



ANNUAL REPORT 2022



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Situated on the traditional and unceded lands
of the Squamish (Sḵwxwú7mesh) Nation
and Lil'wat (Lil'wat7úl) Nation.

Introduction

Welcome to Squamish United Church 2022 Annual Report

2022 at a glance:

- **Worship** - A creativity that we never imagined possible continued to expand with the pandemic restrictions and a move to half-time ministry. It is to be commended that worship happened every week in a variety of forms. The worship committee stretched and worked above and beyond to provide meaningful engaging faith-building offerings each Sunday. Gratitude abounds for the work of Julie Larson and Louise Martin.
- **Children's Church** - I would like to take a moment to thank Elizabeth Kerr for her faithful leadership with children. We do not have nearly as many in attendance since the Covid pause but we know that if there is nothing offered, families will not come. Elizabeth takes this work seriously and I greatly appreciate her dedication to this work.
- **Board** - With a new model of functioning and a half-time minister, the board has been challenged once again in this year. The dedication of this group of people has been remarkable. They strove to revitalize the worship, pastoral care, and stewardship teams. Thanks go to Grace Halvorson, Trevor Harris, Bruce Larson, Cindy Roy, and Glen Van Brummelen.
- **Finances** - The work of Cindy Roy, Bruce Larson and the finance team must be recognized. We often wonder how one small church's financials can be so much work but I hear the same from other church treasurers. The amount of time spent on this work is a precious gift offered by these folks.
- **Pastoral Care** - Thank you to this team of people who continued to care for the pastoral care needs of the congregation. This has been a desire for years and this year the team began to gel a little more. Sending cards, making phone calls, organizing meals and so much more. This is an essential piece of the work of the congregation and I thank those of you who have carried out this work with grace

and beauty. Hugh and Elizabeth Kerr, Val Stainton, Pat Yendall and Grace Halvorson - thank you so much.

- **UCW** - This group of women remains dedicated to fundraising and being in a supportive community together. I often hear it said by members of the UCW that this is the group that holds this church together. They are a strong and vibrant group that gives so much to our congregation and for that I am always grateful.
- **Community** - With most Covid restrictions lifted, many community groups and organizations started to function again. Some of those groups have come back and are using our space for their worship services or dances. With the community connections made through the CUP, the space has also been filled with Improv and acting classes, concerts, community newcomer drop-ins, and community dinners. This has connected us to the wider community in many ways that enhances the work and ministry of SUC.
- **Squamish United Church** continues to be a faithful church community discovering a new way of being.

This list is far from complete but it gives you an idea of what is to come in the report. I give thanks for all those who carry on the life and work of Squamish United Church.

Rev. Karen Millard



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A Prayer for Those Who Journey

(Adapted from a prayer of Joyce Rupp)

Draw near to us O God, Draw near.

As we journey through life, we face fear of the unknown,

Life is an unfolding mystery, sometimes a painful search and sometimes a wonderful discovery. Our hearts are restless because they are pilgrim hearts, always in search of home.

Draw near to us O God, Draw near.

When our footsteps grow weary and we stumble along the way

Help us to get back up and lean into you. Let us learn what to leave behind and what to take with us.

We encounter you continually O God in the constant cycle of setting out and coming home.

Sometimes we allow life to be so busy,

Sometimes we get so involved in the work

That we forget you are with us, we miss your presence.

Slow down our hectic, anxious pace.

God of the wilderness, fill us with anticipation and courage to rise up in hope.

In our journey we need a strong conviction about the beauty and goodness of life, a vision of hope that endures the pain and struggle, and a thread of love that weaves through all of our dreams and visions.

Draw near to us O God, Draw near.

Amen

I have a heart that is posted on my bulletin board in the office that says “Do Not Lose Heart.” It is something that a colleague and I created for our colleagues as we led a clergy

retreat. Just the other day someone reminded me that I made those for our congregation also and people throughout the years have told me it is on their fridge, or they use it as a book mark, or it is on their mirror.

As I sat down to write this piece this morning, that heart appeared in my peripheral vision. As I saw it out of the corner of my eye, I heard a word for all the church. For you, for me, for our congregation and for the body of Christ as a whole. Do not lose heart.

We may find ourselves weary and overwhelmed (still) but we are (still) not alone. God is with us. Way ahead of us in fact.

I began my AGM report last year with “The whole world needs to stop, breathe, take a stress leave, hit the reset button, pause.” I said it and I meant it. We know this is not possible but what is possible are moments of pause. I have learned that moments of pause in the midst of the craziest, busiest of times are essential. So please before you read any further. Take a moment to close your eyes and breathe deeply.”

Squamish United Church - as we take that deep breath, I want you to recognize that in the midst of one of the most challenging times for our church and the church as a whole, you have continued to strive and adapt.

I continue to pray for you within all this transition that all the adapting you have done and are continuing to do, your faith will be strengthened. In our Lenten book study group discussion yesterday we began to talk about what does it mean to be a ‘successful’ church. It brought me back to this quote. “The mark of an effective church is not how many people come, but how many people live differently as a result of having been there.”

May we all live differently because of the knowledge of the holy in our lives and in our world. As we read through this report and have our AGM, my prayer is that you will come to know more of what God has for you and for our congregation.

