



United News Canada

NEWS OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF GOD - CANADA

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Winter 2025

Maintain the Momentum

by Paul Wasilkoff

While attending secondary school in British Columbia, I was introduced to the sport of curling. Although I was already familiar with broomball and hockey, this new activity on ice took some getting used to. While curling is slower in pace, it still requires sharp focus and concentration. Because of these and other factors, curling can be enjoyed by a wide range of age groups.

The objective of the game is to slide granite stones down a narrow sheet of ice, aiming to stop them as close as possible to a target at the opposite end, known in curling as the “button.” Two teams take turns either striving for accuracy or attempting to knock the opponents’ rocks out of the play area.

Each curling stone is heavy, weighing about 40 pounds, and launching it demands effort and precision. Assisting the stone’s journey are two sweepers whose job is to clear the ice at the skip’s direction. Their sweeping slightly melts the ice, reducing friction and helping the stone stay true to its path. Yet it is the initial push by the thrower that gives the stone its forward motion and carries it to the goal.

In many ways, our spiritual lives resemble this. We’ve just come through another wonderful Feast



Photo generated by ChatGPT

“Let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.”

Galatians 6:9

season with inspiration, renewal and clarity. Now, as we enter the months between the Fall and Spring Holy Days, the long stretch ahead can feel dim and distant. The lack of sunlight, and the wait for the next of the annual Holy Days, can seem daunting. But if we preserve the **spiritual momentum** built during the Feast, we can arrive at the Spring Holy Days in strong spiritual condition.

How can we maintain that momentum? One helpful way is to **review** what we’ve already received. Take time to revisit the notes we took during the Feast. If we review just one sermon each week, we’ll cover two months. Add two sermonettes in the subsequent weeks, and we’ll strengthen our focus even more. Through this simple effort, we keep our minds focused on the truths and imagery we saw so clearly at the Feast.

So, let’s not lose heart during this in-between season. As Galatians 6:9 encourages us, “*Let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.*” The Feast gave us a push of spiritual energy, and now it’s up to us to keep gliding forward, keeping our eyes fixed on the goal. Let’s stay steady, focused, and faithful so that when the next Holy Day season arrives, we can say with confidence that our spiritual momentum never stopped. 🌍

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Feast of Tabernacles Reports

Lethbridge, Alberta

by Larry and Maureen DeLong

This year was the first year for the Feast to be held in Lethbridge, Alberta, a community nestled on the prairies of Southern Alberta just east of the Rocky Mountains and in the middle of the Chinook zone. The weather was warm and sunny for most of the Feast, cooling off as the end of the Feast approached.

Services were held in the Sandman Hotel ballroom. We were blessed with an attendance of 129 plus 20 Zoom connections to those unable to attend in person. Attendees came from the United States, Netherlands, Philippines and Canada.

Thanks to Dan Deininger, coordinator of the Glacier Montana Feast site, we were privileged to have three elders from the Glacier site share part of their Feast with the brethren in Lethbridge. Everyone appreciated that they came and shared the speaking assignments. The messages at the Feast focused on the blessings God will give to His children in the Kingdom and how we need to remain strong and focused on the promises our Father has given us.



Lethbridge festival choir

photo by Larry DeLong

Sermons also discussed how we are learning to be teachers in the future and the need to patiently wait for the kingdom, remaining faithful to the end.

We were also blessed with special music each day, which included solos, duets, a ladies' group and a choir all singing praises to God.

The congregation shared three meals together, including a seniors' dinner, Canadian Thanksgiving, and a soup and sandwich lunch between services on the Eighth Day.

As the week progressed, the children were invited to activities including a climbing wall and a trampoline park. The teens and singles had a pool party and everyone was invited to Canadian style (five-pin) bowling. There was a social room where, in the evenings, brethren played cards and worked on a puzzle, completing it before the end of the Feast.

On Friday, 41 ladies spent the afternoon at a formal ladies' tea. That evening Feast goers were invited to start the Sabbath with a two-hour hymn sing.

During free time, some toured Waterton National Park and the mountain scenery, the Head Smashed in Buffalo Jump, the Nikka Yuko Japanese Garden and the famous CPR railway bridge among other attractions.

It was a great Feast and we thank everyone who came and made it such. 🌍

United News - Canada

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Feast of Tabernacles Reports

Kelowna, British Columbia

by Wayne Ward

In the heart of British Columbia's wine country, 104 people from all over North America made the Okanagan valley their setting for this year's Feast of Tabernacles.

