



PARKDALE UNITED CHURCH

**building connections, living faith,
acting for justice**



ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Table of Contents

Staff Reports

Minister's Report.....page 4

Committee and Group Reports

Council.....page 5-7

Operations Committee.....page 7-8

Foundation.....page 9

Trustees.....page 9-10

Ministry & Personnel.....page 10

Music Ministry.....page 11-12

Parkdale Performance.....page 12-13

Family Ministry.....page 13-15

Congregational Care Committee.....page 16

Prayer Circle.....page 17

Monday Afternoon Craft Circle.....page 17

Prayer Shawl Ministry.....page 17

Faith and Justice Committee.....page 18-19

Sober Walk 2025.....page 19

Refugee Sponsorship Program.....page 20

Book Club.....page 20

2026 Budget.....page 21

Minister

This year did not arrive in a rush. It came like a season-changing, slow enough that we almost missed it. Not with trumpets, but with footsteps in the hallway, with keys in locks, with mugs filled and refilled. Parkdale grows the way gardens grow, not all at once, not on a schedule we control. Some things bloomed. Some things surprised us. Some things didn't take root at all.

We learned again that growth isn't about perfection; it's about paying attention. About noticing what flourished and gently releasing what didn't. About celebrating what lived, even when it looked different from what we imagined.

Once again, this year, volunteers were the soil, the unseen work, the steady presence, the hands beneath the beauty. People showed up when no one was watching. They baked and cleaned, chaired meetings, priced garage sale items, held space for grief, answered emails, set up chairs, ran sound, made soup, stacked hymn books, and stayed late because someone needed to talk. This is how church happens, not in big moments, but in faithful ones.

We grew in connection. Children continue to run these halls like they belong, because they do. Friendships formed over jazz nights, committee tables, and shared stories. Strangers became familiar. Familiar became family. We renewed something sacred: our willingness to be real with each other, to admit when we're tired, to laugh anyway, to keep choosing community in a world that keeps pulling us apart.

Hope did not shout this year. It whispered. In the courage to stay. In the bravery of trying again. In small acts that never trend but always matter. There were losses. There were changes. There were moments when winter lingered longer than we wanted. And still, something grew. That is resurrection work. Not flashy. Not easy. But true.

Thank you to every volunteer who carried this place with tenderness and grit. You are not the background. You are the backbone. You are not "help." You are the church. As we step into another year, we do so not with certainty, but with trust, trust in the slow work of love, trust in community, trust that what we plant together will keep surprising us. There is more growing to do, more stories to tell, more space to make for people who don't yet know that they belong here.

Thank you for being part of this season, for showing up, for staying curious, for choosing care again and again. That is the miracle. That is the work. That is Parkdale.

With gratitude,
Rev. Kim

Council

Parkdale Council had a full year looking after the business of the church. The members of Council for 2025 were:

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Sue Brodrick | (Chair) |
| Sheila Navrady | (Secretary) |
| Nico Scholten | Chair M&P since Sept. 2024) |
| Sherry Anderson-Kepke | (Bookkeeper) |
| Ken Coburn | (Operations) |
| Eleanor Kenny | (Faith & Justice Liaison) |
| Marc Lebel | (Member at Large) |
| Lee Morris | (Congregational Care) |
| Emily Flood | (Member at Large) |
| Richard Phaneuf | (Member at Large, Parkdale Performance Liaison) |
| Rev. Kim Holmes-Younger | (Minister) |

A special thank you to Heidi Schroter for her many years of service on Council, and a welcome to Richard Phaneuf, who was elected at the 2024 AGM to become a member of Council.

Below is a brief outline of the work of council in 2025:

- Approving the 2025 budget, and reviewing the monthly financial statements of the church.
- In January, we approved to continue the Fit & Friendship Program for 2025, looking at this program as an outreach program from our community. The funds for this program were in the 2025 budget under Congregational Care.
- Another item recommended by the Strategic Plan in 2022 was to add stage lighting in the sanctuary. This was completed in early 2025.
- Council offered a variety of ways to build community within our congregation: we hosted Shrove Tuesday, offered soup and bun lunches 4 times, had our garage sale in April, had our September 100 Mile Potluck lunch, hosted our annual picnic, and, of course, hosted our Christmas Craft and Pizza night, which was attended by over 75 persons and appreciated by all.
- Council moved forward with setting up a credit card system which was used at the garage sale as well as at the Wednesday Night Jazz events. This allows for people who do not carry cash, which is quite common now, to participate in happenings at Parkdale.
- In March, we set up an ad hoc committee called *Parkdale Performance*, which looks after concerts such as Wednesday Night Jazz and some sanctuary rentals. The people on this committee are Sandy Navrady, Richard Phaneuf,