Thank you for all of you who assist with the work, life and mission of SUC. We celebrate all who offer their time and gifts to make a difference.

We have our challenges finding the people we need to do all we long to do, finding the financial resources to sustain our mission, and we are always in need of more board members and volunteers. I have no doubt that we are blessed with gifted people, with a great facility, with a location in the community, with staff and volunteers, and most of all

with an attitude of gratitude, all of which gives me great hope for our future. God is up to something important through us here in Squamish.

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind; and, ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’” (Luke 10:27)

I invite everyone to actively listen for God’s leading as we move together into this next phase of life at Squamish United Church.

Let us take this opportunity to celebrate the year of life we have had together as a community of faith.

Rev. Karen Millard



Board Chair Report

This has been a year of continuing transition; we kept adjusting our COVID protocols to balance safety and the need for in-person community worship, we kept adjusting how we do worship going forward with Karen splitting her time between Squamish United Church and the CUP, and we made major strides towards having a church that is financially healthy. The Board spent much of the year working on these three priorities. We are grateful for the support we had from the congregation meeting these challenges. Our progress is seen each Sunday as attendance continues to inch upward with a combination of familiar faces and some new friends.

The inclusive nature of our church has been our greatest asset in these transitions. We still have major work to do, but it is great to see a mix of mask wearing and non-wearing at worship services and meetings, worship services where we sing our traditional favorite hymns while trying out new ways of worship, and finding ways to increase volunteerism to replace some of the expenses of the church.

In terms of our COVID protocols, we are certainly not back to the 'old' normal and watch to see what the 'new' normal will be. COVID safety got the Board thinking of other safety measures. We did a safety review that included bringing our mustering directions up to date, placing a fire extinguisher at the front of the church (since that's where our open candles and combustible decorations are), and working with the Centrepoint Strata to install an AED that is accessible between the Sea to Sky Service and SUC.

The Board gave a great deal of thought to how the first year of Karen's split-time Ministry had gone and how we could better meet everyone's needs as we go forward. Many details of how worship evolved are described in the Worship Committee report. The Board read the book, *Part-Time is Plenty* by G. Jeffrey MacDonald and had rich discussions about the experiences of other churches. We also corresponded with the Princeton New Jersey (USA) United Church of Christ to have some of our specific questions answered. Rob Crosby-Shearer from the Pacific Mountain Region (UCC) joined us for a special meeting to

discuss some options for how to grow and evolve our worship. We will continue to listen and respond to the needs and desires of the congregation.

We happily have seen a significant increase in facility rentals. This increased income along with some significant cost cutting has brought us much closer to having a balanced budget. With continued efforts in this regard along with a more vibrant stewardship program (led by Trevor Harris and Carlotta Liechti), we hope to make even more progress in the coming year.

We were very excited to see a resurgence in the Syrian Refugee Family Program. This is an important function of our church family. It is far too easy to get so caught up in the immediate problems of 'running our church' that we forget God's work which we have been called to do.

One of our biggest concerns for the coming year is having enough volunteers to fill the important roles in the leadership of our congregation. To have a robust Church Board, fill important offices such as Treasurer, a strong Worship Team to fill all the gaps from having a split-time Minister, an M&P committee which is a UCC requirement, Board of Trustees, and a Pastoral Care Team with enough members to provide the needed services, takes at least 18 people. This is in addition to all the other necessary volunteers (e.g., Children's Church, coffee hour, communion preparation, chair set up). The Board needs help and ideas on how to do this.

We thank the other members of this year's Board. Cindy Roy was Treasurer and so much more. Her hard work filled all the gaps as they occurred and kept us going. Thanks also go out to Julie Larson who was note taker to the Board this year. We especially want to thank Grace Halvorson who will be stepping down from the Board this year. Her leadership during these last few years cannot be overestimated. She worked day and night with compassion, faith and caring and her energy will certainly be missed.

Respectfully submitted,
Trevor Harris
Glen Van Brummelen
Bruce Larson

Board of Trustees Report

The Board of Trustees had a quiet year in 2022; for the most part, the excellent support from the Church Board, the office and Reverend Millard dealt with most of ‘our’ work.

Many of you may wonder *what a trustee is anyhow?* As a general rule, the trustees hold congregational property in trust for the congregation as part of The United Church of Canada, and every congregation must have trustees. Even if a congregation does not own land or a building, it may still own other kinds of congregational property, such as investments.

Trustees must give the same care and attention to congregational property as a reasonable person would give to their own property. Trustees must ensure adequate insurance is maintained to protect buildings and other congregational property and to minimize the exposure of congregational assets. The trustees should ensure the buildings and other congregational property are maintained and repaired. The trustees must ensure congregational funds are properly invested to obtain the best return possible, given the ongoing needs of the congregation to access cash and to preserve capital.

The congregation decides on the exact number of trustees, with a minimum of three and a maximum of 15. The board of trustees is made up of the minister, and people appointed by the congregation at an official congregational meeting. The majority of trustees must be United Church members. For Squamish United Church, your Board of Trustees is made up of Rev. Millard and Kevin Haberl (chairs), Trevor Harris, Hugh Kerr, and Louise Martin.

