During 2024 and the first half of 2025, we served between 140-150 nutritious dine-in and take-away meals each day.

All Saints continues to deliver low-barrier, person-centred, trauma-informed services that focus on dignity, engagement and collaboration. We provide case management and housing support, referrals and system navigation, day shelter, access to nursing care, computers, internet, washrooms, clothing and spiritual/pastoral care. In 2024, we provided approximately 3,000 referrals and 1,700 active supports including letters, phone calls, and accompaniments.

Staffing changes in 2024, allowed All Saints to reorganize. The Board approved an executive director position for the drop-in. In November 2024, we hired a new Executive Director (Sheila Cranmer-Byng) to take the lead on capacity-building, program development and management, human resources, and fundraising. In May 2025, All Saints community said good-bye and offered their heartfelt thanks to Reverend Alison Falby for her years of dedicated leadership and unwavering commitment and care. Reverend Falby has been a tireless advocate for social justice and a compassionate presence to all who walk through our doors. She will be greatly missed by the Dundas and Sherbourne community.

Our unique Good Friday stations of the cross, which drew participants from far outside the parish, made its way around the neighbourhood remembering those who had died on the streets in the previous year. Our community prayer and singing group on Tuesdays remains a strong and vital part of drop-in as well as a source of comfort, strength, and connection for many who attend the drop-in.

In 2024 and 2025, we continued to strengthen our Peer Program. The Peer Program not only supports the daily work of the drop-in, but is also proving to be vital for making connections with community members, and in providing a pathway to stability for the Peer Workers.

With the recent closure of supervised consumption sites in Ontario, our commitment to harm reduction continues to be a priority. With support from the Toronto Urban Health Fund we are

expanding our harm reduction outreach—bringing mobile care, safety checks, supplies, and referrals directly to those most in need.

Community partnerships continue to be an unexpected and extraordinary blessing. Partnerships with several food banks and food donation programs have been essential for keeping our food program running. Likewise, our partnerships with local agencies such as the Sherbourne Health Bus, Street Health, and Here to Help (H2H) provide additional health, advocacy and practical support to the drop-in community. In June 2025, we formalized an exciting new partnership with Regent Park Community Ministry to strengthen and expand the work of the Toronto Underhoused and Homelessness Union (TUHU). We have also been working in partnership with Church of the Redeemer and Church of the Holy Trinity to hire a joint Street Outreach Nurse starting in the fall of 2025. The Emanuel Gattuso Foundation, has generously provided funds for this one-year, part-time contract.

Of course, our most important partnership is with FaithWorks. It is through our ongoing relationship with Faith Works that All Saints has been able to support so many vulnerable people in the Dundas-Sherbourne community. Thank you for your support, your generosity, and your prayers.

SHEILA CRANMER-BYNG | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ANGLICAN UNITED REFUGEE ALLIANCE

As the number of people forced to leave their homes increased to over 124 million by the end of 2024, including over 36 million refugees, the need to extend compassion and support was greater than ever. The Anglican United Refugee Alliance – AURA plays a pivotal role in providing structure and guidance for those in Canada who wish to provide safety and refuge for displaced people.

AURA's financial stability is rooted in the critical support from the Anglican Diocese of Toronto through FaithWorks (32% in 2024) and the Shining Waters Regional Council of the United Church (21% in 2024). AURA also dedicates significant efforts to our own fundraising endeavors to raise the remaining amount. These financial resources are crucial, but the heart of AURA lies in the passionate volunteers who dedicate tens of thousands of hours to make a profound difference in the lives of refugee newcomers.

Between January 2024 and June 2025, AURA supported more than 120 sponsor groups, consisting of over 875 sponsors, who collectively spent more than 90,000 hours supporting more than 500 refugees from 16 different countries. Each hour spent volunteering, every warm welcome extended, and every obstacle overcome represents a step towards a brighter future for those who have been forced to flee their homes. Every week we hear good stories from refugee newcomers we have welcomed over the years who are settling into their new lives, from their family sponsors who are glad they are safe, and from church and community sponsors who speak about how rewarding the experience has been for them, despite the unique challenges of each case.

The period also saw changes in the global and local refugee support landscape meaning fewer people are now able to come to Canada, and for those who make it, challenges in settlement are greater. Amid these challenges, AURA has increased the post-arrival support it provides to refugee newcomers and sponsors. We have also introduced a new 'support church' stream for parishes with limited capacity to support refugee newcomers in their journey, with assistance from family and community groups. Initiatives like the inaugural Ian McBride Humanitarian Award have also been introduced to continue to keep the global refugee situation in public purview, and to honor those who have made an extraordinary impact

Successful refugee sponsorship is a collective effort that requires compassion, empathy, time, effort, and significant financial resources. Now is the time to find new ways to support refugees, highlight the contributions they make in our society, and emphasize the need to continue to provide protection and be welcoming. It is an opportunity for parishes, individuals, and communities to come together to create a world where compassion and understanding thrive, and every individual, regardless of their background, finds a place to call home.

AURA would like to thank the invaluable support we have received from the many parishes we work with for their commitment to refugee resettlement, the Anglican Diocese of Toronto and Elin Goulden for coordinating our work, and FaithWorks for their ongoing financial support. While challenges continue to increase, we are committed to supporting as many refugees as we can in their journeys to safety.