- Sue Brodrick, Colin Redekop and ex-officio Kim Holmes-Younger. As well as Jazz nights, we hosted a concert on June 1, 2025 with Sean McCann; the sanctuary was packed and everyone had a great time. On Oct. 4, 2025, we hosted a *Tribute to Ray Charles* jazz night, which again was almost sold out. We also in 2025 joined a partnership with the Artis Theater (Ukrainian Theater Group) who had two theater performances in 2025 and one musical concert. This is an ongoing partnership that will continue into the future.
- Facilitated a Stewardship Campaign during Lent 2025.
 - This year, we did Maundy Thursday and Good Friday at Parkdale, not partnering with other churches.
 - In April, draping for the stage was purchased in order to be able to cover the cross appropriately for certain performances to be held in the sanctuary.
 - Council approved going ahead with the necessary upgrades to the fire and burglar alarm systems, as well as upgrading the phone system. The Mary Fund financed these upgrades.
 - Again this year with the work of Eleanor Kenny, we offered some support of food and time for the Sober Walk, held in August 2025.
 - Council also approved in May 2025 to install artificial turf in the garden area; funds to pay for this came from the Mary Fund.
 - In September, we approved having a concert in November 2025 as a fund raiser with all proceeds to go to our refugee fund in order to sponsor Hussein Nouri, husband of Randa Omar, whom we sponsored in 2015. The music was offered by the Midnight Blues Jazz Orchestra, and the concert was well attended. We raised over \$2,000 for our refugee fund.
 - Kim did a series in the summer on the 100th anniversary of the United Church of Canada. These services were again held in the garden. Her messages were received well by everyone, which then triggered her to create a booklet on the series which many of us picked up and now have in our collections.
 - Our Sunday School program was rebranded as “Just Us Kids.”
 - Our Thanksgiving Food Drive was used to help families from our own community with food security.
 - We received notice from Earl Beattie that at the end of January 2026, he would be stepping down as the Recording Secretary for Parkdale. We want to thank Earl for his many years of dedicated service this to position. We are currently looking for a replacement for the position.
 - In December, we started doing some brainstorming regarding fund raisers that Parkdale could have to help with our operating costs.
 - As the financials show, we had budgeted for an over \$16,000 deficit for 2025, and ended the year with just over a \$5,000 deficit which is a good news story. Thank you to all who support Parkdale with your treasure.

- A big thank you to Kaie, Oma and Emily for helping out at many of our events held throughout the year. We have a great team looking after “Just Us Kids”.

As you can see, we have been busy looking after the business or maybe “busyness” of our church, not just for Sunday morning, but how we can utilize our building 7 days a week to reach out into the community. Please feel free to reach out to any member of Council if you have any questions regarding the work of Parkdale United Church. A special thank you to all council members and other volunteers from our congregation who gave of their time and talents to make 2025 the successful year it was.

Yours in Faith
Sue Brodrick
Chair of Council

Operations Committee

The Operations Committee meets, as needed, on the first Wednesday of the month (except July and August) and is responsible for caring for the physical and financial assets of the Congregation. Continuously, the committee reviews and executes building and equipment maintenance, reviews and approves building use by outside groups, reviews financial statements, receives income and pays expenses, supervises the caretaker, and counts and deposits the weekly offering. Other special projects are undertaken as necessary.

Members of the Operations Committee are Sherry Anderson-Kepke (who is the church’s bookkeeper), Ken Coburn, Wayne Flood, Rev. Kim Holmes-Younger, Kim Leong and George Norton. Colin Redekop, our Office Administrator, is an essential member of the Operations team and attends our meetings. Earl Beattie has been the church’s envelope secretary for the past eight years and has recently resigned the position. Please consider joining the Operations Committee as we are looking for additional members.

Our Caretaker is Hector Renderos and he attends our meetings as his schedule permits.

