

be transformed by the renewing of your minds

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect."

~ Romans 12:2 NRSV

UNION CHURCH

annual report 2025



TRUSTEES	DEACONS	COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT
John Nicholls (Chair)	Terri Appel (Clerk)	William Kuan (Chairman and Finance Team)
Alan Law	Kenneth Morrison	Emilie Banfield (Vice Chair and Missions)
Rosanna Chan	Alexander Mak	George Ding (Honorary Treasurer and Finance Team)
Jane Arnett	Malama Piliae	Jonathan Ah-weng (Honorary Secretary)
John Li	Shlivya Dhavale	Po Cheung (Contemporary Worship)
Jasmine Ng	Joshua Ng	Cecilia Lee (Youth)
Kay Ian Ng	Wanda Yuen	Ricky Lai (Property Committee)
	Grace Siu	Susan King (Property Committee)
	Eric Fung	Ellie Pang (Filipino Ministry)
	Stephen Shum	Kenneth Chan (Traditional Worship)
	Tess Lyons	Jessica Cutrera (Children)
		Andrew Long (Property Committee)
		Georgina ST Tan (Playgroup)
		George Fung (Young Adults)
		Patrick Wong (Missions)

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Senior Pastor's Message

by Rev. Dr. Michele Bland

What a year! We have continued to be intentional in "Building a home in Christ to seek, love and serve God and our neighbours."

Some personal highlights for 2025 included hearing Alpha pioneer Nicky Gumbel preach at Union Church; baptizing 20 people (an increase); onboarding Brenda Lee, our new Director of Missions; receiving several awards from Alpha Hong Kong for our 31-year participation, and launching some new initiatives which included:

- Block Party ~a wine and cheese meet and greet for our neighbours
- Sew So Easy ~learning to sew with Catriona Woodrow
- Get Connected Fair ~an opportunity to connect to ministry and community
- Prayer Team ~recruited and hosted three training opportunities for people to be available for prayer after each of our three services.

We hosted 140 3rd party events, 23 weddings and 45 funerals and some participants connected to ministries at Union Church.

The core values at Union Church continue to shape our ministries. They are:

Christ-Centered:
Each week, our staff team creates opportunities for worship in four different worship styles. We celebrate Reflective Communion, a Traditional Service with our choir, Contemporary worship and a worship service in Tagalog; for those who are travelling we continue to offer online worship. Thank you, choir and worship



teams. We are intentional in creating special services to celebrate holy days, in addition to Radio Ministry, Advent candles and devotionals, as well as decorating Christmas ornaments. We have continued to be intentional in prayer - mornings -Tuesday, Friday and 2nd Wednesday of the month.

Welcoming:
In 2025, we welcomed 23 new members which is a significant increase. Although in 2022 we had an influx of new members from the Filipino ministry when we incorporated the fellowship, we have not had such a membership increase since 2014.

We have been intentional in welcoming people every Sunday with the help of Fiona Li downstairs and our ushers and greeters. Additionally, there is a buzz in the fellowship hall and I believe this is largely due to our Baking Ministry. Thank you to our bakers and to Isabel Morrison.

I believe that through catering initiatives we have also been intentional in welcoming. We enjoyed Ash Wednesday Pancake Dinner, Easter Sunrise Breakfast, and a Thanksgiving Lunch. We also hosted three Welcome Lunches - thank you, Jessey Xiong and team who make these events a success.

Building Community:
Our small groups and mentors are intentional in building community - thank you, Pastor Dan, who oversees these ministries.

Women's Ministry. I am grateful to work with a team of ladies who willingly and enthusiastically step up to provide opportunities for engagement. Our ladies dinner was inspiring and well attended. We also celebrated our 10th Annual Ladies Retreat in Kota Kinabalu. Thank you, Jane Arnet, Ellie Pang, Terri Appel, Tess Lyons, Lindy Fok, and Joanna Yau: these retreats are memorable, inspirational and impactful. Thank you, Susanne Salg, CJ Vosloo and Teresa Fox, for building community in the women's small groups each week.

Coffee and Conversation. A casual bi-monthly meet up on Wednesday mornings welcomes everyone - thank you, Ken and Isabel Morrison.

Marriage Course. A blessing to the couples who enjoy a homemade dinner at an artistically designed table, as they process themes of marriage. Thank you, Patrick and Jane Wilson.

Stephen Ministry. The commitment and impact that our Stephen Ministers make each week is commendable. They not only commit to regular training, they also willingly give up their time to walk alongside others. I am grateful for the Stephen Leaders (Tess Lyons, Crystal Lo, Catriona Woodrow, Deidre Chan, Ellen Ahn) and Stephen Ministers. (See page 51)

Personally, I enjoyed co-facilitating the Parenting Teen and Parenting Children classes with Jacklien Lee, as well as Griefshare, with Tess Lyons.

Living Missionally:
God has placed us strategically across many sectors of society in Hong Kong. Each day, we have opportunities to encourage family, friends and colleagues in faith. Inviting and being intentional about sharing our faith is important. What a testimony to the power of invitation that we offered Alpha in five different languages last year - English, Mandarin, Cantonese, Urdu and Tagalog. Thank you, Alpha leaders and teams - Patrick Wilson, Stephen Shum, Andrew Saheed and Pastor Fe Warlyn Pepito. We were also able to reach out to University students with a BBQ.

Growing in Unity:
I am grateful for the time and dedication of our leaders. We continue to work hard to build bridges, navigate challenges and work together for God's glory and purpose. I meet with individual teams monthly (COM and Deacons), and all three teams came together for a gathering/retreat, dinner, taking time to pray daily for the church in the "Pray the Word" book for one month. Thank you, Trustees, Committee of Management and Deacons.

Also, I have the privilege of working with the HR Team (William Kuan, Terri Appel, George Ding and Jessey Xiong), Finance Team (William Kuan, John Nichols, John Li, George

Ding), Property Team (Michael Birley, Patrick Wilson, Ricky Lai, Andrew Long, Susan King, Rosanna Tam, George Ding, Jane Arnet, Jessey Xiong), and the Missions Team (see page 41). I am grateful for each of you who work diligently and sacrificially on behalf of the church.

I am grateful to our staff team, who thoughtfully provide opportunities for growth, service and community building. Thank you for going the extra mile, Ps Dan, Ps Fe, Jessey, Irene, Jacklien, Dorothy, Brenda, A.J., Eric, Joyce, Hilary, Josephine, Liza, Fiona, Jack, Desmond, Wilson, Fanny and Raymond. Thank you, Yellowfrog, Patrick Raths and custodial team for your ongoing support.

As I have been praying and giving thought to 2026, I believe that God is calling us in this new season to "be transformed by the renewing of [y]our minds." Generally, in most aspects of our life, we will be in the same place next year and the year after that, unless we do something different. God, through His Spirit, changes us, our society and our world when we give our life to Him. As we are intentional in our relationship with Him and one another, we will be transformed and renewed this year. I look forward to learning Scripture together, providing more opportunities for spiritual growth, through retreats and classes and aligning our sermon series accordingly. It is my hope that we can launch some new ministries for outreach and evangelism. I am grateful for all that happened last year - I am grateful for answered prayer and I look forward to 2026. The possibilities are endless, as together we follow and obey our Lord!

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect." ~ Romans 12:2 NRSV






WONDER WOMAN
POWERS
SUPER!
POW!
BOOM!











Deacons' Court Report

by Terri Appel, Clerk

Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of this your servant and to the prayer of your servants who delight in revering your name. ~Nehemiah 1:11a

2025 was a year that deacons focused on faith in action through deeper prayer. In this our second year of ministry at 22A Kennedy Road, we endeavoured to bathe every aspect of our church life in prayer and encourage prayerful faith in action lifestyles among all of the church family through preaching, teaching, small groups and ministry opportunities. We are excited to see where the Lord has led our church family, opened up avenues of renewed prayer activity, and through them deepened our commitment to seek, serve and love our neighbours.

Union Church's Deacons for 2025 included: Pastor Michele at the helm, and deacons Shlivya Dhavale, Eric Fung, Tess Lyons, Alexander Mak, Ken Morrison, Joshua Ng, Malama Piliae, Stephen Shum, Grace Siu, Wanda Yuen, and Terri Appel (Clerk). We invited Micheal Birley to shadow the Deacons Court after the April 2025 AGM.

Throughout 2025, deacons have been discussing and discerning ministry expansion opportunities, from looking at our targeted Wan Chai opportunities; to supporting UC ministry leaders' strategies as together we review, refine and expand evangelism and discipleship avenues for both the Union Church family and our Hong Kong neighbours broadly; and reviewing our roles within Union leadership to better communicate how best to utilise our spiritual oversight to support the Senior Pastor, all ministry leaders and the church as we identify and implement new initiatives to grow God's Kingdom here at Union Church (UC), in Hong Kong and beyond.

Throughout 2025, we continued to experience growth in our Sunday ministries- worship services, young adults, youth, discipleship studies through 2/7 Sunday classes, children's ministry and Filipino ministry. Praise God for His abundant blessings on the Sabbath! However, we are more encouraged by the growth seen among Union's ministries from Monday to Saturday. Once again, the stories of God's faithfulness towards His people at UC can be read in this Annual Report, and we pray that, as you read these pages, you will feel equally encouraged that God is still doing new things in, and among, us here at UC reaching into more of Hong Kong! We have seen greater expansion in Alpha ministries with English, Cantonese, Mandarin, Tagalog and now Urdu languages, alongside continued workplace and youth offerings. Pastorally, we see growing interest in Grief Share, marriage and parenting courses. We also had sign-ups for our 4th cohort of Stephen Ministers who started their training in January 2026. We held prayer ministry training for a group of dedicated prayer ministers, those who have attended both monthly prayer at Union as well as other dedicated ad hoc prayer services as hosted for our ministries and ministry partners. These prayer warriors offer prayer ministry after every Sunday service with deacons, serving the immediate prayer needs of the UC family.

In the area of mission, we welcomed our new Mission Director, Brenda Lee. She has blessed our congregation with her passion for and knowledge of mission and mission strategy, as well as her diligent organisation of outreach opportunities suited for all ages in our UC family. These included numerous mission trips abroad, UC mission partners engagement through lunch and learn sessions on Sundays, the Mission Fair offering information sharing and livelihood products from our partners, and another growing UC tradition - BLESS THE CITY. Bless the City provides direct outreach opportunities for our congregation to serve Hong Kong through our many mission partners, wherein they personally participate in mission activities with them, putting our faith in Christ's mission in action.

We have also discussed other staffing needs for key ministry areas of worship, Chinese and university outreach, in conjunction with presentations to UC Joint Leaders. Many deacons are part of active recruitment teams for these areas. These roles have not yet been filled and we are waiting on the Lord to bring the correct candidate to UC, in fulfilling His plans and purposes for us.

