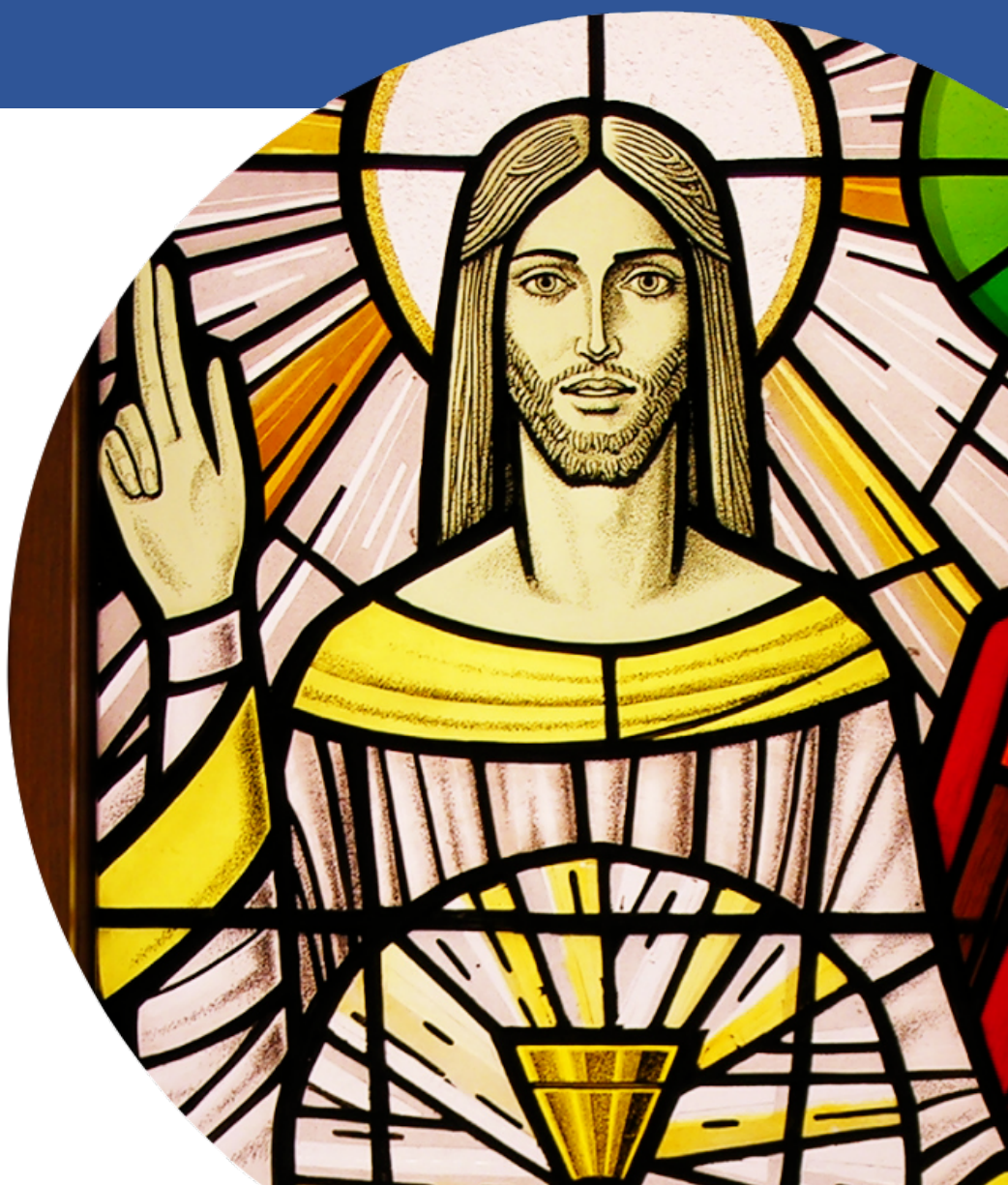


Toorak Uniting Church Annual Report 2025



TOORAK
UNITING
CHURCH

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Minister's Report

2025 has been a year of personal active listening, learning, observing, and participating in the community and family of Toorak Uniting Church – a year filled with indescribable joy, curiosity, extended horizons and deep appreciation.

With the wisdom, experiences, commitment and dedication of Assistant Minister Rev John Edwards and Minister in Association Rev Peter Whitaker, we collaboratively engaged with the Church Family pastorally, theologically, socially and more. We appreciate the opportunity to work and serve together as a Ministry Team in this place.

Throughout the year, we celebrated, honoured and farewelled the church members who passed away. We made contact with and visited the sick. We celebrated marriages, some who are members of this community, and some who chose our iconic church building to celebrate their special day in. We baptized both infants and adults. We also warmly welcomed many, especially many former members of Armidale Uniting Church, who chose to become members of Toorak Uniting Church. It wasn't an easy choice for some, especially when they were grieving the closure of their spiritual home for many years at Armadale Uniting Church. It was and is a privilege for us to welcome and embrace them as family.

We continue to have two worship services on Sundays. At 9am, sitting in a circle, everyone participates, having conversations with scripture. At 10.15am in a more traditional format we have the congregation, the choir, and a reflection or sermon depending on the worship leader. The two congregations have a combined service on the last Sunday every other month at 10.15am. We have been, and continue to be, blessed with weekly 'Exploring the Bible' sessions, either in person or on zoom, led by Rev Peter Whitaker. This is well attended, very educational, thought provoking, and sometimes heart-wrenching, but always well received and appreciated.

We celebrated the 45th anniversary of the Toorak Ecumenical Movement, established in 1980 between Toorak Uniting Church, St. John's Anglican Church, St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church, and the Swedish Church. The movement is continuing strongly with monthly prayers for Christian Unity, joint services for major Christian festivals, community outreach including Food for Friends, as well as the operation of the Op-shop.

We continue to keep our relationships and responsibilities with the Presbytery of Port Philip East and the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania, the Councils of the Uniting Church to whom and through whom we are accountable in our responsibilities, witness, service and discipleship. This year at the Synod meeting we installed the new Moderator, Rev Salesi Faupula, who challenged the whole Synod with the theme 'Pilgrims of the Spirit' – a way of being. We also heard the national President of Assembly, Rev Charissa Suli, with her message on preaching the gospel and not church strategy.

We are grateful to Barbara McKinnon and Alison Legge, chairpersons of the Church Council and the Congregation, for their leadership of our church family. We also express our sincere thanks to all members of the various committees, the office staff, church officers, and all volunteers, for the spirit with which you offer your time, wisdom, effort, commitment and contributions to the livelihood and well-being of our Toorak Uniting Church Family.

Blessings,

Rev. Sylvia Akau'ola Tongotongo
Minister



Church Council Report

The sesquicentenary of worship at the site of 603 Toorak Road, now known as Toorak Uniting Church, has been a year of significant transition, reflection and renewal. We have been blessed by the ministry team led by Rev Sylvia Akau'ola Tongotongo with the help of Assistant Minister Rev John Edwards, and delighted that Rev Peter Whitaker has accepted a position of Minister in Association.

The sesquicentenary has been the inspiration for a number of special events such as the wonderful "Big Hymn Sing" organised by the Worship committee and supported by the Tongan community; a fundraising concert organised by David Ross-Smith celebrating music from the period of early days of the Toorak congregation; and the commemorative anniversary worship service on November 16 which included a rousing call to action from former Minister at Toorak Uniting Church, Rev Dr Jim Donaldson.

The life of the congregation has been further invigorated as we have welcomed, amongst others, former members of Armadale Uniting Church. The choir and handbell ensemble go from strength to strength under Dylan Quinlan-Baskett's capable leadership and the increasing participation of the choir in bible readings, communion and the taking up of the offering as well as serving morning tea following the service is greatly appreciated. A highlight was the sharing of the Lord's Prayer in multiple languages. In addition to uplifting services at Christmas and Easter, the congregation enjoyed worshipping with the Korean community in a joyful service of singing and dancing. Regular meetings of the "Bible Explorers" led by Rev Peter Whitaker have provided an important opportunity for spiritual growth, both in person and online via Zoom.

Toorak Uniting Church continues to actively support the Toorak Ecumenical Council activities, providing volunteers for the Op Shop and hosting the end point of the Good Friday Witness Walk as well as the World Day of Prayer.

TUC actively engages with the wider community through the provision of the much-loved Dancing Class for teenagers under the patient guidance of Lin Cooper and her team of instructors, and by sharing its spaces with many community groups from the John Mackenzie Kindergarten to Tai Chi, Bridge, Dickens Fellowship and more. The Election Day fair was also a great opportunity to present the TUC community, and the café, pie, cake, flower and book stalls were all well patronised. We are deeply grateful for the dedicated service of Jonathan Lancaster in the production of the weekly livestreamed worship service, supported by Thomas Man. Our YouTube channel enables us to reach out far beyond the physical boundaries of our beautiful building, providing a great support to both members of TUC who are unable to attend in person as well as many others in the wider community.

