

2025 Strategic Plan Report — Presentation Talking Points

These talking points accompany the PowerPoint presentation supporting the 2025 Strategic Plan Report, which is available on the [United Church website](#).

Slide 1

- Welcome. We are excited to share with you the United Church's 2025 Strategic Plan Report, featuring a snapshot of the progress our General Council Office has made on the six strategic objectives conceived as part of its 2023–2025 Strategic Plan, in the plan's final year.

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- The report brings together financial information with narrative reporting on the impacts of initiatives within the overarching objectives the church has selected to shape the activities of the General Council Office.
- While work has continued under the Deepen Climate Integrity and Nurture the Common Good objectives, this report focuses on the four objectives which will form the cornerstone of our future full-church strategic plan under Toward 2035.
- The work being done spans efforts both domestic and global; from the newest communities of faith to the leaders of the national church, all hands are on deck as we endeavor to boldly embody the Christian story during this time.

Slide 3

- The activities covered in the Strategic Plan Report are funded both by the General Council budget and areas of funding outside of it, referred to as fund centres.
- As this pie chart demonstrates, the church's financial commitments across all six strategic objectives are significant.

Slide 4

- This pie chart illustrates only the resources channeled from the operating budget to the strategic objectives.

Slide 5

- Momentum in the final year of the 2023–2025 plan remained very strong: we've reached 76.25% progress on planned key results overall, with the exception of Indigenous Pathways, which reported its developments in a narrative manner.
- Our Growth — Strengthen Invitation objective has seen the most advanced progress of the six, with 80.75% overall progress on key results last year, as the church continues expanding its practice of welcome in new and exciting ways.

Slide 6 (optional)

- Through our **Embolden Justice** strategic objective, we're joining Canadian and global partners in the hard work of bringing about 2S and LGBTQIA+ rights and racial and Indigenous justice.

- In 2025, our Continued support for migrant justice and refugee work was strengthened, through increased participation in national coalitions and consultations, and new ties with the Refugee Sponsorship Training Program and the United Nations High Commission for Refugees.
- 2S and LGBTQIA+ advocacy also remained an urgent priority, including through letter-writing to Alberta's government in support of the trans community. Pictured here is "Faith Beyond Borders," a regional East African inclusive and safe dialogue spaces project, that's fostering cross-faith, cross-sector shifts toward affirming theology and practice.

Slide 7 (optional)

- Our **Invigorate Leadership** objective is developing new resources, programs, and training to enable our church leadership to meet the challenges of the future, and reflect the diversity of our church and country.
- A major gain in this objective came through a \$9 million USD grant from the Lilly Endowment Inc. to The Vancouver School of Theology, as lead school in a new collaboration between the United Church and its eight affiliated schools, to strengthen theological education over the next five years.
- Equity, diversity, and anti-oppression (EDA) practices with national church committees continued to expand throughout 2025. A coordinated EDA pathway was introduced for committees to engage with from 2025 to 2028, including EDA education for committees, self-assessments, and a full participation audit.

Slide 8 (optional)

- Activities under the **Strengthen Invitation** objective include renewing existing United Church communities of faith, creating new churches, and supporting bolder invitation.
- In a major Growth initiative, over 115 United Churches brought their ministry out to the street with 100 Tables, transforming ordinary picnic tables into sites of welcome outside their church doors. Projects shared social justice resources, community-building activities, or just a simple bite to eat, driving invitation and new relationship with neighbours.
- A map of all 100 Tables projects is available on the United Church website, and the initiative will be returning this summer.
- Migrant-led church plant communities continue to emerge, leading new expressions of our shared faith across the country. 10 Church Plant Leads, now employed as staff in the GCO, participated in General Council 45 in Calgary last August.

Slide 9 (optional)

- The Journeying **Indigenous Pathways** strategic objective prioritizes recognizing and celebrating diverse Indigenous ways of being and knowing, while decolonizing church structures and partnering with a self-determining Indigenous Church.
- This is being pursued through a 2026 plan embodying a practical shift toward decolonization and Indigenous-led justice, directly serving the goal of safer, more equitable spaces for Indigenous communities.
- Two representatives of the Indigenous Church—Joni Shawana and Samantha Miller—attended COP30, the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Belém, Brazil last November, participating in advocacy and dialogues about the future of Indigenous climate leadership.

Slide 10 (optional)

- The inspired youth of the church continue to lead us in living all of our strategic objectives into reality. 130 youth attended General Council 45 in Calgary last August, with 84 participants in Youth Forum and 16 participating as voting Commissioners as well.
- Other exciting moments of youth momentum in the church came at the second annual National Francophone Youth Gathering in December in Paris, Ontario, and at many 100 Tables projects across the country that were youth-led.

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- You can find the full 2025 report through the following QR code.
- More information about our Strategic Plan, including the full text of each objective and detailed progress updates, are on the Our Call and Vision section of united-church.ca. This report is also available in French on egliseunie.ca.