We have spent time this year praying through the role of Deacon at UC as outlined in the Ordinance, but in this season further refining our core focus and ministry calling to be the best servant leaders we,as Deacons, can be, and prayerfully to draw the best out of Union Church in bearing with one another in the fullness of God's love, grace, and unity. All of these ministry areas- focusing on expansion and depth - are congruent with our core values of Christ-centredness, Living Missionally, and Growing in Unity.

Keeping with our Welcoming and Community Building core values, again



in 2025, we hosted a number of events and organisations in our church building, ensuring that a welcoming atmosphere and safe sanctuary be created for our Hong Kong neighbours and community. We hosted our neighbours, St. Paul's Co-Ed students, parents and alumni for a special music concert; offered space for ministry partners' staff training and community gatherings, University Student barbeques; Hong Kong Chamber Orchestra; Hong Kong International Pastors breakfasts; and numerous lunches and information sessions for our Ministry Partners and Friends of Union Church. Once again, many in our congregation participated in the Bridges International Students for their outreach programmes over holidays including Easter, Mid-Autumn Festival and Christmas/ New Year. Within our Mid-levels neighbourhood, we have hosted a few events for children and families, inviting them to join our church family for relaxing and fun family entertainment, through holiday fairs and parties staffed by Union volunteers and open to the entire neighbourhood with many UC congregants inviting friends and relatives to join the fun. As always, our "Carols on the Green" service during Christmas was a welcomed outreach for the community; it is now truly a UC tradition for our Midlevels neighbours.

Twice monthly, the deacons offer a membership table in the Fellowship Hall or adjacent to the front entry staircase, to discuss membership at Union. We offer insights to the many ministry opportunities and overall responsibilities of membership at Union Church; we explore in these conversations the interests of each person in order to better plug them into the proper ministry leaders to enhance their solid connections to the Union family. As a team with the pastoral staff, we have spoken to and subsequently welcomed twenty-three individuals and families as members during 2025.

Reading through our growing list of activities at Union, we are excited about how God continues to move in the life of our church family. We look forward to the opportunities and activities that we see arising on the horizon in Wan Chai and beyond. Throughout 2025 and into 2026, we will remain steadfast as Deacons, to pray, discern, collaborate, challenge ourselves, wrestle in faith, love through Christ and serve Union Church and the broader Hong Kong Christian church community in unity with our fellow leaders.

For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives. ~ Colossians 1:9



Committee of Management Report

by William Kuan, Chairman

Dear members and family of Union Church,

It is my distinct privilege to present to you the Committee of Management report for the year 2025/26. As we look back on the past 12 months, it is impossible not to see the tremendous blessings that God has bestowed on the church and its congregation. This report serves not only as a report on our activities and finance, but as a testimony to the blessings and faithfulness of our God .

In 2025, we focused on the theme of 'Be His Witness'. We are glad to report some of our key achievements including: growing our average Sunday services attendees to above 510, a strong 144 Alpha participants across five different languages, a significant increase in our missions contribution to HKD 2.4 million, and many others.

We are so blessed to have so many friends and family that have contributed wholeheartedly to the well-being of the church. I would like to personally acknowledge and thank the following for making all this possible:

1. Senior Pastor Michele, Pastor Dan, Pastor Fe and the pastoral staff for feeding us with the Word of God and shepherding our hearts

2. The Trustees, Deacons and Committee of Management who have given countless hours of prayers and effort for the smooth running and governance of the church

3. The countless Ministry Leaders and Volunteers who turn our vision into action by teaching the children, leading small group and bible studies, leading worship, outreach programs, fund raising and working with our mission partners

4. Our administrative staff who kept us organized with grace, comfort and efficiency.

Most of all, we thank you the Congregation for your commitment and financial support to the church. I am grateful to report that, with your generous contribution and the rental surplus from the apartments, our church finances remain healthy. We have been able to cover the rising cost of a much larger church plus increase our contributions to our missions work. Your faithfulness is an encouragement to us all.

As we move forward into the next year, our leadership team will continue to work together to do our part to fulfill the Great Commission.

We stand on the shoulders of those who came before us and we are laying a foundation for those who will come after. The work is not finished, but the One who began a good work in us is faithful to complete it. Let us continue to walk in unity, to love one another deeply and to contribute generously to the church. And, most importantly, let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.

Romans 12 :4-5 ~ 'Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other.'

During the year, the Members of the Committee of Management were:

- **William Kuan**
  Chairman and Finance Team
- **Emilie Banfield**
  Vice-Chair and Missions
- **George Ding**
  Honorary Treasurer and Finance Team
- **Jonathan Ah-weng**
  Honorary Secretary
- **Po Cheung**
  Contemporary Worship
- **Cecilia Lee**
  Youth
- **Ricky Lai**
  Property Committee
- **Susan King**
  Property Committee
- **Elizabeth Pang**
  Filipino Ministry
- **Jessica Cutera**
  Children
- **Kenneth Chan**
  Traditional Worship
- **Patrick Wong**
  Missions
- **George Fung**
  Young Adults
- **Georgina Tan**
  Playgroup
- **Andrew Long**
  Property Committee

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Po Cheung, Emilie Banfield and Elizabeth Pang who will be retiring from the Committee as their term expires. Their advice and support over the years have been invaluable and I wish them well as they prepare their hearts for their next steps in serving God's mission.

May the God lord continue to bless and keep Union Church as we shine the light of Christ in our community.

Yours in service,

William Kuan, Chairman
Committee of Management





Trustees' Report

by John Nicholls, Chairman

The Trustees for 2025 changed from 2024, with the retirement of Dr Henry Ngan and the addition of Mr. Kay Ian Ng. The existing Trustees are Prof John Nicholls (Chairman); Ms. Jane Arnett; Dr. Rosanna Chan; Mr. Alan Law; Mr. John Li; and Ms. Jasmine Ng. Each year, we remind the congregation that, under the Union Church Incorporation Ordinance ("Ordinance"), the Trustees constitute the body corporate through which we hold No.22A Kennedy Road, Hong Kong, where Union Church is situated, in trust for the purpose of a church for the public worship of God and for preaching the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ according to the principles and usages of Protestant Christians, provided that the Church shall always accept as its primary standards the Word of God as witnessed to by the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, the Trinitarian Doctrine of the Christian Faith and the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

As Trustees, we have a legal obligation to ensure that the finances of the charitable organization Union Church are used for the purpose under which Union Church was established. From the congregation's perspective, apart from this legal responsibility, we have two main functions. The first is to oversee the management of the financial investments which Union Church has been fortunate enough to possess and accrue from the previous years of good stewardship of our predecessors. The second is for the stewardship of the income generated from the apartments and car parks that have been leased out.

So that Union Church can retain its charitable status under section 88 of the Inland Revenue Ordinance, the Inland Revenue Department has required that income from the apartments and car parks must be accounted for separately from the accounts of Union Church. Accordingly, the Trustees applied for business registration, and this was granted in June 2024, and, subsequent to that, the Trustees appointed Forvis Mazars as auditors for the body corporate for the fiscal year ending December 2024.

In 2024, income from the apartments and car parks has been used to support the mission outreach both in Hong Kong and overseas, to establish a "sinking fund" for capital works and maintaining upkeep of the apartments and car parks, to partially repay development loans, and to fund designated Union Church staff positions. In 2025, a total of $6.6M from the income earned from the apartments and car parks was appropriated to support Union Church's Missions, charitable donations and other church-related expenses, after deducting expenses for administration costs, taxes, government rates, capital expenditures, contingency funds, and partial repayment of loans. As at the end of 2025, all apartments were leased out. The Trustees will continue to hold the property and the net rental income for the purpose of the trust.

We have been fortunate that for the current financial year we have not had to pay property management fees for the apartments or car parks, as these were absorbed by the developer pursuant to

agreement. This will change in 2026.

As stated in the Ordinance, the Trustees are responsible for providing a residence for the Senior Minister. Similar to 2023, a portion of the rental income from the apartments has been used to provide accommodation for the Senior Minister close to the Church. The lease was renewed in October 2025 for a further 2 years.
The Church has two main long-term investment funds: the General Fund and the Three-Quarter Century Fund. There are no restrictions on the use of the former; however, there are on the latter. The Three-Quarter Century Fund was established shortly after the First World War, about 75 years after the foundation of the Church. Pursuant to a High Court Order dated 9 November 1977, any income or capital of the Three-Quarter Century Fund can be used only for specified expenses and outgoings. The Fund is held as an investment set aside to ensure that we can continue to employ a Minister, should we ever be unable to pay our way. Our holdings have been invested in Fidelity Global Investment (FGI) Fund – Stable Growth Fund (Class A), managed by FIL Limited. The FGI Fund is authorised by the Securities & Futures Commission and complies with Mandatory Provident Fund regulations. Despite the ongoing geopolitical global tensions, both funds have performed quite satisfactorily; at the end of December 2025, the value of the General Fund was $14,226,369 and the Three-Quarter Century Fund was $8,823,211.

The Chater (Union Church) Endowment Fund is an endowment fund that is too small to be managed alongside the General and Three-Quarter Century Funds. Invested in Hang Seng H Share Exchange Traded Funds (with a small amount of cash), the Fund was valued at $68,880 at the end of 2025, representing a 6% gain. To maintain its charitable status for the purposes of taxation, after an audit by the Inland Revenue Department, a small disbursement was made from the Fund's small income to the Committee of Management which, in accordance with the Fund's Deed, is responsible for its use.



Refurbished floor at Saint Barnabas' Society and Home

Prayer

by Shlivya Dhavale, Malama Piliae, Eric Fung

Prayer is foundational to our identity as followers of Christ. It is how we communicate with the Father, seek Jesus' guidance, intercede for others, and discern the Holy Spirit's leading for our congregation. Over the past year, we have renewed and increased our focus on prayer as a spiritual discipline for the entire church. This renewed emphasis has strengthened relationships, deepened spiritual sensitivity, and mobilized members to pray consistently for one another, our leadership, our ministries, and the wider world.

Every Tuesday, we hold an open prayer call for church members. These calls offer an opportunity for the congregation to bring requests, praise reports and intercession before God. On Friday mornings, the Deacons meet in focused prayer for the pastoral needs of the church. This time provides prayerful support to those serving in leadership and helps ensure pastoral concerns are lifted before God regularly.

Once a month, we gather in person for an extended prayer meeting. These gatherings are intentional times of corporate confession, intercession and discernment, and they attract members from across age groups and ministries. Multiple prayer chains also operate throughout the week, enabling rapid, targeted prayer for urgent needs—medical, family, and community crises—and fostering an ongoing culture of intercession. During the Advent season, members of the congregation contributed devotional reflections and prayers, creating a rich devotional resource for the church. This collaborative effort fostered deeper engagement with Scripture and prayer.

