

CHARLESWOOD UNITED CHURCH

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Many Gifts, One Spirit

The 2027 Stewardship Campaign

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)

Maybe one of the richest blessings of the church is that it draws us together in a spirit of unity in a time when many voices call for disunity. Our experience as a congregation (a word from a Latin root for *coming together*) is one of being able to do and be things in one another's company that we would not be able to accomplish on our own. As the First Letter of Peter reminds us this doesn't mean we are all the same but rather that we each bring our own gifts into the assembly. "Whatever gift" we have, as scripture says, it is brought into the mosaic and contributes to the life of the whole.

It is in our unity that we can exercise the ministry of hospitality. Led by our Care and Community Committee and elevated by the HeBrews/SheBrews Café volunteers, we extend our arms in welcome to any and all who enter in. This past year's effort to become an Affirming Ministry was another example of the One Spirit who says all are welcome at our table.

It is in our unity that we reach out into the world that God so loves. While our Mission and Social Action Committee leads the way, they invite all of us to collectively make a difference to the Mission of the United Church of Canada through M&S donations, to our partners at One Just City and Pimichikimak, to the effort against climate change, and to the needy in our immediate neighborhood. Related to this is the many-hands-make-light-work approach of our annual Christmas Hampers program. It is all of our gifts that change Christmas for ~60 families.

It is in our unity that we contribute to the joy of one another in worship. When we sing together, pray together, celebrate the sacraments together, the Spirit adds to our preparations. The coordination of our Worship and Education Committee with dozens of many and varied volunteers, not to mention the contribution of a committed staff, makes possible the worship life of hundreds of people each year in-person and online.

It is in our unity that we make this place of ministry possible. Charleswood is not a small operation. With an annual budget of over half a million dollars, 20,000+ sq/ft of space, and 2 acres of land we rely on our Building and Property Committee to maintain and prioritize our assets. But they only have the resources that we together provide.

We invite you to join your gifts to those of others and consider your donation to Charleswood United Church in 2027. Last year 445 unique donors came together to make our year possible. Please join us. There are Many Gifts but One Spirit who makes all things possible. May that Spirit continue to flourish in our life together.

Grace and peace,
Michael

Please look at the Pledge Form and consider your giving plan for 2027

OR Visit: charleswoodunited.org

- Respond by email (office@charleswoodunited.org), drop-off, or phone by November 15, 2026.
- 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/donate) or let us know your preference for using weekly or monthly envelopes.

2027 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). It also includes loan payments for the recent roof and boiler replacements. For example, the **2026 budget for operations is $520,600.**

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 **2026 the CUC goal for M&S is $54,000.** 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 including loans for capital projects. A separate column for this is included on offering envelopes, pledge form, and in the budget. The **2026 budget for this is $48,000**.

What is PAR? PAR stands for **P**re-**A**uthorized **R**emittance 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. At Charleswood 179 unique households availed themselves of PAR last year.

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. The interest from investments is available each year to support the ministry of the church. In 2024 and 2025 we borrowed from the Heritage Fund to help pay for the planned roof repair and the emergency 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 15, 2026.**