We also thank Jim Balshaw, who helps with “electronics projects”, and volunteer gardeners, who steward the garden.

Post-pandemic, building-use revenues have increased. The Parkdale Mosaic Montessori pre-school became fully operational in 2024, which significantly increased our revenue. Renting parking lot stalls on weekdays is also a significant revenue source. Building-use revenue for 2026 is budgeted to be \$150,000.

During 2025, the Operations Committee undertook or oversaw several projects, the most notable being the following:

- Organized the annual spring grounds and garden clean-up morning,
- Guardian Security upgraded the fire and burglar alarm communications systems to replace obsolete technology,
- TP Communications installed a new VOIP telephone system to replace the 1980's vintage (and dysfunctional!!) technology,
- Oversaw installing 115 m² of artificial turf in the garden,
- HPG Mechanical assessed the roof-top air handling units for repair and/or replacement, and conducted critical repairs,
- Topmade Neon made repairs to the outdoor illuminated sign, repairing the cabinet and replacing several LED lighting modules,
- Developed a Major Projects List. It is now twenty years since the congregation completed a major renovation of the building, and a number of major items will need attention in the coming years.
- Loss Control Consultants completed an insurance appraisal of the building to aid in optimizing our insurance coverage, and
- Completed numerous minor maintenance projects, replacing many fluorescent light ballasts, fixing toilets, repairing drywall damage and painting.

We thank the congregation for its generosity and for its continuing support for the ministries of Parkdale United Church.

Submitted by K. H. (Ken) Coburn, P. Eng., chair, on behalf of the Operations Committee

Foundation

For 2025, the Directors of the Parkdale United Church (Calgary) Foundation were Nick Finn (Chair), Barb Giles (Vice Chair), Sue Brodrick (Secretary), Jeff Campbell (Treasurer), Ken Coburn, and Suzanne Parkinson.

In 2025, the Foundation's primary activity was managing the investments we have, totalling approximately \$400,000 at year end.

In early 2025, the balance of the stage lighting (\$6635.35) was paid by the Parkdale Foundation.

In 2025, the Foundation transferred \$5,022.50 from the Mary Fund to Parkdale United Church, at the request of Church Council, for upgrading of the fire and burglar alarm systems, and \$3,579.09 to upgrade the Church's phone system. Funds were also transferred from the Mary Fund to install the artificial turf in the garden (\$7560.00). Finally, a \$180.00 transfer was made from the Mary Fund to finalize the cost of the side stairs being replaced.

The Foundation Directors met once in person in 2025, to do the work required to prepare for the 2024 Annual General Meeting.

At the 2025 Foundation AGM (date to be determined), we will be open to electing at least one new board member.

If any members of Parkdale United Church are interested in becoming members of Parkdale United Church (Calgary) Foundation, please reach out to any of the Foundation board members for information on how to become a member. All members of Parkdale United Church can apply to become members of the Foundation.

Faithfully submitted,

Nick Finn
Chairperson

Trustees

The Board of Trustees hold the physical property of the Congregation (the land and building) in trust for the United Church of Canada. The Trustees did not meet during 2025. Though an e-mail conversation, led by Jo Anne Atkins and authorized by the Church Council, the Trustees provided comments on a Development Permit application on a neighboring property.

Gordon Thomson has tendered his resignation from the Trustees, effective at the end of this year's Congregational Annual General Meeting, and we thank him for his service. The remaining Trustees, elected to the Board of Trustees at the 2018 Annual General Meeting, are: Jo Anne Atkins, Sue Brodrick, Ken Coburn, Sandy Navrady, and Suzanne Parkinson. By virtue of her position as Parkdale's minister, Rev. Kim Holmes Younger is also a Trustee.

Submitted by K. H. (Ken) Coburn, P.Eng., on behalf of the Trustees

Ministry & Personnel Committee

The Ministry and Personnel Committee attends to matters brought to its attention and carries out its responsibilities in accordance with United Church polity. Its work is centered on consultation, support, supervision, and the fostering of healthy working relationships with the minister and the three lay staff members.

Each staff member is supported by a designated committee liaison. The liaison works collaboratively with the staff member to establish annual goals, engages in regular review of progress, and participates in the annual evaluation and feedback process.