We have made a deliberate effort to make prayer immediately available following all Sunday services over the past year. A number of congregation members have been trained specifically for prayer ministry—equipping them to listen, pray sensitively, and offer pastoral intercession. There is a strong receptivity in the congregation, with many coming forward regularly to receive prayer for personal needs and spiritual growth.

In March, we also held a 24-hour continuous prayer initiative combining both in-person and remote participation. The round-the-clock format allowed intercessors to cover extended spiritual needs—personal, congregational, national, and global—at different hours and time zones. Participation was broad and enthusiastic, with many individuals and small groups signing up and sharing testimonies of how God answered and encouraged them through sustained intercession.

As we reflect on this year, we give thanks for the ways God has moved through our prayers and for the growth of a praying community. Let us continue to pray, seeking God's will for us as individuals and as a congregation. May we remain committed to persistent, united, and expectant prayer as we follow Christ and serve our neighbours.

Educate

Young Adults by Rev. Dan Tupps

YOUNG ADULTS

Our young adults ministry consisted primarily of young professionals in their 20's and 30's, along with some university students. We met weekly on Sundays, 12:30-2:00pm for study and fellowship. Praise the Lord, three of our young adults became members of Union Church this past year!

The three pillars of our adults young ministry are: Learning, Fellowship and Serving

Learning:

- **Goliath Must Fall** – Video-based study with Louie Giglio
- J**esus: The Way Maker, Miracle Worker** (Gospel of Mark) – ONE2025 Lent study
- **Greater Than** – Video-based study with Francis Chan
- **Spiritual Gifts Class** – Joined this class with other adults taught by Pastor Dan
- **Every Thought Captive** – Video-based study with Kyle Idleman

Fellowship:

- Weekly lunches together during/after our Sunday study
- Multiple birthday celebrations
- Young Married Couples gathering at Pastor Dan's home in Ma Wan
- Bowling
- Games Day
- New Year's Eve Celebration

Serving:

- **Kindness Walks** – We served together on five Kindness Walks throughout the year, blessing our neighbours in Wan Chai.
- **University Outreach** – We hosted a BBQ for university students in September for over 30 university students from various schools in Hong Kong, as well as partnering with Bridges International with several Union families hosting university students during the Christmas holiday.
- **City Serve and Bless the City** – Several of our young adults served in both a city-wide outreach in the spring called City Serve (serving at Inner City Ministry) and Union's annual Bless the City (beach clean-up, Chung King Ministries, and others).
- **Christmas Outreach at HOLF** – Our young adults participated in our annual Christmas outreach to individuals with mental and physical disabilities at Home of Loving Faithfulness.
- **Christmas Cantata and Other Services** – Several young adults sang with our choir in our Christmas Cantata, for Blue Christmas and served during the 5pm Christmas Eve service.

It was a great year of learning, serving and growing in our faith together.






TEAM



Men's Ministry by Rev. Dan Tupps

MEN'S MINISTRY

- **Men's BSF** – One of the more exciting developments of our men's ministry this past year was Union hosting our first in-person men's Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) group! Around 15 men registered and for most of them it was their first time joining BSF and connecting with a men's group at Union. Praise the Lord for the men who committed to meet every Tuesday evening and a big thank you to Andrew Lo and John Li for co-leading this group!
- **Other Men's Studies** – In addition to the Men's BSF, our men also engaged in in-depth study of God's Word through the weekly men's Thursday online lunchtime group, a Tuesday evening online study on the Gospel of Mark during Lent led by Ken Morrison, and a summer study on wisdom looking at the life of King Solomon, also led by Ken and Andrew Lo.
- **Men's Walk To Emmaus** – Another big highlight was the men's Walk to Emmaus Retreat in May 2025. In total, we had 13 men from Union involved, including 8 first-time pilgrims! It was an amazing time of spiritual renewal and personal growth for all who attended.
- **Men's Fellowship Lunches** – Our men also gathered regularly for luncheons at the Hong Kong Club, hosted by Michael Birley, on the second Friday of the month for the Men's Fellowship of Hong Kong. We had four occasions when it was a combined men's and women's luncheon: a special Valentine's Day lunch hosted at Union, a talk by Robert Glover of Care for Children, a talk on A.I. with Charles Caldwell and an annual Christmas celebration.
- **Men's Dinners** – We also had two men's dinners – in April and August – with about 50 men attending each dinner. For our first dinner, a few of our men who attended the ICM mission trip in Dumagete, Philippines shared testimonies about their experience and how we could help partner in follow up. David Wong of Halftime Asia was our special guest speaker for our second dinner, sharing on the topic "Living a Fruitful Spiritual Life."

All of this, along with other informal gatherings for fellowship, prayer and authentic sharing have fostered friendships and spiritual bonds of brotherhood.



Discipleship by Rev. Dan Tupps

DISCIPLESHIP

Two of our core values at Union are that we are Christ-centred and we value building community. At the heart of discipleship is growing in our relationship with Christ, but doing so in community with other Christians. We believe that discipleship is holistic and happens in larger settings such as a class, in smaller groups and one on one (mentoring).

2:7 Discipleship Series
After having seven graduate from our inaugural 2:7 cohort, we launched three new groups in 2025 with a total of 28 people! Two groups were led by Greg and Chris So and another group led by Mark and Wendy Borland. How exciting to see so many engaged in active discipleship! The 2:7 discipleship series, based on Colossians 2:7, consists of three 11-session books to help believers grow in their faith and walk with God. The material includes in-depth Bible studies, spiritual practices such as Scripture memory and prayer, teaching on evangelism and how to develop and share your personal testimony with others.

Adult Education

- **Spiritual Gifts Class** – About 20 people attended this 8-week course who were taught about spiritual gifts and, through in-class exercises, were actively engaged in discovering their gifts and learning how to develop and deploy/use their gifts.
- **Dr. Lauren Pfister's Talk on James Legge** – We had the privilege of having Dr. Lauren Pfister give a well-received talk for about 40 people in November on our church's founder, the Rev. Dr. James Legge. Dr. Pfister gave exceptional background knowledge about Legge and even brought several books either authored by Legge, about Legge, or by Legge's contemporaries.
- **Baptism Classes** – I went through the baptism class material with a total of five adults, while four others met with a deacon to go over the material in Chinese. I also met with six sets of parents to prepare them for their child's baptism or dedication.
- **Membership Classes** – I led a membership class for nine participants and met with another seven individually over the course of the year for a total of 16 who went through membership class!

Faith in the Marketplace
We believe discipleship is not just growing in knowledge, but also living it out in everyday life. Since many spend most of their week in the workplace, we want to equip and empower workers to integrate their faith with how they think and go about their work and how they view and think about finances. We hosted three major events this past year for this important ministry:

- **Faith Driven Investor (FDI) Conference** – Over 60 people attended this one-day conference in February with live speakers, including Union's Vivien Teu as a panellist, videos and small group discussions focused on how we can align our capital with God's calling to advance His kingdom.
- **Stewardship in Uncertain Times** – A one-day event in May in collaboration with FDI and City to City Asia Pacific with over 50 in attendance. Alistair Chiu was the main speaker, while Union's Vivien Teu shared on a panel discussion as we learned about how to use our resources wisely yet generously even in times of

global uncertainty.

- **Halftime Summit** – Union continued the tradition of hosting this annual event in September. This two-day event helped participants consider their calling for the second half of life and discover creative ways to channel their passions and talent towards meaning and significance.

Small Groups

Small groups are opportunities to connect regularly with each other in community and explore more deeply what it means to follow Jesus by studying the Bible, reading topical books, praying, laughing and serving together. There are several small groups at Union that meet either in-person or online on different days of the week, at different times and for different people at various seasons of life. We have groups for Men, Women, Couples, Young Adults and inter-generational groups. There are groups that focus more on study, others more on fellowship, some place an emphasis on both and a couple of groups that place a strong priority on missions and outreach. While the groups are different, the purpose is the same – to grow more like Christ together in community.

This past year, all of our small groups studied the Gospel of Mark together during Lent on the theme "Jesus: The Way Maker, Miracle Worker" using the ONE2025 Campaign material. Several new people joined a group and we look forward to more involvement in groups and potential new groups to form in the coming year.

Mentoring

This past year we had seven new mentees matched with a mentor and we trained four new mentors and matched them with a mentee! We currently have about 20 active mentoring partnerships ongoing. Some mentoring partnerships successfully concluded or ended naturally.

Premarital Counselling and Weddings

I did premarital counselling for three couples this past year. I also officiated at a total of six weddings at Union and gave the message at another wedding in 2025.








DEEPENING YOUR ROOTS
Colossians 2:7

Youth by AJ Ornias

YOUTH MINISTRY

"Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves" ~ Romans 12:10

The word "devote" has really been something that struck me in the passage above, serving as a guiding principle for our Youth Ministry throughout the past year. To truly devote oneself means to give yourself wholly—not just your time or resources, but your very essence—to the mission, to the activity, and, most importantly, to the community. It goes far beyond mere commitment; it means to not just give wholly but to love wholeheartedly, pouring passion and spiritual energy into every endeavour. I firmly believe that the year 2025 has been nothing short of a demonstration of this profound devotion.

From our weekly gatherings and small group discussions to our mission trips and community outreach programs, 4:12 Youth Ministry embraced this ethos of wholehearted giving. We witnessed countless examples of our youth, volunteers, and leaders devoting themselves to deepening their faith, supporting one another through challenges, and actively living out the Gospel. This devotion manifested in a vibrant, supportive, and spiritually hungry community that thrived on genuine connection and shared purpose. It is this wholehearted love—this unwavering commitment to the mission and to each other—that has made 2025 such a transformative and blessed year for the Youth Ministry.

4:12 Community: Friday Night & Sunday School

Wow, what an incredible year! Seriously, God has been so good and His provision has been off the charts. We've seen a massive jump in the number of youth not just showing up, but actually getting serious about discipleship. It's been amazing to watch our young people develop a real hunger for diving into the Bible and building an authentic, personal connection with Jesus.

The core of our growth has definitely been the quality and consistency of our weekly hangouts. Friday Youth Night and Youth Sunday School have totally become the go-to spots where our youth can finally be themselves—a safe place to feel accepted, make awesome friends, and build a strong Christian crew.

A huge takeaway this year has been the simple but profound power of community. We've really pushed the biblical truth that we're not meant to struggle through life alone. That focus has translated into some seriously consistent fellowship. We managed to pull off an amazing 33 Youth Friday Nights and 32 Youth Sunday School this year—that's a huge commitment to meeting up weekly!

We kept things fresh and varied to hit different interests. We had everything from our regular spiritual check-ins and fellowship nights to super-energetic outside activities designed for outreach and bonding. Some major highlights included:
Bowling Nights and Roller Skating: fun, relaxed hangouts that were perfect for our youth to easily invite their non-churched friends.

