

2025



GRACE UNITED CHURCH BURLINGTON ANNUAL REPORT



GRACE UNITED CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

GRACE IN SUMMARY

Message from the Board Chair	4
Message from the Lead Minister	5
Grace's Faith Story	6
Grace's Membership	6
Grace's Year in Review	7

GRACE IN ACTION

Communications	8
Faith Formation	8
Worship	9
Outreach	9
Property	10
Trustees	10
Ministry & Personnel	11
Stewardship	11
Ministry of Care	11-14
Education & Advocacy Team	14
GPS Team	14
Fundraising Teams	15
Activity Groups	15-18

GRACE IN LEADERSHIP

Emergency Response	19
Nominations	19
Tansley Park Community Housing	20
Regional Council	20

GRACE BY THE NUMBERS

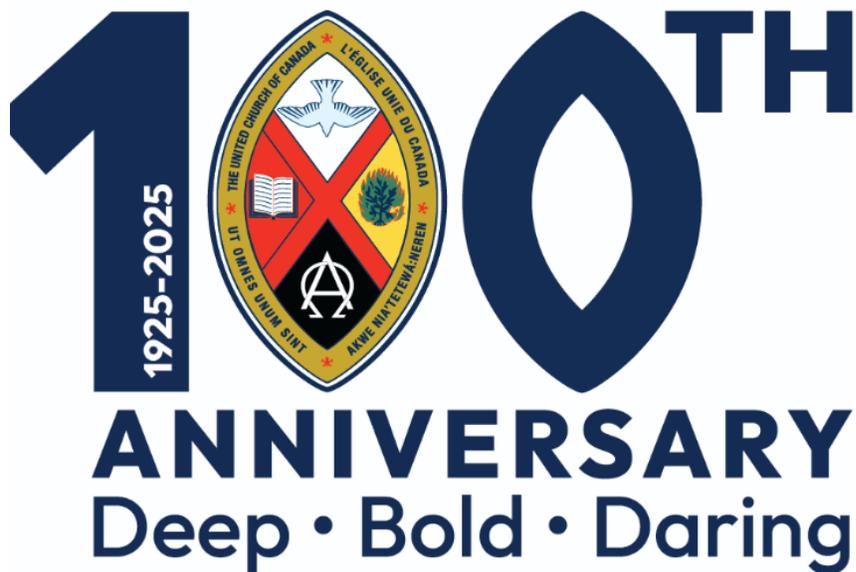
Finance Annual Report	22-24
Grace-Nelson Capital Improvement Fund	24
Outreach Financial Report	25
Grace-St. Stephen Endowment Fund	26-27
W⁴ / United Church Women Financial Report	29

GRACE GATHERS

2024-2025 Board & Committees	28-31
---	-------

APPENDIX

Guiding Principle & Core Values	32
Grace-FULL Conversations	34



MESSAGE FROM **THE BOARD CHAIR**

Heather McGavin

I find it difficult to reflect on this last year at Grace without many conflicting emotions. The church bustled with activities all year long, but it was busy amidst much sadness. We suffered a devastating loss with the death of our Board Chair, Stacy Goodale at the age of 53. Stacy was a visionary, a progressive planner, a facilitator extraordinaire and a leader who led with foresight and compassion. She was a caring, loving, and full of life, energetic person. We feel her loss keenly. Also, several very active congregational members suffered significant health issues which have impacted the leadership team of the church. We have been grieving, but the love and concern that the church members showed, and continue to show for each other demonstrates and defines who we are as a church community. We are family.

Some of the positive highlights of 2025 include:

- Our Board Retreat which was based on *A Call to Grace* – our call to action as we plan for what Grace United Church will look like in 2035.
- The hiring of our *First Third Minister*, Meghan Gilholm.
- The continuation of our *Choral Scholars Program*. The inclusion of these talented young musicians has added to the vitality of our music program and to our services.
- The continuation of our *Immersion Program*. This deep dive into Discipleship provided church members with the opportunity to explore and learn and has been instrumental in bringing forth new leadership within the church.
- The *Compass Program* which allowed us to explore and uncover our gifts and talents.
- Our *Embracing Amazing Grace* workshop provided us with an opportunity to look outward into our community.
- A *Feasibility Study* conducted by a consultant to the GPS team to determine the level of philanthropic inclination towards building improvements and renovations.
- *Family Fun Days* held each month have introduced Grace to members of the community with young families.

We give thanks to: our wonderful, dedicated staff – Juan Arevalo and family, Rev. Richard Bott, Meghan Gilholm, Michael Mulrooney and Susan Ward-England. Thanks also to Ella Goodale for her administrative support when needed. No one truly knows how hard all of you work to

keep things running smoothly. As well to the Board and Committee Co-Chairs for your faithful leadership and to all of the committee and team members who work tirelessly throughout the year. We are truly blessed to have such dedicated volunteers.

I am looking forward to a year of exciting new possibilities. I urge all of you to share your gifts and talents as we move forward – always keeping the priorities of our strategic plan, Faith, Growth and Connection at the forefront of all of our decisions.

May God's blessings be upon all of us.

MESSAGE FROM **THE LEAD MINISTER**

Rev. Richard Bott

Looking back on 2025 at Grace, I am struck by how we have been intentional in laying out the groundwork for our future. This year was defined by a shared commitment to our "Guiding Principle"—a visioning process that allowed us to name the core values that hold us together: Kindness, Fellowship, Spiritual Growth, Acts of Service, Leadership, and Inclusivity.

*And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together... but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see Christ's day drawing near. **Hebrews 10.24-25***

In our seven-week sermon series on these values, we didn't just talk about who we are; we explored who God is calling us to become. We celebrated our sixth anniversary in June, a milestone that reminded us of how far we've come and the "Legacy of Grace" we are building. This legacy took tangible form this year as Meghan Gilholm, our lead in the First Third ministry, has been helping us to explore ministry with children, youth, and young adults. The Choral Scholar program has helped to build our music (and our joy) in worship.

We also looked outward, working to understand not only who we are, but how we might serve the spiritual needs of our neighbours. By prioritizing new ways of connecting, we ensure that Grace remains a vibrant home for all, regardless of age, identity, or location.

Thank you for your generosity, your leadership, and your unwavering faith. Together, we are not simply maintaining things; we are nurturing a living, breathing community of Christ.

May the peace of God be with you - and with all the world!

GRACE'S FAITH STORY

Grace United Church Burlington came into being July 1, 2019, with strong roots from our three parent churches, and a desire to continue to do God’s work in our community and be more than we were as separate entities.

Now we continue to gather and grow stronger as a community of Christ's people. We are Grace United Church where **Belonging, Learning and Connecting in Grace** is our guiding principle and where we live out the Vision and Call of The United Church of Canada for **Deep Spirituality,**

Bold Discipleship and Daring Justice.

In 2023, we set priorities for the next 3-5 years that keep our leadership focused and help us continue to grow into what God is calling us to be as a community of faith. In 2024 with **A Call To Grace** we explored how those priorities might help us to envision who God is calling us to be in 2035 - and in 2025 we started off!

We are filled with hope and excitement about the future of Christ's ministry here.

GRACE'S MEMBERSHIP

Important moments in the changing life of Grace:

BAPTISMS

- Brianna Marion Borges
- Hannah Elizabeth Bortolus

PROFESSION OF FAITH AND BAPTISM

- Mark Richard Bortolus

DEATHS OF FAITHFUL PARTICIPANTS IN THE LIFE OF GRACE

- Carol D'Amelio
- Barb Dutton
- Robert Ferguson
- Sharyn Georgas
- Stacy Goodale
- Muriel Peachy
- June Richardson
- Doug Pettit
- Carolyn Rokosh

CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP

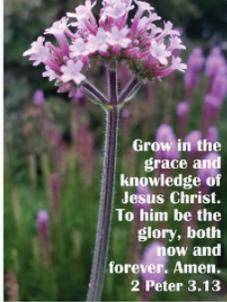
Total Membership (at 31 Dec 2024)	231
Members removed by transfer	0
Members removed through death	8
Members added through transfer or Profession of Faith	0
Members added through adult baptism	1
Total Membership (at 31 Dec 2025)	224



Our Core Values are:
Kindness, Spiritual Growth, Leadership, Inclusivity,
Acts of Service, Fellowship

Deepening our *Faith* in Christ, we *Grow* through our *Connection*,
with one another, with the wider community, and with God.

GROWTH



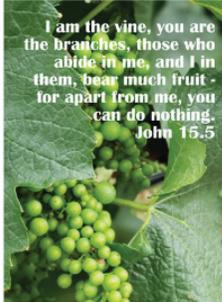
To actively grow in self and in community so that we deepen our knowledge, widen our reach, and expand our resources.

FAITH



To guide ourselves and others to both *live* our faith and *express* our faith so that we walk the talk and talk the walk deliberately, openly and confidently.

CONNECTION



To cultivate connections within and outside our church so that we strengthen our understanding of others, offer a safe space for all & multiply our impact in God's world.

OUR PRIORITIES

OUR PRIORITIES

UNITED CHURCH VISION & CALL

All are welcome in this place

In 2025, the Board continued to focus on Grace's work and ministry in these areas.

With our neighbourhood (within 1km) looking something like this...



COMMUNICATIONS

IN 2025 WE CONTRIBUTED TO GRACE'S MINISTRY & STRATEGIC PRIORITIES BY...