The committee also oversees matters related to the status and conditions of employment for staff and brings recommendations regarding compensation and related matters to the Church Board.

Parkdale United Church is grateful for the commitment, professionalism, and care demonstrated by its staff, and we acknowledge with appreciation their faithful service to the life and ministry of the congregation.

Members of the congregation who wish to share praise or concerns regarding staff—both the minister and lay staff—are invited to do so through signed correspondence to the Ministry and Personnel Committee. All such matters are handled confidentially, and the committee will discern and recommend appropriate action when required.

Respectfully submitted,
Nico Scholten

Music Ministry

Our music program has seen some pleasant changes. We have seen more volunteers who participated in our music program, and we have added some musical instruments.

Our adult choir participated in the majority of the services during the year. The congregation enjoyed listening to many choral anthems, familiar and new, sung accompanied or a cappella.

In 2025, our choir members were: Beth Belshaw, Sue Brodrick (joined us in the fall), Ben de Laet, Margaret De Laet, Nick Finn, Bob Robson, Heidi Schroter, Ian Winchester, Christine Young. We also welcomed our occasional singers - Adriana Wlkova, Bronia Wlkova, Ludmila Krautsova, and Brenda Mjoisness. It's a joy and a blessing to have such a choir of dedicated volunteers. Thank you everyone, for your great work, time commitment and the talents you bring!

We also enjoyed hearing special selections from choir members - Bob Robson (a composer and co-author of many songs), Nick Finn (who often sings in duet with Bob), Ian Winchester (who writes new lyrics to the songs and hymns). Thank you for sharing your special talents!

Highlights from the past year include the Twelfth Night performance at Symons Valley United Church in January; the presentation of the song "Hallelujah" by Ian Winchester and Kevin Levere at the Good Friday service (with new lyrics by Ian), and beautiful Easter and Christmas services with guest musicians.

It's worth mentioning how much fun we had learning children's songs from the play *We're goin' fishin'* by Cathy Skogen-Soldner. The songs correlated well with the scripture readings, and I am glad that we found that play online.

Some of our church members can play musical instruments, and we encourage them to participate in the services. Our warm thanks to Sherry Obenauer, Onelia Matheson (African drums), Ben DeLaet (saxophone), Verna Ahner (clarinet), Jennifer Razzo (pianist at the children's pageant), and Erik Kaufman (guitar)! We hope to hear more of your playing (and singing). My special thanks to Beth Belshaw for playing piano in my absence (and preparing all the slides for the screens)!

In order to enrich and enliven our services, we periodically invite guest musicians. Last year, we enjoyed making music with the following musicians: Eileen Kosasih (violin and piano), Selina Li (piano and flute), Peter Marry (trumpet), James Watson (violin), Olena Kilchyk (cello), Joel Padgett (piano), Nolan Shi (violin), and Leo Donahue (flute).

Last fall, we found a skilled drummer who can play for us twice a month - Caspian (Qinzi) Su. Having accompaniment on drums has added energy and another dimension

to our services. Furthermore, we were able to purchase our own set of digital drums! Many thanks to several generous donors!

We are also grateful to all the volunteers who prepare the video slides for our services and work on the sound system: Beth and Jim Balshaw (slides); Ken Coburn, Kevin Kepke, Jeff Campbell, Ted Moon, Ben Kepke (on sound). We appreciate your time and efforts!

In 2024, our sanctuary underwent major renovations, followed by new sound and lighting systems in 2025. We are still figuring out how to use new equipment fully and to the benefit of the congregation and the choir.

Thanks to these renovations and the work of many volunteers, our church now offers a flexible sanctuary space for both congregational groups and rental groups. During the past year, we have seen a significant increase of concerts, theatre performances, and choral rehearsals under our roof.

It's worth mentioning the work and enthusiasm of those who organize and promote Wednesday Night Jazz (Sandy Navrady, Richard Phaneuf, Sue Brodrick and many others who help out with this initiative. Well done, volunteers!

In January 2027, we will host the annual Twelfth Night musical celebration, featuring the choirs of the NW United Churches.

I hope that in 2026 we'll find ways to reach out to more people willing to participate in our music program. We welcome folks of all ages and talents - from 4 till 94! If you have any talent to share, please talk to anyone in our staff team. Come and join us!