Youth Lock-In (Sleepover at Church): An immersive overnight experience focused on deeper bonding, worship, and honest spiritual chats in a safe environment.
Resound (Youth Gatherings with Other Churches): these inter-church events were crucial! They really broadened our youth's perspective, connecting them to the bigger picture of the Body of Christ, and gave their faith a serious jolt of energy.

The result of all this consistent programming and emphasis on community has been transformational for our numbers. Our group experienced a huge, organic explosion in size, growing from a weekly average of about 13 youth to a thriving average of 23 youth per week.
Two simple things drove this exponential growth:
Personal Invitations: our current youth became super enthusiastic and took real ownership of the ministry, becoming amazing ambassadors by personally inviting their friends.
Strategic Outreaches: we created intentional events and activities that made it super-easy for unchurched youth to get a taste of Christian community and teaching.

This isn't just about bigger attendance; it signals a robust, expanding spiritual community that's ready to go even deeper next year.

Mission Trip:
Our Youth Ministry had an awesome mission trip to Kids International Ministries (KIM) this past Fall break. We had a team of 12—9 fantastic youth and 3 supportive adult leaders—who travelled to the community to help get things started on a new community Hospital.

More than just the hard work, this trip was an incredible chance for our youth to hang out with the kids at the home and in the local community. I especially love this part because it's a powerful way for our young people to make friends outside of Hong Kong, realize how blessed they are, and be inspired to bless others, too!

A big focus of our outreach was helping with KIM's feeding programmes, which give essential meals to kids and their families in smaller, underserved areas. Seeing our youth jump in to serve these communities and connect with the locals is a key goal



of these trips. While serving is super important, the best takeaway, for me, is always the stories and fresh ways of seeing the world these young people bring home. We received such great feedback from both the youth and their parents. It was really heartwarming to see the bonds between our youth become even stronger as they shared and talked about their day's experiences each evening. A huge thank you to everyone who partnered with us to make this mission happen! God is so good!

Youth Confirmation:
This year's Youth Confirmation mentorship program was a big success! We walked alongside five amazing young people—Jesna Gurung, Christian & Louie Li, and Aliyah & Aden Layman—through a three-month intensive journey exploring the core beliefs of our faith in Jesus.

It all wrapped up with a wonderful Confirmation Sunday, a huge spiritual milestone for them. Their hard work, growth, and commitment really shone through as three of the youth were baptized and the other two were confirmed.

Youth Ministry Outreach:
We're excited to give you an update on what the Youth Ministry got up to in 2025! We'll share what we're praising God for and let you know how you can keep supporting us through prayer.

Our continued partnership with Young Life is still a huge part of what we do. We're still meeting every Wednesday afternoon at Concordia Lutheran School in North Point. This consistent school outreach has been fantastic—one young person has become a believer, and four young people are now coming to our Church regularly!



On top of Young Life, we ran three "Bless the Students" events. We teamed up with our adult volunteers to visit our neighbours at St. Joseph & St. Paul Co-Ed during those tough exam weeks. It was a great chance to cheer them on, hand out bubble tea and popcorn, and pray for the students.
A huge part of what we do in our youth programme is helping kids find meaning in serving others—it's not just about them. That's why community service is so important! This year, the youth were awesome, especially with their "Kindness Walks" and putting on a puppet show for the folks at the Home of Loving Faithfulness (HOLF).

Gratitude:
I'm so excited about the amazing things God is doing in our church, especially through the 4:12 Youth Ministry! A huge thank you to everyone—members, leaders, staff, and wider supporters—who has helped Union Church and the Youth Ministry grow. My special thanks go to Dale, Wanda, Cecilia, Pastor Dan, and Pastor Michele for their unwavering dedication to this next generation. It's truly an honour and a privilege to serve God alongside such inspiring and committed people.










ALPHA
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Filipino Ministry
by Pastor Fe Warlyn Pepito

FILIPINO MINISTRY

As I sat down to compile this annual report, one word continually rose to the surface of my heart: gratitude.

Looking back over the 2025 ministry year, we do not see a story shaped by our own effort or ability. Instead, we see a testament to the unfailing compassion of a God who sustained us when we were weary. There were moments this year when the workload felt heavy and the obstacles seemed high—yet His mercies were indeed new every morning. He provided the resources we needed, the volunteers we needed, and the peace that surpasses understanding.

Not only did God sustain us, but He also blessed us with fruitfulness. From the spiritual harvest we witnessed, God brought new faces to fill in and offer their gifts and talents for the ministry. We never ceased to be amazed by what He did through the following highlights of our ministry events:

1. CNY Conference (Winter Conference) — January 29–30, 2025
Looking back at our Winter Conference, held on January 29–30, 2025, the theme—a focus on the heart—was not only timely, but essential for our community.
We were thrilled to welcome 135 attendees in total. Our speakers addressed the core of our shared human experience, helping us navigate the complex feelings we all carry. They spoke candidly about accepting pain and suffering, and the wisdom of setting godly boundaries.
Yet the most significant and comforting message was this: after all our understanding and effort, the final step is to leave it all with the Lord. In that sacred surrender, we are met not with emptiness, but with His profound comfort.
It was truly a weekend that ministered to the hearts of all 135 who gathered with us.

2. Filipino Thanksgiving Day — October 29, 2025
On October 29, 2025, we launched our first Filipino Thanksgiving Day. The theme was: “Overflowing: Indeed, God Amazingly Works.”
God embodied this theme in a beautiful way. While we expected only about 100 individuals, God showed us what “overflowing” truly means—202 people joined the event. The food prepared was more than enough for everyone.
Even more amazing, many who attended have since started joining our regular services. God’s work continued long after the event ended.

3. Alpha Course (Hosted Two Courses in 2025)
We hosted two Alpha courses last year:
Saturday course: 8–12 attendees
Sunday course: 15–20 attendees
It has been a blessing to see God at work. We are encouraged by the steady attendance of new faces, which shows that the Holy Spirit has been drawing people to explore faith.

4. Carolling in the City (Outreach Ministry)
We launched a special outreach ministry inspired by the beloved Filipino Christmas

tradition of carolling. Traditionally, groups go house to house singing in exchange for small tokens or monetary gifts. But we decided to flip the script entirely.
Instead of going door-to-door to receive, we went out to give. We sang Christmas carols—but we were the ones bringing gifts. It was a beautiful experience to witness joy and surprise on the faces of the people we visited. Many became emotional. They expected to be the ones giving to us, but instead they received something special.

As we were given opportunities to share, we spoke about the true reason for the season—why Christmas happened—and we shared the love of God in a natural and heartfelt way. The response was incredible: many opened their hearts to receive Christ's love.

One lady was so touched that she joined us for dinner afterward. It was a powerful reminder that when we give, we often receive so much more in return.

5. Wan Chai Bible Study Group — Every Sunday
Our Wan Chai Bible Study Group, which typically gathers 8–12 participants each Sunday, has shown a marked increase in community engagement.
Members are demonstrating their investment by actively volunteering to prepare and purchase food for our gatherings. Their hands-on involvement has been especially vital for our Alpha course, helping create a warm and welcoming environment for every attendee.

6. Hospitality Ministry (Supporting 19 Ladies in Need)
We had the privilege of walking alongside 19 ladies during their times of greatest need.

We hosted each of them in my home for 10 to 14 days, providing free shelter and food as a foundation for their recovery. Whether they came through being terminated from their jobs, through existing connections, or by referral, we welcomed them with radical compassion.

We believe this ministry is both necessary and life-giving—an opportunity to demonstrate the love of God and share His hope with those who are hurting.

Other Ministry Activities & Events
In addition to the highlights above, we experienced God's faithfulness through many other activities:
Welcoming the New Year in Prayer and Praise: 58 attendees
Evangelism every 5th Sunday of the month: 8 groups of Bible study joined to go and share.

Community health base Ministry - This community-based health ministry aims to help our community become aware of how blood sugar, blood pressure, and weight greatly impact our health, so we can understand and prevent possible illnesses.
Nine weekly Bible study groups continued throughout the year.
Weekly Prayer Meeting: 13–25 individuals participated each week.
Beach Baptism of Ellah Jayobo: 23 individuals.
Sportsfest @ South Bay: 69 individuals joined.
Leader's retreat team building and refreshments.
I had the opportunity to visit Pastor Ebrahim Tamles—a church planter—and his

ministry in Cebu Philippines, following the devastation caused by Typhoon Tino. The visit allowed me to offer both moral and spiritual support.

There are many more things we could mention. Yet, above all, it was evident that God was doing an amazing work through us.

It is with a humble and overflowing heart that I present this report—not as a record of our achievements, but as a testimony of God's sustaining grace, wisdom and faithfulness. TO GOD BE THE GLORY!









Children's Ministry by Jacklien Lee

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates."
~ Deuteronomy 6:5-9

Creche and Sunday School
By God's grace, Creche and Sunday School operated faithfully for 52 Sundays in 2025. Throughout the year, we carried out God's commandment by impressing God's Word on our children through our Kids Worship time, Sunday School lessons and our interactions with the children and their families. Our Kingdom Kids families are growing, and we thank the Lord for entrusting us with new families and partnering with them in raising all of our children for God's Kingdom. We are also thankful that many families with young children are committing their lives to God and professing their faith and commitment to God through baptism and child dedication.

Tweens
Our Tweens are not only growing in numbers but also in their walk with the Lord. We have a committed group of Tweens that attends Friday Bible studies and Sunday lessons. We are encouraged by their engagement in our Bible studies and their active participation in leading prayers and assisting in Sunday School programs such as VBS and Sunday School. We are inspired to help guide our Tweens to be fishers of men and change-makers.

Volunteers and Training
In 2025, we had a total of 36 volunteers, comprising 5 Filipina ladies serving with the Creche ministry, 3 Tweens, 6 Youth, 3 LTS students, 3 Young Adults, and 16 adults. They are committed and invested their Sunday mornings sharing and modelling God's Word and love with the children in Sunday School and the Tweens programme. We are deeply thankful for these faithful and amazing brothers and sisters in Christ, for their love, care, and support for all our children. Not only did they spend their Sunday mornings in the year 2025 with our children, but they also prepared for lessons, cheered and prayed for our children outside of their Sunday mornings.

In addition, we are grateful to Por Por Kathy Leung for her weekly support in our Sunday School crafts preparations, and countless other parents who answered our call for help in preparation for family outreach events.

As part of our constant desire to

improve our skills, we invited Jameson Gong, a public speaker and comedian, to join us in our Sunday School Teachers' Workshop, "Tell It Well." Jameson shared with our teachers some tools for story delivery that were engaging, fun and effective. It was well received by our volunteer teachers and put into practice immediately.