Ten engaging speakers, including seven elders, fed us with rich spiritual knowledge about what is represented in these days through the daily sermonettes, sermons and Bible Studies presented. We were delighted to be joined by two ministers from the Home Office this year, Peter Eddington and Darris McNeely, both of whom had three messages for us.

Children enjoyed three fun-filled educational lessons prepared to teach them the basic principles of the Feasts. We basked daily in praise-filled special music and in the many inspiring vocal and piano offerings. We also enjoyed many fellowship opportunities, which included a Meet & Greet reception, a

dance, a seniors' dinner, a games day and an Eighth Day lunch.

Some enthusiastic individuals stepped up to take the lead on many area activities—including a wineries tour, bowling, an obstacle and rope adventure, a waterpark adven-

ture, thrift shopping and a kangaroo park outing.

It was a memorable Feast for all. We look forward to another wonderful Feast experience here in beautiful British Columbia in 2027. We hope you can join us. 🍁



Ropes Course

photo by Jonathon Loo



Special Music
photo by Trish Burke



Kelowna Dance
photo by Trish Burke

Feast of Tabernacles Reports

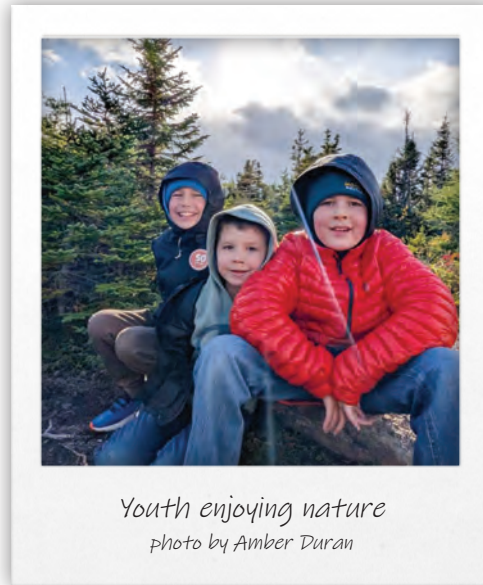
St. John's, Newfoundland

by Devin Schulz

The beautiful Conception Bay South served as the backdrop for 49 of God's people to worship our Heavenly Father during this year's Feast of Tabernacles in Newfoundland. It was evident that we shared the focus of rejoicing before the Lord and learning to fear Him. This attitude made the excitement of God's coming Kingdom palpable.

We had the opportunity to hear God's word expounded each day at services. The messages were edifying and inspiring. We also enjoyed a Bible talk covering "A Vision of Peace." Following an inspiring presentation on how God will transform this world during the Millennium, we had nearly two hours of discussion about the topic of peace.

We were blessed to have a variety of special music throughout the Feast. A small ensemble of singers was



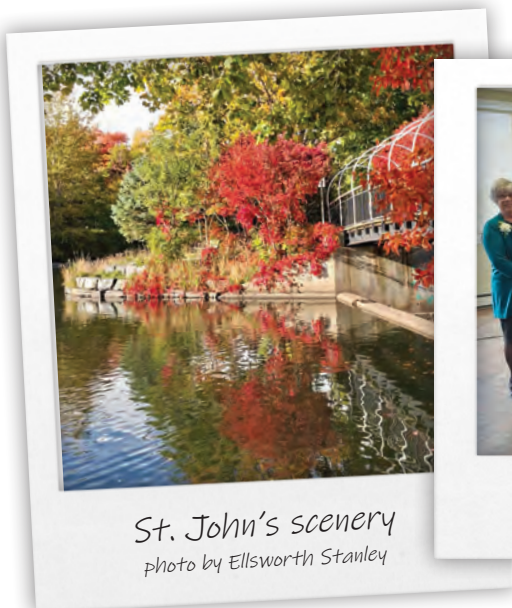
Youth enjoying nature
photo by Amber Duran

supported by our Newfie Children's choir along with smaller groups throughout the week to provide praise to our God each day.

With a wide range of age groups represented, there were several activities organized to provide

additional chances to fellowship. This included a traditional "Jiggs Dinner" put on by the local brethren as well as five-pin bowling. Each activity drew almost every member, so all were able to spend lots of time together. The fellowship was cited by many as a highlight of their Feast experience. Conversations centered around the magnificent millennial vision that has been revealed to us. Being a smaller group allowed for a very intimate setting to encourage and edify each other.

