

Saint Andrew's Presbyterian and St. Paul's United Churches – An Ecumenical Shared Ministry Year in Review, 2025 from the Ecumenical Assembly

Your Ecumenical Assembly (EA) is Co-Chaired by Rev. Michelle Armstrong (SP) and Rev. Doug Blaikie, Interim Moderator (IM, SA). Rev. Michelle Chaired the meetings throughout 2025 enabling Rev. Doug to attend, acting as an adviser. Rev. Doug assumes the role of Chair when Rev. Michelle is not available. The EA met nine times January through December. Looking back, the EA started, completed and is continuing many initiatives that are advancing our call to be together as one congregation and serving our community.

Early in the year, the EA adopted Holy Manners* as a code for its behaviour as a group, and with each other. Those behaviours were incorporated into the Visioning work the EA began with an outside facilitator, Rev. Rose-Hannah Gaskin. A small team was formed following three sessions with Rev. Rose-Hannah to solicit, summarize, present and revise thoughts from the congregation on what our Mission and Values ought to be as an ESM. The work continued into 2026 when it was delivered to the congregation in March.

After living within the ESM for some time, the governance model of the EA was amended so that the EA is an extension of the Session/Council with full decision-making authority. The minutes of the EA are entered into the denominational record of the work of the congregation for wider denominational reporting purposes.

Following the lead of the Joint Worship Committee, other Committees furthered their work together: Terms of Reference for Christian Education were developed and approved, as was a process for approving and paying for shared expenses which was developed by the two Treasurers and Rev. Michelle. The Policy, Finance and Maintenance Committee of SA also presented a document for its restructuring that recognized the need for joint committees for Finance, Human Resources and Property Management. The group responsible for Human Resources cooperated and collaborated in a large undertaking of a staffing needs analysis that continued into 2026.

Other efforts of cooperation and collaboration have resulted in items and events for sharing, inviting and celebrating our ESM:

- Our social media presence has grown greatly through the efforts of two EA members who actively promote our ESM on Facebook and Instagram
- The new sign is a bright beacon advertising our unity and inviting all to join us
- A Photo Directory of our congregation was initiated and will soon be ready for pick-up
- A new AED for cardiac emergencies as well as training for it was delivered
- A Christmas Bazaar, Café, the Great ADVENTure, Shrove Pancake Supper, Community Dinner and other social events were hosted within the Church thanks to United Church Women (UCW), the Tuesday Morning Ladies Group and our own Red Seal Chefs, Shawn and Beth Meister

As you can see, not only was your EA a busy, purposeful group of dedicated members of our ESM, so were many others. Sincere appreciation is extended to all. We have laid a solid foundation for growth!

Respectfully submitted by your Ecumenical Assembly

*The Very Reverend Marion Parry introduced Holy Manners as resource for the 38th General Council 2003. Holy Manners has been used as resource for the conduct of meetings by subsequent General Councils and their executives.

**Ecumenical Assembly Membership
Throughout
2025**

From Saint Andrew's Session

- Rev. Doug Blaikie (IM)
- Jean Boudreau, Clerk of Session & Treasurer
- Bev Bramble, Secretary & Christian Education & Mission
- Glynis Martin, HR & Technology
- Mary Charters, Worship
- Rose-Carolyn Smith, Pastoral Care
- Colleen Watson, Social Media
- Hugh Astle
- Janet Higgins

From St. Paul's Council

- Rev. Michelle Armstrong, Minister & Acting Chair (January – May)
- Marc Horncastle, Chair (June – December)
- Brad Webb, Financial Analyst/Treasurer (October – December)
- Andrea Allen, Secretary & Human Resources
- Debbie West, Worship (January – June)
- Roger Miller, Worship
- Vee Mariner
- Ron Naugler, Representative to Region & Treasurer (January – May)
- Carole Peacock, Trustees
- Patty Trail, Housing
- Erin Webb, Christian Education, Social Media
- Lois Walker, Outreach (January – November)