

▲ Rise in body or in spirit/  
Responses in bold

Gathering Music/Welcome/Introductions

Acknowledging the Territory

**CROSSING THE THRESHOLD**

Lighting the Candles

Opening Sung Meditation  
Come and Find the Quiet Centre # 374

**Come and find the quiet centre  
in the crowded life we lead,  
find the room for hope to enter,  
find the frame where we are freed:  
clear the chaos and the clutter,  
clear our eyes, that we can see  
all the things that really matter,  
be at peace, and simply be.**

Call to Worship (Responsive)

United in faith,  
Strengthened by friendship,  
Building a community of love and justice.  
**These are words that speak of our  
identity as followers of Jesus.**

United in faith,  
Strengthened by friendship,  
Building a community of love and justice.  
**These are words that speak of our hope  
as followers of Jesus.**

United in faith,  
Strengthened by friendship,  
Building a community of love and justice.  
**These are words that speak of our  
mission as followers of Jesus.  
Come, let us worship!**

▲ We Sing – Worship the Lord # 401

*Motion # 1 Election of Chair & Secretary  
for the Meeting*

*Constitution of the Meeting*

*I constitute this annual meeting of St. James  
United Church in the name of Jesus Christ.  
As one body, Jesus is the head of our  
thinking, the heart of our feeling and the  
spirit of our life together. We are  
constituted for all business that may be  
brought before us this day.*

Behavioural Covenant (Together)

**As members of St James United Church,  
an Affirming Congregation, we promise  
to pray for one another, be kind and act  
in a Christian manner by:**

- 1. Seeking to discover what is best  
for St James as a whole, not just  
individuals.**
- 2. Being mindful that differences of  
opinion are normal and natural.**
- 3. Promising to have respectful  
relationships with one another,  
our staff and our leaders.**
- 4. Calling to account discriminatory  
speech and behaviour, including  
the use of real or perceived power  
to harass, bully or intimidate.**
- 5. Maintaining confidentiality in  
personal and professional issues,  
while being transparent regarding  
decisions and plans for the  
church.**
- 6. Praying for each other.**

**During meetings, it is our goal to  
demonstrate clear communication by:**

- 1. Offering opinions with clarity.**
- 2. Listening respectfully with an  
open mind to the opinions, ideas  
and concerns of others.**

- 3. Responding respectfully and  
thoughtfully.**
- 4. Focusing on issues, not on  
personalities.**
- 5. Voting in accordance with your  
own conscience.**
- 6. Respecting the decisions of the  
body, despite personal views.**
- 7. Supporting the leaders and  
committees in their efforts to  
follow through with plans.**

*Motion # 2 Approval of Agenda as  
Outlined in the Bulletin*

*Motion # 3 Extension of Vote to  
Adherents*

*Motion # 4 Approval of Minutes from  
Congregational Meeting on  
March 3, 2024*

*Motion # 5 Approval of Minutes from  
Congregational Meeting on  
October 27, 2024*

In Memoriam

### **CELEBRATING WORSHIP & FAITH FORMATION**

Even as we gather to worship, O God,  
we recognize our many different needs:  
For music, for silence, for scripture, for  
reflective words, for community,  
for reasons that only you know.  
**Some come joyfully, some quietly,  
Some come seeking  
permission to express doubts.**

We celebrate the new faces among us  
and trust that they find an expression  
of your love and acceptance here.

**Remind us who we are,  
called to be the church.**

We give thanks for God's faithfulness,

**and try to act out God's love  
in our everyday lives.**

For all the volunteers who participate in  
worship, for the choir and bell choir, the  
greeters, the coffee time hosts, the tech  
people, the creative ones.

**We give our heartfelt thanks!  
Thus we worship together in joy  
and expectation and hope.**

*Motion # 6 Acceptance of Worship &  
Faith Formation, Carillon  
Choir & Choir Reports*

Opening Prayer of Confession

If God is a painter, **let us be the brush.**  
If God is a musician, **let us be the song.**  
If God is an architect, **let us be the tools.**

Let us be the hands.