A theme of 2025 has been renewal and it has been a great joy to see Catriona De Vere so capably lead the Property Committee after being mentored by the inimitable Malcolm Jack, and for David Ross-Smith to accept leadership of the Pastoral Care committee after many years of dedicated service by Christine Brown. Alexandra Legge has stepped up to represent TUC at Presbytery and Susie Shears, Wanda Sumual and Monique Perry are supporting Pamela Wilson with the TUC Archives. We farewelled Jayfel Tulabing-Lee from the office when she left to pursue business opportunities, and have been impressed by the calm efficiency of her successor, Monique Perry.

The Renew 603 project became official with the formation of the Project Control Group to oversee the potential redevelopment of the site. There have been many challenges along the way but significant groundwork has been undertaken. The Renew 603 committee were impressed by the incorporation of retirement living by St Peters in their site redevelopment and have been investigating the potential for a similar redevelopment at TUC.

The discovery that the uses of Kinross House as a gallery and café were not compatible with its building class and the prohibitive costs of compliance led to the reestablishment of Kinross House as a manse. After some modest works to improve its amenity, Rev Sylvia and John moved into their new home in November to the great joy of the congregation. Sadly, the compliance issue

simultaneously led to the closure of the Uniting Arts Kinross artists' studios and to moving the café to Argyle House. We are most grateful to Uniting AgeWell for accommodating the café move by adapting their social connections program. While the café has been a source of joy and pastoral outreach for many in the wider community, unfortunately the patronage has not been at a level to meet the expenses of a café providing table service and meals, despite an improving trend towards the end of 2025. Argyle House can be used for public gatherings and meetings but requires further compliance work to be undertaken if it is to continue as a café. These issues require urgent redress in 2026.

TUC is greatly blessed by the leadership of its dedicated members of Church Council. Elder Doug Lee stepped down at the end of June after many years of committed service but continues as a member of the Property Committee. David Fallick, previously an elder at Armadale Uniting Church, elected to join Church Council in December, while Rudi Doku, Church Council Secretary, indicated that he would not be able to continue due to his professional commitments. It was with sadness that former members of TUC were farewelled, with the funerals of Peter Linley, Malcolm Jack, Garry Donald, Juliet Ann, Lois Logan, Miralde Crankshaw, Jonah Jones, James St. John and Julia Washington taking place at TUC during the year. Long time TUC members, Annette and Graeme Baldwin also passed away in 2025. It was a joy to celebrate four marriages, including that of choir member Wanda Sumual and Paul Atanasov as well as two baptisms and a marriage blessing.

TUC is supported by a remarkable team who provide the first point of contact for many in our community. Church officer James Widdowson lovingly tends our grounds and facilities, assisted most recently by casual employees Arky and Zara, while Chris Ferdinands has worked incredibly hard to turn the café into a viable enterprise. Catriona De Vere cares for our accounts while Jayfel and now Monique respond with grace to the many daily logistical challenges that arise. Campus Manager Richard De Vere captains the ship with foresight and dedication.

As we move into 2026, the key priorities for TUC include progressing the Renew 603 redevelopment, addressing financial sustainability, strengthening congregational engagement and giving, expanding outreach and community partnerships and continuing to nurture a vibrant and faithful worshipping community.

2025 has been a year of celebration, challenge and discernment. As we honoured 150 years of faithful witness, we have also taken important steps toward shaping the future of Toorak Uniting Church. We pray for the strong leadership, committed volunteers and a deep sense of community that will enable us to continue our mission of worship, service and outreach in the years to come.

Barbara McKinnon
Chair of Church Council
September 2022- present



Treasurer's Report

GENERAL

At the end of 2025, TUC operational accounts had a deficit of \$183,223, an increase of nearly \$36,000 on the deficit in 2024. The operational accounts exclude the capital fund which pays for substantial equipment or facilities (note 11). The operational accounts also exclude the untied bequests fund (note 12), although half of the interest contributes to operations. Total investment and bequests operational income rose 39% from \$339,429 in 2024 to \$471,929 in 2025. The operational deficit would have been much worse had it not been for this rise in investment income in the operational accounts.

TUC net assets at the end of the year were \$2,296,447, a decline from \$2,364,709 at the end of 2024. The decline would have been much worse had it not been for the very substantial untied bequest of \$167,709 from the Estate of our much-loved member and leader, Anne Smith.

BOTTOM LINE	2025 (\$)	2024 (\$)
Operational Accounts Surplus/(Deficit)	(183,223)	(147,636)
Revaluation and Balancing	(10,591)	78,964
Capital Fund	(56,498)	99,335
Bequests Fund	182,050	61,253
Total Surplus/(Deficit)	(68,262)	91,916

INVESTMENTS

Investment income is allocated to the Operational, Capital and Bequest areas of the accounts.

U-Ethical Investment returned much greater interest in 2025, offset by a decline in market valuation. The total interest earned in 2025 across all the U-Ethical accounts rose to \$192,478 from \$145,859 in 2024, whilst the total 2025 growth fund market revaluation was (\$39,022) compared to \$142,822 in 2024 (statement of financial position, note 11 and note 12).

The Warren Clark Bequest is managed by Equity Trustees. As mentioned in this report every year, the quarterly distributions received from Warren Clark largely fund the Church's monthly payroll as well as Missions & Service contributions. Without Warren Clark, the Church simply would not be able to support the current model which it has now operated on for many years. As mentioned earlier, Warren Clark distributions were significantly higher than last year and the previous year, distributions received totalled \$458,320 (\$317,900 in 2024, \$274,059 in 2023) during the 2025 calendar year – representing a 44% increase on the amount in 2024.

Investment returns are inextricably linked to ASX and global stock market performance, geopolitical factors, investment strategies, dividend yields, the timing of franking credit refunds and all manner of fund management issues, all beyond the Church's control. At the time of writing, global uncertainties make it very unwise to predict returns in 2026.

SPECIFIC PURPOSE BEQUESTS

In 2022 the management of U-Ethical trust accounts that could only be used for a specific purpose was taken over by the Synod office. Consequently, it is necessary to apply for use of the funds within the terms of the bequest. In 2025, the Glenda Benness bequest provided \$65,000 to the capital account for the Renew 603 and Spire project (see below).

COSTS

The five biggest 2025 costs for the church (in decreasing order) were salaries of office and caretaker (\$235,170), the café (\$225,114), capital expenses (\$224,905: see next paragraph), ministerial and pastoral care (\$158,189) and UCA mission & service (\$104,000, see operational expenditure, note 11).

RENEW 603 AND SPIRE

Following extensive consultation with the congregation, a Project Control Group was set up by Synod, Presbytery and TUC in 2025 to investigate possible site redevelopment for our church site, with a view to long-term sustainability and continuing engagement with the community. It was also discovered in 2025 that the church building spire is unsafe and will require extensive remediation consistent with its heritage status. The cost of the obligatory remediation will very likely exceed \$3 million, much more than the assets available to TUC. Preliminary work on these two projects already exceeds \$100,000 and is being managed through the Project Control Group which is authorised to act on behalf of the owner of the church buildings, The Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust (Victoria).

Chris Begg
Treasurer

Operational Income

Income Source	Notes	2025 (\$)	2024 (\$)
Open Plate Offerings	2	27,882	32,763
Electronic Giving	2,3	57,559	79,667
Retiring Offering for Outreach Projects	2,4	10,000	12,214
Total Offerings and Donations		95,441	124,644
Total Use of Facilities	10	155,579	172,419
Warren Clark Bequest General (87.5%)	5	401,030	278,162
Investments	12	70,898	61,096
Trusts Income from Synod	17	-	171
Total Investment and Bequests		471,929	339,429
Dancing Classes	6	93,180	82,674
Uniting Arts Toorak	7	417	25,551
Weddings and Funerals		38,969	41,482
Café	7	110,780	20,447
Virginia Davey Music Fund	13	5,718	3,154
Other Income		9,656	6,356
Total Engagement and Activities		258,719	179,664
Memorial Garden	14	4,553	2,419
Minister's Discretionary Fund	15	3,513	4,424
Organ Development Fund	16	286	71
Total Special Purposes		8,352	6,914
Total Income		990,018	823,070