As of December 31, 2022, the following were the balances of the property-related financial accounts and investments:

Building Fund	\$246.40	
Term Deposit (#1520)	\$10,000.00	Maturity July 15, 2023
Term Deposit (#3330)	\$10,000.00	Maturity July 15, 2023
Term Deposit (#3645)	\$60,000.00	Maturity July 15, 2025
Term Deposit (#3595)	\$24,000.00	Maturity Dec. 15, 2023

**Respectfully,
Kevin Haberl, Chair**

Finance Report

Overall, 2022 was a good year as we continued to make progress toward becoming financially healthy. We experienced a much smaller deficit than we had in last year's proposed budget. Last year we assumed that we would have a deficit of about \$16,000 (the budget we passed had a deficit of \$9,000, but our income side included \$8,000 from the CEBA loan). At the end of the year the deficit was only \$7,526.

During the year we paid off the \$60,000 CEBA loan, well within the grace period window. By paying it off on time we only had to pay back \$40,000, not the full \$60,000. In 2021 we used \$10,000 of the loan, meaning that we still had \$10,000 left. In 2022 we used \$5,000 (not the \$8,000 we had planned), so we still have \$5,000 in reserve going into 2023.

On the income side last year, our largest source (congregational giving) remained relatively unchanged from the previous year. Income from facility rentals started increasing sharply as the year went by and COVID had a smaller impact. UCW made a very generous donation of \$1,600.

On the expense side last year, we spent about \$13,000 less than we had budgeted. Our biggest savings were getting our accounting and financial review costs under control. Our administrative and office costs have also somewhat stabilized. Cindy Roy, our Treasurer is largely responsible for making this happen.

In last year's budget, we had offsetting lines on the income and expense sides which we called "targeted donations" and "targeted expenses". We were looking at several large expenses (e.g., microphones, software) related to livestreaming our worship services. The idea was that we would purchase these items if individuals stepped up to cover the costs of specific items. Since we discontinued livestreaming, these items were not purchased.

We think that the budget we are proposing for the next year is very realistic. We now have a full year's experience at 'almost normal' split-time ministry and revised accounting procedures. The proposed deficit is very similar to last year's actual deficit. Some costs will go up (e.g., replenish some office supplies, strata dues), we assume that facility rentals

will stay at about the rate they were the last quarter of 2022, and that congregational giving will have a slight increase.

We thank everyone for their continued support. We think that now that we are having near normal worship services and the possibility of more fundraising activities, we will approach a time of balanced budgets.

**Respectfully submitted,
Bruce Larson**

Stewardship Committee

We had two stewardship goals this year. First, to ensure those who are new to our congregation were encouraged to contribute financially on an ongoing basis through the use of PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance), E-transfer or envelopes. All of these options may be implemented through our Treasurer. Our second major goal is to inspire all the rest of us to consider increasing our annual contributions.

In reviewing the Givings Chart for 2022 (see under Finance), there is much to be thankful for. We have 37 identifiable contributors to the mission at Squamish United Church. Considering that these contributions represent families as well as individuals, this is a very impressive number. A high percentage of our congregation is committed to regular ongoing support of our church. During the months of Covid, while worship was streaming online, and later with the start-up of in-person worship, the level of financial support has been encouraging.

We are proud of our church and all that we have accomplished. Thank you for your faithful support of our ministry at Squamish United Church.

Blessings,

**Stewardship Committee
Trevor Harris
Carlotta Liechti**

Treasurer's Report

At the onset of 2022, we once again were operating under uncertainty related to the ongoing pandemic. The overall congregational givings were approximately \$63,000, very similar to the previous two years of the pandemic, and the UCW once again made a generous donation of \$1,600. Thank you all for your ongoing support.

Although Covid restrictions continued to impact our facility rentals, overall rentals increased by \$6,000 to \$11,500 in 2022. At this time, it would appear that the rental market has almost returned to pre-Covid times and between SUC and The CUP, our Sanctuary is close to being booked to capacity. We continue to receive a \$1,250 per month "depreciation fee" from The CUP as well as sharing utility costs. Other income is shown in the financial statement.

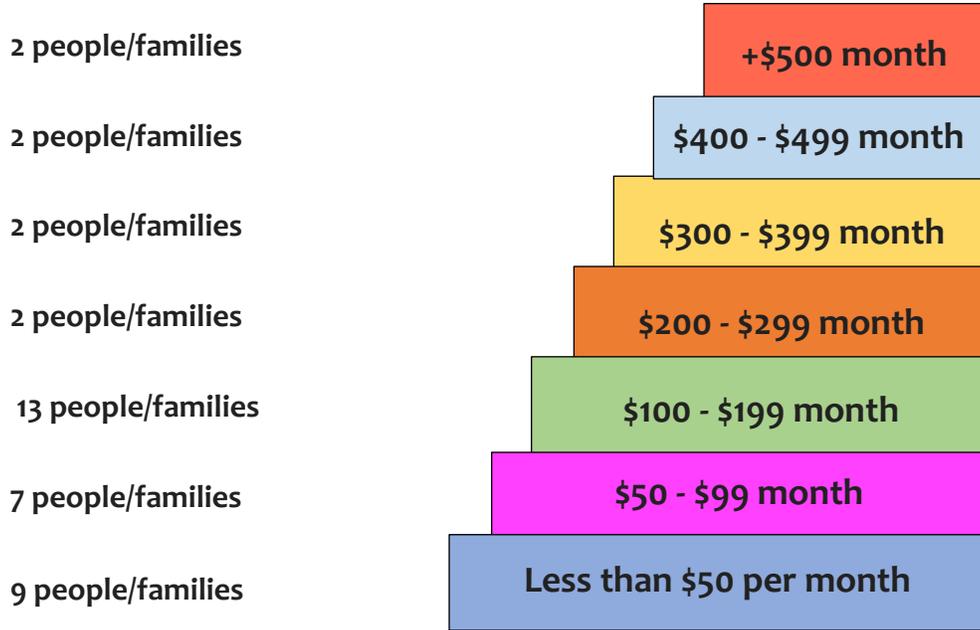
The operating and building expenses were down from \$29,000 to \$20,000 due to a reduction in legal and accounting costs. Church salaries and benefits totaled about \$76,300, down slightly over 2021 due to decreased administrative hours in the second half of the year.

