

# Stewardship Season 2025

## Reimagining and Redirecting

October 20 and 27, 2024

### Minister's Message

I'd love for you to join me in this year's stewardship campaign: *'Reimagining and Redirecting'*. It's time to think about how we, as a church, can reimagine the ways we serve, grow, and make a difference in our community. Along with that, we need to redirect our resources—whether it's our time, energy, or financial support – to build a future that aligns with what God envisions for Knox.

In 2023-24, we focused on figuring out where God is leading us through some thoughtful strategic planning. The good news? We're already seeing some amazing results from that work! Now, as we look ahead to 2025, I'm excited to share a few key priorities that will guide us:

- Supporting Our Community (In-Reach):** We want to keep nurturing our Knox family with programs like weekly exercise for seniors, healing touch ministries, our monthly Sunday lunches, and helping young musicians thrive (especially through our awesome choir!). These activities help us stay connected and support wellness and creativity within our church.
- Growing Our Online Presence (Web-Ministry):** Knox's online ministry is really taking off, and it's reaching way beyond our physical walls. From our website to live-streamed Sunday services, weekly podcasts, and new meditations, we're offering spiritual nourishment to both our local community and folks far and wide. In this digital world, it's a big part of how we share hope and connection.
- Engaging Community through the Arts (Vision):** We believe in using the arts to bring people together and fight loneliness. Moving forward, we're launching *SongShine*, a new initiative to help deepen our role as a place where art, healing, and community come together.

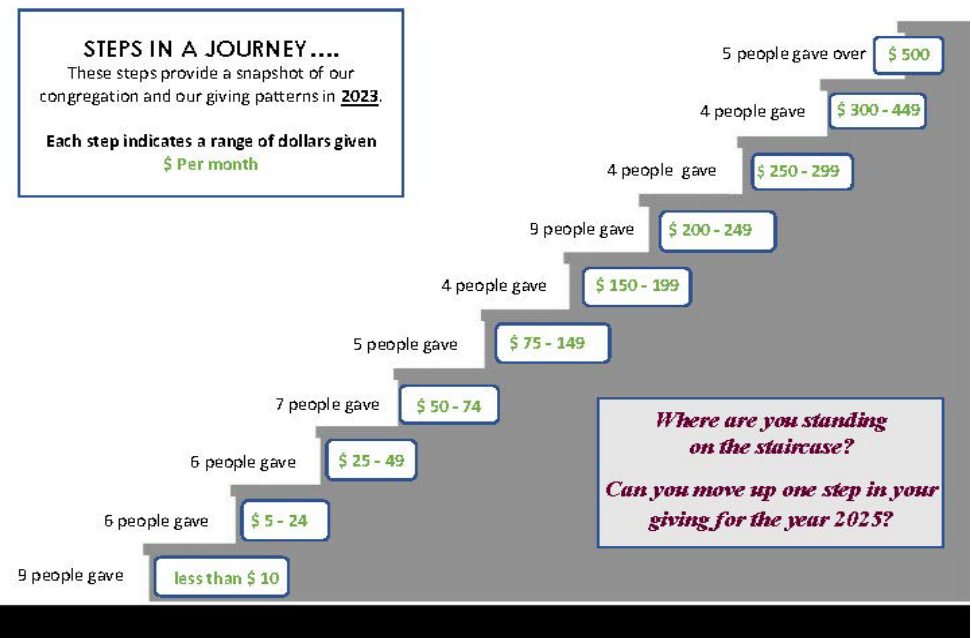
These priorities reflect our commitment to supporting our congregation while reaching out with Christ's love to the wider world. But to keep all this going strong, we also need to redirect our financial resources to help these programs thrive.

So, as you think about your pledge for 2025, I invite you to reflect on how your gifts can help Knox continue reimagining its impact and redirecting its mission to meet today's challenges and opportunities. Together, we can ensure Knox remains a place of healing, creativity, and community—offering hope and connection to everyone who walks through our doors or joins us online.

Thank you for your continued faith, generosity, and dedication!

In Christ's service,  
Rev. Richard Chung

**Your dollars count...**  
**Did you know... in 2023, daily operational costs at Knox totalled \$1,182.00 each day, every day of the year?!?!?**



## A Message from the Knox Board

**We are called to live out our Vision: Connecting our neighbours through the Arts, building a community without loneliness.**

Hello Knox congregants, adherents, and friends. I'm excited to write this year's stewardship message. It's because of the new winds moving through our life and work, initiated by our Strategic Plan and our efforts to reimagine and refresh our ministries. The board and congregation formulated a plan over the course of 2023, which was approved at the ACM in early 2024. Since then, we have begun to pursue the plan in many key areas of Knox's life and work.

Here's a recap of our Strategic Plan goals:

1. **Making Space(s):** Tend to the Building Project as needed; become more creative and efficient in how we use our Church Building and land.
2. **Financial Comfort:** Find accord on the concepts of spending and saving; continue to refine and upgrade our financial processes; address the deficit.
3. **Become Partner Ready:** Reach out to potential partners; review governance & staff models; review policies and seek efficiencies.
4. **In-reach:** Develop & implement programs that address congregational vibrancy, wellness and resiliency – spiritual, emotional, and physical.
5. **Grow our Web Ministry:** Continue to develop a web ministry with clear objectives, resonant with vision content: Our neighbourhood, connection, and the Arts.