Operational Expenditure

Expenditure Source	Notes	2025 (\$)	2024 (\$)
Ministerial and Pastoral Care		158,189	105,661
Salaries - Office & Caretaker		235,170	240,093
Salaries - Ministry of Music		65,382	61,049
WorkCover		15,290	10,655
Synod Payroll Processing		7,784	6,820
Total Ministerial, Salaries and Oncosts		481,815	424,278
UCA Mission & Service	8	104,000	95,112
Outreach Projects and Special Appeals	4	20,650	27,464
Total External Giving and Mission		124,650	122,576
Dancing Class	6	58,224	60,344
Uniting Arts Toorak	7	14,608	83,394
Weddings and Funerals		12,063	23,600
Café	7	225,114	36,946
Virginia Davey Music Fund	13	1,717	6,563
Total Engagement and Activities		311,726	210,847
General Maintenance		91,439	59,585
Insurance and Fire Service Levy		62,449	64,828
Total Property		153,888	124,413
Utilities		34,968	36,838
General Expenses		35,412	23,519
Financial, Legal & HR		25,079	22,842
Total Communication, Services and Other		95,459	83,199
Memorial Garden	14	1,662	1,063
Minister's Discretionary Fund	15	4,043	3,796
Total Special Purposes		5,705	4,859
Total Expenditure		1,173,242	970,172
Operational Surplus/(Deficit)		(183,223)	(147,102)

Statement of Financial Position

Source or Fund	Notes	2025 (\$)	2024 (\$)
Net Assets on 1st January	19(a)	2,364,709	2,272,793
Operational Surplus/(Deficit)	19(b)	(183,223)	(147,636)
Revaluation and Balancing	19(c), 1(c)	(10,591)	78,964
Capital and Bequests Surplus/(Deficit)	19(d)	125,552	160,588
Net Assets on 31st December	19(e)	2,296,447	2,364,709
Represented by:			
Westpac - TUC Church Council	19(f)	61,347	61,308
Westpac - Toorak Uniting Church (Debit Card)	19(g)	5,000	1,300
U-Ethical - Warren Clark Bequest	5	8,496	54,111
U-Ethical - Planned Giving	19(h)	.	41,518
Petty Cash	19(i)	.	100
U-Ethical - TUC, Cash	19(j)	280,131	367,589
U-Ethical - TUC, Growth	19(k)	1,924,705	1,849,835
U-Ethical - Parishioner's Deposit	3	185,062	177,298
Current Liabilities	19(l)	.	175
Key Deposits & Bonds	19(m)	(720)	(2,724)
ATO GST Refund Due/(Payable)	19(n)	20,426	(4,468)
Provision for Personal & Long Service Leave	9	(32,000)	(25,333)
Parishioner's Deposits	3	(156,000)	(156,000)
Net Assets on 31st December	19(o)	2,296,447	2,364,709

Accompanying Notes

This Financial Report of Toorak Uniting Church is in line with “Financial Policy and Procedures”, adopted by Church Council in 2015. It documents the Church’s financial controls and procedures as well as details the delegations responsible for each area of the Church’s income and expenditure. Church Council is ultimately responsible for the general administration and financial affairs of the Congregation. This responsibility includes the preparation, presentation and approval of the Church’s budgets, financial statements and accompanying reports, as well as arranging for the year-end audit of the Church’s accounting records. The 2025 financial statements and accompanying notes contained in this Annual Report have been prepared consistently with the presentation adopted in recent years. In the interest of transparency, the accounting information disclosed in this Annual Report is comprehensive and detailed for all areas of the Church’s many and varied activities. Please note the various funds, bequests, committees, trusts and organisations mentioned in these financial statements and accompanying notes all have their own underlying constitutional documents. These documents are in a variety of forms. The comments below are not intended to substitute or replace a complete understanding of the relevant original documentation. Consistent with last year, the attached Statement of Financial Position lists all the Church’s bank and externally managed accounts as of 31st December 2025 (details in note 20).

1. Cash Accounting

The Church’s accounts are prepared on a cash accounting basis. The only exceptions are:

- a. interest income generated by the Church’s various U-Ethical accounts. The second half interest from these U-Ethical accounts has been brought to account on 31st December 2024, although the interest was not actually credited to the Church’s statements until 1st January 2025.
- b. revaluation of the U-Ethical Growth account. U-Ethical does not operate on 1st January, so 3rd January is used as the date for which valuations are taken, allowing for stabilisation on 2nd January.
- c. after the 2024 Annual Report was finalised, an underpayment of \$647 was discovered in GST in 2024. This is reflected in the 2025 GST total shown on the Balance Sheet. A net underpayment by \$17 in 2024 was forgiven in 2025. These two 2024 amounts are included in the Revaluation and Balancing line of the Statement of Financial Position.
- d. two other manual ledger transactions were donation of bonds for facilities hire recorded in electronic giving (\$254) and Virginia Davey Music Fund (\$500)
- e. church council resolved in February 2025 the time-in-lieu leave must be taken within a month of being accrued. At the end of 2025, a liability of \$16,000 for time-in-lieu leave became apparent which otherwise would have generated this expenditure in 2025. Church council decided on 12 March 2026 to record this liability in 2025 against the wages of the area of the church.

In 2025, all financial information reported is taken directly from the cash reports from the church accounting system or statements of funds via calculations occurring to the nearest cent. Accordingly, the totals reported in italics in the tables in the Annual Report may differ from the total of the corresponding amounts rounded to the nearest dollar.

2. Accounting Control

All bequests, donations, giving, and offerings received by the Church are banked and brought to account on the soonest available business day after receipt.

3. Offerings and Parishioner Deposit Scheme

Most offerings and donations are given electronically, and many regularly. With the substantial online congregation, it is difficult to separate donations from offerings. Accordingly, the offerings and donations are now split into Open Plate, representing cash given at services and Electronic Giving, representing bank credits or PayPal. Giving is up in 2025 if the effect of one single very large donation in 2024 is considered. Members of the Congregation have deposited as loans with the Church \$156,000 (2024, \$156,000). This money is included in the U-Ethical Parishioner's Deposit account. The interest earned is included in the Church's Offerings & Donations income. Because the loans may be repayable, a liability has been listed for \$156,000 in the Balance Sheet.

4. Outreach Projects

As part of TUC work for the wider church, the Outreach Projects Committee spends retiring offerings after the monthly Communion service, individual donations and an annual budgeted Church contribution. The Committee decides on recipients of the money donated, and the Chair of the Committee authorises final expenditure. Recipients meet the criteria set by the Church Council.

Outreach Projects	2025 (\$)	2024 (\$)
INCOME		
Retiring Offering	10,000	12,214
Total	10,000	12,214
EXPENDITURE		
Cranbourne Regional Uniting Church - Food Truck	5,000	5,529
Officer Pakenham Mission Area	5,000	5,529
Skills, Opportunity and Survival in Kenya	5,000	5,529
Boroondara Community Outreach	5,000	5,529
Total	20,000	22,114

5. Warren Clark Bequest

History: The Warren Clark Trust was established through the wills of Alison Margaret Clark (1907-1995) and Henry Stuart Logan Clark (1902-1986). The Trust is administered in perpetuity by Equity Trustees. Toorak Uniting Church benefits from one quarter (25%) of the net income from the will of Alison Clark and one-fifth (20%) of the net income from the will of Henry Clark. Alison and Henry were two of the three children of (Alfred) Warren Clark (1861-1948) and Blanche Eva Clark (nee Baird) (1871-1955) who married in 1898. Warren Clark was a successful stockbroker, as was his son, Henry, and the family lived at "Waratah" in Clendon Road, Toorak, from around 1900. The family's connection to Toorak Uniting Church came through the marriage of their first child, Hamilton Warren Clark, to Cecily Jenner. Cecily's father, Leslie, an Elder of the Church (from 1940 to his death in 1956), committed his life to charitable and community service following an early retirement at 42 years of age. Leslie persuaded Alison and her mother, Blanche, to become Life Governors of the Austin Hospital. Alison attended to her ageing parents at their home in Walsh Street, South Yarra, but the focus of her religious and social life was always Toorak Uniting Church. During the 1950's, Alison moved to 8 Como Street, South Yarra, where she lived with her brother Henry whom she cared for in his older age. Equity Trustees manage the trust. Equity Trustees forward distributions to the Synod of the Uniting Church who deposit the proceeds from the two wills four times a year in the U-Ethical Enhanced Income Trust Wholesale Account named TUC Warren Clark Bequest. The Warren Clark Bequest account is transferred to the Westpac TUC Church Council account, so sufficient funds are on hand to cover the operational expenses of the congregation.

6. Dancing Class

Dancing Class continued to be a great service for participants in 2025, providing direct and indirect benefits in skills and social life through their engagement with the Church. It was well supported by parents and students earning \$93,180. The expenses were \$58,224 returning a surplus of income over expenditure to the Church of \$34,955.

The 2025 accounts include \$50,963 prepaid Dance Class fees, as these are typically paid in advance for the semester ahead.

7. Uniting Arts Toorak (UAT) and Café

In February 2025, the Director of UAT resigned and on the recommendation of UAT Management Committee, Church Council decided not to fill the position. The expenditure in 2025 was payout of entitlements and income that came from the end of 2024. Subsequently, Church Council decided that Kinross House would be returned to its use as the manse, giving our church the great benefit of having our Minister in Placement living on site from October and avoiding costs of changes that would be necessary to comply with uses other than residential.