Parenting Courses

Praise the Lord for great engagement and participation in both the Parenting Children and Parenting Teenagers courses by Alpha offered in 2025. We hosted the Parenting Children Course during the Spring term and the Parenting Teenagers course during the Fall term. We are encouraged by the number of parents who joined these courses, and prayed that our parents will continue to seek God both in their marriage and in their parenting.

We are grateful to our Senior Pastor, Michele Bland, for taking the lead in facilitating these Parenting Courses, and to our faithful staff and volunteers who helped us ensure these courses ran smoothly.

Family Outreaches

We hosted six family outreaches in 2025: the Easter Fest in April, Mom's Date in May, Summer Kids' Programmer in July, VBS in September, Kingdom Kids Carnival in November, and the Children's Christmas Musical in December.

We hosted around 200 people each for both the Easter Fest and Kingdom Kids Carnival. We hosted over 30 people for our Kids Summer programme for three weeks over the summer. We ran VBS Sunday School for five Sundays with three different stations for children to explore and learn about Jesus. We also welcomed many families and friends for our Children's Christmas Musical.

All of our family outreaches took weeks of planning and preparation, but most importantly they required a whole village to host them. We are grateful for the many volunteers, especially the 40 faithful volunteers who helped us host the Easter Fest and Kingdom Kids Carnival safely and successfully. We are also thankful for our Youth and Tweens volunteers who helped make our Kids Summer programme and



VBS fun and exciting for our children. Ultimately, we give thanks to God for the opportunities we had to welcome families and children to our church, especially those who did not yet know Jesus. Praise the Lord, through our family outreaches, we have welcomed many new families to our church community.

Community Outreaches

During the Spring, on behalf of Union Church, we organised a Peace Box collection for the grassroots community in Hong Kong in collaboration with the Hong Kong Church Network for the Poor (HKCNP). We collected a total of 90 Peace Boxes and they were distributed for the children, families and the elderly under the care of Faith Love Lutheran Church.

In the winter, we organised a group of families, 32 people in total, and visited the Home of Loving Faithfulness (HOLF). We shared the joy of Christmas and the good news of Jesus' birth with the residents and workers of HOLF through a mini Christmas Musical Play. It was a blessing not only for HOLF, but also to our families to be able to spend time with them.

We carried out our mission thanks to the faithful service of the people God called to serve. We give thanks to God for our staff members, especially our Children's Ministry Assistant, Ms. Dorothy Pang, for her love, tireless and faithful work for our ministry. We are also thankful for the support from all the staff members, especially our custodial team.

We are grateful for the continued trust and support of all our families and church community towards Children's Ministry. We pray that we will all continue to seek the Lord and dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of our lives.

One thing I have asked from the Lord, that I shall seek: That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, To behold the beauty of the Lord and to meditate in His temple. ~ Psalm 27:4








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Evangelise

Alpha by Patrick Wilson, Alexander Mak and Stephen Shum, Alpha Course Administrators

ENGLISH AND URDU ALPHA

The English courses started in March and October 2025, later than previous years, as we also ran two 'Marriage Courses' in 2025, (see separate report). A new initiative in March was the addition of a group of Hindi and Urdu-speaking refugees introduced by Andrew Ahmed. The group took part in the shared dinner and watched the English video but were then able to continue discussions in their small group in their mother tongue.

By the October course, the Urdu dubbed video was available so that, after the shared dinner, the group was able to watch the video and continue small group discussions in their mother tongue. Their Away Day was run at church as a separate event to that for the English-speaking groups. The guests enjoyed taking part in Urdu Alpha and so we hope to develop this ministry in the future.

Generally for the English Alpha, our guests consist of some new church members, a couple who had just attended The Marriage Course and others brought by friends. I believe that we as a church should be more intentional in inviting our friends and colleagues to Alpha as the results are so encouraging. Some comments received from guests' questionnaires include: I am now closer to God; I see myself as a follower of Christ; I'm inspired by people on the course; I am renewing my faith; Without hesitation, I would describe myself as a servant and follower of the Lord.

Once again, we are so grateful to the many volunteers who have prayed for the course, led or helped with the small groups, helped at the Away Days and donated or cooked food for our weekly dinners. We couldn't run Alpha without you! Finally, we are grateful to God for ministering to us over the duration of these courses and turning our hearts towards Jesus.

Patrick Wilson - Alpha Course Administrator

CHINESE ALPHA

Last year, we ran two sessions of the Chinese Alpha course: Class 4 in the spring and Class 5 in the fall. Weekly attendance for these classes was consistent, ranging from 12 to 20 participants. A key feature of our group was its linguistic diversity; we served both Cantonese and Putonghua speakers by dividing into separate discussion groups for each language.

We are thankful for the spiritual growth we witnessed. Over the course of the year, eight individuals made a decision to come to faith in Christ. In addition, we were blessed to see one person return to the church after being away for over 20 years.

As a result of these Alpha courses, we have seen continued engagement. From the most recent five Alpha classes, we have now formed a second Beta group. This group is designed for deeper study, focusing on the Gospel and chronological Bible studies. The Beta class currently




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has eight regular attendees, with an additional three people who participate as their work and travel schedules allow. It is encouraging to note that some participants have come to believe in Christ during these subsequent Beta sessions.

Thankful to the Alpha leadership teams. Grateful that the Lord is clearly at work in this ministry.

Stephen Shum - Alpha Course Administrator

The Marriage Course
by Patrick Wilson

We ran The Marriage Course for the first time in our new church in 2025. We ran two courses with five couples attending in January and a further 13 couples in August. We had only advertised the course within the church to gauge the response, as well as test our ability to cater for the numbers. For the course, we set up the Hall to give couples an experience of their 'date night'. We have tables for two suitably spaced to provide for private discussions. As such, 12 / 13 couples is probably the maximum number per course. Each evening for the seven weeks, the couples watched a video and enjoyed a three course home-cooked dinner along with wine and other drinks. The overall reaction to the course has been very positive, with all couples stating how they've benefitted by learning the tools and techniques to maintain a healthy marriage. It was also encouraging to note that several couples that attended the second course did so on the recommendation of friends from the first one. We hope that we can continue to offer this course in the future.

Our thanks go to our great kitchen team: Jane Arnett, Greta Garma, Eric Jenkins, Ann Nacson and all those who provided additional desserts.

Co-hosts: Jane Arnett & Patrick Wilson, Ann Nacson, Nicki & Eric Layman









Missions by Brenda Lee

2025 has been an incredible journey. Since joining Union Church as Missions Director in March, I have felt daily the blessing of this calling. It is humbling to know that God has entrusted me with the opportunity to serve this congregation and, more importantly, to participate in His global mission.

It has been a "steep learning curve" as I have come to know our 23 ministry partners. These organizations work faithfully and tirelessly in evangelism, discipleship, and compassion ministries, both in Hong Kong and across the globe. At Union Church, we believe mission should be holistic. By following the Great Commission to make disciples of all nations and the Great Commandment to love our neighbors, we ensure our witness is both spiritual and practical.

Special Love Offerings: Compassion in Crisis
When natural disasters strike, our congregation responds with remarkable speed and generosity. In 2025, we collected four Special Love Offerings totalling nearly $700,000. These funds supported victims of the earthquake in Myanmar, the devastating floods in Cebu, the tragic fire in Tai Po, and also the Hong Kong Church Network for the Poor.

To ensure these gifts reached the front lines effectively, our support was channelled through Tear Fund, Viva, and Light of the World Church (Myanmar), International Care Ministries (Cebu), and Crossroads Foundation (Tai Po). By routing our giving through these trusted partners, we can be assured that our contribution went toward essential relief efforts.

Collaboration with Our Ministry Partners
There is no better way to connect with our partners than over a cozy social lunch. In 2025, we hosted ten mission lunches after our Sunday services, allowing leaders from various organizations to share with our members their vision, successes, and challenges.

November 29 marked our annual Missions Christmas Fair. There were 18 participants, including 15 missions organizations and three Union Church groups (Team Cambodia, Team Mongolia, and the UC Ladies). On sale were different homemade snacks and freshly made Christmas wreaths, alongside unique items from the Middle East, Mongolia, Myanmar, and Congo. Our members were able to do Christmas shopping and at the same time support these diverse missions. Furthermore, the fair provided a space for representatives from different organizations to meet and exchange ideas.

We were also thrilled to welcome two of our own long-time members—Andrew Ahmed (Praxeis) and Annie Strydom (YWAM)—as new official ministry partners. Andrew runs the Living Well Center, serving the Muslim community in Yuen Long, while Annie serves at the YWAM campus in Colorado. There is nothing more encouraging than seeing our own people step up to respond to God's Kingdom work!

Local Outreach
Bless the City 2025: In September, over 80 participants gathered to serve in eight outreach opportunities across Hong Kong. We began the day united in worship and commissioning, then dispersed to serve throughout the city. From a beach clean in Shek O and a prayer walk with Sons and Daughters in Wan Chai, to serving alongside Chung King Ministries, ICM, and visiting Stanley Prison, our congregation stepped out to be a blessing to our neighbours.

Christmas Outreach:
Throughout December, we held a series of Christmas outreach programmes to share the love of Christ with our city. We hosted over 130 elderly and children at St. Barnabas and Chung King Ministries, providing worship, games, "love meals," and gifts. We also took the Christmas message to the streets during a night outreach with Sons and Daughters and the Christmas Kindness Walk. Additionally, our children and their parents shared the joy of the season by performing a Christmas musical for the residents of Home of Love and Faithfulness (HOLF).

Commitment in service: participation in outreach is not just for special festive seasons. For many of our members, it is a year-round commitment. Whether through the ICM Kid's Club for Nepalese children, English reading classes at St. Barnabas, programme for the elderly at Chung King Ministries, monthly Kindness Walk, or visiting inmates at Stanley Prison, our church family continues to show up, caring for the "least of these" in our city.

Overseas Mission Trips
In 2025, we ran four mission trips to Dumaguete, Cambodia, Mongolia, and Manila, involving a total of 40 participants. In Dumaguete, the team collaborated with our ministry partner, International Care Ministries (ICM), to run a fun-filled Bible camp for the kids in the villages. Meanwhile, Team Cambodia spent a week in Phnom Penh working with different Christian ministries. We ran a weeklong English programme at the Pleroma School for Girls, led discipleship programs at the BBL Church for university students, and went on an outreach to the dump hill community. In Mongolia, we partnered with Flourishing Future and Desert Rose to run a summer camp for underprivileged children, as well as visiting a new ministry serving young adults who have fallen off the social system. Finally, our youth mission trip to the Philippines with Kids International Ministries (KIM) empowered our younger generation to serve local children and participate in community outreach, fostering a heart for global missions at an early age. Regardless of the varied nature of these services, short-term mission trips are important, as they allow our members to step into cross-cultural settings, witness God's global work firsthand, and be active participants in the Great Commission.