Our financial situation at the end of 2022 is presented in the profit and loss statement, and our proposed budget has an anticipated deficit of \$7,430. We ended the year with approximately \$15,000 in the General Account.

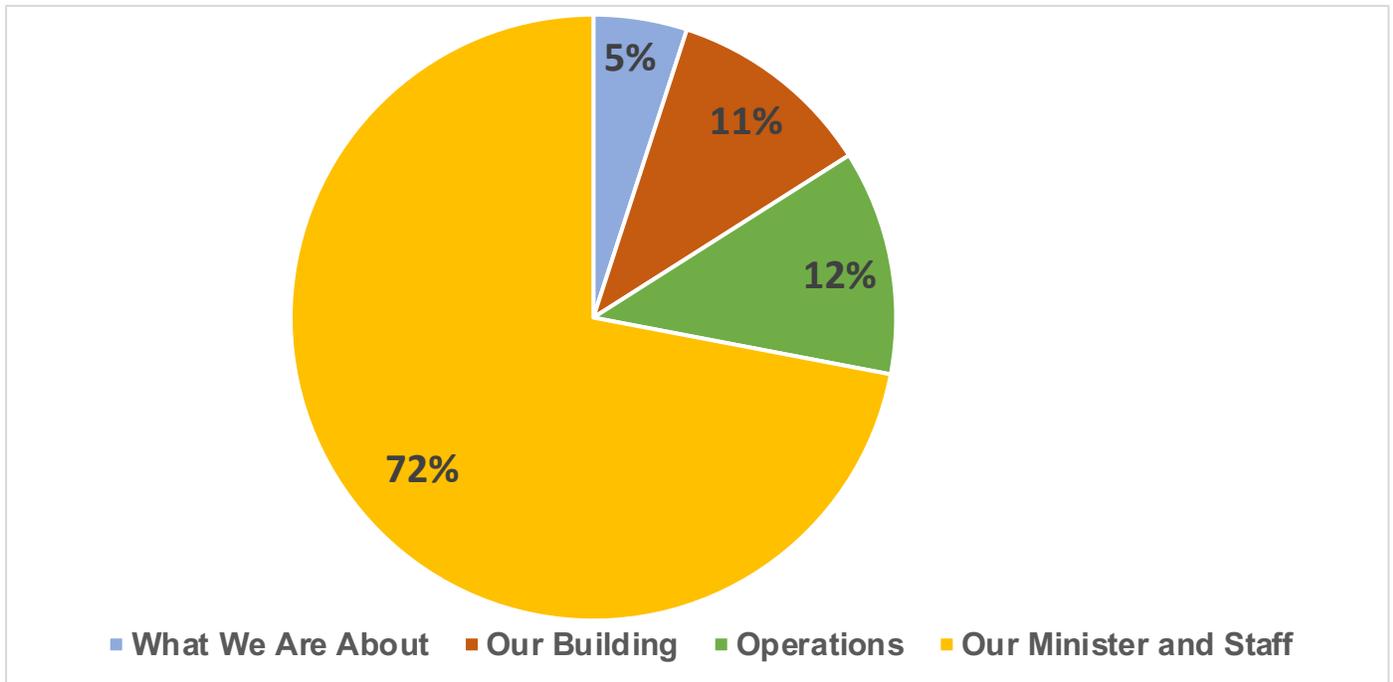
Thank you to Bruce Larson, Director of Finance, and to the Board for their ongoing support.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Roy
Treasurer

GIVINGS PER MONTH - 2022
(Average of all Donations)