Submitted by Antonina Cox (music director)

Parkdale Performance Group

Parkdale Performance Group is a working team established by Council in early 2025 to plan for performances in the re-purposed sanctuary.

The goal of Parkdale Performance is to open the doors of our sanctuary for performance through word, song and music; to encourage its use through partnerships with individuals, groups and organizations; to promote the use of the space for third party rentals and concerts, and as a practice space for musicians, choirs and theatre.

We struck a very successful partnership with Artis Theatre, an acting, playing and singing group of newcomer Ukrainians. Their multi-disciplinary performances make full use of the technology Parkdale has installed in the sanctuary, including digitally controlled sound and lighting and screens.

In partnership with Jonathan May, we co-hosted fifteen *Wednesday Night Jazz* performances in the sanctuary and three summer concerts in the garden. Through this venture, Jonathan has introduced some of Calgary's top jazz performers to our Parkdale stage. During 2025, we enhanced the sound quality in the sanctuary by adding instrument and pencil mics and stage monitors, all funded by donation.

In addition to a number of choirs now choosing Parkdale as a weekly practice venue, we rented the facility to third party performers including Sean McCann of Great Big Sea and the Ray Charles Tribute Orchestra. Our Refugee Fund benefitted from a well attended Sunday afternoon performance by the 17-piece Midnight Blue Jazz Society, who donated the entire proceeds of the event to us.

Parkdale Performance space was highlighted in Calgary's *Scene* magazine as a new Calgary stage venue, in a full-page interview with our Minister, Rev. Kim Holmes-Younger.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Navrady

Family Ministry

This year has been full. Full of noise and glue and questions. Full of scripture and laughter and the kind of holy chaos that reminds us the Spirit does not prefer silence.

We are blessed to have 24 children and youth who attend regularly or semi-regularly.

One of the most significant shifts in 2025 was the reinvention of Sunday School into Just Us Kids. This was more than a name change. It was a reimagining.

We wanted our children to know they are not the future church. They are the church now.

Just Us Kids reflects who they are. Thoughtful, justice-minded, creative, and full of questions. The new format emphasizes belonging, shared leadership, and meaningful conversation. While we continue to use the Go Project curriculum as our foundation, we are leaning even more intentionally into dialogue, hands-on learning, and connecting faith to real life.

The youth remain fully engaged on Sunday mornings as well, exploring the same themes at a deeper level. They are curious. They wrestle. They want to understand how scripture intersects with mental health, poverty, climate, friendship, and identity. The classroom has become a place of honest questions and courageous conversations.

This reinvention has brought fresh energy. It has helped our children feel seen and invited the congregation to view this ministry not as childcare during worship, but as spiritual formation happening in real time.

We began the year wrestling with courage. Our conversations around David and Goliath were anything but predictable. The children quickly moved beyond the idea of a giant with a sword and began naming the giants in their own lives. Fear of school presentations, friendship struggles, and feeling small in a big world. It was honest and moving.

Then we lingered with Daniel in the lions' den. We did not rush the story. We asked what it feels like to stand for something when it costs you. We discussed pressure, loyalty, and trusting God when the night feels long. And of course, we created magnificent paper-mâché lion masks. Fierce and funny and wildly creative. The sanctuary felt braver just looking at them.

As we moved through Lent, the Go Project themes helped us explore justice, generosity, and what it means to follow Jesus in ordinary life. The youth asked thoughtful questions about fairness and compassion. They challenged each other. They challenged us.

Easter Sunday was an explosion of joy. With over 25 children in attendance, we hosted an Easter egg hunt that may go down in Parkdale history. What lingered was not just the sugar rush. It was the energy. The sound of resurrection echoes through little feet running across the lawn.

One of the most important moments this year came when our youth joined members of the congregation downtown to hand out sandwiches. It is one thing to talk about poverty in theory. It is another to look someone in the eye, offer food, and hear their story.

Our youth saw our city differently that day. They asked deeper questions. They began to understand that justice is not abstract. It is personal. That experience will stay with them. It has already shaped their faith.

Oma joined our team in May, strengthening our Sunday School and youth leadership. Alongside Kaie, who continues to lead youth and Sunday discussions with wisdom and relatability, and Emily, who faithfully cares for our youngest ones in the nursery, this team has created a warm and steady presence for our children.

