

# FAIRHAVEN CHRISTADELPHIAN CHARITABLE FOUNDATION



WINTER 2025

*All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—everyone—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

*Isaiah 53:6 ESV*

## RESTORING WANDERING SHEEP

Have you ever lost something of value? The disappearance of a passport, a cherished piece of jewelry or a misplaced credit card can be the source of anxiety and dismay. Those not interested in helping us look may have reassured us, 'Don't worry, it will turn up'. But finding the lost item always took time, effort, and perseverance. In Luke 15, the parable of the Lost Sheep is one of three parables all which concern the 'lost'. The ratios in these parables are worth noting. The parable of the Lost Sheep deals with one lost out of a hundred; the parable of the Lost Coin involves one lost out of ten; and in the parable of the Lost Son the ratio increases to one out of two. Each parable relates a wonderful message of determination to seek out and find that which was lost.

As a community we need to embrace this spirit of determination. It is troubling to hear, 'I could have told you he wasn't committed' or 'I always had my doubts about their integrity' or perhaps, 'We're better off without her'. We may hear of the departure of some framed in terms of, 'These are the last days. We must anticipate the loss of believers as end time prophecies require it.' There is a real danger that we become complacent about the sheep that have strayed from the fold and become lackadaisical towards our responsibility as shepherds. We are reminded of the determination of our Lord who said, 'For the Son of Man is come to save that which is lost' (Mt. 18:11). Do we share that same determination and proactivity? Jesus said, 'And this is the will of the

Father who sent me that of all He has given me, I should **lose nothing**, but should raise it up at the last day (Jn.6:39)...that the saying might be fulfilled which he spoke, 'Of those whom You gave me, I have **lost none**' (Jn 18:9).

We should be greatly encouraged by our Lord's determination, as we undertake to return wandering sheep. We may have heard the comment, 'If they would only read their Bibles they would never go astray', yet the beauty of Psalm 119, that extols the power of God's Word, concludes with the psalmist's acknowledgement, 'I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek Your servant, for I do not forget Your commandments.' May we too ask for God's blessing as we seek to restore the lost back to the fold.

**Fairhaven Christadelphian Charitable Foundation**

c/o 39 Knox Avenue

North, York, ON, M9L 2M2

[www.fairhavenfoundation.ca](http://www.fairhavenfoundation.ca)

**Directors:** Jennifer Cowles, Sarah Farrar, Alan Ghent, Judy Mackinnon, Ian McPhee, Penny Sheppard, Tom Thorp



## KEEPING IN CONTACT

**Meaningful communication** with those who have chosen not to return is key. Approach from a place of empathy. We may not know the life struggles of those who no longer attend. An empathetic mindset will be more productive than attempting to guilt someone into returning. Negative emotions shouldn't be associated with attending our memorial service.

**Reach out** as soon as possible when someone has decided to leave the ecclesia. Don't let fears of confrontation or rejection hinder your effort. While contacting unhappy members is difficult, timely action honours them and opens the door for future reconciliation. Most will be pleased that you took the initiative.

**Listen carefully** to them. Genuinely listening to disgruntled members is often easier said than done. There is a tendency to become defensive and start speaking before they've finished sharing. We don't have to agree with their conclusions for them to feel they have been heard. At the same time, there may be elements of truth in their concerns that would make for a more hospitable and brighter lightstand.

**Respond graciously.** Without compromising our convictions, we can respond in grace. Solomon wrote, 'It is to one's glory to overlook an offence' (Prov.19:11). If we are at fault for something said or done, we should take responsibility and seek forgiveness.

**Leave the door open.** Sometimes reconciliation isn't always possible. Some will not want to share their concerns. Consider sending a follow up note assuring them that they remain loved and valued. They may choose not to attend our local ecclesia, but the Lord knows those who are his.

*"He believes that this is all the government will be giving him in the future and that he will no longer be able to manage rent and be evicted. You are providing [him] much comfort...so thank you, thank you."*



## THE FOUNDATION'S TERMS OF REFERENCE

How can the Fairhaven Foundation be of assistance to your ecclesia? Are there health and welfare needs in your meeting that require attention, but ecclesial resources are strained or insufficient? The Foundation, operating under the applicable government regulations, may provide grants only to registered charities in Canada. We must disburse a percentage of our invested assets each year, based upon a government regulatory formula.

