



CHARLESWOOD UNITED CHURCH

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A PLACE AT THE TABLE The 2026 Stewardship Campaign

In celebration of the United Church of Canada centennial this past June, an artwork was commissioned. It was an aspirational photograph posed in the manner of Leonardo Da Vinci's *Last Supper*. The 'takeaway' was that this table group represented the broadest understanding of who Christ welcomes into his company. (You can see it here: <https://united-church.ca/a-place-at-the-table>). It was called "A Place at The Table"

By extension, it also aspired to represent what the United Church of Canada might look like in its second century. As we remind ourselves each time we celebrate communion at Charleswood, we offer an "open table" where everyone is welcome and no one is turned away. Indeed, a church is forever changing by making space at the table for the newest among us.

But communion is simply the liturgical (worship) expression of our life as a community. Hospitality at the door, in the pews, and during coffeetime are the more practical ways we make newcomers feel welcome. And your gifts, pledges, and donations are the necessary and pragmatic ways we sustain our life as a community of Christ's people. Some things to remember about this place:

We are a 52 week/year church. Our in-person and online worship experiences are offered every Sunday along with up to 7-10 special services at other times. We are available for weddings and funerals throughout the year. Keeping such access for spiritual enrichment requires staff, administration, maintenance, and utilities.

We are a Christ-centered, people-powered church. With a combined worship of ~400 people/week, up to 400 donor households, and 1300 households under pastoral care, we are among the largest UCC congregations in the country. With over 100 people offering volunteer service in one form or another, we must provide support, supplies, and equipment with associated costs. Encouragement and thanksgiving are provided free of charge!

We make a difference in the surrounding community. Our life together results in nearly \$100,000/year (over and above our operations) in outreach initiatives affecting communities as diverse as Charleswood Schools, inner city ministries, Christmas Hamper recipients, fire evacuees, newcomers to Canada, theological education, and UCC partnerships in the developing world.

We are a spiritual community with a physical footprint (roofs and boilers and potholes, oh my!!). We have had a series of challenges in the last two years. As planned we replaced our 25-year-old roof in 2024. We did an amazing job of raising ~\$100,000 over and above our operations to keep our borrowing costs affordable. What we didn't plan for was an emergent need to replace our 65-year-old boiler this summer AND repair a huge pothole in the parking lot that appeared this spring. We are asking you to include an added gift for our roof and boiler loan in your pledge this year.

There is a place for any and all at Charleswood. Thank you for your generous support of this open and welcoming place. Please join me in planning for the year ahead.

Grace and Peace,
Michael

Please look at the Pledge Form and consider your giving plan for 2026

Visit: charleswoodunited.org/support/#stewardship

- ❖ Respond by email (office@charleswoodunited.org), drop-off, or phone by November 16, 2025.
- ❖ Consider moving to PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance) if you are not already doing so. If you are on PAR please consider facilitating an increase by calling the church office (204-832-3667 or finance@charleswoodunited.org)
- ❖ Avail yourself of the e-transfer donation option (information at: www.charleswoodunited.org/support/#donate) or let us know your preference for using weekly or monthly envelopes.

CUC Stewardship FAQs

What does Stewardship mean? Stewardship is a term that refers to all the personal resources (sometimes called time, talent, and treasure) with which we have been blessed by God. As such, they are ours to share freely and gladly. The church is proud to ask you to share your gifts for the ministry of CUC. Stewardship includes the sharing of our time and abilities along with our financial support.

What does the Operating Budget include? The Operating Budget is the amount voted on by the congregation at the annual meeting to meet our commitments for ministry and staff salaries, building maintenance (utilities, cleaning, repairs), and programs (worship, music, education, outreach). For example, the **2025 budget for operations is \$491,775.**

What is the Mission and Service Fund (M&S)? Gifts sent directly to the shared ministry of the United Church of Canada. These gifts support small and remote churches, theological schools, overseas mission partners, medical and street ministries. In **2025 the CUC goal for M&S is \$53,000.** We are the largest supporter of M&S in Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario.

What does Building and Property mean on the budget? Some CUC members make added gifts to be used specifically to offset the building operating cost component in the annual budget. A separate column for this is included on offering envelopes, pledge form, and in the budget. The **2025 budget for this is \$47,050.**

What is PAR? PAR stands for **Pre-Authorized Remittance** and means automatic monthly withdrawals from your bank account administered by the national church. Call the church office (204-832-3667) to enlist in or to increase PAR.

What is The Heritage Fund? The name of Charleswood United's special gifts program. Special gifts come to the church in the form of bequests, annuities, life insurance, and securities. These gifts are added to the principal and administered by three appointed trustees. The interest is available each year to support the ministry of the church. In 2024 and 2025 we have borrowed from the Heritage Fund to help pay for the planned roof repair and the emergent boiler replacement. Once repaid the principal balance of the Heritage Fund will be approaching \$300,000.

Can I donate Stocks and Shares to the church? Yes, you may choose to make your offering by donating stock. The added benefit to you is that you will receive a tax receipt for the full market value on the day of contribution and by law, *you will not have to claim a capital gain on disposition.* The sale is administered by the United Church Foundation which charges a mere \$10 per transaction. Contact the church office for more information.

What do I do with the Pledge Card? Please consider it prayerfully and return it by email, drop off, or phone by **Sunday, November 16, 2025.** You can find it by clicking here: <https://charleswoodunited.org/support/#stewardship>