AURA in Pictures



AURA supporters hosted events in their communities in September 2024 as part of the annual Walk 'N Roll for Refugees fundraiser to raise funds and awareness for AURA's mission.



Left: A



recent snippet from life of a family welcomed a few years ago by AURA. Right: Ahmed holds up his nephew during a long-awaited family reunion at Toronto Pearson Airport in September 2024.



AURA's Sponsorship Director Marin Lehmann-Bender (bottom left) prepares a sponsor group to welcome refugee newcomers.



Shaista (left) a former refugee welcomed by AURA a few years ago welcomes a refugee newcomer family at Toronto Pearson Airport as part of her job at Polycultural Immigrant & Community Services.



Mary Wangalwa, a refugee newcomer, speaks at the World Refugee Day Potluck in June 2025 as volunteers organize food for the feast.

MIGRANT WORKER MINISTRY

The Migrant Worker Ministry again expresses our thanks to FaithWorks for your support of our ministry to our migrant workers in the Durham region, Northumberland, and beyond. This is a much-needed ministry. That follows our gospel teaching to walk alongside those in need and vulnerable in our community and respond with loving service. This is part of the 20 calls of the diocese.

Since our last report of 2023, we have continued to do this good work of being a support and blessing to our agricultural migrant workers in Clarington through the Migrant Worker Ministry. Thanks to primary funding from the Ministry Allocations Fund of the Diocese, and our continued partnership with Faithworks.

We are grateful that in 2023, we have been able to resume our pre-pandemic in-person outreach activities. With weekly church services for the men, welcome and farewell dinners, and a HUB at St Saviour's where the men can obtain work clothes and non-perishable food.

We continue to partner with churches of all denominations, and organizations, like: The Adventist Development and Relief Agency, Durham Regional Police Services, Salvation Army and individuals from our community to provide work clothing for the Hub and dinners for the men. We continue to expand our network of donors who provide clothing and non-perishable food items.

Our clothing and food Hub, which started in 2021 out of St. Saviour's basement, continues to be a much-needed part of our ministry. The men use it from January till October when they start returning home, and they come during the week or on weekends to access clothes and shoes needed for work. We are thankful that The Hub is stocked by our ministry partners' donations and the funding we receive.

We continue our weekly bilingual services (Spanish and English) at St. Saviour's, Orono, to include worship in Spanish. From March till the end of October, the men attend the services.

In the Bowmanville and Orono areas, in June, we always have a welcome dinner and a small service for the men. We also have a farewell dinner at the end of October. About 100 workers came to our dinners. Overall, we continue to reach out to about fourteen farms where more than 400 men benefit from the ministry.

In 2023, the farms in Beaverton reopened, and workers have returned. Father Ted McCollum and I have resumed the Spanish services on a bi-weekly basis at St. Paul's Beaverton. St. Paul's also provides light refreshments for the workers after the services, and there is a time of fellowship and pastoral care. We also have a welcome dinner for them in June and a farewell dinner in October.

The ministry continues to work in respectful relationships, built on trust and integrity, with local farm owners. As a result, the owners continue to adjust work schedules and provide transportation for their workers to have the opportunity to attend Sunday morning services, visit the HUB and also our dinners.

The workers continue to express deep and sincere gratitude for all that has been done for them. They greatly appreciate the support of the Migrant Worker Ministry, as it positively impacts their lives. This impact is reciprocal, and in closing, I would like to share some of the men's words of appreciation:

“Father, on behalf of all the colleagues at this Wilmont farm, we thank you and all the people who make this support possible. We are all very grateful to all of you, especially to you, who are aware of our needs throughout the season and all the seasons.

We sincerely wish that God always blesses and protects you, your entire family, and everyone in the ministry.” - **Juan and Wilmont Farm men**

“Hello, my name is Aaron. I come from Mexico, and I am an agricultural worker. I want to thank Father Ted, and Father Augusto for everything they do for us throughout the season we are working here. The truth is that they are of great moral support to all. This is for me and all our colleagues because, without them, we have no one to lend us a hand here with any problem. Thanks to them, we have someone to support us in anything. Apart from my colleagues, I am also very grateful to be with you and the community!” - **Aaron Goodyear Farm**

“My name is Cortés Ayala. I work at Algoma Orchards, which is dedicated to everything related to apples. We thank all the people who support us, both Father Augusto and all the people who support us. He is here with us, but behind him, there are many more people. For all the pantry items, winter clothes, shoes, backpacks, and everything else, well, I am out of words in giving thanks to them. Thank you, God bless you, and thanks for helping me!” - **Alejandro Cortés Ayala Algoma Orchards**

“Hello, my name is Owen from Watson's Farm, and I just want to say thanks to you, pastor and your group for helping us with all the stuff we have received. God's riches blessings upon you guys, and keep on doing the good work!” - **Owen Watson's farm**

“My name is Oscar I am from the state of Veracruz, Mexico. And so, giving thanks here to the parish, Father Ted and Father Augusto, for the church services that, when possible, we are invited to to come to. In the services, we thank God for protecting us at work and for taking care of our families. Thank you very much for all the attention they give us and the support you give us. Thank you” - **Oscar Sanchez Good Year Farm**