- Provided live-streamed Sunday services and additional support so that Grace's message was able to be seen by the outside community (Average 90 views per week on YouTube).
- Work via Social Media to promote services and activities within the church and our community (an average of 2 posts per week on FaceBook and Instagram).

A FEW ITEMS OF GOOD NEWS FROM OUR COMMITTEE'S WORK...

- We were able to recruit new members to the AV booth team for Sunday morning and welcomed back some who had taken a break.
- Developed a new look for Grace's promotional materials to be more impactful. Continued to support the promotion of events through the use of the Event Promotion Questionnaire.
- Launched a new look for the website to offer the ability to improve its functionality

SOME THINGS THAT COMMUNICATIONS IS EXCITED TO BE WORKING ON IN 2026...

- Continue to work with the Worship Committee and the Minister to support different forms of worship.
- Develop a more dynamic Social media team and presence to attract more of the community to Grace's services and events/activities.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE...

- Susan Ward-England (Co-Chair)
- Larry Hatt (Co-Chair)
- Janice Hatt
- Jack Seedhouse
- Robert England

FAITH FORMATION

IN 2025 WE CONTRIBUTED TO GRACE'S MINISTRY & STRATEGIC PRIORITIES BY...

- Developed Children and Young Family Ministry material for Board Approval, assisting the Ministry & Personnel Committee in defining the skill/knowledge requirements and Key Performance Indicators for this role and contributed to the hiring team selection process.
- Provided Sunday worship coverage during the Minister's vacation absence.
- Ongoing Faith Formation programming and outreach to the community through the monthly Family Drop-in events.

A FEW ITEMS OF GOOD NEWS FROM OUR COMMITTEE'S WORK...

- Played an active role in developing Advent devotional material.
- Developed a Grace Reflections workshop based on our six Spiritual practices (*Uplifted by God's Love, Nurtured by Worship, Inspired by Scripture, Transformed by Prayer, Empowered by Spiritual Friendships and Developed by Service*) to reflect on individual growth, faith resilience, clarity and purpose.
- Active involvement in discipleship programming, Bible study and skill awareness development.

SOME THINGS THAT FAITH FORMATION IS EXCITED TO BE WORKING ON IN 2025...

- Implementation of Grace Reflections workshop in Jan 2026 with a focus on learning where FF Committee can continue to support Grace's faith journey.
- Developing a Prayer-related workshop, summer devotional themed reflections and supporting ongoing program study and skill awareness development.
- Supporting the Children and Young Family Minister's strategic plan and contributing to its implementation.
- Supporting the Men's Breakfast with monthly devotional materials for reflection.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE...

- Donna Lelievre (Co-Chair)
- Keith Rutherford (Co-Chair)
- Janet Smith
- Jane Hunter
- Margie Rogers
- Meghan Gilholm

WORSHIP

IN 2025 WE CONTRIBUTED TO GRACE'S MINISTRY & STRATEGIC PRIORITIES BY...

- Ensuring that every Sunday, the Grace congregation, in person and online, participated in vibrant, meaningful worship, representative of Grace's core values and guiding principle.
- Providing communion elements that were suitable for everyone in the worship space.
- The choir, under the direction of Music Director, Michael Mulrooney, greatly enhanced our worship services.

A FEW ITEMS OF GOOD NEWS FROM OUR COMMITTEE'S WORK...

- Successfully filled 12 weeks of Sunday services with interesting and impactful worship leaders that enabled rest and education for Richard. 7 of those Sundays were handled by Grace folks and/or committees.
- In collaboration with the Music Director, continued a Choral Scholar program that has been well received by the congregation and supported 14 youth in advancing their music careers.
- The decorating team and other volunteers continued to create new banners and other elements so that the worship space reflects the season and Grace's values and principles. Of particular note, were the 1600 poppies that were created and displayed in the worship space for the Remembrance Day Service.

SOME THINGS THAT WORSHIP IS EXCITED TO BE WORKING ON IN 2026...

- Continuing the Choral Scholars program for the benefit of the congregation and the scholars.
- Working with Meghan Gilholm, Grace's First Third Minister to enhance the worship experience for those in the first third of life.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE...

- Carol Boyle (Co-Chair)
- Janice Hatt (Co-Chair)
- Michael Mulrooney
- Kathryn Munn
- Janet Saunders
- Jack Seedhouse
- Amy Watkins (Volunteer Lead)
- Decorating Team: Sharon Allchin, Mary Ruth Crabb, Ruth Goodale, Jodi Harrison, Barb McKeown
- Jennifer Brezina (Choir Librarian)

OUTREACH

IN 2025 WE CONTRIBUTED TO GRACE'S MINISTRY & STRATEGIC PRIORITIES BY...

- Following up our community day in 2024, we were able to support some of the groups we interacted with including Children's Aid and Honeybee Post.
- Sustained, created & nourished community connections with the Backpack program & the Elf Network.
- Continued programming geared to seniors including Cooking@Grace, Line Dancing and Strengthen & Stretch Chair Yoga and the Christmas Musical Afternoon.
- Continued to support food security by providing space/volunteers for the weekly Food for Life food distribution program and providing non-perishable items in our food pantry.
- Community connection with an Indigenous community - continuing to partner with St Raphael's Whale Cove food donation project.

A FEW ITEMS OF GOOD NEWS FROM OUR COMMITTEE'S WORK...

- Joined other communities of faith to form an advocacy movement to increase awareness of homelessness and support affordable housing for unhoused and precariously housed people here.
- Planned, organized our annual backpack program, distributing close to 115 backpacks/ school supplies to students who needed some extra help.
- The Elf Network (TEN) organized and distributed food hampers and gift cards to 28 families. This was accomplished thanks to Food for Life, Burlington Food Share, city of Burlington and donations from Grace folks.

SOME THINGS THAT OUTREACH IS EXCITED TO BE WORKING ON IN 2026...

- Continue working with other communities of faith advocating for permanent affordable housing
- With EAC understand unmet community needs / partnership opportunities to help Grace offer sustainable outreach programming (ie Seniors loneliness/ isolation)

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE...

- Holly Dobson
- Sandra Newcombe
- May Griffiths-Turner
- Janice Martin (chair)
- Sherrill McNally
- Michelle Shilton

PROPERTY

IN 2025 WE CONTRIBUTED TO GRACE'S MINISTRY & STRATEGIC PRIORITIES BY...

- Ensure that the church building and surrounding property are properly maintained and to be proactive in anticipating/planning for necessary upgrades (e.g., furnace replacement).
- Provide ongoing support/resources to other communities/groups as needed.
- Provide ongoing support/resources to tenants/renters (e.g., meeting set-ups for renters and on-site Property personnel during such rental times).

A FEW ITEMS OF GOOD NEWS FROM OUR COMMITTEE'S WORK...

- With the Education and Advocacy Committee, and the professional services of Sean James Consulting, designed and installed a Rain Garden on the back lawn of the church property. This project was funded by the Grace-Nelson Endowment Fund. This project was a nod to the 100-year UCC celebration by Grace and supports Grace's desire to learn more about the effects of climate change. Jodi Harrison painted a beautiful sign for placement in the garden.
- Furnace and Air-Conditioning units on the Main Floor were replaced (as indicated in 2024 Annual Report).
- Original fire panel and alarm panels were replaced (as indicated in 2024 Annual Report).
- Stairs at the front of the church had a "makeover" – for safety reasons – to increase the depth of the risers (as indicated in 2024 Annual Report).

SOME THINGS THAT PROPERTY IS EXCITED TO BE WORKING ON IN 2026...

- Continue to "nurture" the rain garden and apply for a Sign Permit to erect an identification sign for the Rain Garden (that will include a scan code directing interested persons to the website with more information about the rain garden).
- Rejuvenate the other gardens with a focus on native plants.
- Fix holes and cracks in the parking lot with black tar.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE...

- Bob England (Co-Chair)
- Kathryn Munn (Co-Chair)
- Garry MacDonald
- John Allchin

TRUSTEES

IN 2025 WE CONTRIBUTED TO GRACE'S MINISTRY & STRATEGIC PRIORITIES BY...

- Ensuring oversight of the Endowment Funds.
- Negotiating renewal of insurance policy for building and property.
- Approving spending for Outreach, Benevolent and EAC/ Affirming, totaling \$ 45,000 from the St Stephen Fund.
- Approving spending of \$ 90,000 for capital projects, from the Nelson Fund.

A FEW ITEMS OF GOOD NEWS FROM OUR COMMITTEE'S WORK...

- Set aside \$ 350,000 from Nelson Fund, St Stephen Fund and a private donation to be deployed in 2027 for the GPS Renovation project at Grace UC.
- We still hold a \$ 119,000 mortgage on the manse at Palermo UC, part of the legacy of Nelson UC.

SOME THINGS THAT THE TRUSTEES ARE EXCITED TO BE WORKING ON IN 2026...

- Support fundraising activity for the GPS Renovation Project.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE...

- Paul Bartu (Co-Chair)
- Dale McKeown
- Richard Bott
- Sandy McKeown
- Shirley Bottaro
- Lloyd Pong
- Wayne Burroughs
- Dave Shilton
- Mike Lawton (Co-Chair)
- Ross Stephens

MINISTRY & PERSONNEL

IN 2025 WE CONTRIBUTED TO GRACE'S MINISTRY & STRATEGIC PRIORITIES BY...

- Working in concert with two members of the Faith Formation Committee to recruit for the position of a First Third Minister.
- Recruiting for the position of Office Administrator.
- Connecting with the Minister, Office Administrator and Director of Music on a regular basis.