HOW WE PROPOSE TO SPEND OUR MONEY



Squamish United Church

Profit and Loss YTD
January - December 2022

	TOTAL
INCOME	
500 Donations	
501 General Donations	62,781.95
506 In Kind Donations	623.98
507 Benevolent Fund Donations	600.00
509 UCW Donations	1,600.00
Total 500 Donations	65,605.93
511 Fundraising	440.00
526 Facility Donations	11,552.50
531 CUP Depreciation Fee	15,000.00
580 215 Fund	
582 Events	138.00
Total 580 215 Fund	138.00
Total Income	\$92,736.43
GROSS PROFIT	\$92,736.43
EXPENSES	
600 Operating Expenses	
611 Website Expenses	280.95
612 Software	608.25
625 Office Expense	326.95
626 Supplies	124.74
627 Office Cleaning	2,550.00
628 Postage	15.30
689 UCC Annual Assessment	3,468.00
730 Benevolent Fund withdrawals	400.00
Total 600 Operating Expenses	7,774.19
660 Building Expenses	
665 Utilities	1,161.17
667 Strata Fees	7,086.57
668 Communications	1,020.25
669 Repair and maintenance	390.86
Total 660 Building Expenses	9,658.85
670 Administrative Expenses	
671 Insurance	1,020.50
672 Legal & Accounting	609.91
673 Service Charges	598.58
Total 670 Administrative Expenses	2,228.99
690 Worship Expenses	
691 Worship Software	1,067.16
692 Music Licenses	346.00
693 Worship Resources	943.92
694 Worship Labour Expense	275.00
696 Piano repairs	575.20
Total 690 Worship Expenses	3,207.28

Squamish United Church

Profit and Loss YTD
January - December 2022

	TOTAL
700 215 Reconciliation Expenses	707.81
800 Ministerial Expenses	
802 Pastoral Care	17.58
Total 800 Ministerial Expenses	17.58
850 Salaries & Benefits	
851 Salary Expense	60,876.81
852 Worksafe BC	63.16
853 Employer-paid	13,910.76
854 Phone Allowance	960.00
855 Service Charges	458.47
Total 850 Salaries & Benefits	76,269.20
Purchases (offset by in-kind donations)	623.98
Total Expenses	\$100,487.88
OTHER INCOME	
991 Broadview Magazine Subscriptions	-25.00
Total Other Income	\$ -25.00
PROFIT	\$ -7,776.45

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2023

	Budget 2022	Actual 2022	Proposed Budget 2023
INCOME			
Congregational Giving	\$65,000	\$62,782	\$64,000
In kind donations		\$624	
UCW donations	\$1,500	\$1,600	\$1,500
Targeted donations	\$2,500	\$138	
215 Fund			
<i>What We Give</i>	<i>\$69,000</i>	<i>\$65,144</i>	<i>\$65,500</i>
Fund Raising events	\$2,500	\$190	\$1,000
Facility Rentals	\$8,000	\$11,463	\$12,000
Misc. Income (e.g. CEWS, interest)	\$0	\$0	\$0
CEBA (federal) loan funds	\$8,000		
Depreciation fee from CUP	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
<i>Other Income</i>	<i>\$33,500</i>	<i>\$26,653</i>	<i>\$28,000</i>
Total Operational Income	\$102,500	\$91,796	\$93,500
EXPENSES			
Worship	\$5,100	\$3,700	\$5,100
Pastoral Care Expenses	\$300	\$18	\$100
Targeted Expenses	\$2,500		
<i>What we are about</i>	<i>\$7,900</i>	<i>\$3,717</i>	<i>\$5,200</i>
Strata fees at Centrepoint	\$9,000	\$7,087	\$8,480
Utilities (fee to Squamish District, Hydro etc.)	\$1,299	\$1,161	\$1,200
Communications (IT, landline phone etc.)	\$417	\$1,020	\$1,000
Maintenance and Repairs		\$391	\$300
<i>Our Building</i>	<i>\$10,716</i>	<i>\$9,659</i>	<i>\$10,980</i>
Office Expense	\$625	\$340	
Office supplies	\$552	\$125	
Office supplies and expenses			\$650
Office cleaning costs	\$2,855	\$2,550	\$2,600
Website	\$387	\$280	\$300
Software		\$646	\$650
Misc		\$40	
Bank charges and fees	\$1,033	\$599	\$600
Insurance	\$1,150	\$1,021	\$1,075
Legal, accounting, review	\$3,000	\$610	\$620
Facility rental expenses (extra clean, etc.)	\$650		\$1,300
UCC Annual Assessment	\$3,468	\$3,468	\$4,051
<i>Operations</i>	<i>\$13,720</i>	<i>\$9,677</i>	<i>\$11,846</i>
Minister Salary	\$40,020		\$41,380
Minister Benefits	\$10,685		\$11,173
Admin. Salaries	\$23,086		\$16,686
Admin. Benefits	\$4,320		\$1,373
salary expense			\$350
Educational Resources	\$1,500		\$772
WCB expense	\$296		\$210
Phone allowance		\$960	\$960
<i>Our Minister and Staff</i>	<i>\$79,907</i>	<i>\$76,269</i>	<i>\$72,904</i>
Total Operational Expenses	\$112,244	\$99,322	\$100,930
NET	-\$9,744	-\$7,526	-\$7,430

Worship Report

The Worship Committee continued to be a small committee comprised of our minister, Karen Millard and two lay members; Julie Larson and Louise Martin. Weekly worship depends on increasing the size and versatility of this group.

2022 was our second full year of having a part-time minister. The Worship Committee tried a few new initiatives; including Faith Filled Conversations, Partnership with other UCC Churches using Live Stream, Worship from Home, and Intergenerational (and interactive) Worship. The Faith Filled Conversations and Intergenerational Services were well received and will be further discussed in this report. While solid in concept, the Lenten partnership with three other UCC Churches was challenged by technology both at Squamish United and the other churches as well. Worship from Home opportunities were offered at times when we felt church attendance might be low such as on a long weekend or at times when the worship committee was not available to lead a service. In general, these offerings were not embraced. It became clear that most of our congregation values worship experiences that are in person.