“My name is Ricardo Johnson. I am from the Watson Farm! Pastor and team, you do wonderful, good work! God bless you and your team, and I hope and trust in the Lord that He will continue to bless you and your team, to guide you, to protect you, to lead you, and to direct you! God bless you, sir. God's richest blessings upon you, the team, and your family. Thank you very much! God bless you!” - **Ricardo Johnson Watson Farm**

THE REV. AUGUSTO NUNEZ | PASTOR, MIGRANT WORKER MINISTRY

PHILIP AZIZ CENTRE FOR HOSPICE CARE

The Philip Aziz Centre (PAC) Community Program for People of All Ages Living with HIV/AIDS or who are HIV/AIDS-impacted provides supports based on individual client's need assessments, giving priority to urgent short-term care. While most HIV agencies in the GTA do not have Christian roots or a mission to support clients seeking a Christian perspective, the Philip Aziz Centre for Hospice Care continues to be the hospice leader – where HIV/AIDS community supports and Christian beliefs intersect. We get to know each individual and help facilitate resilience in their unique life journey – through counselling, client advocacy, mediation, peer/group supports, home visits, volunteers, and connections to care. Managing HIV/AIDS can be a long and isolated marathon of challenges. As individuals age, they experience compounded health challenges, as decades of the side-effects of harsh medications take a cumulative toll, comorbidity or secondary health challenges impact the body, plus the financial challenges (complications of work loss, insurance benefit loss and reduced incomes for seniors). Fortunately, it is not without hope, in safe facilitated support groups, a specialized community of care, one-on-one counseling, and, under the covering of prayer and shared worship.

For this year's "Cast the Net" Synod 2025, we are "*chosen to tell the good story*" of people with HIV/AIDS, who are well supported by the Philip Aziz Centre for Hospice Care with thanks to FaithWorks funding and prayers from The Anglican Diocese of Toronto. So, to "*bring some of the fish that you just caught*," here are some stories and client impact highlights from the last two years.

Client #1 Impacts – from a Woman Sustained by a PAC Faith Group on the Roller Coaster Ride with HIV/AIDS

"This year, the HIV/AIDS medications continue to be a challenge. I am blessed that I am a believer. Every challenge becomes a purpose. The only thing to sustain me was the spiritual care women's group at the Philip Aziz Centre for Hospice Care (PAC). With their help, and in dependence on God, I told myself: *"I will beat it. I will beat it. I will beat it."* My blood pressure got very high. I kept trying to hide my pain and symptoms at work. And I kept receiving support from PAC. The final blow was when my skin started blowing up, and I could not hide my symptoms at work. The spiritual care group helped me: spiritually and practically. They checked in on me, and they helped advocate with my doctor when he was not looking at my symptoms holistically. Being able to lean on one another, and to take our pain to the Lord, knowing He is faithful, was the resilience that carried me through."

Women's HIV/AIDS Spiritual Care Peer Support Group

"The women's group has been discussing the big things and struggles that are going on in our lives. Many of us are dealing with mental health right now. You go to the meeting thinking I am the worst. I have the worst symptoms and situation, and then you hear the stories of the others, and you are humbled... All of us have lost loved ones and are grieving family members, and all have struggles impacting mental health. Everything impacts mental health, which is why you need to be rooted in Strength, the Lord, community, and a group who knows and supports you where it is safe to share and disclose your pain. We pray and find encouragement together. We are stronger together."

HIV/AIDS Conference - many came forward seeking my source of resilience

“When I spoke at a closed HIV/AIDS conference earlier this year, I was reminded how many of us there are in the wider GTA. I shared how I have been supported by this PAC women’s spiritual care group, and there were so many people who came forward asking how they could access this type of support. There are many newcomers to Canada, who, although they may have a church and friends, they do not have a spiritual peer group who share this HIV/AIDS journey. We have the best HIV/AIDS medications and progress in Canada, but there is this other side, the spiritual encouragement: having others to pray and walk you to the doctor for eight years; having medication side-effect blisters exploding caused by eczema while trying to work on your feet for long hours; falling from pain at work; and nonjudgmental ears to hear and to hold us when we share our stories.... So many women with HIV/AIDS at the conference were struggling and wanted access to a spiritual support group of peers. They may have a church but not a spiritual group of peers who share the same lived experience: to pray that God touch their bodies, their lives, and their medical people. Many came forward – many from different countries and religious backgrounds – seeking access to my resilience, and access to my spiritual peer group supports for their own journey.”

Client #2 Impacts – Family Care Dynamics When a Mom’s Anxiety Over Daughter’s Suicidal Thoughts Strains Health Already Compromised by HIV/AIDS

Like many of these clients, this woman who participates in the PAC women’s peer group, also receives one-on-one support from our social worker, and is a busy caregiver for her family. As part of the sandwich generation – caring for an adult parent, as well as a husband and her own children – she experiences stress and often neglects her own self-care needs. The risks of stress and neglect are higher for her, as a person with HIV/AIDS, than they might be for a healthier mother. Her stresses put additional pressure on her HIV/AIDS-compromised health and her body that is coping with the side-effects of the antiviral medications. In this family, both mother and daughter are clients of the PAC HIV/AIDS Program, receiving individual support, as well as advocacy and counselling in times of crisis. Recently, the daughter has been bullied at school; and when she is stressed, she talks about suicide. The mother is being coached on how she might manage these occasions, and on how to do a preliminary check to determine if her teen is at immediate risk of self-harm, or if she is expressing frustration in the moment. As a young person trying to find her way (and voice) in life, the teen daughter seeks help with communication and brainstorming solutions that are not destructive. Mom requests help with overprotectiveness, parenting strategies and anxiety. The relational continuity with PAC helps address psychosocial and practical concerns (like self-harm and occasional food insecurity) in a timely way. Having these structures in place with the Philip Aziz Centre for Hospice Care becomes one effective tool for this mom’s HIV/AIDS symptom-management, and the benefits impact the entire family.

