






Mission *and* Service 2025






Transform *lives.*

Inspire *meaning and purpose.*

Build *a better world.*

The United Church of Canada / L'Église Unie du Canada



A Deep, Bold, and Daring Difference

Sarah Charters

Executive Officer of Philanthropy

What a year! Celebrating 100 years of The United Church of Canada offered the opportunity to reflect on who we have been while also considering who we are becoming. We are called to embrace being a deep, bold, and daring church.

In 2025, your generosity through Mission and Service reflects this deep, bold, and daring spirit! In this report, I want to highlight what it means to embrace that Call through Mission and Service, how it continues to shape our shared witness in the world, and the impact we're making together.

The work of Mission and Service is deeply rooted in our faith. We're building relationships and fostering trust, reflected in our long-standing partnerships and our commitment to walking alongside communities with care and humility during challenging times.

Mission and Service work is bold. Your generous gifts mean we can step forward with courage, compassion, and conviction to meet the moment. This past year, we responded to need both in Canada and around the world, supporting those affected by conflict, climate emergencies, and injustice.

Through Mission and Service, we can dare to imagine new possibilities and follow where the Spirit is leading, even when the path ahead is not clear. Your gifts power innovative ministry approaches, support emerging expressions of church, and encourage faithful risk-taking in pursuit of a more just and loving world.

Together, we are answering God's Call, responding to immediate needs and helping to build lasting hope and transformation.

While challenges remain, our commitment to act with faith, courage, and imagination is as strong as ever. Through Mission and Service, we will continue to change lives, inspire meaning and purpose, and work together for a better world.

I invite you to explore this report and see the deep, bold, and daring difference your gifts are making. Thank you for your ongoing support!



Indigenous Delegates Attend COP30



Indigenous Delegates at COP30 to Represent Turtle Island and United Church
The United Church of Canada

The United Church of Canada's two delegates with the Kairos delegation to COP30 were Samantha Miller, Community Youth Member, and Joni Shawana, Healing Programs Coordinator, both with Indigenous Ministries and Justice (IMJ). Taking place in Belém, Brazil, the conference was alongside Amazonia, a living symbol of both ecological crisis and resistance. COP30 provided an opportunity for youth, Indigenous Peoples and communities in the global south to come together and provide leadership on global climate change.

Samantha Miller (Haudenosaunee) is connected to the land and honours the land as her mother. She is a keeper of the language and feels a strong responsibility to listen to and protect her mother. Samantha attended COP30 in person.

Joni Shawana (Anishnaabe) has been rooted in nature and has had a connection with her first family—the land and water—since childhood. Joni coordinates healing programs, works with the climate advocacy team, and supports Indigenous justice work. Joni attended COP30 virtually.

Samantha and Joni joined the KAIROS delegation, which participated in both COP30 and the Peoples' Summit, for a time of community, advocacy, and learning.

COP30 provides a crucial opportunity to push for a reorientation of global climate action towards justice, equity, and the leadership of those most impacted.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge that we live, worship, and work on Indigenous lands.

We are committed to Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples and recognize that this includes aligning ourselves with the values of living with respect in creation.

We continue living and praying together on this great land and together we support each other's journey.

Our Work Together in 2025

2025 brought a new set of pressures for communities around the world. Economic uncertainty and rising costs of living have strained households and local systems alike, while growing social isolation and mental health challenges have deepened the need for connection and care. At the same time, many communities continue to navigate the ongoing impacts of displacement and migration, seeking safety, stability, and belonging. Here in Canada, these realities are being felt in very real ways, with more individuals and families turning to community supports than ever before.

In the face of these realities, your compassion has remained steadfast. Through Mission and Service, your gifts have continued to offer meaningful, timely support—meeting immediate needs while also strengthening longer-term resilience.

In 2025, Mission and Service partnered with organizations across the globe, supporting vital work in numerous countries and contexts. In Canada, each regional council received dedicated funding to resource local ministries, enabling responsive, community-based support where it is needed most. 87 percent of funds were spent in Canada, and 13 percent spent globally.

28.4%

Embolden Justice: Collaborating to Mend Church and World (2024: 27.7%)

Make meaningful collective progress on Indigenous justice, racial equity, and Two Spirit or LGBTQIA+ rights both in the church and world, while demonstrably deepening bold effective solidarity on other justice issues, through ecumenical collaboration and denominational networking.

21.0%

Invigorate Leadership: Adapting and Innovating for Bold Discipleship (2024: 22.0%)

Renew a vision of leadership based on the call of the denomination—deep spirituality, bold discipleship and daring justice—and align discernment, recruitment, training, and support of ordered and lay leadership, to this vision.

