



Orleans United Church
believe. belong. become.

Looking at OUC's 2015 Expenses through the Lens of Our 5 Ministries

The purpose of this document is to give everyone some idea of how the church spends \$445,853 toward building up the five main ministries of Orleans United. It's a big amount of money, for sure, but we all consider it an investment into doing God's good work for the families of this congregation, for our neighbours here in Orleans and Ottawa, and for people around the world.

Although we may refer to these costs as "expenses" or "expenditures," they can also be understood and appreciated as the financial support we devote to bringing to life our mission – of empowering everyone's personal faith journey, of sharing God's goodness among the children, teens, adults and seniors in our circle of faith, and of spreading the love of Christ beyond the walls of our building.

We encourage you to reflect on the amount devoted to each ministry in relation to the many programs and activities offered for the benefit of everyone here. We also hope you will recognize how valuable the presence and leadership of our two ministers are in helping us realize God's vision for our church and its ministry programs. These staff costs are highlighted in each of the five main ministries – **Learning, Worship, Care, Outreach** and **Resource**.

We want to be as honest and clear as possible in trying to show how your generous contributions and efforts are used to extend God's love through the ministries here. We tell some stories of how our people make a difference through this church, and trust that it will inspire us all to prayerfully consider how valuable every gift (both financial and volunteer) is to the present and future potential of our church family.

Your generous spirit within Orleans United Church is a vital ingredient to fulfill the heart of our mission: **To encourage everyone's faith journey, to model Jesus' kindness through our faith community, and to spread God's goodness together one day at a time.**

Rev. Glen Stoudt
(On behalf of Finance Committee,
Stewardship Conversation,
Communications Team, and
OUC's Council)

Learning Ministry

Ministry Staff	47,940
Office Support	3,682
Music Director	15,350
Programs	8,815
Total	75,787

Providing a path for people of all ages to move along their own faith journeys in ways that feel comfortable and purposeful; and nurturing each other's spiritual growth and faith in God.

\$17.00 out of every \$100 we give directly supports OUC's Learning Ministry

Through Christian nurture, each one of us grows in our knowledge of what it means to be people of God in our world. We partner with God and each other to provide focused education for our infants, children, teens, and adults, like:

- ✓ Sunday school (Preschool to Grade 6)
- ✓ Youth programs (Junior and Senior Hi)
- ✓ Nursery care during Sunday worship
- ✓ Bible studies and adult education
- ✓ Retreats and workshops
- ✓ Choir rehearsals
- ✓ Believe.Belong.Become.
- ✓ Stewardship education

Faithful Partnership with God and Each Other in Learning

"I never thought about faith that way before."

"Wow! A whole weekend with God and new friends!"

"Who knew there was more than one way to interpret the Bible?"

"Sunday School is soooo cool☺!"

It happens every Sunday in Sunday School with our children and youth, and in the morning sermon; it happens at retreats and confirmation classes with our teens; it happens with adults of all ages several times every week in morning Bible studies (Men's Breakfast and Java Jive), afternoon and evening Christian book courses, and even choir practice; it happens at weekend retreats, in weeknight or Saturday workshops, through Believe.Belong.Become.; at stewardship conversations, baptism preparation events and ministry information fairs – ***whenever Orleans United people intentionally nourish and nurture each other's spiritual growth and faith in God, OUC's learning ministry thrives*** – and we're having fun doing it!

Of course the primary partners in our *learning ministry* are the committed people who prepare and lead these activities. Our two ministers not only teach and lead, but also consult and collaborate with others at OUC who facilitate these faith education events. Four teams of Sunday School teachers, a team of youth facilitators, our choir director and a half-dozen other faithful leaders dedicate their time and effort to encourage the rest of us as we grow in Christian faith – more than two dozen leaders partnering with God and with a hundred or so other OUC participants every week. Studying together, we create a growing environment that helps our people understand and experience Christ's love, vision, and faithfulness. And that's good news for everyone.

The Learning Ministry Teams through which many of these activities happen include:

- Children's Ministry
- Youth Ministry
- Adult Learning Ministry
- Stewardship Conversation
- Music Ministry

Worship Ministry

Ministry Staff	47,940
Office Support	10,285
Music Director	15,350
Worship Programming	4,200
Total	77,775

Celebrating God's love together with others who share our faith; discerning God's wisdom and will for our lives; nurturing our spirits to go forth into the world around us, rejuvenated and refreshed in God's spirit.