Client #3 Impacts – An Adult Man with HIV/AIDS Finds a Friend in PAC

One gentleman has been on the PAC client caseload receiving HIV/AIDS Program supports for over four years. He is a senior, experiences poor health, and is very lonely. Many of his friends died of AIDS. More recently, one of his friends stole his belongings and our PAC (Spiritual Care) Practitioner/Counselor accompanied him to court and legal meetings for support. For him, PAC provides a consistent relationship that he can count on in times of difficulty. He has experienced challenges in his relationship with his family and is unable to talk with them, safely share his experiences, or lean on them for support. As with many palliative clients, family members are not able

to relate to the experiences of the individual with a palliative prognosis, and for clients with HIV/AIDS, often there is a wider gap of relatability and understanding of what the client may be experiencing. For this gentleman, during some of his roughest life challenges with HIV/AIDS, the Philip Aziz Centre for Hospice Care was the most reliable, consistent and judgement-free source of support: a friend.

With thanks to FaithWorks 2024 and 2025, many of these clients are renewing spirituality, finding new hope, and participating in God's healing work in the world. Beyond our circles, others are hearing stories and being exposed to a dotted line connection between resilience in crisis and faith in Jesus.

ALONGSIDE HOPE

Alongside Hope is grateful for the support it receives from FaithWorks and the opportunity to share some recent highlights. In October 2024, after two years of consultation with staff, creative agencies and volunteers from across Canada, the membership approved our new name, Alongside Hope. We could not have imagined that one year later, our world would be in such great need of hope.

Why the name change?

The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund was a mouthful, and its acronym – PWRDF – not much easier to say. Few people knew how to pronounce primate, much less what it means. We also wanted a name that better reflects what we do.

In 2022, the board selected a Task Team of staff, board members and volunteers from across Canada. After several Zoom meetings led by an outside creative agency, and other discussions with stakeholders and staff, one dominant theme emerged: partnership.

- We partner with local organizations who carry out the work that FaithWorks supports – life-giving work that improves food security, champions gender rights, provides training on conservation agriculture, and creates income opportunities.
- We partner with membership organizations that allow us to leverage our smaller size and be part of a larger network.
- We partner with the Anglican Church of Canada, its dioceses, spiritual ministries and ecclesiastical provinces, through their bishops and their representatives, who invite us to spread the good news of our work.
- We partner with parish reps, clergy and countless volunteers in the pews across the country, who share our stories and engage others in our work.
- We partner with our generous donors and funding agencies, without whose support our work wouldn't be possible.

Several names were considered, but Alongside Hope (*Àuprès de l'espoir*) best reflected the theme of partnership, in a simple and uplifting way. It de-emphasizes the colonial, top-down approach of giving and emphasizes collaboration. It is a name that will carry us forward into the future. With the tagline "Anglicans and partners working for change in Canada and around the world," Alongside Hope honours our legacy as an Anglican aid organization. Learn more about the process at alongsidehope.org/our-new-name.

Alongside Hope's work is aligned across five categories:

- **Health & Healing** – Improving well-being and care for all
- **Resilient Livelihoods** – Transforming communities with equal opportunities for work
- **Creation Care** – Restoring biodiversity through action, training and advocacy
- **Indigenous Partnerships** – Joining in right relations with Indigenous Peoples

- **Humanitarian Response** – Supporting communities in crisis – in Canada and around the world – as they recover and rebuild, including refugees and Internally Displaced Persons.

Below are stories illustrating how our partners are improving people's lives around the world, with support from our generous donors across Canada, as well as Faith Works.

Health & Healing

In Lesotho, Partners In Health is improving maternal health with financial incentives, starter packs for the baby, and emergency transport so pregnant women can access care. “The financial incentives and support provided to pregnant women are not just about money or supplies,” says Bobete Health Centre Site Director Palesa Khomonngoe-Moea. “They are about giving women the confidence to seek care early and consistently.” At the waiting home for mothers, toiletries restore dignity. “Without these basic necessities, some women might choose to give birth at home to avoid the embarrassment of having nothing,” nurse Mojaba Mokoena says. “Having these items has given me a sense of dignity and comfort,” says mother Maboikano Poroane. “It’s one less thing to worry about, allowing me to focus on my health and my baby.”