God's magnificent creation was on display as the foliage was in peak change while we were here. Opportunities for hikes, walks, or drives allowed to take in the unique grandeur of Newfoundland. It was truly a blessing to observe and keep the Feast of Tabernacles in this idyllic setting where our God had placed His name. 🍁



St. John's scenery
photo by Ellsworth Stanley



Ladies Group
photo by Ellsworth Stanley



St. John's sunrise
photo by Amber Duran

Feast of Tabernacles Reports

Midland, Ontario

by Anthony Wasilkoff

Appreciative and joyous brethren gathered to keep the Feast of Tabernacles in the quaint town of Midland, Ontario, situated on the shores of Lake Huron's lovely Georgian Bay.

The stage decor was typically fall-themed with bright flowers and leaves. It again featured the return of *Lambert* the Lion and *Lionel* the Lamb. The information table was similarly adorned. In addition to the usual booklets and local information, there were fresh apples, cookies, chocolates and peanut brittle to pick up for snacks as well as delicately hand-folded colourful paper flowers and home-made dish cloths for attendees to take.

We have been using the same hotel resort for multiple years. The hotel staff recognize returnees and they often hug each other effusively. The staff is very accommodating to our many needs and typically give us permission to use various areas of the hotel for fellowshiping, functions and get-togethers. As well, we have complete use of the ballroom for the whole Feast.

Messages were meaty, inspiring and motivating. One speaker began with "Let us go up to the mountain of the Lord." He then applied it to the Midland Feast site by saying, "Let us go up to the Burgundy Room" referring to our meeting hall. High attendance of 140 was on the weekly

Sabbath. Each service had a number of connections via Zoom so those unable to attend could still be spiritually fed. The sound crew consisted of older teens and young adults who did a commendable job.

Though we had no choir, a number of highly musical people made live special music possible most days. We were also blessed to have live piano accompaniment for hymns for most services.



Activities began with a *Meet and Greet* where assorted snacks, beverages and even American peanut brittle and candied pecans were in abundant supply. Because this was onsite, it was easy for seniors staying in the hotel to attend.

The *Family Day* activity was held on Wednesday at a local five-pin bowling alley. This was a challenge

and something quite new to those who are better acquainted with 10-pin bowling. A frequent comment was "It is harder than it looks." Thereafter most everyone returned to the hotel for a well-planned and generously served pizza supper. The following day the young adults (and young at heart) went Go-Karting. The event also included mini-golf and a batting cage.

On Friday night we had an interactive Bible Study. With afternoon services on the Sabbath, there was time to honour seniors with a lunch featuring roast chicken and delectable trimmings.

The *Variety Show* entertained and inspired the brethren with interesting presentations. There was a mixture of acts that included skits, singing and even an original poem read by the author.

A large barrel of food along with cash donations was collected for the local Salvation Army food bank and was greatly appreciated.

Our concluding activity was a farewell luncheon on the Last Great Day, which provided members a final opportunity to collectively break bread by partaking of a Thanksgiving roast turkey buffet with all the trimmings.

At the end of the Feast, many remarked on how well everything had gone as we observed the wonderful Feast of Tabernacles, a dress-rehearsal for the age which is soon to come! 🍁

Feast of Tabernacles Reports

Cocagne, New Brunswick

by Beverly Hebert and Chantal Leclerc

The Feast of Tabernacles was cozy and intimate, hosted at “The Cottage,” a five-bedroom Airbnb that had an ocean view with incredible sunsets in the area of Shediac, about half an hour from Moncton, New Brunswick.

Services were for brethren in New Brunswick and other Maritime provinces and were held at “The Cottage”. Brethren came from New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, P.E.I, Quebec and Ontario. The highest attendance was 26 for this satellite site. Brethren appreciated the quiet atmosphere and the daily communal meals.

The brethren were fed uplifting, stimulating and encouraging messages from five speakers, including two elders for sermonettes and sermons every day. We also had an instructive Bible Study.

We had special music seven of

the eight Feast days. Three ladies performed special music six times. For the Sabbath, we listened to a beautiful flute solo. On the Last Great Day, we had offertory music and special music.

Some commented that it was so awesome to meet brethren, some

of whom we had only seen on Zoom. What a blessing and joy it was to finally sit and share meals with people we never thought we would meet in person! We also a game night, movie night and music night.