A FEW ITEMS OF GOOD NEWS FROM OUR COMMITTEE'S WORK...

- The position description for the First Third Minister was approved by the Human Resources Commission of the Horseshoe Falls Regional Council.
- The position was classified as a Congregational Designated Minister (CDM), meaning the individual is responsible to the congregation and not to the Regional Council, for 30 hours a week.
- Meghan Gilholm was the successful candidate for the role and began her one year contract on September 15, 2025

SOME THINGS THAT OUR COMMITTEE IS EXCITED TO BE WORKING ON IN 2026...

- We continue working to fill the role of Office Administrator on a permanent basis.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE...

- Paul Bartu
- Shirley Bottaro
- Mark Goodale (Co-Chair)
- Sue Stephen (Co-Chair)

STEWARDSHIP

IN 2025 WE CONTRIBUTED TO GRACE'S MINISTRY & STRATEGIC PRIORITIES BY...

- beginning its meetings in 2025.
- exploring our mandate and setting focus priorities beyond fundraising.

A FEW ITEMS OF GOOD NEWS FROM OUR COMMITTEE'S WORK...

- Planned the Volunteer Ministry Fair to be offered in February 2026
- Revised Life Keys programme to reflect Grace's values and offered it to the congregation as Compass in spring 2025.

SOME THINGS THAT OUR MINISTRY IS EXCITED TO BE WORKING ON IN 2026...

- Volunteer Stewardship Fair and second session of Compass.
- Newcomer Lunches (coordinated with Finance, Endowment, Trustees and Welcoming Committee).
- Planned Giving Seminars to be presented (coordinated with Finance, Endowment and Trustees Committees).

MEMBERS OF THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE...

- Judith Allan Sargent
- Janet Smith

MINISTRY OF SPIRITUAL CARE

IN 2025 WE CONTRIBUTED TO GRACE'S MINISTRY & STRATEGIC PRIORITIES BY...

- Grace's Ministry of Care is an "umbrella" covering the work of The Prayer Chain, The Prayer Shawl group, The Prayer Wall, The Care Network @ Grace, and the Welcoming and Funeral Committees.

A FEW ITEMS OF GOOD NEWS FROM OUR COMMITTEE'S WORK...

- The accomplishments, excitement and plans of each are individually recorded and summarize the collective work of the Ministry of Care.

SOME THINGS THAT OUR MINISTRY IS EXCITED TO BE WORKING ON IN 2026...

- To continue the work of the Committee and its sub-groups to pray and care for the Congregation of Grace United Church and welcome all those who participate
- More details on the work of our Ministry is outlined on the following two pages

MEMBERS OF THE MINISTRY OF SPIRITUAL CARE...

- Sue Stephen (Coordinator)
- Chairs/Coordinators of: Care Network at Grace, Welcoming & Membership, Funerals, Prayer Shawls, Prayer Chain and Prayer Wall

MINISTRY OF

WELCOMING & MEMBERSHIP

IN 2025 WE CONTRIBUTED TO GRACE'S MINISTRY & STRATEGIC PRIORITIES BY...

- Providing a welcoming environment on Sunday morning to both new and regular attendees.
- Offering a place for people new or current to Grace to ask questions.
- Maintaining the records of Grace to reflect changes in the Congregation.

A FEW ITEMS OF GOOD NEWS FROM OUR COMMITTEE'S WORK...

- We received positive feedback from the Welcome to Grace Emails which are sent out to each visitor who provides us with contact information on Sunday morning.
- The Communication sheets provided valuable information about those who attend on a regular basis. The Care team appreciated the lists which they used to contact those who had not been at WORSHIP for 3 consecutive weeks

SOME THINGS THAT WELCOMING & MEMBERSHIP IS EXCITED TO BE WORKING ON IN 2026...

- Begin to work on ways to integrate new attendees into the Grace family .
- Increase members on the Roll.
- Working alongside the minister and the Chair of the Board, we hope to provide more support to the congregation to ensure that they feel a part of Grace

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE...

- Claire Andoff
- Michelle Shilton
- Janice Edworthy
- Susan Ward-England (Chair)
- Barb McKeown
- Sandy Wright

PRAYER WALL

- The Prayer Wall is available to all during the hours the church is open.
- A space to sit, reflect, pray, or simply be.
- Prayers from the Prayer Wall slots are prayed over, then burned, without being read.

MEMBERS OF THE TEAM...

- Janice Hatt (Coordinator)

CARE NETWORK

IN 2025 WE CONTRIBUTED TO GRACE'S MINISTRY & STRATEGIC PRIORITIES BY...

- Keeping in touch with members of Grace who are unable to attend services in person to see if they may need assistance in some way.
- Scheduling meetings with the minister to ensure that our committee is creating a care network to help all those in need.

A FEW ITEMS OF GOOD NEWS FROM OUR COMMITTEE'S WORK...

- When informed that someone is ill, had an accident, is grieving, etc., we make contact to find out how we can help. We offer meals, delivered to the families, on a regular basis for as long as needed, hospital visits, home visits.
- During Advent and Christmas seasons, we bake and deliver home-made greeting cards, plants, etc. to families we keep in touch with during the year.
- At Christmas, nine families who lost a loved one during 2025 were sent a Christmas sympathy card with a personal message from Grace, as well as one family dealing with illness.
- The contact list of those absent for at least three weeks has received positive feedback when our team calls to let folks know they are missed and inquire if they need anything.
- A very important offering of the care network are the greeting cards sent to families In 2025, a total of 117 cards were mailed or delivered.

SOME THINGS THAT THE CARE NETWORK IS EXCITED TO BE WORKING ON IN 2025...

- We have added to our responsibility list to contact and support families at Grace who have been blessed with a baby. We will have two families in this situation early in 2026.
- Hoping to have a Tea at Tansley Woods Retirement Home in 2026.
- We're working to connect with "in-person" and "on-line" participants at Grace.

MEMBERS OF THE NETWORK...

- Cheryl Caldwell
- Ruth Goodale
- Donna Lelievre
- Marilyn Martin
- Barb McKeown (Chair)
- Lynn Merwart
- Kathryn Munn
- Janet Saunders
- Sue Stephen (Ministry of Care Coordinator)
- Sandy Wright
- Peggy Birnie

SPIRITUAL CARE

FUNERAL TEAM

IN 2025 WE CONTRIBUTED TO GRACE'S MINISTRY & STRATEGIC PRIORITIES BY...

- Support the family and the community by providing funeral services and supporting events surrounding the death of a member of the Grace Family
- Created processes and procedures which can be used for planning these events

A FEW ITEMS OF GOOD NEWS FROM OUR TEAM'S WORK...

- We were able to assist with 4 funerals at Grace this past year

SOME THINGS THAT THE FUNERAL TEAM IS EXCITED TO BE WORKING ON IN 2026...

- Plan other events around end of life planning and funerals for the congregation to attend.

MEMBERS OF THE TEAM...

- Susan Ward-England (Chair)
- Kathryn Munn

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

IN 2025 WE CONTRIBUTED TO GRACE'S MINISTRY & STRATEGIC PRIORITIES BY...

- Providing shawls and comfort to people who are in need of extra support
- Praying and caring for Grace's church family and the community.

A FEW ITEMS OF GOOD NEWS FROM OUR WORK...

- Despite the fact that the work of the ministry was significantly hampered due to many members having carpal tunnel syndrome, 70 shawls were provided to those in need.
- The installation of the glass door cupboard in the entrance has facilitated the distribution of the shawls as awareness was increased and people were delighted to be able to choose one.
- Significant positive and grateful feedback has been received from recipients.

SOME THINGS THAT THE MINISTRY IS EXCITED TO BE WORKING ON IN 2026...

- Increasing awareness of the support and love provided by prayer shawls.
- Encouraging and welcoming new members.
- Increase the distribution of shawls to those in need.

MEMBERS OF THE MINISTRY...

- Nancy Adams
- Peggie Birnie
- Mary Ruth Crabb
- Janice Hatt
- Joyce Hughes
- Dawna McDade
- Heather McGavin
- Sue Paquette (Coordinator)
- Janet Saunders
- Sue Stephen
- Sheila Young

PRAYER CHAIN

IN 2025 WE CONTRIBUTED TO GRACE'S MINISTRY & STRATEGIC PRIORITIES BY...

- Rooted in the Grace's welcoming, justice-seeking spirit, each month prayers are shaped by one or more elements of being Unconditional in love, Nurturing in faith, Inspiring in hope, Transforming in action, Engaging in community, and Daring in justice, allowing prayer chain members to focus deeply and intentionally, in a personal way.

A FEW ITEMS OF GOOD NEWS FROM OUR MINISTRY'S WORK...

- Those requesting prayers, feel the love and support around them, even though we are praying from afar.
- We have heard great news about the prayers and support through the Holy Spirit.
- There is a sense of appreciation, knowing that the people we are praying for are not alone.

SOME THINGS THAT THE PRAYER CHAIN IS EXCITED TO BE WORKING ON IN 2026...

- Continue to use the U.N.I.T.E.D. acronym
- Continue to connect with those who need prayers and see what else we can do through other Ministry of Care committees to provide more support where needed.

MEMBERS OF THE TEAM...