Resilient Livelihoods

In the highlands of Boyacá, Colombia, known as the Páramos, the women of MEPEMA (Association of Women Entrepreneurs for the Environment) are turning their village into an environmental model. Led by Ana Elsa Zárate, the 21 women are holding their ground to protect the Pisba páramo and preserve water. Zárate has introduced dry ecological toilets, rainwater collection, and wastewater recycling in her family. With support from ILSA and Alongside Hope, their efforts now include advocacy and reforestation projects. “We women are the caretakers of our families, food and land. That is why we think it is important to take care of the páramo and the water, because without it, it is not possible to exist.”



Creation Care

A parched, once-forested Haitian village in Haut Saint-Marc has been plagued by hunger, water shortages and ecological losses. Cutting down trees to make charcoal had denuded the soil, and water came from the single, tainted pond. Today, with help from Rayjon Share Care and Women’s Federation of Haut-Saint-Marc, a new community flourishes there. The new water distribution system draws clean water from a well, reducing the burden for women and enhancing health. What the caretaker calls the “Farm of Deliverance” now produces a year-round harvest through climate-resilient planting. Its success inspired a movement. Eighty farmers were



trained to construct backyard gardens and use greywater (water recycled from household use) and tree-based systems to produce their own food.

Indigenous Partnerships

In 2024, grandmothers from four northern Manitoba Cree Nations gathered at Misipawistik Culture Camp for the third Kohkoms Gathering, hosted by the Interfaith Council on Hydropower (ICH). Amid the scent of woodsmoke, and the rhythm of circle sharing, they mourned losses, remembered sacred lands, and reclaimed their strength. Participants shared personal experiences of trauma caused by hydro development, such as boating accidents and the destruction of ancestral harbors. Elder Cecelia Baker of O-Pipon-Na-Piwin Cree Nation says, “This was an opportunity for healing, grounding, and resurgence of our inner environment and spirit ... the inner and outer environment cause detrimental impact on communities.”



Humanitarian Response

In Gaza, Alongside Hope has been supporting Al Ahli Arab Hospital, which has been bombed at least six times since October 2023. Alongside Hope is working with other members of the Anglican Alliance to support the medical staff at Al Ahli as well as other ministries of the Diocese of Jerusalem. In response to a message from Alongside Hope staff, Suhaila Tarazi, the Director of Al Ahli Hospital, shared these words: “Please know that your solidarity sustains us. It affirms the sacredness of our mission: to serve life, even as it is threatened. To protect human dignity, even under siege. And to stand for healing, no matter how broken the world may be.”



In Lviv, Ukraine, a new daycare centre is opening for young adults with disabilities, with the help of \$75,000 from generous Alongside Hope donors. The initiative is a collaboration between local partner Dzherelo Children’s Rehabilitation Centre and the Lviv City Council, who provided the space for the centre. The program will offer daily care, skills training, and a nurturing environment for participants. The goal is to promote independence, inclusion and dignity for young adults who are otherwise overlooked in social programming, especially during times of war.

In South Sudan, Alongside Hope helps people whose lives have been devastated by the war, who have been displaced and forced to go without safe water, shelter, more than a simple small meal per day. Our work includes enabling faith leaders, youth and women to undertake much needed peace building activities.

We don’t have to look outside our borders when it comes to emergency response. We are encouraged to see that Dioceses are working with us to access our In-Canada Emergency Fund. They have come together to respond to needs in Indigenous communities in Manitoba and Saskatchewan impacted by wildfires. Other Dioceses and Provinces have worked with us to set up their own Resilience Response Funds. **Alongside Hope’s Seven Priorities**

Strategic Plan 2024-2029



SAMARITAN HOUSE COMMUNITY MINISTRIES

It is my pleasure to share the work of Samaritan House Community Ministries with the Synod members. We at Samaritan House are devoted to assisting women and children who are fleeing from and starting their lives over after domestic abuse situations. Every night in Canada there are over 3400 women and their children in shelters and over 300 turned away due to lack of space. So the need is real and large. At Samaritan House we strive to help to the best of our ability in the community we serve. We do this by providing long term transitional housing to these women and their children through our furnished apartments/rooms. They take part in our safety plan, our violence protection plan and extensive life skills programs and over time we begin to help these women rebuild their lives by offering safety, a space to regroup and rebuild.

We help to transform the lives of these women through love and compassion, offering hope as well as our programs and support. Our programs consist of one-on-one discussions about violence and how to recognize red flags, understanding a healthy relationship, setting boundaries, breaking the cycle of violence, conflict resolution, building self esteem and more. We include safety planning, personal goal setting and everyday life skills. We work with them to develop goals that can be daily goals or longer term such as finding employment, permanent housing or completing high school credits or going to college.

We are a small agency, but we make a significant difference in the lives of those we serve. However, we know we cannot do it ourselves, so we are continually looking to God to determine the direction of our agency. We believe God speaks to us through the changing needs of the clients we serve, and it is important for us to hear the needs to be addressed. These client needs, help direct our programming and assistance. As the years pass, we see these needs change and it is important that we adapt to these needs and follow Gods direction.

It is our passion to be guided through his direction in helping. This year we are answering the call to help our clients find hope. This focus has been placed on our hearts this year as our clients trying to survive after personal trauma are also overwhelmed with current world events. It is easy to lose hope when you are already at your lowest.