It was an awesome Feast! 🍁



Last Great Day Group

photo by Chantal Leclerc



Greeting brethren on Zoom

photo by Sheryl Harrison



Montreal & New Brunswick brethren

photo by Sheryl Harrison

Conference & Council Meetings

by Edwin van Pelt

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the National Conference was held electronically on Sunday, September 14, 2025. The National Conference is made up of members of the National Council as well as all elders in good standing in the United Church of God – Canada (UCG-C). Nearly all members of the Conference were on-line. Others who were part of the meeting were Treasurer Bill Dimovski, Secretary Edwin van Pelt, Parliamentarian Linda Wasilkoff and ministerial trainee Mark Yap along with several spouses.

The meeting began with an opening prayer followed by some comments by National Conference Chairman Lloyd Teetaert.

A series of reports and addresses were then presented. Newly-appointed Director of Operations Paul Wasilkoff began with a report on some of the highlights of his first few months in his new role. Dennis O'Neill then gave an update on the Media Team's most recent efforts and results. Anthony Wasilkoff followed with a Ministerial Services Team report, which was given in past years by the then Coordinator Rainer Salomaa who had died a few days prior to the AGM. Treasurer Bill Dimovski then gave an address highlighting the most recent audit and income and expense trends. The final address was given by Mr. Teetaert focusing on the need to take a stand for our beliefs.

The ballot results were announced. The September 11, 2024 National Conference Minutes, the March 31, 2024 Marsh, Goulding Audited Financial Statements and the Amendment to By-law 8.6.3 were approved.

Terms of three National Council members were set to expire at the end

of the 2025 AGM. Ellsworth Stanley returned to the Council after several years. He replaces Michael Erickson, who did not seek reappointment to the Council. Lloyd Teetaert was returned to the Council and William Moulton was appointed to replace Almeda Lucas, who also did not seek reappointment to the Council. These Council members' terms will expire at the end of the 2028 AGM.



William Moulton
Photo by William

Elsworth Stanley
Photo by UNC

Several resolutions were passed, including the method to conduct and the date of the 2026 AGM, the appointment of the public accountant for the 2025-2026 financial audit, and the appointments to the National Council. The resolutions were all approved by general consent.

The AGM began at 12:03 P.M. ET and concluded at 1:28 P.M. ET.

After a short break, the National Council began its meeting. All Council members were present, including the newly appointed members, as well as Treasurer Bill Dimovski, Secretary Edwin van Pelt and Parliamentarian Linda Wasilkoff.

Larry DeLong, who was selected at the June Council meetings to be temporary National Council Chairman for the

September meeting since Mr. Teetaert's term on Council was to end prior to this meeting.

After a few corrections, the minutes of the June 19 and 20, 2025 National Council meeting were approved. The selection of the Chairman of the National Council was next on the agenda. Mr. Teetaert was selected for another three-year term as Chairman, which will expire at the end of the 2028 AGM.

The T1235 and T3010 forms are required to be filed with the Canada Revenue Agency within six months of the end of the fiscal year. The latest date for filing the forms is September 30. These were approved to be filed.

Discussion of the 2026-2027 Strategic Plan followed. The Plan was approved.

Dates for the 2026 National Council meetings were then discussed and approved. The dates are March 16, June 18 and 19, September 13 and December 14, 2026.

Jim Lucas, Chair of the Governance and Ethics Committee, proposed that the Council read and review the bylaws and policies of the UCG-C on a regular basis. He proposed a schedule to be sent to Council members.

The last item of business was assigning Council members to the Committees. As Council members not employed by the UCG-C, Mr. Moulton and Mr. Stanley will be part of the Compensation Committee. Mr. DeLong will move from the Governance and Ethics Committee to the Strategic Planning and Finance Committee; Mr. Moulton will also be a member of that committee. Mr. Stanley will serve on the Governance and Ethics Committee. 🍁

2025 Audit

Budgeting is important for every household. For the church, budgeting is crucial.

Since a charity's income comes from money freely given, it is important to ensure that those funds are appropriately used.

Additionally, the government requires each charity to have an annual audit. Thus, each year the United Church of God – Canada hires an outside firm to audit the books according to established and acceptable accounting standards. When United Church of God - Canada began, a determination was made to be transparent.

Even though anyone can go online to check on any charity's finances, the UCG-Canada's Bylaws require that the annual audit of the church's finances be made available to all members of UCG-Canada.