**Let us be the builders.**

But if God is a shepherd,  
who never stops seeking,

**let us be willing to be found,  
no matter how lost we feel.**

Our God is never far away.

**Forgive us for forgetting this good news.  
Amen.**

Scripture – Luke 13: 1-7

Reflection

▲ We Sing – God is Here # 389

### **CELEBRATING INTERIM MINISTRY**

Rev. Catherine has been our Intentional  
Interim Minister for 2 years; last fall  
we asked the congregation and then  
the region for her time with us to be  
extended, as we live into our new  
governance and continue to work  
on the goals of the congregation.  
We are grateful for her leadership  
and that of the Transition Team.

As members of St. James United Church,  
we promise to respect  
and care for each other through times  
of growth and joy and through  
times of sorrow and challenge,  
trusting that God is always with us.

Motion # 7    *Acceptance of Official Board,  
Minister's & Transition Team  
Reports*

Motion # 8    *Election of Audrey Cox &  
Wilf Laybolt as members  
of the Ministry & Personnel  
Committee.*

**CELEBRATING PASTORAL CARE  
& MISSION & OUTREACH**

To love and serve others is our mission and  
our privilege. The Food Bank, FOOD are  
two ways we live out this aspect of life  
together. We host Wellness Wednesdays,  
we commit resources to ministry in the wider  
world through Mission & Service.

We send cards, make phone calls,  
knit prayer shawls and livestream services  
so that others may know  
the comfort of your touch.

**May we be known for our generosity  
in the wider community.**

May our neighbours know us by our love.

**May those we serve  
know they are not alone,  
for we walk with them  
in the name of Christ.**

Motion # 9    *Acceptance of Affirming,  
Facebook, Scouts, FOOD,  
Food Bank, Pastoral  
Care/Prayer Shawl Ministry,  
Website Reports*

Scripture – Luke 15: 8-10

Reflection

**CELEBRATING BUILDING & PROPERTY**

Our buildings are important to us,  
for they remind us of  
special moments in our lives.

We gather for occasions  
of celebration and of sorrow.

**This is our place of community,  
a place from which  
we can reach out to others,  
and a place of sanctuary.**

Many people are involved  
in the care of our buildings;  
those who clean and move pews,  
those who set up tables and chairs,  
those who ensure we are safe and secure.

We cannot begin to name the tasks  
nor thank the individuals enough.

**O God, may this building stand as a  
cornerstone in our community.**

**May it stand firm in Jesus' name.**

And even as we celebrate this place,  
let us be reminded  
that the church is not the building.

**The church is God's people.**

Motion # 10    *Acceptance of Property &  
Facilities Reports*

▲ We Sing

The Church is Wherever VU # 579

**CELEBRATING GENEROSITY**

We are thankful  
for each person who shares their time,  
talent and treasure to support the mission  
and ministry of our church!

**As we allocate resources and budget  
to fulfill our mission,  
we are invited to share what we have,  
our time, our talent, our spiritual gifts,  
and our financial resources,  
to create a community  
that focuses on being:**

**United in Faith  
Strengthened by Friendship  
Building a Community  
of Love & Justice.**

We want to nurture our faith community  
**and reach out beyond  
our faith community.**

May our offerings include the hopes of our  
hearts, the excitement of our dreams and  
the depth of our caring.

**We pray in Jesus' name. Amen**

Motion # 11    *Acceptance of Fundraising,  
Financial & Trustees Reports*

Motion # 12    *Acceptance of Shupe as  
Reviewers of Financial  
Reports*

Scripture Reading – Luke 15: 11-32

Reflection

Prayers of the People  
& The Lord's Prayer

Commissioning & Blessing

▲ Song of Dismissal  
God Be With You

**God be with you till we meet again;  
loving counsels guide, uphold you,  
may the Shepherd's care enfold you;  
God be with you till we meet again.**

**Till we meet, till we meet,  
till we meet at Jesus' feet.  
Till we meet, till we meet,  
God be with you till we meet again.**

Music Takes Us into the World

St. James  
United Church

Annual Meeting

Everything In Between



March 30, 2025 @ 10:00 AM

181 Portland Street  
Dartmouth  
B2Y 1J5  
902-464-8852