In August 2024, Church Council decided that the Café, rather than being managed by a licensee through UAT, would be run by the Church. The Café operations were moved from Kinross House to Argyle House after the resumption of Kinross House as the manse and the moving of John Macrae Centre activities to another location in Hawthorn.

Café	2025 (\$)	2024 (\$)
INCOME		
Sales	109,455	17,901
Catering	1,325	2,545
Total	110,780	20,447
EXPENDITURE		
Food	31,674	5,700
Maintenance	3,239	.
Wages	184,202	28,526
Other	6,000	2,719
Total	225,114	36,946
Surplus/(Deficit)	(114,334)	(3,409)

The combined income of the Café and UAT in 2025 was \$111,197 (\$45,998 in 2024) and the combined expenditure was \$239,722 (\$120,340 in 2024). The deficit from the two activities rose 73% from \$74,342 in 2024 to \$128,525 in 2025.

8. External Giving and Mission

Total External Giving and Mission was \$124,650 (2024, \$122,576). Members of the Congregation also made independent donations to other seasonal appeals, including Food for Friends and the Christmas Bowl Appeal (\$3,975, of which \$650 was inadvertently banked in TUC accounts and passed to the Christmas Bowl).

9. Long Service Leave & Personal Leave

Synod maintains the Church's payroll records on an ongoing basis. Records from Synod and knowledge of a commitment to leave in 2026 were used to calculate a liability of \$16,000 for 31st December 2025 (2024, \$25,333). An additional liability of \$16,000 was added in March 2026 as described in note 1(e).

10. Use of Facilities

Kinross House studios did not contribute to use of facilities income from the middle of 2025. The resultant reduction in 2025 facilities income (from \$172,419 in 2024 to \$155, 579 in 2025) approximately matches this decision of Church Council on use of Kinross House as a manse. Use of facilities continues to be near capacity.

11. Capital Fund

Originally created to accept 25% of all Warren Clark Bequest distributions (subsequently reduced to 12.5% by Congregation decision in April 2009) into a dedicated capital fund to provide for capital projects on the Church property at 603 Toorak Road. Interest earned on this account is reinvested in the fund to support future works. In 2025, major projects supported were

- necessary building class changes for Kinross and later Argyle House to operate as a café (\$47, 633)
- Renew 603 and Spire Project Control Group preliminary expenses on professional consultants (\$103, 161)
- UCA required changes to Kinross House to return it to a manse (\$59, 957)
- preliminary work on a new website and electronic sign (\$7, 153)
- upgrade of furnishings (\$7,040)

Capital Fund	2025 (\$)	2024 (\$)
INCOME		
12.5% Warren Clark Bequest	57,290	39,737
Interest	59,801	40,159
Revaluation	(13,645)	45,145
Other Income	65,000	-
Total	168,447	125,042
EXPENDITURE		
Land, Church and Facilities	46,448	9,922
Equipment and Other	178,497	15,785
Total	224,945	25,707
Surplus/(Deficit)	(56,498)	99,335
Funds as at 1st January	715,668	616,333
Surplus/(Deficit)	(56,498)	99,335
Funds as at 31st December	659,170	715,668
Represented by:		
U-Ethical - Toorak Uniting Church, Cash, Capital	9,000	112,553
U-Ethical - Toorak Uniting Church, Growth, Capital	650,170	603,115
Total	659,170	715,668

12. Bequests Fund

Seeded by an original contribution from the Estate of Dame Hilda Stevenson, this fund has since been used as a general fund for untied bequests received by Toorak Uniting Church. Substantial additions in 2011 and 2012 came from the Estates of Mimi Chisholm and Louise Deravin and 2025 from Anne Smith, respectively. In 2025, the Estate of our much-loved member and leader, Anne Smith, contributed the very substantial addition of \$167,709. In 2009, the Congregation approved a recommendation from the Funding Review Committee that “the capital of untied bequests should not be used for recurrent expenditure” and that “half the income of untied bequests be retained and reinvested in the fund and half be available for normal recurrent expenditure.” There was no expenditure in 2025. The 2009 decision may require review in the light of necessary work on the church building spire.



Anne Smith

Bequests Fund	2025 (\$)	2024 (\$)
INCOME		
Interest	28,551	19,635
Revaluation	(14,210)	41,617
Bequests Without Conditions	167,709	-
Total	182,050	61,253
EXPENDITURE	-	-
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	182,050	61,253
Funds as at 1st January	689,844	628,591
Surplus/(Deficit)	182,050	61,253
Funds as at 31st December	871,893	689,844
Represented by:		
U-Ethical - Toorak Uniting Church, Cash, Bequests	187,877	187,877
U-Ethical - Toorak Uniting Church, Growth, Bequests	684,016	501,967
Total	871,893	689,844

13. Virginia Davey Music Fund

The VDMF fund was initiated in 2008, when donations of \$15,000 were received. The purpose of the fund is to support music in worship at Toorak Uniting Church. To build the corpus of the fund, Finance Committee decided to allocate 70% of the fund into the U-Ethical Growth account with effect from the beginning of 2025, so that growth interest was allocated twice in 2025.



Virginia Davey, 1996

Virginia Davey Music Fund	2025 (\$)	2024 (\$)
INCOME		
Other Income	805	.
Interest and Revaluation	4,913	3,154
Total	5,718	3,154
EXPENDITURE		
Scholarships	.	.
Special Services and Other	1,717	6,563
Total	1,717	6,563
Surplus/(Deficit)	4,001	(3,409)
Funds as at 1st January	80,191	83,600
Surplus/(Deficit)	4,001	(3,409)
Funds as at 31st December	84,192	80,191
Represented by		
U-Ethical - Toorak Uniting Church, Cash, VDMF	22,340	80,191
U-Ethical - Toorak Uniting Church, Growth, VDMF	61,852	.
Total	84,192	80,191

14. Memorial Garden Fund

Fees for the interment of ashes in the Memorial Garden, together with all interest earned are held by the fund whilst maintenance and calligraphy costs of the Garden and Memorial Book are paid out.



Memorial Garden Fund	2025 (\$)	2024 (\$)
INCOME		
Interments & calligraphy	2,600	800
Interest and Revaluation	1,953	1,619
Total	4,553	2,419
EXPENDITURE		
Maintenance and refurbishment	303	676
Interments & calligraphy	1,359	386
Total	1,662	1,063
Surplus/(Deficit)	2,891	1,356
Funds as at 1st January	44,269	42,913
Surplus/(Deficit)	2,891	1,356
Funds as at 31st December	47,160	44,269
Represented by:		
U-Ethical - Toorak Uniting Church, Memorial Garden Fund	47,160	44,269

15. Minister's Discretionary Fund

This fund allows the Minister to provide financial support to deserving recipients without approval from Church committees or Church delegates. The fund is increased through an annual donation from the profits of the Toorak Opportunity Shop. The Toorak Opportunity Shop constitution stipulates that payments from the fund cannot be used for the Minister's benefit.

Minister's Discretionary Fund	2025 (\$)	2024 (\$)
INCOME		
Distribution from Toorak Opportunity Shop	3,000	4,000
Interest and Revaluation	513	424
Total	3,513	4,424
EXPENDITURE	4,043	3,796
Surplus/(Deficit)	(530)	628
Funds as at 1st January	11,896	11,268
Surplus/(Deficit)	(530)	628
Funds as at 31st December	11,366	11,896
Represented by:		
U-Ethical - Toorak Uniting Church, Minister's Discretionary Fund	11,366	11,896

16. Organ Development Fund

This fund was established in August 2011 with a \$25,000 donation (not bequest) from the Estate of Lady Elspeth White. Over \$40,000 of organ maintenance has occurred since this date. The fund continues to provide for ongoing organ expenditure as and when necessary.

Organ Development Fund	2025 (\$)	2024 (\$)
INCOME	286	71
EXPENDITURE	.	.
Surplus/(Deficit)	286	71
Funds as at 1st January	1,951	1,880
Surplus/(Deficit)	286	71
Funds as at 31st December	2,237	1,951
Represented by:		
U-Ethical -Toorak Uniting Church, Organ Development Fund	2,237	1,951

17. Specific purpose funds retained by Synod

In 2021 all bequests with a specific purpose were transferred to Synod to ensure that any disbursement was in line with the terms of the bequest. Consequently, they are no longer included in our financial statements. TUC can apply to use the funds in line with the intended purpose. Some smaller funds have been aggregated with other UCA organisation's smaller funds in a legal process to have them disassociated from the original purpose, which in each case is no longer relevant (Annie Wallis, David Scott and J.A. Campbell Memorial).