Originally hard copies were made available for all congregations. More recently, the report is published in the United News Canada. 🌐

UNITED CHURCH OF GOD - CANADA Statement of Operations and Changes in Fund Balances For the year Ended March 31st, 2025

	Operating Fund	Festival Fund	Assistance Fund	Building Fund	Other Funds	2025	2024
Revenue						\$ 1,868,256	\$ 1,835,321
Tithes and offerings	\$ 1,819,372	\$ 31,698	\$ 17,186	\$ -	\$ -	<u>85,936</u>	<u>62,022</u>
Investment income	<u>85,936</u>	-	-	-	-	<u>1,954,192</u>	<u>1,897,343</u>
	<u>1,905,308</u>	<u>31,698</u>	<u>17,186</u>	-	-		
Expenditure						1,006,062	960,579
Salaries and benefits	1,006,062	-	-	-	-	115,709	129,876
Travel	115,709	-	-	-	-	33,122	26,010
Festival costs	-	33,122	-	-	-	28	997
National conferences	28	-	-	-	-	115,233	100,169
Office and general	115,233	-	-	-	-	28,819	27,198
Insurance	28,819	-	-	-	-	9,974	7,575
Telephone	9,974	-	-	-	-	152,350	155,280
Advertising	152,350	-	-	-	-	21,252	15,615
Professional fees	21,252	-	-	-	-	155,338	162,773
Hall rentals	155,338	-	-	-	-	18,428	18,009
Church supplies	18,428	-	-	-	-	53,295	51,713
Rent	53,295	-	-	-	-	4,959	11,806
Equipment rental	4,959	-	-	-	-	13,960	5,760
Assistance	-	-	13,960	-	-	5,076	4,454
Bank and interest charges	5,076	-	-	-	-	7,182	5,216
Amortization - (Notes 2(b) and 3)	<u>7,182</u>	-	-	-	-	<u>1,740,787</u>	<u>1,683,030</u>
	<u>1,693,705</u>	<u>33,122</u>	<u>13,960</u>	-	-		
Revenue over Expenditure for the Year	211,603	(1,424)	3,226	-	-	213,405	214,313
Fund balance at beginning of year	<u>2,034,172</u>	<u>35,849</u>	<u>115,806</u>	<u>38,607</u>	<u>1,898</u>	<u>2,226,332</u>	<u>2,012,019</u>
Fund Balance at End of Year	<u>\$ 2,245,775</u>	<u>\$ 34,425</u>	<u>\$ 119,032</u>	<u>\$ 38,607</u>	<u>\$ 1,898</u>	<u>\$ 2,439,737</u>	<u>\$ 2,226,332</u>

UNITED CHURCH OF GOD - CANADA

Statement of Financial Position

As at March 31st, 2025

	2025	2024
Assets		
Current Assets	\$ 1,151,349	1,625,248
Cash and cash equivalents	494,227	5,446
Investment certificates	21,132	42,125
Harmonized sales tax recoverable	5,915	8,302
Supplies inventory	43,813	43,340
Prepaid expenses and deposits		
	<u>1,716,436</u>	1,724,461
Long-Term Assets	753,652	567,631
Investment certificates	25,313	21,352
Capital Assets - (Note 3)	778,965	588,983
	<u>\$ 2,495,401</u>	<u>\$ 2,313,444</u>
Liabilities and Fund Balance		
Current Liabilities	\$ 46,038	\$ 50,063
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	9,626	37,049
Withholding taxes payable		
	<u>55,664</u>	87,112
Total Liabilities	<u>2,439,737</u>	2,226,332
Fund Balance	<u>\$ 2,495,401</u>	<u>\$ 2,313,444</u>

UNITED CHURCH OF GOD - CANADA

Statement of Cash Flows

For the year Ended March 31st, 2025

	2025	2024
Cash Provided By		
(a) Operating activities	\$ 212,046	\$ 252,358
(b) Investing activities	(685,945)	(273,282)
Increase in Cash	<u>(473,899)</u>	<u>(20,924)</u>
Cash, beginning of year	1,625,248	1,646,172
Cash, End of Year	<u>\$ 1,151,349</u>	<u>\$ 1,625,248</u>
(a) Operating Activities		
Excess of revenues over expenses	\$ 213,405	\$ 214,313
Amortization of capital assets	7,182	5,216
Change in non-cash working capital	(8,541)	32,829
Cash from operations	<u>\$ 212,046</u>	<u>\$ 252,358</u>
(b) Investing Activities		
Proceeds from sale of (purchase of) investments	\$ (674,802)	\$ (259,523)
Purchase of other assets	(11,143)	(13,759)
	<u>\$ (685,945)</u>	<u>\$ (273,282)</u>



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CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS
PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Members of United Church of God - Canada:

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of United Church of God - Canada (the Organization), which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31st, 2025, and the statements of operations and changes in fund balances, and changes in cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Organization as at March 31, 2025, and the results of its operations changes in fund balances, and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Accounting Standards for Not-for-profit organizations (ASNPO).