Union Church Missions Committee
As Old Testament scholar and missiologist Christopher J.H. Wright wrote, "Mission belongs to our God. Mission was not made for the church; the church was made for mission—God's mission." With this in mind, the Union Church Missions Committee, a group of dedicated church leaders with a deep passion for mission, meets monthly to discern overall strategies, manage budget plans, and oversee our mission programme, to ensure we remain faithful to God's calling. Each member also works closely with specific ministries as prayer partners to stay updated on their needs and progress. In 2026, we will continue our endeavour to be good stewards of our resources while seeking to mobilize our congregation toward four key strategic focuses: reaching the unreached, engaging Muslim communities, serving local communities, and caring for the vulnerable.

Looking Ahead
As the Apostle Paul says, Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation. As we are ambassadors for Christ and each of us is empowered by the Holy Spirit to take part in this work, my prayer for 2026 is that every member of Union Church finds their passion in this mission. Whether you join an overseas trip, participate in local outreach, or support our partners through prayer and giving, you are

an essential part of God's redemptive plan. Please follow our monthly missions newsletter on our website and ACTS. I would love to connect with you, either to serve on an outreach or to hear your ideas on how we can continue to grow in mission together.

In Christ,
Brenda Lee, Missions Director



Dumaguete, Philippines Post-Trip



Cambodia Mission Trip



Chung King Ministries



June Missions table





Missions Christmas Fair



Dumaguete, Philippines Mission Trip



Mongolia Mission Trip



Andrew Ahmed - Living Well Centre



Wreath Making - Gabriel Project

Wedding and Funeral Ministry by Eric Leung

The heartbeat of Union Church has always been its people and the wider community we are called to serve. This past year, our ministry was profoundly defined by the rhythm of life's most significant transitions. From the heights of joyous celebration to the deep valleys of grief, and through the bustling daily activity of our community partnerships, we have sought to be the hands and feet of Christ.

"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot... a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance." ~ Ecclesiastes 3:1-4

Through weddings, funerals, and opening our doors to the city, we have stepped into these appointed times with our congregation and our neighbours, offering a steadfast pastoral presence.

This year, we officiated 23 weddings, welcoming couples into covenant commitment before God and our church family. Each of these celebrations was far more than a beautiful ceremony; they were profound acts of worship and foundational moments for new families.

Our involvement in these marriages began long before the couples walked down the aisle. We explored communication, grace, conflict resolution, and what it means to build a household centered on Christ. We reminded them of the enduring truth found in Scripture regarding the strength of a marriage anchored in God.

When the wedding days arrived, the sanctuary was filled with the joy of witnesses. Each wedding reinforced our role in supporting families and building lasting relationships within the congregation. We recognize that the church's responsibility does not end when the vows are spoken and the rings are exchanged. Instead, it is the beginning of our community's commitment to pray for, support, and encourage these couples as they navigate the complexities of life together. By surrounding them with multi-generational wisdom, mentorship, and a loving church family, we are investing in the spiritual health of the next generation.

While we rejoiced with those who rejoiced, we also wept with those who wept. Responding to our community's key life moments was a significant part of our ministry. We conducted 46 funerals, providing pastoral presence, grief support, and meaningful services for families mourning the loss of loved ones.

The call to pastoral care is perhaps never more sacred than when a family is standing in the shadow of death. Our team spent countless hours in quiet prayer with families facing the unimaginable pain of loss.

These funerals offered spiritual comfort and helped families celebrate lives in the hope of the resurrection. We carefully tailored each memorial service to honour the unique, God-given story of the individual. Through the singing of hymns, the sharing of eulogies, and the preaching of the Word, we created spaces where grief could be openly expressed and deeply validated.

Yet, even in the midst of profound sadness, our services were anchored in the defiant

hope of the Gospel. We reminded our grieving families that because of Christ's victory over the grave, death does not have the final word. We leaned heavily on the promises of Jesus.

Beyond the funeral services, our ministry continued through ongoing grief support. We recognize that mourning does not adhere to a tidy schedule. Through follow-up, support groups, we have strived to ensure that no one at Union Church walks the lonely road of grief by themselves.

Throughout the week, our campus is a vibrant ecosystem of grace, connection, and civic engagement. Union Church continued to be a hub for community activity. We hosted 140 events for third-party organizations, offering our facilities and support to a wide variety of groups and causes.

These events represent an intentional theological choice. We believe that the physical buildings God has entrusted to us are not meant to be kept behind locked doors, strictly reserved for our own members. Rather, they are a resource to be shared generously with the city. By opening our halls, meeting rooms, and sanctuary, we practice a ministry of radical hospitality. These events included a beautifully diverse array of gatherings:

- Concerts: We provided space for choirs or orchestra, celebrating the creativity that reflects our Creator.

- Conferences and bible study & fellowship: We hosted conferences, training, and community education seminars that equip people for flourishing lives.

- Partner ministries and non-profits: We hosted collaborative events with partner ministries and local charities, coordinating visits and logistics to ensure each gathering ran smoothly and guests felt welcomed.

Hosting outside organizations strengthens our ties to the wider community and provides opportunities for hospitality and partnership. When a neighbourhood association or a charity group uses our space, they experience the welcoming warmth of our staff and volunteers. We ensure the coffee is hot, the spaces are clean, and the environment is safe and inviting.

It is important to acknowledge that managing 23 weddings, 46 funerals, and 140 community events is an administrative and logistical marvel. None of this would be possible without the tireless dedication of our pastors, custodians, sound technicians, administrators and volunteers who serve behind the scenes.

Every time a chair was moved, a microphone was tested, a bulletin was printed, or a tissue box was placed carefully on the table, it was an act of worship. These faithful servants embody the love of Christ in deeply practical ways, ensuring that whether people come to Union Church to weep, to rejoice, or simply to hold a meeting, they are met with excellence and grace.

As we look back on this season of ministry, we are profoundly humbled by the trust placed in us. To be invited into the sacred spaces of people's lives - to stand with them at the altar, to weep with them at the graveside, and to partner with them in community service - is the highest privilege of the Church.

We step into the coming year with renewed energy and a steadfast commitment to our calling. We will continue to champion marriage, comfort the grieving, and keep our doors wide open to the community. May God continue to use Union Church as a beacon of hope, a sanctuary of peace, and a vibrant hub of His love in this city.







Worship by Dr. Joyce Wu

"May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." ~ Romans 15:5-6

The year 2025 was another remarkable year of growth and blessing for the Worship Ministry at Union Church. We continue to stand in awe of God's faithfulness, and we are deeply grateful for the dedication of our volunteers who make a beautiful offering of praise throughout the year.

This was a year of building community and deepening intergenerational unity in worship. We praise God for the continued commitment of our team. We said a fond farewell to our intern, Britta Tellvik, early this year, and we were delighted to welcome Caleb Chung as our new worship intern during the summer. It remains a joy and privilege to witness new members joining the worship team and choir, offering their voices and instruments to the Lord.

Traditional Services (8:45am & 9:45am)
The 8:45am traditional service worship ensemble continued to provide a foundation of reflective and reverent worship. We are thankful for the faithful core of singers and instrumentalists who lead us so gracefully each week, with special thanks to Euna Kim and Peter Stapleton who bless us by presenting beautiful violin and organ special music.

God gave our choir a wonderful year filled with many different opportunities and blessings. On April 18, we presented Mary McDonald's cantata, "My Savior's Love," at both Union Church and Hysan Place. We greatly enjoyed our collaborations with singers and musicians from Hop Yat Church Hong Kong Church, Queen's College, as well as the German-Speaking Evangelical Lutheran Congregation and Catholic Congregation in Hong Kong.

A significant highlight was being invited as the guest choir to perform at the Thanksgiving Concert of the German-Speaking Evangelical Lutheran Congregation and Catholic Congregation in Hong Kong on October 2, celebrating their 60 years of church history in Hong Kong. It was an enjoyable evening filled with German folk songs, instrumental music, Christian worship songs, and choral anthems.

In addition, our choir continues to grow with new singers, and we were especially blessed to include youth, worship team and staff singers in this year's Christmas Cantata, a beautiful expression of intergenerational worship. To celebrate the festive season, we presented Heather Sorenson's cantata, "Little Lion, Little Lamb," on December 7 at Union Church and on December 14 at the Hong Kong Museum of Art.

Contemporary Services (11:15am)
The 11:15am contemporary worship team continued to grow in artistry and leadership. We are grateful for the dedication of our rotating teams of singers and musicians.
The year was marked by several significant worship highlights. On April 10, we were

blessed by a Worship Training session led by Jon Pettigrew, which provided valuable learning and inspiration for the team. This was followed by our participation in the Good Friday Cantata, a meaningful collaboration that took us to the heart of the Passion story.

On September 13, we had the privilege of participating in the Bless The City Worship, an opportunity to worship, pray, and outreach to the community. The year concluded with our joyous Christmas Eve Family Service on December 24, a warm and welcoming celebration that brought together families and children of all ages for intergenerational worship.

Our thanks go to Rob and Betty Porter and the AV team for their tireless work behind the scenes, ensuring that the technical elements serve the worship experience seamlessly across all these services and events.

Music Outreach and Community Engagement

We continue to be thankful for opportunities to take our music beyond the walls of the church. Apart from performing at Hysan Place, the Hong Kong Museum of Art, and in the German Congregation's 60th Anniversary Thanksgiving Concert, we also enjoyed presenting special worship music for the events hosted by Les Beatitudes Foundation throughout the year. It is a blessing to share the gift of music with our wider community.

Looking Ahead to 2026

As we look to the new year, we are excited to continue serving God and our community. We pray for continued unity among our teams and for wisdom as we seek to lead the congregation in worship. We extend a warm invitation to anyone interested in using their musical gifts to join us in this joyful ministry. To God be the glory!







Good Friday Cantata and Hysan Place concert on April 18 | Repertoire: My Savior ‘s Love by Mary McDonald



German-Speaking Evangelical and Catholic Congregation Hong Kong Thanksgiving Concert on Oct 2. We had an enjoyable evening with German folk songs, instrument playing and singing, Christian worship songs as well as choral anthems.



Christmas Cantata and HK museum of Art on Dec 14
Repertoire: Little Lion, Little Lamb by Heather Sorensonchoral anthems.



Pastoral Care

Stephen Ministry by Tess Lyons

Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." ~ Galatians 6:2

Stephen Ministry at Union Church
Stephen Ministry celebrated six years at Union Church by expanding our team and increasing the number of people we walk alongside in care. Since 2019, Stephen Ministry has been a vital part of Union Church's pastoral ministry, equipping lay members to provide Christ-centered support to those experiencing life's challenges.