On top of our regular programming, this year our vision at Samaritan House has been to help our clients see Hope in their future. Without hope is it hard for anyone to move forward. We have focused this year on offering ways to see hope in their lives by helping them understand that God is with them and loves them. We help them to try to find what the hope is for just today, and then for tomorrow and so on. We have been helping them seek opportunities that will build them up and give them something they can accomplish with some help. Something to see that they can be happy and have something to work towards. Setting goals and seeing those goals accomplished can make a huge impact for someone that does no belief that anything good can happen to them.

We try to find the unique thing that will help each client work toward. That will be different for each client and is difficult to find sometimes but through prayer, it is possible. We encourage them if they don't know what to do, to ask God. He will answer. It may not be what they wanted or expected but it will always be what they need.

So, our focus for this past year has been to help the women we work with to find hope for tomorrow one day at a time, one accomplishment at a time through asking God for strength and guidance and being there to support and encourage them.

We however cannot continue our work without the compassion and support of wonderful partners like Faithworks. Your belief in the work we do gives us strength and allows our work to continue. We are continually trying to learn and offer new ways to assist our clients to help them move on from our housing into sustainability and to live independently so they do not find themselves in the situation that brought them to us in the first place.

It is wonderful to witness the transformation in lives that could not be done without such amazing partners of Faithworks.

KERRY PLOUGHMAN | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ST. JAMES' CATHEDRAL - FOOTCARE CLINIC

St. James Cathedral's Drop-In Foot Clinic



We are making a tangible difference with minimal resources. I treat people who can't afford the recommended medications for their ailment. Many need extended care and more social interaction to understand what needs to be done in their treatment plan. Without these clinics, their feet would go untreated and, in many cases, lead to other chronic health problems.” – Dr. Minh Nguyen, Chiroprapist

June 10th 2025

Authored by: Your Name



**THE Cathedral
Church of St. James**

DIOCESE OF TORONTO
ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

I would like to thank FaithWorks for their generous contribution for St. James Cathedral’s Foot Care Clinic for the past two years. The Foot Clinic has been supporting some of the most vulnerable people in Downtown East Toronto since 2021. This ongoing support of our participants (77% of them are over 50 years old) helps them to create balance and mobility in their lives. After seeing the chiroprapist, they can walk again, come back calm and grateful for their visit. We serve as many women as we do men, and this is a free service that is they look other places there is a fee.

St. James Foot Clinic shares over725 individual clients with two other foot clinics and the following is the number of appointments Dr. Minh Nguyen has St. James:

Jan. to June 6 th 2025	2024	2023	2022
214	531	585	327

Our client’s also have access to a clean room at Mustard Seed that Dr. Minh books for minor surgery that St. James clients need. He will then book his ongoing appointments after the surgery at St. James.

“If I hadn't gone there, I may have had the infection spread. The cleaning out of my big toes' cavities all but eliminated the pain, when I was afraid, I would need surgery to remove an ingrown toenail or a bunion. I suspect a private practitioner may have suggested that right away to make money. It's great that everything feels better without major intervention.

I'm not homeless but I spend a lot of time on my feet. I've seen the homeless at the drop-in with severe foot problems, including two that day who sang Minh's praises and the improvement in their feet after seeing him. Being able to walk without foot pain is a huge benefit. We are all very grateful for Minh Nguyen.”

ST. JAMES, ORILLIA - BREAKFAST/LUNCH PROGRAM

St. James Anglican, Orillia, is a large, 38,000 square foot church in the heart of downtown Orillia. It has enjoyed a long and rich history in Orillia from Stephen Leacock sitting in its pews, to the Maple Leaf Club providing rest, relaxation, and support to soldiers in W.W. II, or being a partner in Couchiching Jubilee House, providing a shelter for women in crisis. It is a wonderful history, but present-day circumstances require both St. James and the Orillia community to find new ways to compassionately respond to those in need. Like so many small towns throughout our Diocese, there is more urgent need for affordable housing, rising trends in single-family homes living below the poverty line, food insecurity, and the dramatic increase in opioid addiction, leading to both physical and mental crisis in the lives of vulnerable people.

St. James, Orillia, has always had an active local, national, and international outreach and social justice committee. While it may be labeled an establishment or settler church, it has also been a church in its community and one that has never stopped inviting the community into its space. It has continued to deliver its outreach programs despite structural decline in attendance, an aging congregation, and the corresponding impact of a decline in volunteers. Faithworks' focus on helping people at the parish level is significant because it means churches can plan for sustainable program delivery.

As a downtown church, parishioners have understood the call to act on the gospel to serve others. The array of programs and ministries the church has undertaken would fill this two-page report. As such, we want to speak to two programs which recently have graciously been supported by Faithworks through a grant. They are the Loonie Lunch and the Community Breakfast programs.

Loonie Lunch

The Loonie Lunch began almost 25 years ago when the ACW of St James learned there were more people living with food insecurity in the Orillia community. The Wednesday lunch started in the church's very old auditorium and a very basic kitchen located in the basement. In 2006, demand for the program continued and more space was needed. The Loonie Lunch was moved to the auditorium and the blessing of "new" commercial kitchen.

On average, 75 customers from all walks of life meet at St James each week to enjoy fellowship, a home-cooked soup, dessert, and the chance to be present in a safe space. While the program continues to be a community meal, many of its clients are people without housing or sufficient money to buy groceries for the week, or they may just need a place to keep warm in the winter or cool down in the summer.