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Organization in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with ASNPO, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing Organization's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Organization or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Organization's financial reporting process.

Audit

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements


Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Organization's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Organization's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Organization's to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

September 10, 2025
North York, Ontario



CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS
(Licensed Public Accountants)

Answered Prayer

by Mark Yap

What do you do when your prayer is answered but not in the way you expected? This was a question Julia and I had to grapple with as we prayed for wisdom when Mr. Wasilkoff asked us, “What do you think about being hired as a ministerial trainee?” We were given one or two weeks to think about it. Earlier I had opened a prayer seeking God’s wisdom with “Dear heavenly Father, may you bless the Church with more workers.” I did not expect the prayer to be answered in the way that it was.

The following months were filled with lots of questions and inquiries. We asked our parents, siblings and friends what we should do. We saw God reassuring us as He opened door after door. Despite all the uncertainty of everything that needed to be done, He was part of the process. We are reminded that though we have plans, it is God that establishes our steps.

Even before the question was asked, God had slowly blessed Julia and me through the Canadian permanent residence process. As if to say keep going, doors would open little by little. In March after that fateful December, Julia received her permanent residence. We slowly made preparations at home for making the commitment to uproot our lives for Saskatchewan.

With the housing market at unprecedented levels, we prayed God would open another door for us. We had committed to travelling to Saskatchewan to look for a home. We quickly learned that many banks would not lend to a young couple uprooting their lives. There were months of anxiety since the alternative of renting was



Photo by Julia Yap

just as costly as purchasing a home and it seemed no one would lend to us.

After weeks of arranging documents and finances we finally had a pre-approval. It was a smaller loan than expected but nonetheless the day arrived when we would have the opportunity to find a home.

We arrived in Saskatoon days before Pentecost with Julia’s parents arriving a day after to help with the process. There had been a home we were hoping for, but it seemed as we arrived it was conditionally sold. It was everything we had thought it was, but the disappointment of an offer almost deterred us. After seeing other homes, we decided to put it into God’s hands. We put in an offer. As per Julia’s request, the realtor got the offer in before the Sabbath.

During that Holy Day weekend, we were blessed to meet the brethren and, by chance, one knew the owner of the home we had our eyes on. The evening after Pentecost we were informed that there was a counter offer. After all the homes we looked at, it seemed the right choice and we accepted the counter offer. The clock began ticking as it turned to the first

bidder for first right of refusal. God did not let us suffer too long. Our offer was accepted and we became the primary offer on the home. All that was left was to wait until closing.

Prior to closing, we had some training in Wisconsin. There had been tensions between Canada and the USA at the time. The day we left to travel to the US we did not know what would be the outcome. As we drove up to the border as many times before, we pulled up to a car with a decal that said “Pescadores Hombres.” It was the traditional decal for Christians that translated “Fishers of Men.” When our turn came, the usual questions were asked and then the question came “Why are you here?” We’ve had many different border experiences but this time we decided to leave it in God’s hands and told the officer “Pastoral Development.” The questioning lasted less than five minutes. We were relieved and understood God had opened the door for us to learn in Wisconsin.

Upon our arrival in Wisconsin, the Church apartment had not been completed so we were warmly hosted by the Chances, one of the deacons in the area. The brethren in Wisconsin were all very warm and welcoming. Mr. Dan Dowd stepped down from his speaking roles to allow me to receive more experience. We had the unique opportunity to glean from Mr. Dan Dowd and Mr. Michael Helwig’s experiences. There were many valuable lessons and principles that we look to apply into the roles we’re stepping into. Before we knew it, our time in Wisconsin had come to an end.

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Alberta Teen Camp 2025

by Brenda Thompson

The Alberta Teen Camp had 19 campers and 16 adult staff from eight different congregations (Montreal to Prince George) participating in a wonderful camp at the Alberta 4-H Center west of Wetaskiwin, Alberta between August 26 and September 1. The British Columbia and Alberta summer had been hot and dry, and there was smoke from several (far away) forest fires drifting into central Alberta. Yet we were shielded from the smoke at camp. It was hot and dry during camp, too, as our daytime temperatures were in the low 30 Celsius (high 80s to low 90s Fahrenheit). With temperatures like that, though, we did not have many mosquitoes to deal with!