- Shirley Bottaro
- Cheryl Caldwell
- Ruth Goodale
- Donna Lelievre
- Sherrill McNally (Chair)
- June Richardson
- Margaret Rogers
- Janet Saunders
- Sue Stephen

EDUCATION & ADVOCACY

IN 2025 WE CONTRIBUTED TO GRACE'S MINISTRY & STRATEGIC PRIORITIES BY...

- Continuing to forge bonds with PFLAG Halton to partner on 2S&LGBTQIA+ opportunities (e.g., sponsoring a second Grandparent's Evening). Sponsored/participated in PRISM Pride.
- Focused on the four pillars of learning that Grace chose: 2S&LGBTQIA+, Indigenous Peoples, Mental Health, and the Environment/Climate Change.

A FEW ITEMS OF GOOD NEWS FROM OUR COMMITTEE'S WORK...

- With the Property Committee designed/installed a Rain Garden on the back lawn of the church (funded by the Grace-Nelson Endowment Fund). This project was a "nod" to the 100-year UCC celebration and our desire to learn more about the effects of Climate Change.
- In April, Rev. Dr. Jessica Hetherington, eco-theologian and ordained UCC minister, led our Earth Day service. She also led a lunch & learn, as well as meeting with EAC members the Saturday evening before for a session on advocacy.
- Participated in *Red Dress Day* by hanging red dresses around the property to bring attention to the violence against Indigenous Women and Girls, adding names and photos along with a short bio about specific Indigenous Women and Girls.
- In May, EAC led its first service focusing on Mental Health with guest speaker Dara Eisner Clancy, who is the Executive Director of Distress Centre Halton – provided "help" cards to be distributed in the community.

SOME THINGS THAT THE AFFIRMING TEAM IS EXCITED TO BE WORKING ON IN 2026...

- Leading a year-long study on reconciliation using the book *52 Ways to Reconcile – How to Walk with Indigenous Peoples on the Path to Healing* by David A. Robertson. Opportunities for learning will be posted in Grace-Line and posted on the EAC bulletin board on a weekly basis.
- Plan to lead the worship service for Earth Day/Week on Sunday, April 26th.
- Working on another Mental Health service and an associated community event focused on Seniors in May. Will consider another community event focused on families/teens in the fall.

- Working on better ways to "advertise" learning opportunities as they arise. Will continue to recognize special days in the calendar using Grace-Line or with service: Black History Month in February; PIE Day in March; Earth Day in April; Mental Health and Red Dress Day in May; PRIDE service in June. Other days of acknowledgement will include Orange Shirt Day in September and Transgender Day of Remembrance in November.

MEMBERS OF THE TEAM...

- Claire Andoff
- Paul Bartu
- Holly Dobson
- Janice Martin (Co-Chair)
- Kathryn Muinn (Co-Chair)

GPS TEAM

IN 2025 WE CONTRIBUTED TO GRACE'S MINISTRY & STRATEGIC PRIORITIES BY...

- Continuing to work on plans for changes to our physical space that would address safety, accessibility and inclusion.
- Hiring an external consultant's firm to conduct a Feasibility Study to determine the level of philanthropic interest in Grace congregation to fund physical changes to the church.

A FEW ITEMS OF GOOD NEWS FROM OUR COMMITTEE'S WORK...

- Revised plans based on feedback from the congregation and the Feasibility Study to address only the washroom / admin areas and sanctuary to be consistent with our priorities.
- Received Board approval to take our plans to the congregation.

SOME THINGS THAT GPS IS EXCITED TO BE WORKING ON IN 2026...

- Obtaining congregational support for moving forward with a capital campaign.
- Disbanding the GPS team and creating a project team to move forward with the proposed plans

MEMBERS OF THE TEAM...

- Dennis Marshall
- Janice Martin (Co-Chair)
- Heather McGavin (Co-Chair)
- Michael Mulrooney
- Kathryn Munn
- Dave Shilton

FUNDRAISING TEAMS

IN 2025 WE CONTRIBUTED TO GRACE'S MINISTRY & STRATEGIC PRIORITIES BY...

- Organizing and implementing a variety of community events designed to contribute to Grace's fundraising efforts while offering a way for the community to learn about Grace and the work we do.
- Offering volunteer hours for local youth.

A FEW ITEMS OF GOOD NEWS FROM OUR GROUP'S WORK...

- Four major fundraising events were held this year:
- Spring and Fall Shredding - Spring Shredding raised \$5,215.05, while Fall Shredding raised \$4,590
- Electronics Recycling, which raised \$883.40
- May Springtime High Tea, which raised \$1,632 with \$296.48 in expenses
- Book Sale - this event raised \$6,400 - As well, owners of several local *Little Free Libraries* selected free bags of books. The *Sew on Fire* group selected about three boxes of children's books for gift bags for children in need, at no cost. Ten full pallets of books were donated to the *Salvation Army* after the sale.

SOME THINGS THAT FUNDRAISING IS EXCITED TO BE WORKING ON IN 2026...

- Continue to fill community needs and fundraise for Grace and provide volunteer opportunities for local youth.

MEMBERS OF THE TEAM...

- Electronics & Shredding: Susan Ward-England (Coordinator)
- Book Sale: Janice Hatt and Book Club @ Grace
- Spring High Tea: Linda Draddy and W⁴ (formerly UCW)
- Many volunteers on event days

BOOK CLUB @ GRACE

IN 2025 WE CONTRIBUTED TO GRACE'S MINISTRY & STRATEGIC PRIORITIES BY...

- The fellowship among the members of the group.
- Service to the community through the Little Free Library and affordable used books at our annual sale.

A FEW ITEMS OF GOOD NEWS FROM OUR GROUP'S WORK...

- The 2025 Mega Used Book Sale was very successful.
- The favourite book that the group read in 2024/25 was *The Women*, by Kristin Hannah.

SOME THINGS THAT THE BOOK CLUB @ GRACE EXCITED TO BE WORKING ON IN 2026...

- The 2026 Mega Used Book Sale will be held in June.
- All books selected for the 2025/26 season are by Canadian authors

COORDINATORS OF THE BOOK CLUB...

- Jennifer Brezina (Coordinator)
- Janice Hatt (Coordinator)
- Nancy Adams (Coordinator)
- Sheila Young (Coordinator)
- Plus over 22 active members of the Club

FUN, FOOD & FELLOWSHIP

IN 2025 WE CONTRIBUTED TO GRACE'S MINISTRY & STRATEGIC PRIORITIES BY...

- In 2025 this group continued to work for a feeling of community through the gift of food and drinks for special occasions and events for Grace and the wider community.

A FEW ITEMS OF GOOD NEWS FROM OUR GROUP'S WORK...

These are the events that were offered this year:

- Board strategic planning retreat
- Birthday or special occasion cakes after church
- Spring Tea in May 2025
- Welcome back picnic in Sept
- Easter lunch after church
- Light lunch during Nativity Expo
- Supper with Santa

SOME THINGS THAT FOOD, FUN & FELLOWSHIP IS EXCITED TO BE WORKING ON IN 2026...

- The Board will be paying for 3 people to obtain their Food Handler Certificate so that Grace can continue to offer refreshments to our Congregation

MEMBERS OF THE GROUP...

- Bonnie Blackie
- Carol Boyle
- Linda Draddy (Chair)
- Ruth Goodale
- Heather Swanson
- Marilyn Martin
- Margie Rogers
- Kathy Seedhouse

COFFEE AND GAMES

IN 2025 WE CONTRIBUTED TO GRACE'S MINISTRY & STRATEGIC PRIORITIES BY...

- Getting together to enjoy fellowship and laughter
- We meet at the church every Thursday afternoon and we love to meet outside under the trees in the summer.

A FEW ITEMS OF GOOD NEWS FROM COFFEE TIME'S WORK...

- The good news is we changed from Coffee Time to COFFEE AND GAMES in 2025.
- We have played a variety of board games, certainly not serious players.

SOME THINGS THAT COFFEE TIME IS EXCITED TO BE WORKING ON IN 2026...

- Welcoming more people to the group

CONVENOR OF THE GROUP...

- Linda Draddy

W⁴: WOMEN WHO WORSHIP AND WORK

IN 2025 WE CONTRIBUTED TO GRACE'S MINISTRY & STRATEGIC PRIORITIES BY...

- To allow all who identify as female to participate in events that bring people together for fellowship and fun.
- Provide opportunities to worship together.
- Participate in the life of the church with fundraising activities.

A FEW ITEMS OF GOOD NEWS FROM OUR GROUP'S WORK...

- Contributed to Grace's Congregational 'Pancake Tuesday Reflection'.
- Attended Regional Horseshoe Falls UCW General Meetings: Sat. April 26 - Stamford Lane United Church, Niagara Falls and Sat. Oct. 18 at Regional Council Office.
- Offered a HighTea and Mother's Day market.
- Led Grace's United Church Centennial Service of Worship on Sun. June 8 with a theme of Joy where Kathryn Munn's spearheading of the Rain Garden was celebrated.
- With support from the Congregation, Candy Cane Traditions succeeded in raising \$10,192.40 with \$266.61 in expenses.
- New this year, worked with Halton Health to ensure compliance with all regulations around food preparation.
- Celebrated Communion with Rev. Jennifer Henry and her partner Susie at the December meeting.
- W4 disbursed \$10,200.00 to charitable endeavors.

SOME THINGS THAT W⁴ IS EXCITED TO BE WORKING ON IN 2026...

- Considering what the ministry of the group will look like into the future.

MEMBERS OF THE GROUP...