These funds consist of:

Balance at 31st December	2025 (\$)	2024 (\$)
Glenda Benness Bequest	489,334	469,575
Elsbeth White (James Bruce Fletcher Memorial Fund)	18,511	18,231
Roach Family Ministerial Exchange	134,866	129,562
Annie Wallis Bequest	.	1,569
David Scott Bequest	.	785
Janet Torry MacKenzie Endowment	7,819	7,847
J.A. Campbell Memorial	.	23,263
Total	650,530	650,833

Glenda Benness Bequest

Glenda was a long-time member of the congregation who came with her parents Joyce and Roland to TUC in the 1970s. Roland was for many years a strong presence in the bass section of the Choir, kept the financial records for twelve years and was an active contributor to Finance Committee. Glenda was an active and dedicated member of the Young Adult Group and volunteered regularly at TEM OpShop. Glenda died in 2022, and the bequest has wording that requires it to be administered through Synod although it has no specific purpose.

Elsbeth White (James Bruce Fletcher Memorial Fund)

This fund was established by Lady White in 1989 with a \$10,000 donation. Lady White specified the fund was "to assist with the maintenance and development of Toorak Uniting Church property". Lady White further documented, "It is my wish that 25% of the annual income of the Trust Fund be added to the capital of the fund and the balance be paid to a property reserve fund at the Toorak Uniting Church for the above purpose."



James Fletcher

Roach Family Ministerial Fund

This fund was created in 1980 with a \$20,000 donation from the Roach Charitable Fund "to enable the Minister of Toorak Uniting Church and his wife to visit in 1981 a church in the United States of America and the fares for the Minister of that Church and his spouse to visit Toorak Uniting Church." The establishing memorandum then required Toorak Uniting Church "to apply the income of the Fund towards the provision of exchange tours similar to the 1981 visit but to such places and at such times and on such conditions as the Parish Council of Toorak Uniting Church and the Minister shall decide." In 2013, Church Council agreed that in addition to continuing to provide for the professional development of our Minister and/or to bring distinguished speakers to Toorak Uniting Church. In 2023, TUC used monies from this fund to present a special lecture.



Ian Roach

Janet Torry MacKenzie Endowment

Janet Torry MacKenzie was the wife of the Reverend John Mackenzie, Minister of Toorak Uniting Church from 1914 to 1944, and the mother of Lady Elspeth White. Friends established the Janet Torry MacKenzie Memorial Fund. Interest from the fund is used to support Deaconesses who Janet MacKenzie worked with and assisted during her life. Authority for expenditure remains with the Chair of the Janet Torry MacKenzie Memorial Fund Committee.

18. John Macrae Centre

In 2025, Uniting AgeWell decided that it would use Argyle House only as a drop-off and pick-up point for excursions but no longer use it for daily activities, relocating these activities to a site in Hawthorn.

19. Statement of Financial Position

The TUC accounting system holds separate accounts for operational, capital and bequest income and expenditure - see note 11 for capital and note 12 for bequests.

The statement of financial position 2025 shows that the sum - (e) below - of net assets at the beginning of 2025 (a) and the accounting transactions in the year - (b) to (d) - equals the sum (o) of assets at the end of the year - (e) to (k), note 5, note 3 - net of money that is owed either at the end of the year or money possibly in the future - (l) to (n), note 9.

Apart from the following three lines in the statement of financial position:

- U-Ethical Warren Clark Bequest – see note 5
- U-Ethical - Parishioner's Deposit – see note 3
- Provision for Personal and Long Service Leave – see note 9

the sources (in the accounting system) or funds (held externally to TUC) in the statement are:

- a) Net Assets on 1st January - copied from the previous Annual Financial Report
- b) Operational Surplus/(Deficit) - copied from the operational expenditure table
- c) Revaluation and Balancing -
 - a. the balance ((\$9,926) in 2025) of the U-Ethical Growth revaluation that is not included in the capital (note 11), bequests (note 12) or VDMF (note 13) revaluations.
 - b. adjustments for 2024 that occurred after finalisation of the annual financial report for 2024 (with details in note 1(c))
- d) Capital and Bequests Surplus/(Deficit) – the total of the capital surplus/(deficit) (note 11) and the bequests surplus/(deficit) (note 12)
- e) Net Assets on 31st December – the total of a) to d)
- f) Westpac - TUC Church Council – is the bank account used for almost all the Church's day-to-day operational receipts and payments
- g) Westpac Debit Card account – used for small incidental Church outgoings. This account is typically maintained with a credit balance of a maximum of \$5,000. At 2025 year end it was \$5,000
- h) Planned Giving – was a U-Ethical Enhanced Income Trust Wholesale account that previously parishioners could deposit regularly to from their bank accounts. U-Ethical stopped receiving deposits in this manner and in 2025 the remaining amount at the end of 2024 was transferred to the Westpac TUC – Church Council account where it was used for expenses in 2025.

- i) Petty Cash –has not been used for some years and replaced by a debit card facility, so the \$100 was deposited into the Westpac TUC – Church Council account
- j) U-Ethical – TUC, Cash –is the U-Ethical Enhanced Trust – Wholesale (Cash) account that, together with the U-Ethical TUC, Growth account, contains the balances from the church’s previously separate UCA Funds accounts. In 2025, \$325,000 was transferred to the Westpac TUC – Church Council account to fund expenses. The cash account is unit based and the value of the units varies daily. During the 2025 calendar year, cash units decreased by 0.4% from \$1.0140 each as on 3rd January 2025 to on 3rd January 2026. Consistent with previous years, the revaluation is incorporated in the interest rate transaction on 31st December
- k) U-Ethical – TUC, Growth – is the U-Ethical Growth Portfolio account. In 2025, \$220,407 was switched from U-Ethical – TUC, Growth to U-Ethical TUC, Cash to fund expenses. The growth account is unit based and the value of the units varies daily. During the 2025 calendar year, growth units decreased by 2% from \$7.2725 each on 3rd January 2025 to \$7.1089 each on 3rd January 2026. (Accompanying note 1 explains the reason for comparisons on 3rd January). Consistent with previous years, this unrealised gain/loss in growth unit values has been brought to account in these financial statements under the line titled Revaluation and Balancing above.
- l) Current Liabilities –used to record diverse transactions that will be balanced soon with an equal transaction in the opposite direction. The \$175 that was not balanced at the end of 2024 was balanced in 2025.
- m) Key Deposits & Bonds –used to record deposits for keys for facility hirers that are refunded on return of the key, as well as bonds for facility hirers that are refunded when the facility is left in good condition
- n) ATO GST Refund Due/Payable – the church accounting system automatically accumulates GST on transactions (both money received and money spent) that require it, and the quarterly report to the ATO is also automatically generated from the accounting system. The business activity statement for December has the balance recorded here
- o) Net Assets on 31st December – the total of all the lines under the heading Represented by, i.e. the lines starting with note 19(f) and ending with note 3.

The balances recorded for the Cash and Growth components of the U-Ethical Toorak Uniting Church account are in the table below. These balances are used to apportion interest payments in the first half of the following year. The balances are updated with any other transactions at mid-year for apportionment of interest for the second half year.

U-Ethical- Toorak Uniting Church Account	Notes	2025 (\$)	2024 (\$)
A: Cash			
Virginia Davey Music Fund	13	22,340	80,191
Memorial Garden Fund	14	47,160	44,269
Minister's Discretionary Fund	15	11,366	11,896
Organ Development Fund	16	2,237	1,951
Capital	11	9,000	112,553
Bequests	12	187,877	187,877
General		151	(71,148)
Total		280,131	367,589
B: Growth			
Capital	11	650,170	603,115
Bequests	12	684,016	501,967
Virginia Davey Music Fund	13	61,852	-
General		528,667	744,753
Total		1,924,705	1,849,835

Chris Begg
Treasurer

Barbara McKinnon
Chair, Church Council

Independent Audit Report to the members of UCA Toorak Uniting Church

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report of UCA Toorak Uniting Church (the Church), comprising the statement of income & expenditure and balance sheet for the year ended 31 December 2025, notes to the accounts and the statement by the Church Council.

In our opinion the financial report of the Church has been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 (as adopted by the Church Council in 2015), including:

- (i) Presenting fairly the Church's financial position as at 31 December 2025 and of its financial performance for the year ended; and
- (ii) Complying with the Church's financial policies and procedures as set out in Note 1.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the Church Council in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified opinion.

Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 of the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the Church Council's financial reporting requirements under the Uniting Church in Australia. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Other Matter

The financial statements of UCA Toorak Uniting Church for the year ended 31 December 2024 was audited by another auditor who expressed an unmodified opinion of the financial report on 31 May 2025.

Responsibilities of Church Council

The Church Council is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report and has determined that the accounting policies used and described in Note 1 to the financial statements, which form part of the financial report, are appropriate to meet the requirements of Uniting Church in Australia and are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. And for such internal control as the Church Council determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the Church Council is responsible for assessing the Church'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 the Church Council either intends to liquidate the Church or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

The Church Council is responsible for overseeing the Church's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is 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 the Australian 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 this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, 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 Church Council's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Church Council.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Church Council'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 Church Council'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 report, 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 Church Council to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the Church Council 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.