Each day started with Christian Living discussions, which covered practical aspects of living as a teen in this current age and culture. The messages discussed stuck with the teens, and several topics that had been introduced in the morning were

brought up by the teens themselves and discussed some more at the end of the day in the dorms. Sabbath afternoon's Bible Study was initiated and hosted by two youth on the topic of Friendship. Mr. Larry Delong provided guidance along the way.

The campers (and coordinators) enjoyed a wide range of activities from camp "standards" such as archery, canoeing and skits to a couple of relatively new activities—Geocaching and an Escape Room break out. The determination and cooperation of the youth developed daily, and by the end of camp the teams on the low ropes course were inspirational to the activity leaders, the focus on the target shooting range was intense, and the help pitching in with clean up was greatly appreciated.

Each activity day also included a session on various aspects of emergency wilderness survival. Thanks to the size and nature of the 4-H Center,

the teens were able to practice building a basic emergency shelter using nothing more than the available dead trees and other natural resources at hand.

All of our camp activities made it into some of the skits performed on Sunday evening. If only we could share the videos of the skits with you, they were terrific! One of the skits depicted what Peter's reaction would have been if the Sea of Galilee had been like the water in some areas of the lake, Peter would definitely not have been willing to get out of the boat! None of the other disciples would have wanted to walk with Christ on the water in that area either. The closing skit saw the kitchen crew preparing a stew for the sons of the disciples that 'had poison in the pot,' but thanks to Elisha's addition of flour to the pot, all in the pot was safe to eat, and thus the last night's snacks (prepared bags of trail mix) were thrown to all in attendance to wind up the evening. 🍷



Activity
Brenda Thompson



Alberta Teen Camp Group
Larry Delong



Archery
Larry Delong

News From Across Canada



Jayden Wasilkoff, Coreen Wasilkoff, Paul Wasilkoff & Joe Brdar

Photo by Trish Romeo

Farewell to Windsor Pastor

On April 11, 2022, the Windsor, Ontario, brethren gathered together in their new meeting room at the Salvation Army Hall to welcome their new pastor, Paul Wasilkoff, his wife Coreen, and their three sons. An added joy was to also receive Jo-Anne Read as a visitor, since she had been recently widowed by the passing of our former pastor, Patrick Read.

During the time Mr. Wasilkoff pastored us, one of his sons graduated from ABC, one was recently married and the other will soon graduate from high school.

During his tenure with us, Mr. Wasilkoff baptized one gentleman into the Family of God.

Thank you, Pastor, for your guidance through the years. God has led you to accept the role of Director of Operations for Canada. Deacon Joe Brdar presented Mr. Wasilkoff with a gift to keep on his desk, reminding him where to seek Wisdom for the task. We will be standing with you in prayer as you assume this important work ahead.

Marilyn Anderson

Saskatchewan Welcomes the Yaps

September 13 was the first service Mark and Julia Yap attended in North Battleford as permanent Saskatchewanians. On that day, Mr. Yap gave his first sermon as our official minister in training.

After the service, the congregation presented them with a decorated cake that said “Welcome Mark & Julia” in bright green letters. To Mark’s delight they took the extra slices home.

Adeline Sanoy



Julia & Mark

Photo by Marlene Hiebert

“Answered Prayer” from pg 12.

On September 2, we took possession of our home without issues. As if to affirm the blessing, we had the opportunity to eat of fruit we did not grow. God had established our feet in Saskatchewan. Julia and I had the opportunity to spend time with all the brethren in North Battleford, Saskatoon and Winnipeg. It has been a pleasure and blessing to be here with

the brethren of the prairies. As one of our friends in Toronto mentioned, they are the salt of the earth.

One of the many doubts in our mind concerning the opportunity to serve in the ministry was if I would be good enough. As we spent time with the brethren I realized it wasn’t about myself. We have been blessed with the unique opportunity to serve and be a voice to the brethren here.

When we were asked about joining the ministry we asked “Why us?” We realize that God doesn’t always answer our prayers in the way that we expect. Our life in the past year has been a whirlwind, but we had the reassuring guiding hand of God through it all.

So, what do you do when your prayers are answered but not in the way that you would want or expect? 🌍

Winter 2025, Volume 30, Number 4

News From Across Canada

Toronto 30th Anniversary

August 30 brought together 94 people celebrating 30 years of the UCG-Toronto congregation.