- Carol Boyle (Treasurer)
- Donna Lelievre (Coordinator)
- Members of Grace United Church who identify as women and join our ranks

BRIDGE

IN 2025 WE CONTRIBUTED TO GRACE'S MINISTRY & STRATEGIC PRIORITIES BY...

- Provide a social, friendly atmosphere to play bridge & promote camaraderie.

A FEW ITEMS OF GOOD NEWS FROM THE BRIDGE GROUP'S WORK...

- We met for bridge every other Tuesday & celebrated Christmas with a light lunch. We thank our spares who keep us going when members are absent.

SOME THINGS THAT THE BRIDGE GROUP IS EXCITED TO BE WORKING ON IN 2026...

- We are looking to expand to three tables of bridge.

MEMBERS OF THE GROUP...

- Bonnie Blackie (Coordinator)
- Shirley Bottaro (Coordinator)
- 6 Members of the Group

MEN'S BREAKFAST

IN 2025 WE CONTRIBUTED TO GRACE'S MINISTRY & STRATEGIC PRIORITIES BY...

- Growth and Connection – We get together in person on Wednesday mornings twice each month. This year we met at the Harvest Table Restaurant on Fairview. Discussion of Grace issues, politics and sports is the aim for the group.
- Faith-sharing, contact and conversation. The men are open to opportunities to support Grace.

A FEW ITEMS OF GOOD NEWS FROM OUR GROUP'S WORK...

- We celebrate the number of men of Grace that can get together for great mutual conversation.
- The group, with the help of a service outline and text from UCC, led a Sunday service in August with wide participation from the men.
- The group organized and staffed the Shrove Tuesday dinner with help from *Fun, Food and Fellowship*.
- A representative of Faith Formation initiated a spiritual component to the breakfasts

SOME THINGS THAT MEN'S BREAKFAST IS EXCITED TO BE WORKING ON IN 2026...

- We continue to be grateful for the provision of space and good breakfasts at the Harvest Table Restaurant where our needs are more than met.
- The average attendance through 2024 has been 10 to 14. This coming year, through expanding our reminder/invitation email we tried to reach the Grace men who may not be familiar with our format and location. Numbers have not increased but we will continue.

MEMBERS OF THE GROUP...

- Larry Hatt (Coordinator)
- Many thanks to all the members who enthusiastically support each other and special projects

LINE DANCING

IN 2025 WE CONTRIBUTED TO GRACE'S MINISTRY & STRATEGIC PRIORITIES BY...

- Promoting exercise & movement through music and dance.
- Focusing on the social well being of the participants.

A FEW ITEMS OF GOOD NEWS FROM OUR GROUP'S WORK...

- We were able to collect \$6000 toward Outreach for use in the community.
- Our class was so successful that we created a second session. It is proving to be quite popular.

SOME THINGS THAT LINE DANCING IS EXCITED TO BE WORKING ON IN 2025...

- Keeping our members active in the coming year

MEMBERS OF THE GROUP...

- Bonnie Blackie (Coordinator)
- Janis Bunting
- Many others that help keep the Program running

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

IN 2025 WE CONTRIBUTED TO GRACE'S MINISTRY & STRATEGIC PRIORITIES BY...

- Making the necessary decisions to respond appropriately following or during an emergency situation. This could mean any natural disaster or public health outbreak

A FEW ITEMS OF GOOD NEWS FROM OUR COMMITTEE'S WORK...

- In 2025, the ERC did not formally meet however we did respond to questions about moving to solely on-line worship on Sundays when there were concerns about road conditions.

SOME THINGS THAT THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMITTEE IS EXCITED TO BE WORKING ON IN 2026...

- The ERC does not meet on a regular basis. We will monitor the external environment for any circumstances that might require recommendations regarding church closure or a change in protocols

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE...

- Heather McGavin (Chair)
- Richard Bott
- Susan Ward-England (Co-Chair, Communications)
- Janice Hatt or Carol Boyle (Co-Chair, Worship)
- Janice Martin (Co-Chair, Outreach)
- Mark Goodale (Co-Chair, Ministry & Personnel)
- Kathryn Munn (Co-Chair, Property)
- May Griffiths-Turner (Infectious disease expert)

NOMINATIONS

IN 2025 WE CONTRIBUTED TO GRACE'S MINISTRY & STRATEGIC PRIORITIES BY...

- Filling as many Board positions as possible for the coming year.
- Seeking Co-chairs for Committees to manage workload and support succession.
- Requesting all Committee Chairs to confirm their Committee membership and to continue in their efforts to recruit new members.

A FEW ITEMS OF GOOD NEWS FROM OUR COMMITTEE'S WORK...

- Most of our faithful volunteers are willing to continue in their current roles.
- We have strong lay leadership at Grace with a wide variety of gifts and talents and that is increasing.
- We have been able to fill several key roles that were vacant and newer church members are getting involved in committee work.

SOME THINGS THAT NOMINATIONS IS EXCITED TO BE WORKING ON IN 2026...

- Supporting our community of faith to recognize their talents and encourage them to get involved.
- Working with all committees to address succession planning.
- Increasing the size of the committee.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE...

- Heather McGavin (Chair)

VOLUNTEER MINISTRIES

In 2023, the General Council Offices asked Communities of Faith to calculate the number of volunteer hours that were lived out in the church's life, over the course of a year. While the Board did their best to estimate the hours that year, this year we worked to keep better track of the volunteer ministries.

In 2025, the folks of Grace volunteered to Grace's ministries:

22,309 hours!

(That's 930 days. Or 2.5 years. Or the equivalent to \$635,806 at the GTA's Living Wage!)

TANSLEY PARK COMMUNITY HOUSING INC.

IN 2025 WE CONTRIBUTED TO GRACE'S MINISTRY & STRATEGIC PRIORITIES BY...

- Tansley Park Community Homes Inc is a non-profit corporation addressing the lack of affordable housing in Halton region through ownership of 14 not-for-profit affordable community housing townhouse units. Of the 14 units, 12 are designated as rent-geared-to-income and 2 are designated as affordable market rent.
- The governing Board of TPCH is required to have a majority of members from our congregation. The board held five regular and one annual general meeting during 2025.
- *Background: TPCH was created in the 1990s when the church, working with the UCC, sold part of its property to a new non-profit.. The townhouses operate as rent-geared-to-income units and support the Horseshoe Falls Region's affordable housing outreach. TPCH partners with Halton Region's Housing Services Division for subsidies, grants, and oversight, and contracts Victoria Park Community Homes for property management.*

A FEW ITEMS OF GOOD NEWS FROM THE BOARD'S WORK...

- In November, the City of Burlington permit process was completed, allowing work to finally begin to replace the deteriorating wood decks at the back of the units.
- With the final payment of the mortgage in June 2028, both our mortgage and operating agreement with Halton Region will come to an end. The Ministry of Housing has been working with municipal housing providers like Halton Region Housing to guide housing providers through the post-mortgage process. In 2025, the Board began examining options for continuing the non-profit housing project, guided by Halton Region Housing.

SOME THINGS THAT THE TPCH BOARD IS EXCITED TO BE WORKING ON IN 2026...

- The Board will continue identifying options for the end-of-mortgage in 2028 to discover the best possible outcome for Grace United Church, the housing units themselves and our tenants.

MEMBERS OF THE TCPH BOARD...

- Edward Adalakun
- John Allchin (Chair)
- Larry Hatt
- Mike Lawton
- Sandra Newcombe

HORSESHOE FALLS REGIONAL COUNCIL

IN 2025 WE CONTRIBUTED TO GRACE'S MINISTRY & STRATEGIC PRIORITIES BY...

- Being a conduit of information between the Regional Council and Grace's community of faith/congregation and ensuring information is shared with appropriate committees, attending Regional meetings and relevant training events

A FEW ITEMS OF GOOD NEWS FROM OUR WORK...