We celebrated together at our annual June picnic. Sun, food, lawn games, and the gift of simply being together outside the walls of the church building.

The summer of 2025 marked an important step for us. For the first time, we kept one of our children and youth leaders on payroll through the summer months. While we did not run regular programming in July and August, this commitment reflects how seriously we take this ministry. It allowed for planning, relationship-building, and thoughtful preparation for the fall season. It signalled to our young leaders and to our congregation that this work is not seasonal. It matters year-round.

Youth kicked off September with a visit to the Calgary Farmyard. Laughter, fresh air, and just enough friendly competition to bond us further. Throughout the fall, we hosted multiple game nights at the church, strengthening friendships and creating space where belonging comes easily.

Our youth remained deeply engaged in Sunday morning discussions, engaging with the Go Project themes with curiosity and humour. They are never shy about asking hard questions. They want to know how ancient stories meet modern life, and they expect honest answers.

They also assumed leadership by fundraising, selling merchandise at two Parkdale Performance events. It was practical, joyful work, and it showed the congregation what capable, generous young leaders look like.

Advent brought one of our biggest highlights of the year. We modified One Wise Sheep and told the Christmas story from a sheep's perspective. It was imaginative, tender, and hilarious in all the right ways. The Christmas pageant was a huge hit, reminding us that sometimes the gospel sounds clearest when told from the margins, even from the flock.

December also brought our annual Christmas Craft Night. The building buzzed with glue sticks, glitter, and shared tables. Children and youth worked alongside families and congregation members, creating more than crafts. They created a connection.

Our children and youth ministry is not an add-on to Parkdale. It is woven into the heart of who we are. These young people show up in worship, ask brave questions, serve downtown, sell cookies with enthusiasm, and fill our halls with life.

They are boisterous. They are thoughtful. They are compassionate. They are funny. They are learning that faith is something you live, not just something you inherit.

We are Blessed! And we cannot wait to see what 2026 brings.

Oma, Kaie and Emily

Congregational Care Committee

Congregational Care consists of a group of Parkdale United Church people working together to provide encouragement and support to the congregation with the help of our minister, Rev. Kim Holmes-Younger.

A number of activities fall under the auspices of congregational care:

- Monthly Ladies Lunch Bunch and Women's Breakfast
- Staying in touch with the homebound and others who are experiencing difficult times
- Parkdale Prayer circle
- Knitting ministry which provides shawls at times of illness and celebration
- Prayer squares, candles, and care stones which are replenished as needed
- Welcome bags offered to new attendees to Parkdale
- Weekly craft group
- Memorial receptions
- Communion organization
- Kitchen cleaning

During the year, we look after flowers offered in memoriam at Easter, flowers for purchase at Christmas, and a strawberry social in June.

We meet several times a year.

Respectfully,
Lee Morris chairperson

Prayer Circle

The Prayer Circles meets the second Tuesday of each month. We are a group of compassionate people praying for others (within and outside of our church family) experiencing difficult times in their lives. All information is confidential. Current members include Lorna Carr, Susan Daye, Rev. Kim Holmes Younger, Ted Moon, Lee Morris, Evelyn Peterson, Judy Steele and Diane Arseneault. New members are always welcome.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Arseneault

Parkdale United Crafters

We meet each Monday afternoon at 12:30 p.m. for an hour to knit/crochet/quilt and visit. We usually have about 5 people each week. People are welcome to join us as they are able, even if you are not craft inclined. Just come for the chatting. We had a newcomer join us recently who noticed it on the church website. Some are continuing to create prayer shawls for that ministry, while others are taking on a new charity project for the Izzy Doll Initiative, or crafting for their own personal enjoyment.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Arseneault

Prayer Shawl Ministry

During the past year, we have had seven new prayer shawls donated. This brings our current total to 16. Five shawls were handed out to congregation members experiencing a difficult chapter in their life. We received thank you notes for several of the shawls. Thank you everyone who took time to create and donate these shawls.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Arseneault

Faith and Justice Committee

Members: Rev. Kim Holmes Younger, Doreen Kot, Bev Delong, Bev Fauchon, Eleanor Kenny, Lorna Carr

While the General Council of our church has a particular role in social justice work and nurturing our national and global partnerships on behalf of our church, the strength of our justice work is measured by communities of faith consistently leading on justice. Our committee has been paying attention to the intersections of spirituality and justice, liturgical rights and human rights, pastoral care, and justice making. We are committed to becoming, as much as possible, more inclusive and diverse in our communities and our church to “do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God.” We must strive to do both justice-seeking and justice-living, and better coordinate our advocacy to strengthen our collective voice.