Mr. Gary Antion (the first pastor for UCG-Toronto) and his wife, Barb, came from Ohio accompanied by their daughter, Jan, and son-in-law, Mike Cook. UCG-Toronto has had three pastors since its inception and all three were in attendance for this special occasion.

Several other congregations joined via Zoom as per our tradition of having Mr. Antion speak every fifth Sabbath to Eastern Canada.

Mr. Antion's sermon titled "The Blessing of the Church" discussed five points for us to take home and ponder. The points were:

1. **Fellowship**—our shared values and goal each week;
2. **We are taught the Pillar and Ground of Truth**, which makes us who we are;
3. **We take direction** from ordained leaders in the church;

4. **Do the Work of the Church**—we are workers together in doing the work;

5. **Prayer**—for each other and the gospel, comfort, love (our identifying trait as Christians) and support for and to one another. Do not tire of helping each other.

He left us with the thought that in the light of these five points, we should be grateful for the blessing of the church which Christ built and do all in our power with God's Spirit to contribute to the unity and faithfulness of the precious body of Christ—the Church!

Following the service, the congregation hosted a special potluck meal in the attractively decorated fellowship hall. Two anniversary cakes (one white and one chocolate) were there for all to enjoy. The occasion gave many the opportunity to personally speak with the Antions and Cooks. Jan Cook was born in Toronto so many of the "old timers" remembered her as a young child and enjoyed getting reacquainted with her as an adult.

UNC

Rainer Salomaa Obituary

Rainer Salomaa was born on September 28, 1945, in the small town of Ii, Finland, close to his grandparents' farm. His parents had both been involved in World War II, his mother as a nurse and his father in the army.

In 1951, the family immigrated to Canada, looking for a better life after the horrific war years. They settled in Edmonton, Alberta, with a one-year stint in Northern British Columbia. Rainer remembered the wolves howling at night when temperatures dipped to minus 40 and waking up to see ice in the water pail inside their cabin. His mother used a washboard to do laundry. Fresh fruit and vegetables had to be rationed.

After the family moved back to Edmonton, Rainer picked up *The World Tomorrow* radio program on CFRN on a crystal radio set when he was in junior high school and wrote away for literature. Later, when he was attending the University of Alberta, he requested a visit for baptism and was met by Richard Pinelli in the

(Continues on page 16)



Mike & Jan Cook, Anthony & Linda Wasilkoff, Barbara & Gary Antion, Paul & Coreen Wasilkoff. Photo by Amy van Zant



Rainer Salomaa
Photo by UCG

“Rainer Salomaa Obituary” from pg 15

fall of 1964. He started attending the newly formed church in Edmonton and then went to Ambassador College in Pasadena in 1966, arriving late because of visa problems. He graduated in 1969 from the Bricket Wood England campus where he attended his final semester.

Rainer was hired to work in the Vancouver office where he met his wife to be, Claudia Ranchie. They were married on July 5, 1970, by Dean Wilson. In the summer of 1971, they were sent into the field ministry to work under Gary Antion in Toronto. A year later, they, along with their newborn daughter, Tammy, were sent to start the Sudbury congregation. They served there for eight years and established additional congregations in North Bay and Sault St. Marie.

Their second daughter Sonya was born in Sudbury in 1974.

In 1980, the family was transferred to Salmon Arm, British Columbia, where Rainer pastored the Salmon Arm and Kamloops congregations for eight years. In 1988, they were transferred to Prince George where they served for seventeen years. In the fall of 2005, Rainer and Claudia were transferred to Calgary, Alberta. Along with pastoring Calgary, Rainer pastored the Red Deer, Regina and Winnipeg congregations. He was also the coordinator of the Ministerial Services Team in Canada.

Rainer was a Y.O.U. coordinator for four years in British Columbia and also a festival coordinator for over twenty years, having coordinated Penticton, Whistler, Kelowna, Canmore, Cochrane and Drum-

heller festival sites. He served as the chairman of the Canadian National Council from 1999-2019 and had been on the Council of Elders for six years. He was also managing editor of *United News Canada* for several years.

Rainer and Claudia enjoyed hunting, salmon fishing and camping, and they shared adoration for their three grandchildren.

Rainer once said, “My years of service in God’s church have been rewarding and certainly not boring. There has been so much to learn and I feel so blessed to have interacted with so many people over the years and to have been a part of their lives beyond a superficial level. My wife has been a trooper, being left alone so much in the many years of travel.”

UNC

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