Ecclesias in Canada may request assistance from the Foundation by following these guidelines:

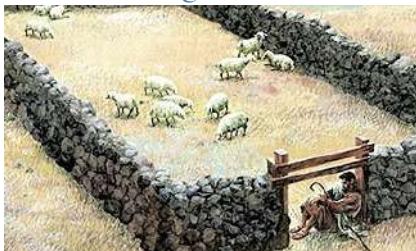
Only requests from Arranging Boards will be considered. By law, grants will only be issued to registered charities, not individuals. Priority is to be given to the welfare needs of Christadelphian elderly, since this reflects the original purpose of Fairhaven House. If additional funds are available after meeting these needs, then more general health and welfare needs of the Christadelphian community will be considered, followed by health and welfare needs of the community at large. Requests must be in writing and should document, in confidence, the need, the background, the amount of help required and the amount of help being

provided by the ecclesia. It is expected that the ecclesia requesting support will also provide funds to assist from its own resources. It is preferable, if possible, that ecclesias address emergency situations, and subsequently follow up with a request to the Foundation. The board of the Foundation considers requests at its semi-annual meetings in February and June each year. Emergency requests will also be addressed as quickly as possible.

Requests may be sent to:  
The Fairhaven Christadelphian  
Charitable Foundation  
c/o Sister Penny Sheppard,  
Secretary  
39 Knox Avenue  
North York, ON, M9L 2M2

The primary responsibility to meet the welfare needs of our brothers, sisters and young people lies first with family (1Timothy 5:8), followed by the ecclesia. The Foundation's role is to supplement, rather than supplant this ecclesial responsibility. We encourage ecclesias to be actively aware of situations where there is a need, extend help, and then approach the Foundation as a funding partner.

## Returning to the Fold



After a long absence, it can be difficult to return to the ecclesia. Members may leave for a variety of reasons, but a change of heart or circumstance can prompt a desire to return. What sort of welcome awaits the wayward lamb returning to the fold?

One brother's life became unhinged as he succumbed to an alcohol addiction. His marriage failed and his business faltered. He stopped attending. Now, through God's grace and after almost a decade of support from AA, he has turned his life around. He has made initial steps to return to his ecclesia. He stopped in at a Bible School for a day. My invitation to attend a gathering with him near his home was sincerely appreciated. He wrote, "It was also kind of strange coming back, not knowing if it's 'Good to see you' or 'He's got a lot of nerve' being here. One day hopefully I'll be humble enough to let it roll off like water on a duck.'

What welcome would we offer?

## ECCLESIAL OPPORTUNITIES TO RE-ENGAGE

**A Note of Thanks**—Did the departed member make a lasting contribution to your ecclesia? Perhaps a construction project, a change in the order of service, a donation of books, or other offering that would warrant a personal note of thanks?

**An Invitation**—Is there an ecclesial dinner, Sunday School outing or picnic, or brothers' / sisters' lunch that could serve as venue to reconnect?

**A Survey**—Try to meet face-to-face on neutral ground. Ask for honesty and candor. Assure them that you are there to listen, not coerce them to return. Be a compassionate listener and thank them for their responses.

*No one likes to be ignored. People return to the ecclesia because someone contacts them personally, tells them they are valued, shows the ecclesia remains there for them and nurtures them back into the fold.*

## AN APPEAL

Uncertain economic times have created financial challenges for some increasing the demands on ecclesial resources. The Foundation would welcome ecclesial and individual gifts to support this work. Please visit our website, [www.fairhavenfoundation.ca](http://www.fairhavenfoundation.ca)

Donations can be sent via e-transfer from Canadian financial institutions to [FCCFdonations@outlook.com](mailto:FCCFdonations@outlook.com) or via mail to the treasurer:

**Sis. Jennifer Cowles**  
**2 Elvyn Cres.**  
**Oro-Medonte, ON L0L 2E0**

### James 5:19,20

My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, let him know whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.



## Year End Financial Report

### Statement of Revenue,

### Expenses And Fund Balance

### For The Year Ending

**March 31, 2025**

### Revenue

Investment Income	7,279
Donations	6,000
	—
	13,279

### Expenses

Grants	16,650
Professional fees	8,753
Administrative	102
	—
	25,505
Net Income	(12,226)
Opening fund balance	211,298
Closing fund balance	199,072