Highlights of the 2022 Year

- **Faith Filled Conversations:** Faith Filled Conversations (FFC) were designed to be discussions about faith where participants could reflect and learn from each. In January and February, we had a 4-conversation series based on The Lord is My Shepherd by Harold Kushner. In May, as part of the focus on reconciliation, we had two services focused on discussion. These conversations used video and short readings as prompts and did not rely on people reading prior to participating. Attendance for FFC Sundays was between 16-20 people, fairly close to attendance at a traditional Sunday Service (20-27).
- **Lenten Series:** Worship during Lent was based on the book Good Enough by Kate Bowler. The visual image for this series was a step ladder, created by Louise Martin, that grew and flourished with plants during Lent. Children were directly involved helping this image develop, connecting them with the adult experience in worship.

During Holy Week, Rev. Millard partnered with Rev. Gutjahr at St. John's Anglican to provide evening services Monday - Wednesday. On Maundy Thursday, we hosted a soup and bun supper service, and the Good Friday service was held at St. John's.

- **Reconciliation:** This focus included worship services and Faith Filled Conversations culminating with a trip to the Squamish-Lil'Wat Cultural Centre in Whistler. Our first service in this series highlighted Tsawaysia Spukwus as a guest speaker. After two Faith Filled Conversations about aspects of reconciliation, Kevin Haberl in his former role in the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations was our guest speaker sharing his experience working alongside First Nation people. June 5, 12 adults and 4 children participated in a tour of the Squamish Lil'Wat Cultural Centre followed by a First Nations lunch- a truly unique and embraced worship experience.
- **The Awakened Traveler:** Summer worship focused on travel. Elements of travel as a spiritual experience and how to appreciate the spiritual experiences of different regions and religions was explored. Reflections were based on videos by Rick Steeves, a well-known travel guide who lives in western Washington State. We culminated this series with a service led by Carol Tanner sharing her Camino de Santiago pilgrimage.
- **Intergenerational Worship:** These services were designed to be interactive and to allow people of all ages to work alongside each other. We had three such services this year. The first was in the early summer and focused on light and salt. In addition to stories, scripture, and song people created votive candle holders using salt for decoration. Some of these votives were donated to Hilltop House and others have been used during worship services. The second experience was a picnic at Rose Park. This was well attended and focused on community building. On Oct. 30, a student from Quest University worked with us to create a Día de los Muertos service focusing on the Mexican tradition of honouring loved ones with feasts and altars.

- **UCW 60th Anniversary:** In September members of the Macbeth Unit of UCW led a service focusing on the history and contributions of the United Church Women’s organization.
- **Hymn Service:** In November, Ian Brown and Grace Halvorson led a worship service highlighting favorite United Church hymns, the stories behind these hymns and their connection to scripture.

Study Groups: Two study groups were offered during the year. The first during Lent using the book Native: Identity, Belonging, and Rediscovering God by Kaitlin Curtice served as thoughtful introduction to our series on reconciliation. During Advent two groups were offered, one on Zoom and one meeting in person, using daily reflections, “Living Well through Advent 2022: with all of your Heart, Soul, Strength, and Mind”.

Children’s Church: Elizabeth Kerr has been dedicated to offering Sunday morning experiences for our children across the year. She has offered Children’s Church two or three times a month when schedules permit. Currently, the number of children attending church is quite low (1-5 on any given week) but we are grateful for Elizabeth’s work with them.

Music: Music continues to be an important part of worship at Squamish United Church. Throughout the year, a dedicated group provided music leadership for services. Thank you to pianists Arlene Robinson, Kayla Mak, Julie Murakami, Arlene Ingraham, and Trevor Harris. We also recognize Karen Millard, Macky Sumalileng, Louise Martin, and Heather Mann for their musical contributions to our worship. You enriched our worship services. We are grateful for your talents and gift of time.

Julie Larson
Chair, Worship Committee

Ministry and Personnel Report

As 2022 began, our church continued to operate with ongoing Covid protocols and restrictions. An important role of M&P is to provide oversight and support to our staff as needed.

Karen commenced her second year working half-time as Minister of Squamish United Church and half-time as the Executive Director of The CUP. These two roles continue to present challenges, especially with demands on time.

In April, the CUP Kids After-School program ceased to operate after struggling with low attendance as well as the staffing issues that most businesses faced as a result of the impact of Covid 19.

In July, our Church Administrator, Gus Ryan resigned from his position and in early August, we welcomed Elaine Graham to this position. In an attempt to reduce costs, the job description was revised and the hours for the position were reduced to 12 hours/week. As a result, we again removed the accounting function from the Administrator position. Gus has been hired on a contract basis for approximately 5 hours per month to input the data and the remaining accounting duties have now become part of the Treasurer's role. Elaine works one afternoon a week in the office and works remotely the other two days.