I'm pleased to report that we're moving the dial on every one of these goals. We continue to make progress on the building project (it's incremental these days, but every win counts) and we're looking at more creative ways to share and use our church building. We continue to work on our financial processes and boost rental opportunities (efforts resulted in a wedding and a couple of helpful film rentals this summer). We're networking with neighbourhood groups (upcoming events include attending a 'Building Capacity in the Westside' event) and with our SummerSpirit partners. The board is reviewing old policies for relevancy and developing a new governance / staff model which better reflects our Strategic Plan and our capacity.

New programs have been initiated (Second Sunday meals, a weekly art-making and conversation group, and a very well-attended weekly chair fitness class) ...and more to come soon – (get ready for more music in our life!). We've made room in our salary budget for someone to revitalize our social media accounts (one of the best ways to let our neighbours know what's up at Knox). We're also working on meaningful, vision-focused web content that doesn't rely on a lot of extra paid hours to develop.

As you think about how you can support Knox this year, please reflect on the challenges of reimagining and refreshing an urban church in an unaffordable climate. The givings from which Knox operates declined noticeably over 2023 and 2024 as our congregation has aged and become smaller. If you are in a position to start donating or grow your monthly financial gifts, please consider Knox and our efforts to develop in important new directions. Please also register for the PAR program if you aren't already participating. PAR donations take less admin work to manage and keeps Knox's cashflow steadier.

We also ask you to consider your gifts of time and talent to offer at Knox. There are so many ways to serve, big and small. Greeting, making coffee on Sundays, praying for one another and our neighbourhood, and even attending the events we host are all ways you can contribute meaningfully to Knox's life and work. If you have a talent for something that could support Knox's strategic plan goals, please connect with me or with Rev. Richard to chat about your ideas. Your time and creativity are needed!

During Stewardship season, please take a moment to review info on the [United Church's Mission & Service Fund](#), the [United Church of Canada Foundation](#), and [First United Church](#). All are deeply worthy of your financial gifts.

Thank you for all the ways you have served and continue to serve at Knox. We look ahead to 2025 knowing that we that we are called to connect with each other and with our neighbourhood in ways that make a difference. Thank you for every way that you support Knox and our neighbours.

Susan McAlpine, Board Chair



5590 Balaclava Street  
Vancouver, B.C. V6N 1L1  
604 261 3747  
[knox5600@telus.net](mailto:knox5600@telus.net)  
<https://knoxvan.com/>



## Web Ministry Report

KnoxVan dot com offers an online platform to share our church's story, post updates on upcoming events and provide resources for spiritual growth. Whether it's through our consistent live streamlined worship services, on demand vodcasts, or our downloadable daily meditations, KnoxVan is well established as a hub for community engagement and outreach.

KnoxVan is the online expression of Knox's life and mission. It serves multiple functions:

- Information Sharing - with updates posted many times a week reflecting what makes Knox unique.
- Spiritual Resources – inspired live streamed and recorded worship services, sermons, podcasts/vodcasts, meditations, prayers, graces and music.
- Talk Back Communication – people contact Knox via the website with requests and comments for all kinds of things from rentals, disability access, tracking genealogy, and historic research, to vodcast suggestions, thank yous, prayer needs, story sharing, and everything in between.
- Online Giving - conventionally from anywhere, anytime.
- Critical Touch Point – for most visitors, KnoxVan is the first and only interaction with Knox. The website showcases the church's identity connecting with visitors who share similar values.

- Community Building – the website fosters a sense of belonging, helping combat loneliness in our community, reaching people seeking guidance, information, entertainment and exploring perspective. The welcome remains accessible around the clock.
- Easy Search – KnoxVan currently hosts 245 pages of carefully curated material like inspiring original video, authentic images, informative articles, music performance, spiritual resources and tapestries of art highlights - all available on demand via relevant keyword entry either onsite or via the Search Engines. Because - *Discovery happens online.*

KnoxVan dot com is the heart of Knox's outreach presence. The website is quick and easy to change and wildly cost effective, facilitating donations and community connection with a consistently awesome digital reach. KnoxVan serves as a hub for valuable content and a platform to explore self and faith. The Web Ministry porch light is always on, welcoming visitors from near and far in.

Thank you for visiting, sharing and **supporting** the Web Ministry.

## The Donate Button on the Knox Website

Online giving tends to smooth out the peaks and valleys that any church experiences during a fiscal year. Simply visit the [DONATE page](#) to make a contribution, from home or afar.

## PAR: Pre-Authorized Remittance

Many Knox congregants appreciate this secure and convenient way to give. Enrolling in the United Church PAR program means your donations to Knox United Church and the Mission & Service Fund is debited, on the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month, directly from your bank account.

You decide the total remittance, what amount is provided for Knox and/or the United Church's Mission & Service Fund. The approval is carried over from year-to-year and continues until you decide to withdraw from the Program. You can also decide if you want to increase your giving mid-year.

The United Church of Canada does the administration, so staying on track is easy, and helps you follow through with your faith priority and commitment, ensuring a stable cash flow for ministry at Knox.