In January 2026, Cohort Four began, adding seven new trainees who will join our existing 26 active Stephen Ministers. Training prepares them to serve with compassion and skill, teaching listening, confidentiality, grief care, crisis response, and spiritual support.

Irene Hui is currently in Stephen Leader training and will join Crystal Lo, Catriona Woodrow, Ellen Demuynck, Deirdre Chan, Tess Lyons, and Pastor Michele in guiding the ministry. This leadership team provides oversight and encouragement, ensuring the ministry remains faithful and effective.

With new ministers in training and expanded leadership, Stephen Ministry continues to embody the call of Galatians 6:2—carrying one another's burdens and making Christ's love tangible within our community.



Administration

Stewardship by George Ding, *Honorary Treasurer*



"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."
~ 2 Corinthians 9:7

We held our annual Stewardship Campaign in November 2025, and I am pleased to report that this year's results reflect an encouraging trend of growing participation across our congregation. We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to every member and friend of Union Church who responded to the call to give.

The total number of commitment card respondents rose from 85 in 2024 to 98 in 2025, representing a 15% increase in the number of individuals and families who have chosen to support the work and mission of Union Church through their financial commitments. This growth in participation is a meaningful sign that our community is deepening its engagement with the life and vision of the church.

Total giving commitments for 2025 reached HKD 6,467,864, an increase of approximately HKD 112,000 over the 2024 figure of HKD 6,356,312. While the overall increase in the total amount was modest at around 1.8%, the broader participation across all categories is the more significant story.

Our regular pledge commitments remained stable, with 58 pledgers committing a total of HKD 3,300,664, broadly in line with last year's HKD 3,303,252 from 55 pledgers. The number of existing pledgers grew from 50 to 55, which reflects the faithfulness and consistency of our core giving community. We had three new pledgers this year, and we warmly welcome their commitment.

The most notable growth came in our one-off giving category. The number of one-off contributors rose from 27 to 35 — an increase of nearly 30% — while total one-off commitments grew significantly from HKD 2,453,060 to HKD 3,072,200, a rise of over 25%. We were particularly encouraged to see seven new one-off donors this year, more than doubling from three in 2024. This signals that newcomers to Union Church are finding compelling reasons to invest in our community and its work.

American taxpayers' via Friends of Hong Kong Company (FOHKC) contributions saw an increase in the number of supporters from three to five, although the total amount decreased from HKD 600,000 to HKD 95,000. We remain grateful for the continued partnership of our FOHKC friends and look forward to nurturing these relationships further in the year ahead.
As we look back on the past year, we see a church that is continuing to grow and attract new faces. The increase in overall participation tells us that more people feel connected to Union Church's mission and are willing to express that connection through their generosity. Our ministries, outreach programmes, community gatherings, and worship services are all made possible by the faithful giving of our members and friends.

For those who have not yet made a commitment, we warmly encourage you to prayerfully consider taking that step. Many who have done so reflect that regular giving becomes a joyful habit — one that deepens their sense of belonging and purpose within the body of Christ.

We continue to sow and grow together, trusting God to provide as we serve Hong Kong and beyond in this season of renewal and hope.

With gratitude and appreciation.



2025 Commitment Card Result

	No. of People		Amount (HKD)	
	2024	2025	2024	2025
Pledge				
New	5	3	220,800	155,800
Existing	50	55	3,082,452	3,144,864
	55	**58**	**3,303,252**	**3,300,664**
One-Off				
New	3	7	17,500	56,300
Existing	24	28	2,435,560	3,015,900
	27	**35**	**2,453,060**	**3,072,200**
FOHKC				
New	0	0	—	—
Existing	3	5	600,000	95,000
	3	**5**	**600,000**	**95,000**
Grand Total	**85**	**98**	**6,356,312**	**6,467,864**

Human Resources
by Jessey Xiong

We give thanks to God for the strength and perseverance He has given our staff team throughout the past year. Through seasons of challenge and moments of celebration, His grace has sustained us and enabled us to move forward together. We are deeply grateful for the hard work, dedication, and spirit of unity that each team member has brought to our shared mission. It is only through God's guidance and provision that we have been able to serve as we have.

As of the end of 2025, our team comprised 16 full-time and 9 part-time employees, representing approximately 19.7 full-time equivalents, each one a valued part of our church family. Throughout the year, we have seen our staff pour their hearts into every area of church life. With dedication and faithfulness, they have offered their gifts to missions, community outreach, evangelism, discipleship, fellowship, and worship, bringing these ministries to life through vibrant programs, meaningful events, and Spirit-led initiatives. At the same time, they have faithfully stewarded the vital behind-the-scenes work of administration, event coordination, janitorial services, communications, finance, human resources, information technology, and facilities management. It has been a joy to witness how every role, whether seen or unseen, has contributed to the same mission. We are deeply grateful for the way each person's unique gifts have woven together to support the work God has called us to do, and we give thanks for the faithful hearts behind every effort.

This past year, we said goodbye to Leo Lee, our Accounting Assistant, whom we thank for his contribution. At the same time, we were pleased to welcome several new members to our team: Brenda Lee as our Director of Missions, Desmond Tse as our new Accounting Assistant, and Raymond Wong as our Evening Shift Custodian.



As we look ahead to 2026, we do so with anticipation and a renewed commitment to serving the Lord in every task He places before us. Our prayer is that we would continue to seek His will in all we do, whether in planning, decision-making, or daily work, and that our efforts would reflect His love and purpose. May the year ahead be marked by fruitfulness and may all glory be to Him.

Property Committee
by Michael Birley

In 2026, we are looking after a much more sophisticated building than we were our old premises in 2017. The technical knowledge and skills need require us to engage with a much wider reference group. Happily, a degree of the knowledge and skills is available to us within our church community. We do however need access to a deeper reservoir to ensure our premises are run at a professional level commensurate with the premium buildings we own. I would like to thank all those who support and provide services to us: Savills for the church facilities management and Hang Yip for the apartments, carparks and common areas.

The facilities management contract is coming to an end and we have approached three providers, including our current facilities manager, for quotes to ensure a competitive process. The apartments continue to be a premium residence in the mid levels and we enjoy a very high level of occupancy. Our partners in the block Henderson are providing us a coordinated service through their inhouse lettings and service providers.

The real work though is done in the day to day and the never-ending stream of small and some larger matters that arise and answering questions and queries that have to be handled. Jessie and the custodial team keep the lights on and the facilities tidy, but behind the scenes we have been blessed to have the deep knowledge of Ricky Lai, Patrick Wilson, Jane Wilson and Rosanna Chan.

Sadly, we have had to say goodbye to the tree to the right of our building that had become a potential hazard. (During construction we had to build around it!) As a result, we are in the process of relandscaping that area.

The property committee meet quarterly. This year, William Kuan and Ken Morrison stepped down and I would like to record our thanks for their input and service from when the Property Committee was originally established. We welcomed Jessica Cutrera and Andew Long who are also members of the committee of management.

The Union Church Property Committee comprises:
Chair: Michael Birley
Rev. Dr. Michele Bland – Senior Pastor
Jessey Xiong – Operations Director
George Ding – Honorary Treasurer
Ricky Lai – Committee of Management
Rosanna Chan – Trustees
Jane Arnett – Trustees
Andrew Long – Committee of Management
Susan King – Committee of Management
Patrick Wilson

Treasurer's Report

by George Ding

Financial Highlights

Union Church completed her second full year at 22A Kennedy Road in 2025, supported by a recovering Hong Kong economy and an easing interest rate environment. Despite a slight decline in total revenue, the church significantly outperformed its budgeted deficit of HKD 5.9 million, recording a General Fund deficit of just HKD 0.3 million — a HKD 1.9 million operating deficit offset by HKD 1.7 million in investment returns on reserves. Net assets of Church Ministries stood at HKD 77.3 million at year-end, down from HKD 79.2 million in 2024.

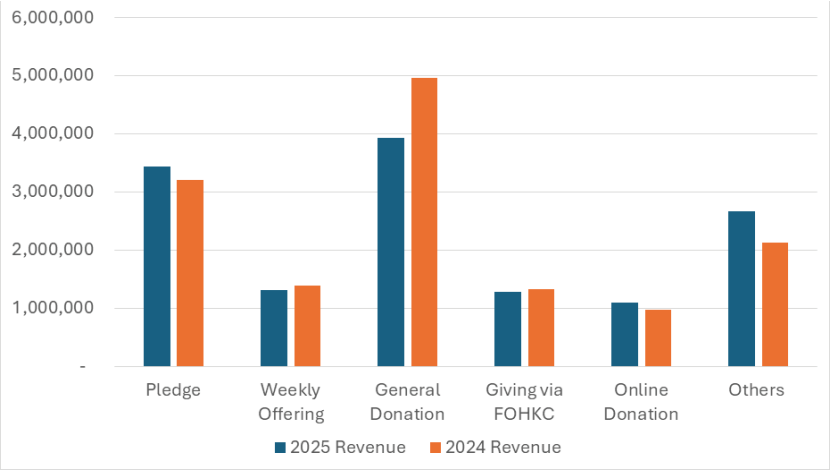
Revenue

Through the Lord's provision and your continued generosity, total ministry revenue for 2025 reached HKD 13.7 million — a modest 2% decline from HKD 14.0 million in 2024, yet 18% above the budget of HKD 11.6 million.

Offering and Donation Income totalled HKD 11.0 million, down from HKD 11.9 million. Pledge giving rose 7% to HKD 3.4 million, and Online Donations grew 12% to HKD 1.1 million, while General Donations declined due to an one-off gifts in the prior year.

Wedding and Funeral Services income grew significantly to HKD 307,000, up from HKD 74,000 in the prior year, as our premises at 22A Kennedy Road continued to attract bookings. Income transfers totalled HKD 1,752,000, drawn from two sources under the purview of the Trustees. The church apartments' rental income provided transfer payments of HKD 626,000 and HKD 601,000 to support the accounting and mission functions of Church Ministries respectively, while the Three Quarter Century Fund contributed HKD 525,000 to support pastoral staff costs.

The detailed breakdown is shown below: (in HKD):



Expenses

Total operating expenses rose 11% to HKD 14.0 million, up from HKD 12.6 million in 2024, yet remained well below the budget of HKD 15.8 million.

Staff Compensation was the primary driver, increasing 10% to HKD 9.1 million to support growing ministry needs. Operating expenditure (excluding Repair and Maintenance) declined 4% to HKD 2.6 million, while Repair and Maintenance rose to HKD 775,000 from HKD 207,000, principally reflecting higher mechanical and engineering costs related to the building's air conditioning system following the conclusion of the builder's warranty in late 2024, though still well below the budgeted HKD 1.4 million.