Over the course of 2024, on over 45 Wednesdays, a total of 3414 customers enjoyed fresh hot soup made by the amazing twenty-seven volunteers in the church kitchen. Volunteers come from our parish, but many are also community members who value this program. We are fortunate that in building community relations, the program is supported with fresh baking from local downtown businesses. A new feature is working with the Sharing Place, the local food bank, who donate frozen takeout dinners for a hundred people every Wednesday. Finally, the program acts as a community hub, and regular visits are made by social agencies to provide assistance, including diabetes care, parental care, and wellness checks.

Sunday Community Breakfast

Early in 2022, our incumbent learned that one of our companion parishes, St. David's Anglican-Lutheran, was unable to continue its community breakfast program which it had undertaken for many years but had stopped during the COVID pandemic. Our incumbent met with concerned parishioners at St. James and St. David's, who expressed an interest to continue the program.

It was agreed that it made sense for St. James to continue to deliver this breakfast program because it is in the downtown core. Our church members were becoming increasingly aware of our community's food insecurity, mental health needs, and the lack of similar programming amongst the downtown churches. As a result of these factors, a small group met to develop a regular Sunday community breakfast located at St. James, but would include volunteers from the other Orillia Anglican parishes, St. David's and St. Athanasius, and from the community.

Five volunteer teams were created and each team, consisting of 6 people, is assigned a certain week of the month, and that team is then responsible for preparing, cooking, delivering and clean up on that particular Sunday. Every team also has a menu for their assigned week. The whole group encompasses people from several parishes, local business owners, and community volunteers. Shopping for groceries is a responsibility of other volunteers. The local Giant Tiger store weekly contributes milk, butter and bread to the breakfast and other grocery donations are often received from other local businesses.

Customers for breakfast number between 60-80 people each week, and include anyone from the community and some parishioners. The atmosphere is casual and friendly and many customers are regular attendees. Each week they enjoy a hot breakfast, cold cereal, coffee, tea, and fresh fruit. In addition, a selection of free seasonal clothing and footwear is available every Sunday for anyone in need to take, which is provided by the Pennywise Thrift Store located at St. James.

ST. MARGARET, NEW TORONTO - OUTREACH PROGRAM

Introduction



St. Margaret New Toronto is a haven for the street involved and precariously housed community members in South Etobicoke. What began as a Sunday soup kitchen program, prior to the COVID pandemic outbreak, has burgeoned into a fully-fledged program. Thanks to our partners, LAMP, AA, HAVEN on the Queensway, Hand in Hand, the church provides services five days a week. St Margaret has become a center of hope to the unhoused and precariously housed members of the

community.

The church is driven by its baptismal promises to safeguard the dignity of every person. By living out this promise, it seeks to demonstrate the love of God for all humanity. Thus, fulfilling the petition of the Lord's prayer, "Thy kingdom come."

1. Sunday Community Lunch

The Sunday Community lunch is one way that St Margaret has responded to the housing crisis plaguing the city of Toronto. The church hall is opened from 12noon to 2pm, where soup (as a starter) and lunch is served. This initiative has become part of the rhythm of South Etobicoke community life. In partnership with Haven on the Queensway, this ministry served on an average 80 meals to the street involved and precariously housed members of the community. That means, on Sunday alone, at St Margaret provided an average of **4 160 meals** in a year.



2. More than a meal

During Sunday community lunch program, we sought to restore the dignity of our members. To this end, community lunch is more than just providing a meal; in the program we intentionally focus on the following.

a. Hygiene facility

We offered hygiene facilities in terms of showers and laundry. Due to the limited time of the program on Sunday, an average of 2-4 people used shower facilities and 2 people used laundry each Sunday. That means last year, **208 people** used a shower and **104 people** used laundry.

b. Birthdays celebration

Every third week of the month we celebrated birthdays. This was a small but a significant token to mark a person's worth through accentuating the day they entered this world. It was amazing to see how much it meant to the members of our community.

c. Commemoration of life

Connected with the celebration of birthdays is the commemoration of the departed. We quickly learned that more often than not, street involved persons are not offered the same commemoration

when they leave this world. Often the person is, at best surreptitiously buried by their immediate relatives. This excludes the street involved community which the deceased was part of, leaving the said community without properly mourning the death.

We, therefore, used the community lunch program to incorporate the celebration of the deceased. This was very cathartic to the community who was otherwise denied the opportunity to mourn the loss.



Furthermore, thanks to our partners, The Dorothy Ley Hospice, in November we observed the Remembrance Day. On this day, our members were encouraged to forward names of the departed that they would like to remember (names were printed on a tree of remembrance).

d. Awareness campaigns

We commemorated significant days/months and awareness campaigns during Sunday community lunch. These included Mother's Day, Father's Day, National Indigenous month, pride month, Orange T-shirt Day, and black history month.



e. Social activities

We engendered community spirit. We incorporated music in the hall during lunch, which has enhanced a sense of community. Watching sport has become one of the features of our Sunday gathering. During the 2024 European Soccer Cup tournament, a screening of the quarter final between England and Spain was organised, street involved members of the community attended the screening.



3. Conclusion/What have we learned?



The housing crisis in Toronto demonstrates a multilayered challenge. Any response to this crisis needs to be multipronged in its approach. Whereas the social issue seems unsurmountable, religious communities can do their part.