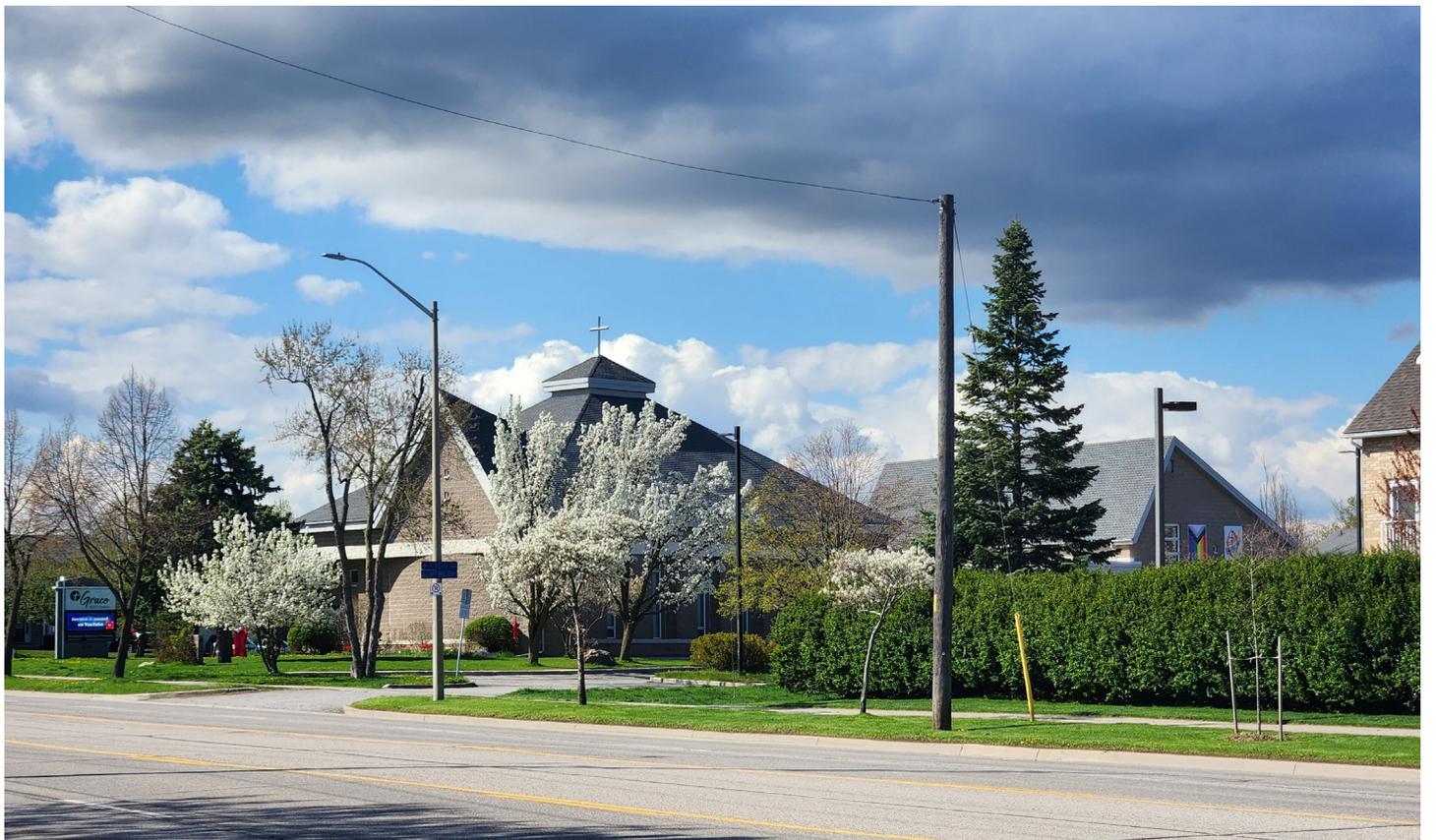
- Sue and Richard continued their work of supporting other communities of faith in the region as Co-Chairs of the Human Resources Commission of HFRC
- Richard was invited to be the preacher at the spring Celebration of Ministry Service

SOME THINGS THAT THE REGIONAL COUNCIL REPS ARE EXCITED TO BE WORKING ON IN 2025...

- Working with Communities of Faith as they search for new ministers to serve and lead their congregations.
- Searching for a member to fill our vacancy

HRFC REPRESENTATIVES...

- Shirley Bottaro
- Sue Stephen
- Rev. Richard Bott



FINANCE COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT, BALANCE SHEET AND STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS & DISBURSEMENTS AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025

The Finance Committee is pleased to report Grace's financial results as of December 31, 2025. The results show a net deficit of \$492. The results are favourable to our 2025 Budget which projected a deficit of \$12,627.

The reason for these results is that our Total Receipts exceeded our 2025 budget forecast while Disbursements were less than budgeted

Receipts

Of concern is that our Offerings were less than budgeted by \$9,921. Note that Offerings includes funds received through all sources such as PAR, EFT and envelopes that have not been designated for M&S or Outreach.

Additionally, our Easter/Christmas offerings were unfavorable to our budget by \$8,632. On

a combined basis, our Envelope, Par and Easter Christmas Givings are unfavourable to budget by \$18,553 down from last year by \$23,059.

This shortfall was offset somewhat by unplanned Memorial givings and a generous gift from W4.

Rental Income (\$55,013) and Fundraising receipts (\$18,800) are very important contributors to money coming into Grace. Combined basis they contributed \$73,813 in 2025. We thank everyone who is involved for their hard work. It is very much appreciated

Disbursements

Annual Payroll costs are less than budgeted. This is due to the First Third Ministry position being filled later than planned in 2025. We were helped

(continued on p.24)

Balance Sheet (31 Dec 2025)

Cash

Operating Funds	\$121,846	Accounts Payable	\$14,519
HST Rebate Due	\$23,661	Growth Fund (Bott/UCC)	\$5,000
		Music Fund	\$1,527
		Grace-Nelson Fund (Advanced)	\$56,536
		Affirming fund	\$200
		Grace-St. Stephen Fund (Advanced)	\$5,000
		Choral Scholars Fund	\$1,359

Fixed Assets

Church Building	\$1,659,021	Loans	
Church Equipment	151,132	VIM Capital	\$494,477
Office / Other Equipment	5,760	HUCEC Capital Loan	\$203,288
Parking Lot	12,268	Congregational Equity	\$1,150,680
		Retained Earnings	\$41,595
		2024 Net Gain (Loss)	(\$492)

Total Assets	\$1,973,689	Total Liabilities & Equity	\$1,973,689
---------------------	--------------------	---------------------------------------	--------------------

Statement of Receipts and Disbursements (1 Jan to 31 Dec, 2025)	2025 Actual	2025 Budget	Variance	2026 Budget	2027 Draft Budget	2028 Draft Budget
RECEIPTS						
Offerings - Envelopes & PAR	\$185,079	\$195,000	(\$9,921)	\$190,631	\$196,350	\$202,241
<i>Mission & Service Receipts</i>	10,628	10,000	628	10,000	10,000	10,000
<i>Outreach Receipts</i>	15,534	10,000	5,534	15,000	15,000	15,000
Easter / Christmas Offering	6,369	15,000	(8,632)	7,000	7,000	7,000
Rental Income	55,013	55,000	13	57,000	57,000	57,000
Fundraising	18,800	20,000	(1,200)	20,000	20,000	20,000
W4 Support	6,800	0	6,800	6,000	6,000	6,000
Memorial	6,610	0	6,610	0	0	0
Other	8,250	7,000	1,252	7,000	7,000	7,000
TOTAL REVENUES	\$313,082	\$312,000	\$1,082	\$312,631	\$318,350	\$324,241
DISBURSEMENTS						
Payroll	\$222,894	\$252,731	\$29,837	\$273,850	\$282,066	\$290,527
Admin & General Expenses	24,691	24,000	(691)	22,000	22,000	22,000
Property & Maintenance	35,939	42,000	6,061	40,000	41,200	42,436
Property - Capital funded by Grace-Nelson Capital Improvement Fund	63,892	43,100	(20,792)	55,500	0	
Committee Expenses	54,726	74,334	19,608	48,425	48,425	48,425
Regional Council Assessment	12,218	12,218	-	13,000	14,000	14,000
Other Misc Disbursements	0	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
<i>Mission & Service Disbursements</i>	10,628	10,000	(628)	10,000	10,000	10,000
<i>Transfers to Outreach Account</i>	61,024	55,000	(6,024)	15,000	15,000	15,000
HST	4,904	5,000	96	5,000	5,000	5,000
TOTAL DISBURSMENTS	\$490,916	\$519,383	\$28,467	\$483,775	\$438,691	\$448,388
NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	(\$177,835)	(\$207,383)	\$29,548	(\$171,144)	(\$120,341)	(\$124,147)
ENDOWMENT SUPPORT						
Grace-Nelson Fund Support	81,886	70,350	(11,536)	64,429	5,000	5,000
Grace-St.Stephen Fund Support	95,458	124,406	28,948	76,000	77,980	80,019
Total Endowment Support	177,344	194,756	17,412	140,429	82,980	85,019
REVISED NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	(\$491)	(\$12,627)	\$12,135	(\$30,715)	(\$37,361)	(\$39,128)

by the fact that Committee and Property Expenses were less than budgeted

2026 Budget

We are projecting a deficit of \$30,715 for 2026. This deficit is greater than the 2026 Preliminary budget we prepared last year. This shortfall will be covered by budget surpluses from previous years

There are two main factors impacting the 2026 budget deficit :

Envelope, Par and Easter/Christmas givings: Offerings and Easter/Christmas giving were down in 2025 compared to 2024. As a result, we have reduced the budget for Offerings for 2026 from our long term budget projection made last year. With the Stewardship Committee we will work to increase Offerings and Easter/Christmas givings.

Choral Scholars: The Choral Scholar program, part of the Worship Budget, is projected to cost \$22,000 for 2026. The Grace-St. Stephen Endowment Fund covers \$5,000 of this cost, leaving \$17,000 to be covered through Grace’s Operating Budget. This is an increase in the cost to Grace for this year as there were surplus funds from the piano campaign that were available to support the program last year.

In 2025 a more detailed reporting format for the statements was introduced. Included is information on the amount of costs to operate Grace that are covered by the Endowment Funds The goal is to provide more detail to the congregation on the true cost of running Grace and the extent of the support that is being provided by the endowment funds.