Ministry expenses totalled HKD 1.5 million, with the Encourage Ministry more than doubling to HKD 123,000 through enhanced pastoral care and community-building initiatives, and Education Ministry holding steady at HKD 303,000. Evangelism Ministry costs were maintained at approximately HKD 1.0 million, continuing the practice established in 2024 whereby Mission Donations are funded through apartment rental income. The detailed breakdown is shown below (in HKD thousands):



Church Apartments

The Trustees of Union Church in Hong Kong (TUCHK), incorporated under Cap. 1052, hold the church's properties in trust, with day-to-day property management delegated to the Property Committee. Financial management and budget approval rest with the Committee of Management under the Ordinance.

2025 marks the second full year of operating the church-owned apartments, maintained as separate financial records for tax compliance. Apartment rental income continued to support the church's mission and operations steadily.

Union Church remains in a sound financial position for pursuing our vision. We are grateful for the Lord's blessings and our community's unwavering support, and remain committed to sustaining our ministries and fostering a vibrant community of faith at our home on Kennedy Road.

The Year at a Glance

We give thanks to the Lord for His faithfulness.

SERMON SERIES
It's Not Fair; Jesus: The Way Maker, Miracle Worker; Living the Resurrected Life; Overcoming Life's Obstacles; Threats to the Soul; Hope: An Anchor of the Soul; Stewardship is an Adventure; Unwrap the Greatest Gift of All: Names of Jesus

SPEAKERS
Rev. Dr. Michele Bland - 34
Rev. Dan Tupps - 16
AJ Ornias - 1
Brenda Lee - 1
Charles Caldwell - 1
Pastor Jason Young (Mother's Choice) - 1
Rev. Dr. John Snelgrove - 1
Rev. Chua Wee Hian - 1
Pastor Esther Tung (Kun Sun) - 1
Nicky Gumbel (Founder of Alpha) - 1
David J. Gotts (International China Concern) - 1
Patricia Lau (Alpha Hong Kong) - 1
Peter Williams (International Justice Mission) - 1

BAPTISMS AND MEMBERSHIP

Adult Baptisms - 10
Tai Yan Timothy Yuen
Avashnee Vandiar
Ella Rose Jayobo
Deyue Hu
(David) Sofyan Mohammad Odeh) Bani Ghannoum
Chun Choi Eric Yu
Oi Tng Jacqueline Yam
Roselyn Minding
Meliza Ugbaniel
Richel Pagtolon-an

Baby Dedications / Baptisms - 9
Ka Nam Jayden Ng
Alva Chan Groenkvist
Gabriel Townsend
Astrid Lee
Dominic Ji Xuan Tan
Cayla Lily Grace Godfrey
Tak Tzar Aakus Yu
Kiara Makhija
Maya Makhija

Youth Confirmations / Baptisms - 5
Aden Xavier Layman
Aliyah Rose Layman
Jesna Gurung
Christian Li
Louie Li

NEW MEMBERS - 23
Tai Yan Timothy Yuen
Avashnee Vandiar
Ella Rose Jayobo
Deyue Hu
Justin O'Brien
Chola O'Brien
Adriana Cecilia Zurita Pimentel
Yuh Bin Choong
Paul Maqsood
Pui Yun (Catherine) Mok
Anne Jennifer Lau
Gavin Thomas Shiu
Carmen Leung
Julian Lam
(David) Sofyan Mohammad Odel Bani Ghannoum
Karl Hurst
Thomas Salg
Susanne Decker Salg
Chun Choi Eric Yu
Oi Tng Jacqueline Yam
Roselyn Minding
Meliza Ugbaniel
Richel Pagtolon-an

Missed But Not Forgotten
Marlene Yung
Thomas Tang
Greg So




THIS RETREAT IS
SUPER!
WITH GREAT
POWERS
COMES GREAT RESPONSIBILITY
NOT ALL
SUPERHEROES
WEAR CAPES!


Sew So Easy...
TUESDAY
APRIL 1, 8, & 15








STUDY ON THE PREHISTORY OF THE BIBLE
SMALL GROUPS
Connect in Community
Women
Men
Other Adults




PEACE
BOX




SALT OF LIFE
The WAY
Holy ONE
Lord of all
LIGHT
I AM






CITYSERVE
HONG KONG
CITYSERVE
VISIBLE DISPLAY & VIABLE DEMONSTRATION OF GOD'S LOVE
CITYSERVE
HONG KONG


L'AMOUR DE PARIS
Blueberry Muffins $15
Fudge $15 Brownies
Baked Mission
LEMON CRINKLE COOKIES






WORSHIP SERVICES
TELL US
HOW YOU
WE'RE
HERE
FOR YOU
















Prayer Walk

The Union Church Team



The staff team is grateful to be part of the Union Church family and to have experienced a year as exciting as 2025. At the end of 2025, our staff and their positions were as follows:

The Rev. Dr. Michele Bland	Senior Pastor
Rev. Dan Tupps	Pastor of Discipleship
Pastor Fe Warlyn Pepito	Director of Filipino Ministry
Dr. Joyce Wu	Associate Director of Worship
Ms. Hilary Law	Director of Choir
Mr. AJ Ornias	Director of Youth
Ms. Jacklien Lee	Director of Children's Ministry
Ms. Brenda Lee	Director of Missions
Ms. Jessey Xiong	Director of Operations
Ms. Irene Lau	Senior Accountant
Mr. Jack Yau	Accountant
Mr. Desmond Tse	Part-time Accountant Assistant
Mr. Eric Leung	Ministry Event Coordinator
Ms. Fiona Li	Ministry Assistant
Ms. Josephine Lee	Office Administrator
Ms. Liza Sumagaysay	Graphic Designer
Ms. Dorothy Pang	Children's Ministry Assistant
Mr. Wilson Wong	Full-time Janitor
Ms. Fanny Cheng	Full-time Janitor
Mr. Raymond Wong	Full-time Janitor

The Church was also blessed during the year by contractors and consultants who greatly assisted the staff team: Rob and Betty Porter and their team members (AV); Patrick Raths (IT) and Dickson Cheung (Savills Facilities Management).

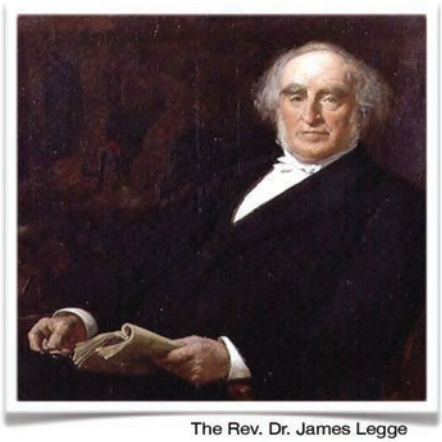
A Brief History

Union Church was founded in 1844 by the Rev. Dr. James Legge, a Scottish member of the London Missionary Society. Then known as Union Chapel, the first building was constructed in 1845 on Hollywood Road. An English service was held in the morning and a Chinese service in the afternoon.

Legge served as Pastor from 1849-1867 and from 1870-1873. He translated the Chinese classics into English and the Bible into Chinese. His translations are used to this day and are still in print. He was a major figure in early Hong Kong and the founder of the very first government school known now as Queen's College.

In 1866, Union Church relocated to a new site on Staunton Street near Hollywood Road and Lyndhurst Terrace. In 1873, Dr. Legge returned to the UK where he became Oxford's first Professor of Chinese.

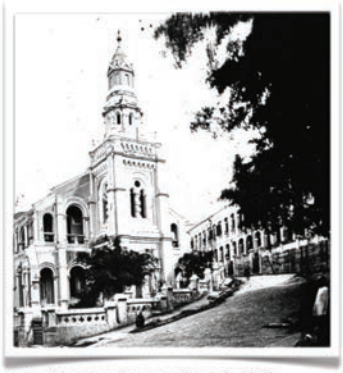
In 1890, the Church was moved stone by stone to the present Kennedy Road site. Meanwhile the Chinese service became a sister church, Hop Yat, which has produced over 1000 daughter churches. Union's only daughter church is Kowloon Union, established in 1924.



The Rev. Dr. James Legge

The Japanese occupation of Hong Kong during WWII saw the forced closing of the Church. The events surrounding its total physical destruction remain a mystery. The survivors began fundraising and the Fellowship Hall was built in 1949, with the sanctuary completed in 1955. The education annexe was built in 1970 and later named after the Rev. Dennis Rogers, perhaps the most significant 20th century Union Church pastor, following his death in 1977.

Union Church is known for its welcoming and diverse multicultural and intergenerational congregation with a vision of building a home in Christ to seek, love and serve God and its neighbours. The Church embraces the core values of being Christ-Centred, Building Community, Welcoming, Living Missionally



Union Church on Staunton Street (c.1868)



First non-royal to be depicted on a HK postage stamp

and Growing in Unity. Union has gained a reputation for launching new ministries in Hong Kong (Alpha and Walk to Emmaus) that have greatly blessed the wider community.

The Rev. Dr. Michele Bland, arriving in 2012, is Union's 22nd senior pastor. In 2020, she became the first female senior pastor at Union. Rev. Dr. Gregory Anderson preceded Pastor Michele as senior pastor (2007-2018) and Rev. Ruth Tablada was Union's first pastor to the Filipino congregation (1991-2022).

Three bodies govern the Church: the Deacons' Court, Committee of Management, and Trustees. Union is a charter member of the Hong Kong Christian Council and active in the Network of International Churches.

After 30 years of prayer, planning and implementation, the Church redeveloped the 22A site in collaboration with Henderson Land. The latest generation Union Church building features a beautiful free-standing Sanctuary and a tower comprising a church podium and residential flats.

During six years of construction, the Lord rebuilt the spiritual heart of the church as we worshipped and served in what was previously known as Sunlight Tower, a commercial office building in Wan Chai.

With all the change at Union Church over the years, our purpose remains the same. It was reflected in a document first written by James Legge in 1849:

"We differ in small matters, we agree in great realities. We trust that we are one in Christ Jesus. We all love Him who died for us. On the fact of this great unity, our Union as a church is based."
-JAMES LEGGE 1849

~ Written by Union Church staff, with gratitude to the previous authors of *A Brief History*: Greg Anderson, David Bunton, Brooke Himsworth and Geoff Lovegrove.

Acknowledgement

We thank God for the wonderful people who helped put together this Annual Report:

Pastor Michele, the ministry leaders, Deacons, COM members, and Trustees who wrote these reports.

Office Staff: Jessey Xiong, Irene Lau, Liza Sumagaysay, Fiona Li and Josephine Lee

Proofreading: Catriona Woodrow

Photos: All who captured photos and videos of our Church's full and abundant life.

THANK YOU ALL!





From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting, ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

Ephesians 4:16 NIV

UNION CHURCH
佑寧堂

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