We learned that this ministry is not limited to providing a meal, though that is an immediate and a necessary response. However, the need is more than just a meal.

We learned that as a church we need to partner with other community agents and organizations. It was through this partnership that St Margaret continued to be a center of community engagement in the South Etobicoke community. It was not surprising that the church was awarded a certificate of community engagement by LAMP, as a significant token of appreciation of the work done by the church.



REV NKANYISO MAPHUMULO | PASTORAL ASSOCIATE/HONORARY PRIEST

ST. STEPHEN IN-THE-FIELDS - OUTREACH PROGRAM

Thanks to support from Faithworks, we were able to hire a dedicated part-time outreach worker this spring, Noah Lammana, who has focused on developing relationships with encamped people around the church and other homeless and deeply marginalized people in the neighbourhood. Noah's objective is to assist people in achieving their self-identified goals and reaching greater stability in their lives. So far, a great deal of this has been healthcare support, mostly accompaniment to visits at hospitals and doctor's offices, as well as the delivery of first aid and overdose reversal on site.

Persistent and severe infections are a constant issue among unhoused people, and they often face barriers to medical care; Noah has enabled several people to receive care for potentially life-threatening infections. Noah has also assisted clients in getting medication and eyeglass renewals, and has advocated for them in discussions with ODSP and other income support programs. They have also assisted clients to attend legal or probation appointments, which helps to break the cycle of bench warrants leading to repeated arrests.

Some of the encampment residents are working with Noah on achieving the City's standards for "housing readiness", and one is nearly at the point of being classified as "housing ready" (although the City has not yet promised to make any housing available).

Noah also attends almost all worship services as part of their work, to ensure that there is someone there whose specific role is to respond to the urgent and immediate needs of the most marginalized of those who join us.

The number of people encamped around the church has grown again this year as other encampments have been cleared, and we now have roughly nine long-term residents. We continue to advocate with the City for appropriate services, and for housing with meets people's real needs.

Our meal programmes continue as usual, and the need for food is still growing, especially in the summer months. Thanks to a devoted team of volunteers, we serve between 125 and 160 hot dinners every Friday, and up to 200 takeaway breakfasts every Saturday and Sunday. We also distribute harms reduction kits, clothing, blankets, sleeping bags, and other survival supplies. We are ensuring that all of our volunteers are trained in the principles of harms reduction and in overdose reversal, and that as many as possible have first aid training. Some have also had additional training in de-escalation and mental health first aid.

We have added a biweekly art workshop at our Friday drop-in, led by the brother of one of our wardens. There is a small group of loyal regular participants, and there are others who join occasionally. We are also in conversation with someone who may be interested in offering writing workshops on alternate weeks. This programming offers opportunities for self-expression, increases self-esteem, and contributes to building community.

We're very grateful to Faithworks for the support which has allowed us to expand our work.

REV. CANON MAGGIE HELWIG

THE DAM

By the end of this school year, we will have connected with close to 8,000 youth — more than double the number from last year. This incredible growth reflects not just the need in our community, but the strength of our relationships, the trust we've built, and the commitment of our team and partners.

Our drop-ins have continued to be vibrant, welcoming spaces, full of life, laughter, and purpose. But more than ever, they have also become essential hubs of support — places where youth can not only find connection and belonging, but also tangible resources: hot meals, employment training, mentorship, and emotional care.

Belonging Starts with a Name

At The Dam, we continue to treat each youth not as a number, but as a person with a story. Learning and remembering names remains one of our most powerful tools for affirming worth. It's a small act that carries deep meaning — especially when a youth returns and hears their name spoken. That moment says, “You belong here.”

This year, 130 youth were mentored by our dedicated program staff, continuing our commitment to deep, meaningful relationships that help young people grow in confidence, resilience, and purpose.

A Year of Choosing Kindness

Our theme for the year was “Choose Kindness” — a value we modeled and called our youth too in every interaction, every shared meal, and every act of support. In a world that often feels fragmented and harsh, we choose to show up with kindness, compassion, and consistency.

What Youth Are Telling Us

Through our internal surveys, youth shared honestly about their struggles and hopes. The mental health challenges are real (1:4) — stress, anxiety, and a longing for safety and care came through loud and clear. But we also heard what they're looking for: places to be seen, supported, and equipped.

With Food insecurity increasing by 80% across Mississauga last year (the fastest-growing rate of food bank usage in Ontario, with 1 in 3 clients being children or youth), Over 50% of our youth reported experiencing food insecurity.

These numbers are staggering — but they confirm what we see every day. The meals we serve are not just helpful, they're vital.

“The Dam is a second home to me after school. Sometimes it's my first meal/snack of the day”

“I love the dam because I have an amazing mentor. I have been going to the dam for about 5 years and they have helped me and my family through some very difficult times and has made a positive impact in my life.”

Looking Ahead with Hope

This past year has stretched us in every way — in capacity, funding, and emotion. But we remain grounded in hope. The generosity of our supporters and partners like Faithworks has allowed us to meet growing needs with compassion and care. Your financial support and prayers have been foundational, making this vital work possible.

Thank you for choosing kindness with us. Together, we are building a community where every youth in Mississauga knows they matter.