GRACE-NELSON CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND
BALANCE SHEET AND
STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS & DISBURSEMENTS
 AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025

Balance Sheet

Cash - CIBC Bank Account	\$562.38
Investments - RBC Dominion Securities	1,314,854.30
TOTAL ASSETS	\$1,315,416.68

Statement of Receipts & Disbursements

RECEIPTS

Interest	\$8,623.57
Dividends	12,107.58
Fund Distributions	4,203.89
Gains/Losses on Investments	95,46.56
Withholding Tax	0
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$225,074.10

DISBURSEMENTS

Bank Fees	\$18.00
United Church Assessment	2,496.00
2025 Funds to Grace United	145,504.00
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$148,018.00

NET CHANGE TO ENDOWMENT FUND BALANCE	(\$27,646.40)
---	----------------------

OUTREACH COMMITTEE **FINANCIAL REPORT** AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025 AND **BUDGET 2026**

	<i>2025 Actual</i>	<i>2025 Budget</i>	<i>2026 Budget</i>
Balance Forward	\$6,405.47	\$6,405.47	\$8,816.04
RECEIPTS			
Donations ¹	2,968.11	4,000.00	4,000.00
Envelopes, PAR	3,983.00	4,000.00	4,400.00
Grace-St. Stephen Endowment Fund (Benevolence)	20,000.00	20,000.00	
Grace-St. Stephen Endowment Fund (EAC)	10,000.00	10,000.00	5,750.00
Grace-St. Stephen Endowment Fund (Outreach)	15,000.00	15,000.00	3,000.00
Grants	2,000.00		
Line Dancing	5,854.00	5,750.00	15,000.00
Seniors' Yoga	4,522.00	3,000.00	20,000.00
			10,000.00
TOTAL INFLOWS	\$64,327.11	\$62,150.00	\$62,150.00
DISBURSEMENTS			
Back to School Supplies & Backpack Program ²	\$4,696.48	\$7,400.00	\$8,000.00
Bank Charges	196.70		200.00
Benevolent Disbursements	31,397.14	20,000.00	32,000.00
Community Needs Assessment Study/Membership ³	(455.00)	5,000.00	1,000.00
Cooking @ Grace (via Zoom/in-person)	2,003.28	2,000.00	10,000.00
Education and Advocacy (EAC) ⁴	3,105.78	9,500.00	4,000.00
Homelessness Initiative / Support			10,000.00
ELF Network	13,387.78	10,000.00	14,000.00
Food4Life ⁵	896.10	750.00	900.00
Library (Outreach, Inclusivity)	179.53	500.00	200.00
North BurLINKton Dinner Night Out ⁶	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Seniors Yoga Expense	5,508.75	6,000.00	5,500.00
TOTAL OUTFLOWS	\$53,609.52	\$39,900.00	\$79,300.00
BANK BALANCE	\$6,405.47	\$8,936.89	\$6,766.04

Notes: ¹ includes Food Share, Emergency Food Cupboard, Backpack Program, Elf Program

² under budget due to leftover backpacks & supplies from previous year

³ Work in 2024 by Community Development Halton; continuation in 2025 (credit=HST rebate); annual membership

⁴ 2S&LGBTQIA+, Indigenous, Mental Health, Climate, Lunch & Learns

⁵ Supplements to Food for Life as needed and stock emergency food pantry

⁶ to support bimonthly Burlinkton community dinners hosted at Glad Tidings Church

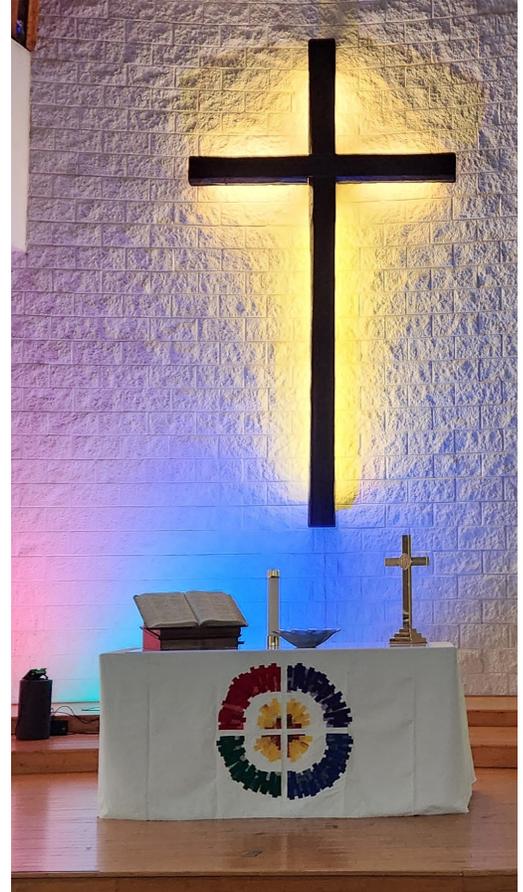
GRACE-ST. STEPHEN
 ENDOWMENT FUND
ANNUAL REPORT
 AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025

We are pleased to provide the annual report for the Grace-St. Stephen Endowment Fund.

The intent of the fund is to provide a means to support the work of the congregation, by way of bequests and planned gifts, in the areas of spiritual growth, pastoral care, music, and to support Outreach work in North Burlington and beyond whether through Grace United Church or in the greater community.

Thank you to the committee members: Mike Lawton, Sue Paquette, Kathy Seedhouse, Janice Martin and Dave Shilton.

The Grace-St. Stephen Endowment Fund is accepting applications for funding. To obtain an application, please go to the Grae United Church website and click on the "Endowment Fund" tab.



Balance Sheet

Balance (as at 31 December 2024)		\$3,262,499.33
INCOME		
Interest & Dividends	\$158,952.71	
TOTAL INCOME	\$158,952.71	
EXPENSES		
Administration Costs	\$22,164.22	
First Third Ministry	\$25,000.00	
Endowment Fund Payments	\$109,600.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$156,764.22	
NET INCOME		\$2,188.49
BALANCE (as at 31 December, 2025)		\$3,264,687.82

Endowment Fund Disbursements in 2025

Burlington Food Bank	\$2,500
Wesley Urban Ministries	5,000
Burlington Scouting	5,000
Masomo Education Foundation	5,000
The Bridge Program	2,500
United Church of Canada - M&S Fund	5,000
Nina's Place	5,000
Burlington Concert Band	2,500
Grace United Church - Outreach	15,000
Grace United Church - Benevolent	20,000
Grace United Church - Education and Advocacy / Affirming	10,000
Grace United Church - Choral Scholars	5,000
Delta United Church - Edith's Pantry	3,000
Helen Prior Memorial Scholarship	5,000
Cave Springs Camp	5,000
Burlington Teen Tour Band	5,000
Children's Aid Foundation of Halton	5,000
Air Cadet League	2,500
Honey-Bee Post	1,600
TOTAL Disbursement in 2025	\$109,600

Funds Committed but not spent in 2025:

Westdale United - Palestinian Refugees	\$5,000
Six Nations Polytechnic	13,000
TOTAL Committed but not spent in 2025	\$18,000

Administration Expenses Detail:

Bank Charges & Other	\$220.00
Allegra - Printing Costs	92.66
Fundraising Consultant - Philanthropica (GPS)	11,497.50
Software & Printer Costs	861.06
Regional Council Assessments	7,488.00
BCB Rental Expenses	2,005.00
TOTAL Expenses	\$22,164.22

W⁴ / UNITED CHURCH WOMEN **ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT** AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025

BALANCE (as at 31 December 2024)			\$821.37
Benevolent Fund			192.00
 INCOME			
<i>Candy Cane Traditions</i>	Admission	705.00	
	Artisans	1,935.00	
	Sales	7,552.40	
			10,192.40
 <i>Grace High Tea</i>	Artisans	285.00	
	Ticket Sales	1,347.00	
			1,632.00
 TOTAL INCOME			\$12,837.77
 EXPENSES			
<i>Miscellaneous Expenses</i>	Banking	46.97	
	Dues - 2025	90.00	
	Candy Cane Traditions	266.61	
	High Tea - Marketing	102.83	
	High Tea - Expenses	193.65	
	Purchase of stand mixer	440.69	
	Speaker Fees	150.00	1,290.75
 <i>Disbursements</i>	Carpenter Hospice	400.00	
	First Nations Child and Family Caring Society	400.00	
	Five Oaks	400.00	
	Food4Kids	400.00	
	Grace United Church	6,000.00	
	Halton Learning Foundation	400.00	
	SOCKS	400.00	
	Grace United Church - General Fund (Grace High Tea)	800.00	
	Joseph Brant Hospital Foundation (Grace High Tea)	1,000.00	\$10,200.00
 TOTAL EXPENSES			\$11,490.75
BALANCE (as at 31 December 2025)			\$1,347.02

GRACE UNITED CHURCH BOARD 2026-2027

AS AT MARCH 13, 2025 - BOARD BEGINS TERM JULY 1, 2026

Officers

Chair:	Janet Smith
Vice-Chair:	Jan Perin
Past Chair:	Heather McGavin
Secretary:	Jennifer Brezina
Treasurer:	Sandy McKeown
Lead Minister:	the Rev. Richard Bott

Finance

Co-Chair:	Dave Shilton
Treasurer:	Sandy McKeown
Donation Steward:	Doug Smith

Grace-Nelson Capital Improvement Fund

Co-Chairs:	Mike Lawton Dave Shilton
Treasurer:	Sandy McKeown
Members	Janice Martin Dale McKeown Kathryn Munn

Grace-St. Stephen Endowment Fund

Co-Chairs:	Dave Shilton Mike Lawton
Treasurer:	Dave Shilton Janice Martin Sue Paquette Kathy Seedhouse

Nominations

Chair:	Heather McGavin
Members:	

Stewardship:

Chair:	Judith Allan-Sargent Janet Smith
--------	-------------------------------------

Faith Formation

Co-Chairs:	Keith Rutherford
Members:	Mark Bortolus Holly Dobson Jane Hunter Donna Lelievre Jan Perin Margaret Rogers Meghan Gilholm
First-Third Minister	

Communications

Co-Chairs:	Susan Ward-England Larry Hatt
Members:	Holly Dobson Bob England Janice Hatt Jack Seedhouse

Ministry & Personnel

Co-Chairs:	Sue Stephen Mark Goodale
Members:	Paul Bartu Shirley Bottaro Andy Makarewich Marg Parsons

Outreach

Co-Chairs:	Janice Martin May Griffiths-Turner
Members:	Holly Dobson Sherrill McNally Sandra Newcombe Michelle Shilton

Members at Large:

(max 3)	Mark Bortolus Sandra Newcombe
---------	----------------------------------

Note: Per United Church polity, Rev. Richard Bott is a full voting member of the Board, is the Chair of Trustees, and is a voting member of all committees (except for Ministry & Personnel, Nominations, and Search). He is active with groups as needed or requested.