\$17.44 out of every \$100 we give directly supports OUC's Worship Ministry

The wide variety in our worship touches people's hearts and moves us to feel and know God's presence and power. We partner with God and each other to find innovative and creative ways to make worship a dynamic and lived out experience, like:

- ✓ Sunday morning worship
- ✓ Wedding ceremonies
- ✓ Funeral services
- ✓ Baptisms and Holy Communion
- ✓ Devotions at meetings
- ✓ Special seasonal worship
- ✓ Senior's residence chapel services
- ✓ Small group celebrations

Faithful Partnership with God and Each Other in Worship

Believe it or not, it happens every week around Orleans United – over 80 people collaborating to bring to life our Sunday morning worship celebration. That's right. And all those who help make worship possible offer their abilities joyfully, many volunteering their time and talents weekly.

Of course there are the men and women in the choir with Scott leading the music, and sometimes special singers or musicians, or our kid's choir join in. Almost every Sunday an Elder and a lay reader add their voices to worship. There are ushers and greeters and care team folks, a worship coordinator and sound technician, who do their best to ensure OUC is ready to welcome worshipers. Both Molly and Glen collaborate weeks in advance on every theme, and usually at least one of them is the primary worship leader and preacher when Sunday morning arrives.

But that's just the beginning. Long before Sunday comes, Jean is busy in the office updating drafts, double-checking details, and printing bulletins. And what about those who proof read and fold? Or those who study with the ministers as they prepare the sermon? Or those who create and hang banners? And then there are those who host fellowship time, who count worshipers and offerings, who watch our little children in nursery, and who watch over it all as our Worship Committee. And we haven't even mentioned Sunday school teachers or youth leaders.

On any given Sunday at Orleans United there are at least 80 worship partners who respond to God's invitation. Working together with God and each other, they create the environment that inspires the hundreds who come here every Sunday to experience Christ's love, vision, and faithfulness. And because these worship partners care, worshipers are empowered to live more faithfully this week.

The Worship Ministry Teams through which many of these activities happen include:

- Worship Committee
- Senior and Youth Choirs
- Elders
- Fellowship Hosts

Care Ministry

Ministry Staff	47,940
Office Support	6,526
Programs	4,550
Total	59,017

Expressing God's love for us all by supporting people in our church through our prayers and deeds; and choosing to share God's compassion with the wider community.

\$13.24 out of every \$100 we give directly supports OUC's Care Ministry

Our spirit of caring is most appreciated through non-judgmental, social, emotional and spiritual support to anyone in times of difficulty or celebration. We partner with God and each other to make visible God's comforting presence in meaningful and tangible ways, like:

- ✓ Compassionate listening at funerals
- ✓ Home and hospital visits
- ✓ Counselling with our ministers
- ✓ Friendly Sunday morning conversations
- ✓ Caring casseroles during trying times
- ✓ Comfort bears as reminders of God's love
- ✓ Telephone call and care notes
- ✓ Prayers for loved ones near and far

Faithful Partnership with God and Each Other in Care

Orleans United Church feels like such a caring community because there are actually two active ministry groups here, who work together with Rev. Molly and Rev. Glen, to encourage God's compassionate care and comfort among our congregation.

The **CARE & SUPPORT TEAM (CST)** currently includes 12 OUC members who are specially trained and certified in "lay pastoral care" and are available to visit people in the hospital or at home, to listen attentively and confidentially to personal concerns, to respond in times of sickness, death, or family crisis. They call folks on the phone just to let them know someone is thinking of them; they make and deliver casseroles to families who may need a home-cooked meal during a stressful time; they give stuffed "comfort bears" to anyone who could use a hug; they facilitate a prayer ministry that remembers daily your loved ones in times of need; they write notes of encouragement to those who struggle; they are available for gentle conversations after worship every Sunday. Everyone who has ever been touched by CST expresses gratitude that Orleans United is such a caring community.

Our 26 **ELDERS** (including 6 young adults) complement CST in caring for the spiritual wellbeing of our faith community. They welcome people on Sunday mornings, assist in worship, ensure that concerns are confidentially shared with Church Council and our Ministers, pray for everyone who volunteers and participates in OUC's programs, reach out to newcomers in our congregation, host Sunday potlucks and "making connections" programs, and encourage a growing relationship with God for all ages.

CST and **ELDERS** are the primary partners in our church's **care ministry**, but they are not the only care-givers here. They work hard to create a spiritual environment where every one of us will discover our role in caring for all of God's children. We are all partners in that work, God's work of caring with compassion!

The Worship Ministry Teams through which many of these activities happen include:

- Care and Support Team
- Elders
- Communications Team (within our church)

Outreach Ministry

Ministry Staff	19,176
Office Support	3,568
Programs	400
Mission & Service	37,000
Local Charities	2,400
Total	62,544

Encouraging each other to look beyond ourselves and our congregation through God's love, to recognize the needs of others, and to respond faithfully and generously.