ACCRU MELBOURNE (AUDIT) PTY LTD



A N SAMADI
Director

23 April 2026

Pastoral Care Committee

Pastoral Care is recognised and recorded by this Congregation as having high priority, as an important responsibility and outreach to be offered and maintained within the TUC community and its extensions.

Currently, eleven Pastoral Care Team Leaders assist our Clergy in this endeavour, with approximately 160 TUC adherents listed in groups, individually and/or within families. The Pastoral Care Committee, consisting of our wonderful Clergy and the Team Leaders, meets regularly six times a year, in review, consideration, care planning and to report Joys and Concerns. The Care Team Leader reports to each Church Council meeting.

We are delighted to welcome and have members of the former Armadale Uniting Church joining our TUC congregation this year, bringing with them their friendship, talents and contributions to our community of worshippers.

My grateful thanks are expressed to David Ross-Smith who has generously volunteered to take over the role of Team Leader of the Pastoral Care Committee going forward.

Christine Brown
Team Leader

Archives Committee

In 2025, the TUC Archives received the Annual Reports from Church Council and associated Committees. In addition, many other items of historic note are added each year including events or special occasions involving members of our congregation, with accompanying photos. The TUC Archives are currently providing valuable material to assist in a publication celebrating the 150th anniversary of the foundation of TUC, which took place in 2025.

This year the Archives Committee was pleased to welcome three new members, Wanda Sumual, Susie Shears, and Monique Perry, who will greatly assist in carrying the work of the Committee forward.

Pamela Wilson
Convenor

Sunday Fellowship

During the year, we continued to enjoy special morning teas after our combined church services. We were treated to delicious sweet and savoury plates brought by our generous volunteers. The morning teas are a very popular addition to TUC fellowship.

Particularly anticipated are asparagus rolls, sushi, chocolate brownies, lemon squares and passionfruit sponge, as well as other treats.

Extra special occasions were Anzac Day with kind donations of Anzac biscuits, and the celebration for TUC's 150th anniversary of its foundation, the refreshments for which were held in the Hall.

All these occasions rely on the hard work of those who do the setting up, decorating tables, clearing up and finally the washing up. Thanks to all for their generous contributions.

Jenny Stewardson
Convenor



Alexandra, Julie & granddaughter, and Christine on Christmas Day



Barbara and Angela cooking up a storm



Gillian W. with Revs John, Sylvia, and Peter at the Big Hymn Sing



Colin and Jonathan enjoying a cuppa

Sesquicentenary Report

In 2025, TUC reached the important milestone of its 150th year since its foundation in 1875. A small committee was formed to plan our celebratory activities. The decision was made to work towards four different activities and aspects: A concert produced by David Ross-Smith, a Big Hymn Sing afternoon, a special service in November, and finally plans for a TUC history of the last twenty-five years in booklet form.

David's concert took place on Sunday, 4 May in the church was very popular and well attended. He presented two songs to "bookend" the afternoon – the aria "Habanera" from Georges Bizet's "Carmen" and The Judges' Song from "Trial by Jury," both written in 1875. Friends of David's kindly produced and donated an excellent afternoon tea. Half the proceeds from the concert were donated to the invaluable Music for David programme under Uniting AgeWell.

The Big Hymn Sing took place on Sunday, 5 October at 2pm. The afternoon was enhanced by the presence of a Tongan choir, whose strong voices and beautiful harmonies added to our congregation's enjoyment of our favourite hymns. The hymns chosen were: Be Thou my Vision, Guide me O thou Great Redeemer, Be still my soul, Now thank we all our God, God is love, Tell out my soul, Immortal Invisible, Love Divine, all loves excelling, O for a thousand tongues to sing, and finally Praise to the Lord. The service was led by our Minister Rev Sylvia Akau'ola Tongotongo, and the music was directed by Dylan Quinlan-Baskett, our organist and choir master.

Our special celebratory service was held on Sunday, 16 November and was opened by Rev Sylvia. A highlight was the excellent and stirring sermon preached by Rev Dr Jim Donaldson, a former Minister of TUC. He also delivered the final blessing.

We were delighted to have Rev Alistair and his wife Clare Boyd-Macrae with us to give bible readings. The Macrae family have been involved in TUC for many years, and our John Macrae Centre is named after Rev John Macrae, one of our former Ministers. Clare's father was Robin Boyd, also a much-loved Minister of our church. Clare's reading was Philippians 2: 5-11, and Alistair's was John 15: 1-12.

Our Chair of Church Council, Barbara McKinnon, welcomed the congregation. The Prayers of Thanksgiving were led by Sue McDonald and David Ross-Smith, and the Prayer of Dedication was given by Janet Atkinson. Rev John Edwards led the Prayers of the People.

The music choices were special, particularly the Anthem: "I was glad when they said unto me" by Charles Parry. The postlude was Nun Danket Alle Gott, by Sigfrid Karg-Elert. Musicians playing brass instruments and timpani were a welcome and enhancing contribution.

Work is progressing on the history booklet, which is anticipated to be published in 2026. The editorial team are Michael Kenihan, Chris Legge and Pamela Wilson. It will encompass church life from 2000 to 2025, including personal memories and photographs.

Jenny Stewardson
Sesquicentenary Committee

Music Report

TUC Choir

The choir have been a pleasure to work with, as always. We've sung an introit, anthem and offertory at nearly every 10:15am service, as well as sometimes singing for the postlude. This would not have been possible without our section leaders, Ursula Paez, James Penn and Nick Tolhurst as well as honorary soprano leader Catriona De Vere. You all raise the standard of this great ensemble, thank you.

We have also sung for special services during Holy Week and Christmas, as well as our 150th anniversary service, where we were joined by a brass quintet (thanks to Joseph Yu) and timpani, and only just managed to squeeze onto the stage at the back of the church. We sang Bruckner's *Loscust Iste*, Parry's *I Was Glad*, and Quartel's *How Can I Keep From Singing*. We also worked extremely hard at the tricky, modern but beautiful music for our Nine Lessons and Carols service. And again, we finished the year with the joyful sound of Vivaldi's *Gloria* on Christmas Eve.



TUC Choir, brass quintet & timpani on-stage during the 150th anniversary service.

Pamela Brown Handbell Choir

Although we didn't have many public outings in 2025, we did ring two pieces, *Gymnopédie No 1* by Satie and *Peal Con Brio* by Thompson for our 150th anniversary service. As well as ringing during the hymns for this service, we also rang during the carols of the Nine Lessons and Carols Service. Some new ringers have also joined us, which means we're able to start exploring more repertoire using the fourth octave of bells on loan to us by the Handbell Society of Australasia.



The Handbell Choir during the 150th anniversary service.

Choral Scholar

Last year we were lucky enough to have Catherine Williams join the choir as our Choral Scholar. Catherine has been wonderful to work with, keen and bright and has become a much-valued member of the soprano section. She is undertaking singing lessons with Catriona De Vere.

Organ Scholar

I'd like to thank Elizabeth Buttery for her five years of service as our organ scholar. It was a pleasure to hear her play the odd postlude, step up during January, or whenever I was unable to play for a Sunday service. Thank you.

As of this year, we have taken on Jeffrey Li as our new organ scholar. Jeffrey is in year 10 at Melbourne High School and is undertaking lessons with Jennifer Chou.

Instruments at TUC

In 2025 Armidale Uniting Church donated their small Kawai grand and a Kawai upright piano to TUC. These instruments were gratefully received, especially the grand, as the historic Blüthner has been in need of retirement for some time now. The Kawai grand has unfortunately been failing to hold tune very well and is too small for the large church space.

The Great and Chamber organs are still being serviced by Hargrave's Pipe Organs, and Pianos tuned by Ben Briggs of Pianos Pitch Perfect.

Dylan Quinlan-Baskett
Director of Music



Outreach Committee

The Congregation approved a 2025 budget that included an allocation from Church Council of \$10,000, this being the same as in 2024.

This approved amount of \$10,000 together with the retiring offerings following Communion at the 9:00am and 10:15am services enabled us to distribute \$10,000 for the first half of 2025 and the round number of \$10,000 for the second half of 2025. This allowed us to distribute \$5,000 to each project for the 2025 calendar year.

We are continuing to support the Cranbourne Food Truck, The Homework Hub in Pakenham, SOSK (Skills, Opportunity and Survival in Kenya), and the Boroondara Community Outreach. Mid-year we distributed \$2,500 to each project. At the end of the year, we distributed \$2,500 to each Outreach Project.

- **The Cranbourne Food Truck, Cranbourne Uniting Church \$5,000**
- **The Homework Hub - Officer/Pakenham Mission Area \$5,000**
- **Boroondara Community Outreach (BCO) \$5,000**
- **SOSK (Skills, Opportunity and Survival in Kenya) \$5,000**

These TUC Outreach Projects would not be able to continue as they do without the generous support of the people of our church. Our Outreach Committee is most grateful for the extraordinary love and support shown by our congregation for these most vital programs.