This past year, we worked at these objectives by:

Ecological Justice and Building Peace

Initiated some small group education on nuclear investments and divestments. PUC individuals reported on their learnings from financial institutions. Discussion and proposals were initiated on the advocacy of justice principles for peace education and action with Chinook Winds and National on nuclear weapons. PUC is also involved in the Chinook Region Right Relations Committee, which is trying to understand and promote action and recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. A 100 Mile Lunch was held with applicable education.

Water Justice

There was a special education which included children’s activities, videos, and the Water Footprint food guide and calculator.

Environmental Justice

We continued reviewing and updating our green Parkdale projects.

Faith and Justice have initiated small green upgrades around the church. There is a compost bucket in the kitchen as well as a blue bin. There is a blue bin in the narthex, and, coming soon, blue bins in the washrooms for paper towels which will be composted. On February 8, 2026, an intergenerational environmentally-themed worship service was organized to inspire all ages to take steps to green up the environment.

PUC continues to sell sustainable products of free trade coffee, shampoo, soaps, etc. New products will be on sale soon.

Social Justice

Parkdale United Church has continued to work supporting housing and eliminating homelessness. However, our past missions and projects with the Calgary Homeless Foundation, Home Space, CUPS, and KAIROS are being changed and challenged. We will work together to ensure that this mission continues, and future community needs are being addressed.

Every two weeks, we pick up a carload of assorted breads from Cobb's Bakery in Elbow Park and deliver it to Claire House for distribution. Volunteers are needed if only for a few months. Refer to Parkdale's website for further information on our many outreach projects. Thank you to all for supporting this vital work.

Special thanks to Heidi Schroter for organizing our participation in the Coldest Night of the Year Walk for Wood's Homes and Inglewood Hub, Ben and Margaret DeLaet for their involvement with Band Aid's many "to do" projects, and a wonderful, committed committee to work with. New members are always welcome. Together, we make a difference.

Respectfully submitted,

Doreen Kot

Sober Walk August 2025: The Fourth and Final Walk

The walk from Mini Thni (formally known as Morley) to Calgary was organized by Sober Crew Calgary as the Ama'hna'bino (They are Taking Me Home) Walk. The event honours those who have died due to addiction, overdose, murder, and suicide, and aims to spark hope for those in the Indigenous community. It honours those people by bringing their spirits home. It also serves as a way to raise awareness about the dangers of the drug supply and to support those in recovery.

Parkdale United, along with Westminster and St. David's United Churches, have played a significant role in past years, and again in 2025. On the morning of August 11, the kitchen of Parkdale was buzzing with activity. Two hundred brown bag lunches were prepared by 25 willing workers, including two of our youth. We managed to produce the lunches using almost all compostable or recyclable materials, plus, of course, the sandwiches, fruit, homemade cookies, chips, and juice which were consumed. Approximately 150 lunches went to participants of the walk. As the lunch was held in Century Gardens, there were many needy people around who were glad to take the extra lunches.

Submitted by Eleanor Kenny

Refugee Sponsorship Program

In 2020, Parkdale applied to sponsor the husband of one of the Eritrean women we sponsored in 2015. In February 2024, we were informed by IRCC that our application had been approved, pending completion and approval of final steps in the process in Cairo, Egypt. Processing times have increased significantly in recent years; however, we are hopeful that the process will be completed in the coming months. We will need to provide approximately \$20,000 to fulfill our commitment to support him during his first year here, and have currently raised about half that amount.