The M&P Committee wishes to acknowledge and thank our staff and various teams for their dedication, commitment and flexibility during these challenging times.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Roy
Grace Halvorson
Ministry & Personnel Committee

Pastoral Care Committee

Thank you to Elizabeth and Hugh Kerr, Pat Yendall, Val Stainton and Grace Halvorson for serving on the Pastoral Care committee. We attempt to be the caring committee that we all need.

We encourage all of you to work with us and reach out to fellow congregants. Covid has certainly taken a toll on our ability to be together but reaching out by email, text and phone is the next best thing! We are excited to now be back worshipping in person and enjoying coffee together after church! Sending cards and flowers, making phone calls and visits, are pleasures that we extend to others. We are also grateful to the Shawl Ministry team for their many beautiful shawls that they knit and offer to us to present for the comfort of others.

We are remembering the families of Thor and June Halvorson, Bill and Lou Rempel and Roy and Muriel Shepherd. Thor, Bill and Roy passed away recently and were faithful men of many and varied talents who served Squamish United Church and their God well for many years! Their service will always be remembered fondly!

We are also fondly remembering Adam Moss, Joan Hainer and Mary MacGregor. May their families be comforted by their memories.

Ongoing support for Rosie and Larry Banting, Christine Tribe and Kayla Mak and family remains an important consideration for us as well.

We said farewell to Marilyn and Gary Caldwell and Christine and Andrew Robinson and boys who have moved on to other parts of BC and Canada. We wish them well!

Congratulations to a number of our congregants who now make their homes at Westwinds or Shannon Falls Retirement Home. We welcome Donna Peterson back to Squamish after time spent in Gibsons.

We would like to welcome Wendy Sellers to our committee and if anyone else is interested, please speak to Reverend Karen or one of the committee members.

Blessings for 2023,

Grace Halvorson for the Pastoral Care Team

Mission and Service Report

The Mission and Service (M&S) programs support a wide variety of organizations and specific projects in Canada and abroad. Stories about some of the projects can be found at: <https://united-church.ca/community-and-faith/get-involved/generosity-through-mission-and-service/stories-our-mission>



Part of this year's M&S appeal is for food and hygiene packages for families affected by the war in Ukraine.

COVID and inflation have affected the income of many Canadians, and more people are seeking help. Your gifts help people in need by supporting homeless shelters, food banks, soup kitchens, and refugee programs. M&S support means that people are cared for by providing addiction, mental health and medical care, counselling services and hospice care. M&S makes vital economic development, skills training, peace-making, advocacy, and disaster relief possible through organizations in Latin America, Asia and Africa.

Because of COVID we have been unable to provide our normal weekly presentations of "Minute for Mission". Nevertheless the 2022 donations to M&S were \$7,215.66, which includes the amount of \$385.66 from the recycling program. This is almost exactly the same amount raised in 2021. In other words, congregants have continued their strong support of M&S despite us having fewer regular services, and the complications introduced by COVID. The M&S Committee is **very** grateful for these donations. We hope for continued support of M&S through regular givings in 2023. **New committee members** of the M&S Committee are always welcome. **No application forms**, or experience, are needed. Just let us know.

Barb Stover and Hugh Kerr

Refugee Sponsorship Program Committee



Squamish United Church has been involved in Canada's Private Sponsorship Program since 2016 and has assisted 7 families and one individual from Syria to settle in Squamish. This year, February 10 was the one-year anniversary of the arrival of the Saffo family, the most recent family to make its home in Squamish.

The Saffo's arrived as a family of 3, with a 5-year-old son. Upon settling safely in Canada, they were anxious to grow their family, and on November 24, 2022, a second son was born. The family is happy, healthy and thriving in their new home. Joudi, the father, is the youngest brother of Rodia, the mother of the family that lived with the Haberl's for 4 years. The families are so happy to be together after years of separation and uncertainty about the future. They spend a lot of time together, and with the Haberl's. Joudi works as a barber at Fresh Cuts in downtown Squamish where he enjoys the opportunity to speak English with his customers. He is learning fast! The little boy has turned 6 and is enjoying

Kindergarten where he is blossoming with so much learning, including English. Vicki is working with the mother to help her learn English – a more difficult challenge for the mother of an infant who spends most of her days at home with limited interaction in the external community. Their one-year sponsorship is now complete, and they are “on their own.” With the support they have received from Squamish United Church and its community partners, we hope they are set up for success and a future full of hope and opportunity.

Squamish United Church continues to work with the United Church of Canada (UCC) on additional refugee sponsorship applications. The UCC is a “Sponsorship Agreement Holder” which is an organization pre-approved by the Government of Canada to undertake the work of private refugee resettlement. Our local church works as the “Constituent Group” that works directly with the refugee families, raises the funds, and supports their integration into daily life in Canada. This is done in partnership with community members working together with Squamish United Church.

There are two new sponsorship applications in process at this time. The applications have just been submitted to the UCC and the community sponsorship group is beginning its fundraising campaign. These next two sponsorships are also siblings of Joudi and Rodia, and their families. These next sponsorships will facilitate the reunification of families that have been torn apart by war, and will end their 10-year struggle of life in a refugee camp in Iraq where they have been waiting for “things to get better” in Syria. Things are not getting better in Syria. The war continues, even though it is no longer making the headlines, and the recent earthquakes have only added to the chaos and strife for people living there.