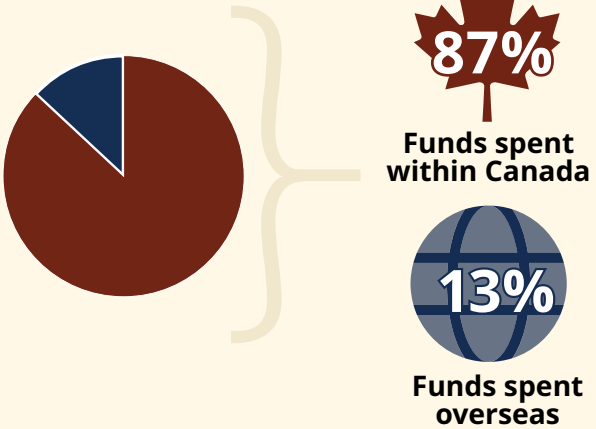
21.6%

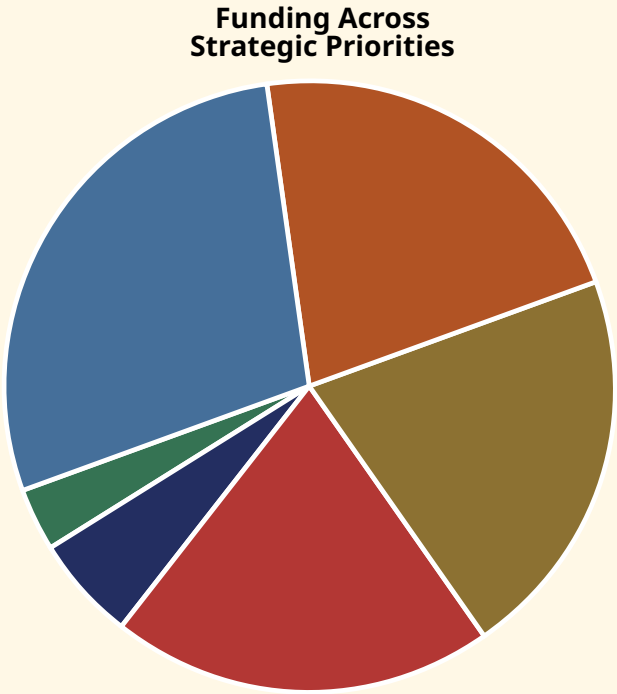
Journeying Indigenous Pathways: Forging Right Relations (2024: 23.0%)

Deepen Indigenization and healing in The United Church of Canada towards self-determination and the possibility of reconciliation.

We are deeply grateful for your generosity and commitment.

As in previous years, this report presents Mission and Service results aligned with our Strategic Plan objectives. The summary below illustrates how your gifts have been put into action, reflecting our shared call to be a Deep, Bold, and Daring church.





20.3%

Strengthen Invitation (Growth):

Humility and Confidence in Sharing Faith (2024: 19.8%)

Develop and implement effective and connected regional and national strategies that result in growth within existing ministries, and by seeding and sustaining new expressions of communities of faith.

5.6%

Nurture the Common Good:

Equity and Sustainability in Resources (2024: 4.6%)

Significantly increase denominational capacity and will to make decisions on properties and resources focused on the ministry of the whole church, enhancing equity, sustainability, right relations, and administrative efficiency and effectiveness.

3.1%

Deepen Climate Integrity: Living

Climate Commitments (2024: 2.9%)

Amplify and integrate current initiatives in a bold, hopeful denominational climate strategy that accelerates reductions towards the goal of an 80% decrease in emissions by 2030.

Thank you for helping build a better world.

(Re)Generate: Equipping Leaders for the Future



Credit: Rev. Tim Bowman

The bold statement “we will propose, develop, and create 100 new Communities of Faith” resonated with Rev. Tim Bowman, encouraging him to apply for the leadership school, (Re)Generate, led by the Very Rev. Carmen Lansdowne with strategic guest instructors. He was accepted along with other ministry colleagues.

The program involved six sessions, two online and four in person, over 18 months. The focus from the beginning was to be “real” with one another. Being “real” involved in-depth conversations, opening up, and learning that the incredible, intelligent, and passionate leaders participating all felt like they had much to learn from each other and needed each other’s support.

The participants also learned finance, fundraising, project management, personal time management and goal setting, systems thinking, how to lead teams and volunteers, how to give and receive feedback, and so much more.

The Very Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne led throughout, modelling failing forward for participants and showing them how to bravely put forward new ideas. At the end, Rev. Bowman was left with the realization that the church is filled with amazing people, and we are all being called to Deep Spirituality, Bold Discipleship, and Daring Justice.

Words cannot fully describe what a privilege and an affirmation it is to be part of this (Re)Generate cohort. You are not alone. If you think you are, reach out.

Strengthening Invitation

This image commemorates Jesus' act of radical inclusion—sharing a meal with his followers, washing their feet and urging them to love one another. The church's reimagining invites reflection on its core value: that God's love for all is limitless. Everyone, celebrating all backgrounds and identities, has a place at the table. A defining feature of this image is the absence of Christ in physical form. Instead, Christ's presence is embodied through the gathered community, underscoring the belief that faith is expressed through justice, compassion, and service.



Credit: The United Church of Canada

"This is not just a statement for all time, but for our time," said Rev. Michael Blair, General Secretary of The United Church of Canada. "This reimagining calls us to rethink what it means to be a faith community—one that evolves with the times, embraces diversity and actively fosters spaces of bold belonging. It's not enough to simply have a seat, one must have a voice and the space to bring the fullness of all who gather."

This reimagining also underscores The United Church of Canada's ongoing commitment to advocacy, including support for 2S and LGBTQIA+ rights, Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples, Racial Equity, Disability Justice, and engagement in struggles for peace and human rights, including those around the globe. It affirms that true belonging requires more than just tolerance, it requires action, dialogue and the intentional creation of spaces where all are truly welcomed and valued.

Thank you for helping build a better world.

Three ways to make a gift!

Donate today at united-church.ca/donate

Call 1-800-465-3771

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Questions? Feedback? Let's talk.

Give us a call or drop us a line at
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Find more information and stories at
unitedchurchfoundation.ca
(look under "Mission and Service Stories.")

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Cover photos, Top row, from left: Ecumenical Church Loan Fund; Wilfrid Dieter; London Community Chaplaincy; Diocese of Durgapur, Church of North India. Row 2: Bridges to Hope; Pitquhirnikkut Ilihautiniq/Kitikmeot Heritage Society. Row 3: Melanie Gordon Photography; River Bend Integrated Community Ministries; Fairview Resource Centre; Food for the North, Cheryl Jourdain
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