Submitted by Sheila Navrady

Book Club

Co-ordinators and newsletter: Beth Balshaw and Lynne Sloane

Members: Sue Brodrick, Janine Dawson, Margaret DeLaet, Debbie Dobson, Bev Holroyd, Lindsay Hunt, Doreen Kot, Roslyn Mendelson, Ruth Radetzky, plus 30 or so on the mailing list

The Parkdale Book Club meets using Zoom on the 2nd Saturday of each month, except July and August. Anyone is welcome to join the book club, to participate in the discussions or simply to receive the book club newsletter prepared roughly once a month from September to June. Books of diverse range are chosen by book club members – we nominate ideas throughout the year and vote on the top 10 in May for the following year. Please contact Beth Balshaw at bethbalshaw@shaw.ca or Lynn Sloane at sloanelm@shaw.ca to get on the mailing list for the book club newsletter or if you'd like to join us for discussions. We also have a Facebook page: search "Parkdale Book Club Calgary". Here is our schedule for the rest of the reading year.

| | | |
|----------|---|---------|
| March 14 | <i>Tomorrow, and Tomorrow...</i> by Gabrielle Zevin | Lindsay |
| April 11 | <i>In Winter I Get Up at Night</i> by Jane Urquhart | Lynn |
| May 9 | <i>Prairie Edge</i> by Conor Kerr | Beth |
| June 13 | <i>The Bookbinder</i> by Pip Williams | Debbie |

Submitted by Lynn Sloane

Parkdale United Church, 2026 Budget for Approval

| | 2025 Budget Approved | 2025 Year End Unreviewed | 2026 Budget for Approval |
|--|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Revenue | | | |
| Donations Received | | | |
| General | 212,000 | 204,064 | 205,000 |
| Open Plate | 2,000 | 12,457 | 12,000 |
| Total Donations Received | 214,000 | 216,520 | 217,000 |
| Weddings & Funerals | 1,000 | 1,324 | 1,000 |
| Building Use | 144,000 | 147,022 | 150,100 |
| Fund Raising | | | |
| Co-op Cards | 2,500 | 1,848 | 1,900 |
| Garage Sale & Fundraising Events | 6,000 | 10,297 | 5,000 |
| Parkdale Performs | 10,000 | 11,278 | 21,400 |
| Mary Fund | 4,000 | - | |
| Total Revenue | 381,500 | 388,290 | 396,400 |
| Expenses | | | |
| Staff Costs | | | |
| Salaries/Wages, Con. Ed. & Allowances | 214,949 | 216,662 | 223,037 |
| Relief Staff | 6,120 | 6,974 | 6,190 |
| Travel | 3,500 | 435 | 3,500 |
| Benefits | 46,486 | 47,344 | 49,396 |
| Total Staff Costs | 271,055 | 271,415 | 282,123 |
| Office, Administration & Bookkeeping | 13,300 | 12,289 | 13,000 |
| Building Operations | | | |
| Major R&M Reserve | 2,000 | 2,000 | 3,000 |
| Utilities (Power, Water, Gas, Waste) | 27,000 | 26,409 | 27,000 |
| Security | 800 | 1,176 | 1,400 |
| Telephone | 3,500 | 4,843 | 5,500 |
| Repairs & Maintenance | 22,100 | 19,618 | 22,200 |
| Supplies | 2,000 | 2,148 | 2,000 |
| Insurance & Licenses | 10,200 | 13,118 | 11,200 |
| Total Building Operations | 67,600 | 69,312 | 72,300 |
| Support of the United Church of Canada | | | |
| Assessments: National & Region | 18,459 | 18,459 | 18,463 |
| Mission & Service | 2,941 | 2,941 | 3,237 |
| Total Support of the United Church of Canada | 21,400 | 21,400 | 21,700 |
| Programs & Mission | | | |
| Council | 3,000 | 2,840 | 3,000 |
| Christian Education | 3,000 | 2,312 | 3,000 |
| Music | 2,000 | 2,327 | 4,000 |
| Stewardship | 250 | 24 | 250 |
| Worship | 1,000 | 671 | 1,000 |
| Congregational Care (+ Fit & Friendship) | 9,500 | 8,983 | 9,500 |
| Faith & Justice | 1,500 | 637 | 1,500 |
| Ministry & Personnel | - | - | - |
| Outreach (from Mary Fund) | 4,000 | - | |
| Communications | 500 | 1,766 | 500 |
| Total Programs & Mission | 24,750 | 19,560 | 22,750 |
| Total Expenses | 398,105 | 393,975 | 411,873 |
| Surplus/Deficit | -16,605 | - 5,685 | -15,473 |