\$14.02 out of every \$100 we give directly supports OUC's Outreach Ministry

Our sincere desire to share justice and equality with others is at the heart of serving God's purpose in the world. We partner with God and each other through local neighbourhood ministries and programs, as well as national and global causes and projects. These include:

- ✓ Centre 507
- ✓ Community resource centres
- ✓ Multi-faith Housing Initiative
- ✓ Emergency Benevolent Fund
- ✓ Refugee support and assistance
- ✓ Outreach Info Fair
- ✓ Food banks & Emergency cupboard
- ✓ UCC Mission & Service Fund

Faithful Partnership with God and Each Other in Outreach

Christian community is at its best when we can stretch beyond our own needs and wants, both personally and as a church, and choose to reach out (outreach) and focus our concern on the health and well-being of others through Jesus' love.

- *Seeing the smiles of satisfaction on the three men's sweaty faces after loading our used loveseat and chair on their truck was inspiring enough. Then one of them put it into perspective: "Can't wait to deliver this to the new refugee family. It'll be perfect in their new apartment!"*
- *"White Gift Sunday is always such a blessing every December ... it's so wonderful to watch so many people share the Christmas Spirit with the folks at Centre 507."*
- *When the Hall is filled with people after worship attending our annual Outreach Info-Fair and meeting representatives from more than a dozen neighbourhood services and programs with whom we collaborate throughout the year, you realize how many ways OUC extends itself into our community and the world.*

Reaching out like this happens all the time around OUC, thanks to the encouragement of our twelve partners who volunteer on the Outreach Committee –

... when folks donate to local food banks and community resource centres or volunteer time at the Multi-faith Housing Initiative and the Inter-church Refugee Group ... when a few people band together to buy and deliver a new freezer for our refugee family or take the time to write a letter of advocacy to City Hall on behalf of the homeless and working poor ... when our children collect "Change for Change" to help the local School Breakfast project or take an angel from the Angel Tree to make sure Christmas happens for a neighbourhood child ... when folks are encouraged to make the homes and our church a "greener" environment ... when every new giver to the United Church's M&S fund makes a pledge to support global outreach.

And there are so many more opportunities to reach out ... if we only use our imaginations and commit some portion of our lives to partner with God in caring for the world and its inhabitants.

The Outreach Ministry Teams through which many of these activities happen include:

- Outreach Committee

- Communications Ministry Team (outside in our neighbourhood)
- Green Church Initiative

Resource Ministry

Ministry Staff	28,764
Office Support	8,669
Administration	17,257
Building	116,040
Total	170,730

Striving to be as efficient, effective and environmentally-sound as possible in managing our church's building, financial and human resources for God's work.

***\$ 8.40 out of every \$100 we give supports volunteer care and leadership development.
\$26.03 out of every \$100 we give supports the care and improvement of our church home.
\$ 3.87 out of every \$100 we give supports other administrative costs.***

Careful and transparent management of congregational resources ensures that we are at our God-given best when offering these gifts and assets to serve others in Christian love. We partner with God and each other to use our church, our money and our people for good by:

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|---|---------------------------------------|
| ✓ Encouraging volunteers and staff | ✓ Program and activity administration |
| ✓ Budget planning & financial oversight | ✓ Denominational assessments |
| ✓ Building improvements/maintenance | ✓ Organizing fundraising projects |
| ✓ Neighbourhood building usage | ✓ Environmental initiatives |

Faithful Partnership with God and Each Other in Resource Management

Caring for OUC's church's building, its volunteers, and our money is a ministry that requires both practicality and prayer. We need effective and efficient managers of these varied resources, certainly; and we also recognize that all of these assets graciously serve the purposes of God and the needs of others rather than being ends in and of themselves.

Our church home is a spirited and busy place, filled with activities all week long, morning, noon and night. Accommodating all the programs that use this building, including church events and many neighbourhood groups, takes skill and patience. In fact, we appreciate that the church building is a ministry in itself, and believe our facility's 'outreach' into the community far surpasses the nominal rent paid by non-profit groups. As well, maintaining and improving the building, while striving to be as "green" as possible in the process, requires the care-filled attention of many volunteers, whose loving presence reflects God's Spirit here.

OUC is so blessed that each month more and more folks are volunteering in some ministry they feel passionate about here. All our ministries are possible because faithful partners in ministry freely give their time and skill to worship, learning, care and outreach. Our paid staff commits good portions of their time to volunteer care and leadership development in our congregation. Encouraging these volunteers is a life-affirming and spiritually sensitive task of those who care for our gifted volunteers and coordinate their ministry efforts.

Looking after our church family's money is really a spiritual responsibility. Those who plan, manage, and communicate the church budget work hard to help all of us appreciate the sacred relationship between the "offering we give" and the "ministries we accomplish." They encourage us to recognize how church "expenses" are really our "investments" into this partnership with God in order to accomplish some common good together.

The Resource Ministry Teams through which many of these activities happen include:

- Ministry & Personnel Committee
- Property Committee and Use & Occupancy Committee
- Finance Committee and Fundraising Committee

- Board of Trustees
- Revenue Stability Task Group