Anna Field
Chair

Coffee Club

In 2025 this new fellowship group was established by Ms Leonie Dillon.

Coffee Club meets on the first Friday of the Month at 10:30am. Any and all Members of TUC are welcome to join this gathering for a coffee, fellowship, discussion and even quizzes. Attendances have varied between 3 and 20.

Renew 603 Committee

In 2024, TUC formed the Renew 603 committee (Barbara McKinnon, Catriona De Vere, Chris Begg and Rudi Doku) to undertake future planning for the TUC campus. Form 1 was submitted to Presbytery in 2025 with a proposal to redevelop the TUC site to provide a community hub including indoor and outdoor meeting spaces, church administration capability and café, housing (including a manse) and services to people of all ages. The missional connection was to support the spiritual and physical well-being of the wider community by providing access to the church and its programs, as well as caring for all from cradle to grave.

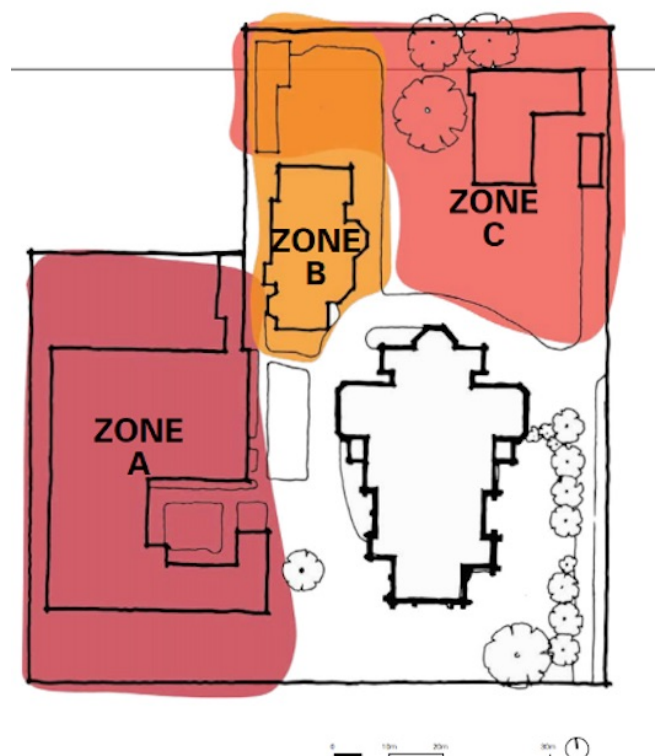
Presbytery approved a Project Control Group, comprising the Renew 603 committee members and representatives from Synod Property Services (David Brown and Peter Thomas) and Presbytery (Rev Jay Robinson). The terms of reference of the PCG, approved in May 2025, were to oversee activities leading to the development of a Preliminary Business Case to support the redevelopment of the site excluding the church building to support infrastructure and mission outcomes, assess ways in which this can be achieved, assess the financial implications of the proposed development, satisfy TUC's future financial needs and financial sustainability, and determine and recommend a preferred delivery pathway in a Preliminary Business Case.

Church Council approved a budget for the preliminary business case planning of \$166,680.

The Project Control Group has met monthly since February 4, 2025 and reports to Church Council. An important foundation of the planning is engagement with the Property for Mission Workbook, which involves auditing current property use and requirements related to the Church's mission plan and priorities, as well as considering TUC's financial position. An important survey of congregational priorities was conducted in March, and the more than 90 responses received were analysed by Prof Tim Brown and presented to the congregation on June 29, 2025.

After considering proposals from three firms, MGS architects were selected to develop a masterplan for the site. Their work has been supported by a site survey and reports from heritage, traffic, tree and urban planning consultants. The master planning process was separated into two phases, phase one being an initial identification of development zones on the site with suggestions for possible uses for each, with the aim of presenting a number of options to be considered by the congregation. Phase two is creation of more detailed plans for the preferred option for the final site masterplan. Phase one was completed at the end of July, with possible use options shown in the draft sketch.

Zone A potential options
65% Housing / 15% Kindergarten / 20% Hall (functions/programs) and offices
65% Housing / 35% Hall (functions/programs) and offices
80% Housing / 20% Hall (functions/programs) and offices
Zone B potential options
Manse (interim measure)
Administration workspace
Other?
Zone C potential options
Kindergarten only
50% Kindergarten / 50% Housing
Housing only



At this point attention shifted to possible funding pathways and some preliminary financial modelling was undertaken by Steve Abonyi at Synod. An overview of the options developed by MGS architects was presented to the congregation at a meeting on September 28, 2025 and feedback was sought on the possibility of use of the site for a retirement complex similar to the Benson Centre at St Peter's Catholic Church. In December, Uniting AgeWell visited TUC to assess the viability of partnering in such a development. Progression to the second phase of masterplanning with MGS was paused while awaiting responses from Uniting AgeWell.

The work of the group is underpinned by the recognition that any development must support the long-term financial viability of the congregation and that current income streams do not support operating costs. The site is complex with significant heritage, planning and access constraints. Balancing community use and viable housing outcomes is a key challenge. While the congregation has expressed strong support for community-facing uses, there are mixed views on housing type and scale and a clear desire for meaningful integration of community users, such as the kindergarten, and congregational life.

The work of the committee has been complicated by the significant changes in property use during 2025 and the discovery of issues requiring significant capital expenditure, in particular the repair of the spire. Ascertaining the effect of these developments on TUC's financial position is essential for determining the types of financing pathways available to the congregation and nature of the partnerships that the congregation might enter into.

The Renew 603 committee is grateful to David Brown and Rev Jay Robinson for the time, energy and expertise that they provided to support this important project for our community.

Renew 603 Budget:

Consultant	Note	Stage 1 Budget for preliminary business case (\$)	Fee Proposals (\$)	Actual Expenditure (\$)
Surveyor	Overland	13,380	15,000	15,000.00
Planner	Upco	16,000	12,500	5,224.75
Architect	MGS architects	50,000	47,970	21,645.00
Heritage	GJM	6,000	9,600	6,600.00
Arborist		3,300	3,500	3,500.00
Traffic	One Mile Grid	6,750	4,800	2,900.00
Quantity Surveyor		6,500	4,500	
Services	RSP Consulting	23,700		
Property Market		25,500		
Synod Property Services				
Contingency		15,550		
Total		166,680	97,870	54,869.75

Barbara McKinnon
Chair, Renew 603 Committee

Property Committee

The year 2025 proved to be exceptionally challenging for the Property Committee. It began in January with the discovery that the Building Classification of Kinross House was incompatible with its use as an arts centre, artist studios, and café. Achieving a change of classification would have required a substantial injection of funding, and after careful consideration the difficult decision was made to abandon the application.

Challenges continued throughout the year, including the relocation of the café. Later in the year, further significant concerns arose when it was determined that the spire was unsafe and would need to be completely reconstructed. This issue has had major implications for both planning and finances and remains a key focus for both Property Committee and Church Council.

Despite these challenges, regular repair and maintenance work continued throughout 2025. This included carpet cleaning and repairs; general plumbing works, including gutter repairs and extensive leak detection across the site; painting; fire services checks; electrical maintenance; key and electronic lock maintenance; appliance repairs; ongoing rectification of potential trip hazards in the pavers; car parking arrangements and line marking; and draft-proofing of the office. Heat pump hot water units were installed at both Kinross House and Argyle House. At the end of the year, investigations were still underway to improve microphones for services and livestreaming.

A number of non-routine projects were also undertaken during the year. These included the installation of an air conditioner in the Wettenhall Room; the transition from Telstra to Aussie Broadband, including a complete overhaul of the PABX system; the return of Kinross House to use as a manse; the submission of an application for a change of Building Classification for Argyle House; and the appointment of a heritage architect to oversee the spire works. Work to determine the final cost of the spire reconstruction and to establish a realistic timeline is ongoing as 2025 draws to a close.

The Property Committee throughout 2025 comprised: Catriona De Vere, Chris Begg, Stan Laughler and Pamela Wilson. The wise council of Malcolm Jack has been sorely missed. However, we were delighted to welcome Doug Lee in March, Chetan Noronha in April, and Victoria Clayton in November this year. Each have brought valuable skills, insight, and energy to the Committee, strengthening and enriching its work during a particularly demanding year.



Adding safety nets to the spire



A new bathroom and laundry in Kinross House

Catriona De Vere
Chair, Property Committee

Memorial Garden Committee

The Memorial Garden, on the east side of Toorak Uniting Church, is a much-loved retreat for families with ashes interred there. The garden displays Australian native plants which provide a colourful array in springtime.