Ministry of Care Committees*

Coordinator: Sue Stephen

Care Network @ Grace

Chair: Barb McKeown

Members: Claire Andoff
 Shirley Bottaro
 Cheryl Caldwell
 Shari Faghihi
 Donna Lelievre
 Marilyn Martin
 Lynn Merwart
 Kathryn Munn
 Helen Rutherford
 Janet Saunders
 Sandy Wright

Welcoming & Membership

Chair: Susan Ward-England

Members: Claire Andoff
 Janice Edworthy
 Barb McKeown
 Michelle Shilton
 Sandy Wright

*The **Ministry of Care also includes** the following *Activity Groups* at Grace: Funeral Team, Prayer Chain, Prayer Shawls, Prayer Wall (see *Grace Activity Groups*)

Trustees

Co-Chairs: Paul Bartu
 Mike Lawton

Members: Shirley Bottaro
 Wayne Burroughs
 Sandy McKeown
 Dale McKeown
 Lloyd Pong
 Dave Shilton
 Ross Stephen
 Rev. Richard Bott

Worship

Co-Chairs: Carol Boyle
 Janice Hatt

Members: Michael Mulrooney
 Kathryn Munn
 Janet Saunders
 Jack Seedhouse

Volunteer Coordinator: Amy Watkins

Decorating: Ruth Goodale

Property

Co-Chairs: Bob England
 Kathryn Munn

Members: John Allchin
 Garry MacDonald

Regional Council Reps: Judith Allan-Sargent
 Keith Rutherford
 Sue Stephen
 Rev. Richard Bott

Working Teams

Education & Advocacy:

Co-Chairs: Janice Martin
Kathryn Munn
Members: Claire Andoff
Paul Bartu
Holly Dobson

Emergency Response:

Chair & Vice-Chair of the Board
Ministry & Personnel Representative
Property Committee Representative
Worship Committee Representative
Communications Committee Representative
Lead Minister
Other Board representation as necessary
(subject matter expert)

Grace Activity Groups

Book Club

Coordinators: Nancy Adams
Jennifer Brezina
Janice Hatt

Line Dancing

Coordinator: Bonnie Blackie

Bridge

Coordinators: Bonnie Blackie
Shirley Bottaro

Men's Breakfast

Coordinator: Larry Hatt

Coffee Time

Coordinator: Linda Draddy

W4 (formerly UCW)

Coordinator: Donna Lelievre

Fun, Food and Fellowship

Coordinator: Linda Draddy
Members: Ruth Goodale

Ministry of Care (Activity Groups):

Coordinator: Sue Stephen

Funeral Team

Coordinator: Susan Ward-England

Fundraising

Coordinator: Linda Draddy
Shredding: Susan Ward-England
Book Sale: Janice Hatt

Prayer Chain:

Coordinator: Sherrill McNally

Prayer Shawl

Coordinator: Sue Paquette

Tansley Park Community Homes

Chair: John Allchin
Vice Chair: Mike Lawton
Treasurer: Edward Adalakun
Secretary: Larry Hatt
Members: Sandra Newcombe
Bill Nicholson
Bruce Merwart

Prayer Wall

Coordinator: Janice Hatt

Food for Life

Coordinator: Marsha Ahrens

WHAT GRACE VALUES

OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLE:

Belonging, Learning, Connecting in Grace

AFFIRMING VISION STATEMENT:

Grace United Church is publicly committed to living out all of our core values affirming all of God's children, embracing people of every age or stage of life, race or ethnicity, Indigeneity or settler ancestry, spiritual beliefs, culture, family configuration, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, physical and mental abilities or health, socioeconomic circumstances, and life experiences; and will be encouraged to participate fully in all aspects of the life, work, and ministry of Grace United Church.

CORE VALUES

As followers of Jesus Christ we believe we are called to live out His commandments; to love God and to love our neighbours as ourselves (Matthew 22:37-39), and to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with our God (Micah 6:8). We believe that by adhering to our core values: *Kindness, Fellowship, Spiritual Growth, Acts of Service, Leadership, and Inclusivity* we will achieve whatever God calls us to do within our community of faith, our wider community and the world.



KINDNESS

Ephesians 4:32

Kindness is an overarching value of Christian love promoting friendship, consideration, respect and generosity.

We show Kindness when we:

- Engage others empathetically in a welcoming and non-judgemental way.
- Offer companionship willingly.
- Help and share our talents in specific ways with no expectation of reciprocity.

ACTS OF SERVICE

Matthew 25:35-36, 40

Acts of service are guided by Christ's teachings which call us to humbly commit to the common good.

- Supporting grass-roots initiatives consistent with Christian teaching and relevant to our community and beyond.
- Using God-given talents to understand and serve the needs of those within our community of faith and beyond.
- Forming respectful and supportive internal and external partnerships, with integrity and without expectation of acknowledgement.

FELLOWSHIP

1 John 1:7

A welcoming partnership fulfilled in a community of mutual support, and shared activities, challenges, goals, interests, and duties.

We practice Fellowship when we:

- Welcome all people journeying in faith to participate in worship as well as other faith activities, including setting goals and planning.
- Offer help, with compassion, to eliminate barriers hindering the full participation of any member of the faith community.
- Promote honest, supportive relationships as we participate in faith and community activities.
- Share activities, goals, interests and duties with an individual or groups of individuals.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Colossians 3:16

A lifelong process of knowing God and understanding our relationship with God, community, and society.

We commit to Spiritual Growth when we:

- Welcome challenging ideas about the nature and content of our faith.
- Offer and participate in meaningful worship and communion.
- Offer and participate in Bible Study
- Offer and participate in opportunities to meditate, pray, reflect and express gratitude.
- Make available resources for personal reflection, learning, and growth.

LEADERSHIP

Proverbs 11:14

Leadership is participation at different levels of the community, and supporting people to reach their potential, taking the opportunity to guide responsibly with selfless duty and empathy.

We Lead by:

- Having open decision-making processes in which all are actively encouraged to participate.
- Being civic-minded and making decisions based on information from the community to help ourselves, and those with whom we engage, reach full potential.
- Encouraging and equipping all with the right tools and strategies to grow capabilities and maximize potential.
- Engaging in strategic thinking and action to stimulate innovation and growth.
- Paying attention to the needs of children and youth in developing and encouraging their leadership skills.

INCLUSIVITY

Galatians 3:28

Inclusivity is all-embracing, and celebrates and honours the full spectrum of humanity and creation by following Christ's example of acceptance.

We aspire to be Inclusive by:

- Educating ourselves and others about our differences and similarities.
- Treating each person fairly and equitably, being alert to conscious and unconscious barriers which may hinder full and equal participation.
- Being aware of unequal distribution of privilege in society and endeavouring to minimise disadvantage.
- Learning to understand and extend Christian love to everyone in an open and healing way.

GRACE-FULL CONVERSATIONS

At Grace United, we live out our core values by abiding by our Guiding Principles: Belonging, Learning, Connecting in Grace. Therefore, when we gather to do the work of the church we are all invited to join in the conversations and dialogues. Each person's idea or opinion is to be equally considered and valued.

We remember the importance of "listening so we may understand and not simply respond" and the wisdom of the Dalai Lama who says (paraphrased) that when we talk we are only repeating what we already know, but when we listen there is the possibility of learning something new.

We strive to engage in **Grace-FULL conversations**.

GRACE-FULL is defined here as:

We covenant to keep **G = GOD** at the centre of our listening, silence and speaking

We covenant to take **R = RESPONSIBILITY** for what we say and feel without blaming others.

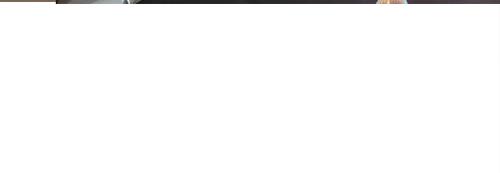
We covenant to **A = APPROACH** new ideas with curiosity and wonder

We covenant to **C = CONSIDER** our own assumptions and perceptions, what we hear and feel before we speak

We covenant to **E = ENCOURAGE** sensitivity, kindness, compassion, patience, courage, and open-mindedness

Being **FULL = Of God's Spirit**, we covenant to lean into God's transformative love, as we seek a safe community where each person's dignity and worth are affirmed and celebrated.







20
25

GRACE UNITED
CHURCH

2111 WALKERS LINE
BURLINGTON ON
L7M 0Z2

OFFICE@GRACEUNITEDCHURCHBURLINGTON.COM

GRACEUNITEDCHURCHBURLINGTON.COM

(905)335-0090