We thank James Widdowson for his continued care of the garden and his meticulous arrangements for the provision of suitable sites for interments. We also welcome the offer from Victoria Clayton, whose parents' ashes are interred in the garden, to assist with further maintenance.

In 2025, we interred the ashes of Joyce Lydia Sheard and James St. John. The names of all those interred are also recorded in the two Memorial Books in the eastern apse of the Church.



Pamela Wilson
Convenor

Toorak Ecumenical Opportunity Shop

During the 2025 year, the opening hours of the Op Shop have been 12pm to 4pm, Monday to Saturday. The year has been successful with financial distributions to charities twice in the year.

The three churches, St John's, St Peter's and Toorak Uniting Church, each gave to their several nominated charities \$30,000 in April and \$30,000 in October. Thus, donations to grassroots charities totalled \$180,000.

I wish to thank Richard Sommersgill for his tireless contribution to the Toorak Op Shop Committee in helping to represent TUC, and for the background support of our Ministers. The charities that TUC supported were Kew Neighbourhood Learning Centre; BlazeAid Inc; A Path to Follow Inc; Frontier Services; Uniting Housing Cooperative; Melbourne City Mission; and the TUC clergy discretionary fund.

We are always looking for good, saleable clothes to be brought to the shop during opening hours at 2A Carters Avenue, Toorak. A pickup service can be arranged where someone has many bags of clothing to donate.

On behalf of the committee, I offer my heartfelt thanks to all volunteers for their diligent hard work over the past year. The committee is always grateful to those who support the Op Shop by making donations and purchasing goods throughout the year.

Carrlo Jack
Committee Member

Toorak Uniting Church Dancing Class

2025 saw 299 students participate in dance classes over the year's program with three classes in Semester 1 and one class in Semester 2. The program consists of eight classes and finishes with a formal for each group.

We once again thank our main feeder schools; Korowa, Lauriston, Melbourne Girls Grammar, St Catherines, Melbourne Grammar and Scotch College, for their support and circulating our enrolment information to their communities.

Dance Class staff remained the same with Rhonda Tellis, head dance teacher, John Druzynski and Sylvia Strenzke continuing to provide expert, quality dance instruction for the students.

Jayden Grey, Alex Kinsella and Kay Top maintained the safety and smooth running of the classes.

Sadly, we said goodbye to Jayden at the end of the year. We thank Jayden for his loyal commitment and care and wish him all the best for the future.

The fancy dress nights and formals were well supported and a lot of fun. Student participation and engagement made the nights a positive and memorable experience for all.

We are very grateful for the continued support of our volunteers and sincerely thank them for their continued assistance.

Thank you to the Dance Class Team.

Thank you to everyone connected with Toorak Uniting Church and for the ongoing provision of this dance opportunity for the young in our society.

Thank you, Richard, office staff and James.

2025 Dance has been a successful year because of all your support.

Lin Cooper
Dance Class Coordinator

Uniting Age Well John Macrae Centre

The Uniting AgeWell Social Connection Group continued to provide a valuable social support service to older people living in the Toorak area.

Groups like the one offered by Uniting AgeWell operate throughout metropolitan Melbourne and are government-funded through the Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP), with referrals received through My Aged Care.

The intention of these groups is to enable people to continue living independently in the community, supporting them to keep strong, healthy and socially connected. Programs offered include exercise activities, home cooked meals, games, trivia, information talks, art and craft, outings, musical entertainment and walking groups. Activities regularly change based on the needs and wishes of participants.

Following the decision to relocate the Toorak Uniting Church Café into the John Macrae Centre building in July 2025, centre-based social connection activities were relocated to Uniting AgeWell's Hawthorn Centre, while community outings continued from the Toorak Centre on Mondays and Tuesdays.

Highlights of Uniting AgeWell's Social Connection Program across Melbourne's southeast in 2025 included:

- A diverse range of outings (including Yarra Valley, Alowyn Gardens, Werribee Rose Garden, Chocolate factory, RAAF Museum to name a few).
- Music For David Singers concerts.
- Musical concerts attended regularly at Scots' Church in Collins St, Melbourne.
- Introduction of Virtual Reality activities enabling 3D 'armchair travel' to destinations around the world; especially engaging for people who could 'visit' their birth country, reminisce and share stories with other participants.
- Volunteers continued to provide valuable support for all activities, bringing a range of experience and skills to share with participants.

We have no doubt that 2026 will be another exciting year. Uniting AgeWell looks forward to continuing to work in partnership with the Toorak Uniting Church community to develop a welcoming place for people to connect.

We acknowledge the many committed and passionate workers who have supported the John Macrae Centre social group activities over the decades, enabling people to enjoy positive wellbeing and good health.

Please feel welcome to drop in and say hello.

Penel Anderson

Uniting AgeWell Team Leader, Social Connections

Toorak Ecumenical Council

The activities of the Ecumenical Council have continued to be supported by TUC throughout the past year.

Our regular activities are:

- **Lenten Studies:** These studies were based upon the book *“Journeying Through Lent into New Daylight.”*
- **World Day of Prayer:** TUC hosted this Service in March. The Order of Service had been prepared by the women of the Cook Islands.
- **Good Friday Witness Walk:** Despite the rather warm weather, the Walk was well supported. Refreshments upon its conclusion at TUC were very welcome.
- **Monthly Prayers for Christian Unity:** In May, the regular service was combined with a service acknowledging the Week of Prayers for Christian Unity.
- **Seasonal Combined Services:** The Service on Trinity Sunday marked the 45th year of the Affirmation of the Ecumenical Agreement between St John’s Anglican Church, St Peter’s Catholic Church, the Swedish Church and TUC. For Advent, the combined worship was a Service of Lessons and Carols led by the Trinity College Choir of the University of Melbourne.
- **Food for Friends Outreach Appeal:** In 2025, TUC assisted Burwood Heights Emergency Relief and the Church of All Nations Community Support with goods worth \$3,488. During December, a combined total of donations of \$41,161 was received from all our Ecumenical Partner Churches. TUC’s allocation for distribution in 2026 is \$8,200.
- **Ecumenical Council Office Bearers for 2025:**
Chair: Rev Dr Peter French (St John’s)
Secretary: Ms Brenda Mauritz (St John’s)
Treasurer: Ms Deirdre Heffernan (St Peter’s)



Photos: Swedish Church, Toorak Uniting Church, St Peter’s Catholic Church, St John’s Anglican Church

Rev Sylvia Akau’ola Tongotongo, Rev John Edwards, Jenny Stewardson, Stan Laugher
TUC Representatives on the Ecumenical Council

Church Council

Minister
Assistant Minister
Minister in Association
Chairperson
Secretary
Treasurer

Rev. Sylvia Akau'ola Tongotongo
Rev. John Edwards
Rev. Peter Whitaker
Barbara McKinnon
Rudi Doku
Christopher Begg

Pamela Wilson
Christine Brown
Tim Brown
Nina Mumford
Anne Marie Box
David Fallick

James Barber
Doug Lee
Jonathan Lancaster
Thomson Sennitt
Jenny Stewardson
Catriona De Vere

Church Congregation

Congregation Chair
Congregation Secretary

Alison Legge
James Barber

Parish Administration

Campus Manager
Office Administrator
Toorak Uniting Church Dancing Classes
Church Officer / Caretaker
Safe Church Officer
Music Director
Church Organists

Richard De Vere
Monique Perry
Lin Cooper
James Widdowson
Jonathan Lancaster
Dylan Quinlan-Baskett
Dylan Quinlan-Baskett
Elizabeth Buttery
Jonathan Lancaster
Catriona De Vere
Chris Ferdinands

Livestream Producer
Bookkeeper
Kinross Café Manager

Committee and Activity Convenors

Archives
Choir and Music
Pastoral Care
Counting Roster
Dancing Class
Fellowship
Finance
Flower Roster
Livestream
Memorial Garden
Outreach Committee
Property
Readers Roster
Renew 603
Roach Committee
Toorak Ecumenical Movement

Toorak Ecumenical Op Shop

Welcome Roster
Worship
10:15 Morning Tea Roster
9:00am Roster

Pamela Wilson
Dylan Quinlan-Baskett
David Ross-Smith (Incoming)
Chris Legge
Lin Cooper
Jenny Stewardson
Christopher Begg
Church Office
Jonathan Lancaster
Pamela Wilson
Anna Field
Catriona De Vere
Fiona Thomas
Barbara McKinnon
Chris Legge
Jenny Stewardson
Stan Laughher
Carrlo Jack
Richard Summersgill
Fiona Thomas
Nicholas Tolhurst
Christine Brown
Nina Mumford

John Macrae Centre
John Mackenzie Kindergarten

Shubra Shah, Team Leader
Lauren Harris, Director

Church Membership

Currently, TUC has 229 members.

Rites Celebrated at TUC

Baptisms	Confirmations	Weddings	Blessings	Funerals	Interments
2	0	4	1	9	2



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