Without exception, all of the new Canadians that have been welcomed to Squamish have adjusted well and embraced their new lives in Canada. The parents have found jobs or created their own business, the children are attending school and participating in activities that every Canadian family should have the opportunity to experience. They feel safe and accepted by their new community, and are extremely grateful for all that has been shared with them. In turn, they are sharing their own unique gifts, making us a richer, more diverse community.

If you would like to be involved in supporting these new Canadians, please contact Vicki Haberl at vhaberl@shaw.ca.

Vicki Haberl
Salam Sponsorship Group



Men's Breakfast

The Men's Breakfast Group has become more of a community group with approximately twenty-four members and normally twelve to fifteen men participating at any given meeting. The meetings are held at St. John the Divine Anglican Church about once a month on a Saturday morning. The men choose and present topics of interest, and donations are collected to pay for food and rental expenses.

Newcomers are welcome to be added to the e-mail list for the MB group. Send your email information to me at w.a.huber81@gmail.com and I will be happy to add you to the list.

Peace and Grace,
Walter Huber

Deaths

We remember the following who passed away in 2022:

Joan Hainer	June 5, 2022
Thor Halvorson	September 4, 2022
Bill Rempel	September 30, 2022
Adam Moss	December 21, 2022
Mary MacGregor	December 30, 2022

Administrator's Report

This past August I joined the Squamish United Church team as the office secretary, working 12 hours a week.

I am in the office on Wednesday afternoons from 1 pm – 5 pm; Thursday and Friday afternoons I work at home from 1 pm – 5 pm.

The fall has been incredibly busy with rentals and room bookings. There are many renters that meet on a weekly basis; the schedule is very full with only a few spots open each week. I have experienced a rather large learning curve with the rentals, the contracts and the invoicing.

As well as coordinating rentals (and tracking down payments) for Squamish United Church and The Cup, I am responsible for the weekly E-News on Fridays and Sundays, the worship slides and the announcement slides for Sunday's worship. I also provide administrative support when required, and when time permits, I update events on the website.

**Respectfully submitted,
Elaine Graham**

United Church Women's Report

Macbeth Unit gives thanks for this wonderful group we call "UCW". We meet monthly in the church or in members' homes. Zoom meetings are an option we use during the covid health restrictions or if winter weather conditions necessitate.

Currently, we have 13 active members.

January and February we met via Zoom; March through May we met in the church. Our June meeting is traditionally a walk and dinner before the summer break. This year we held it in Judi's garden. September, October and November meetings were held in the church and our December Xmas meeting/party was held in Grace's home.

In April, we gave our farewell and blessings (and cake!) to Marilyn Caldwell. She and Gary have moved to Duncan on Vancouver Island to be closer to their daughter and her family. The Caldwell's lived in Squamish for 45 years and will be greatly missed for their friendship and many contributions to this church and to the community.

In May, UCW celebrated Maureen Gilmour's 90th birthday with a lovely tea social in our church. We "roasted" Maureen as we recalled her many achievements and work in our church and in the community. Maureen was our UCW General Secretary for many, many years. Reading her minutes (all neatly hand written) was a trip down memory lane.



Also in May, our unit presented a welcoming hanging flower gift basket to Sharen and her family Joudi and Jan - the Syrian Family living in Vicki and Kevin Haberl's laneway home through the Syrian Refugee Program.

June was our walk and dinner garden meeting before our summer break.

September was a busy month as we prepared for the 60th Anniversary of the UCW in Canada, with the Macbeth Unit leading the September 18th celebratory service. The theme was "Time, Talents and Treasures". 60th Anniversary UCW pins were presented to our Unit members and to several other past UCW members.

In October we held our annual fall Pemberton Vegetable Sale. This fundraiser has proven to be very popular and we thank Grace for organizing this every year and for the capable drivers, Harvey and Glen, and to Kirk who also helped with the heavy lifting. Our UCW members were hard at it separating, packing, and weighing the veggie bags.

In November we held our "Let's Talk Turkey" Fundraiser for First United Church in Vancouver downtown east side. This was initially started by our Bethany Unit (merged with Mackenzie Unit and now called Macbeth) over 25 years ago! UCW would hold a soup and sandwich luncheon in the church with donations going towards the purchase of turkeys. These were delivered to 1st United in Vancouver for their annual Christmas Dinner to the residents at 1st United and the surrounding community. Due to Covid, it has morphed over the last 3 years to a "virtual" lunch fundraiser. Our Squamish congregation gave generously so we could continue this worthy and helpful Christmas fellowship. Now we e-transfer the funds raised directly to First United. They are truly grateful and thankful for our continued support over these many years.

In November, after the easing of covid restrictions, we commenced serving coffee after Sunday Service. All of the congregation were pleased and grateful we could chat in fellowship and catch up with each other's lives. I know how much I missed the coffee time. The feeling of getting back to normal (well, the "new" normal anyway) was a quiet joy.

Also in November, Pacific Mountain Region UCW (which we are a part of) asked if we would consider holding their Annual AGM meeting here at Squamish United next April 2023. Our Unit stepped up to the plate with a resounding Yes! The planning, logistics and

coordinating of this event is formidable. Our thanks to Cindy Roy for all of her excellent skills in helping to make this a reality. Stay tuned!

We also purchase annually, the popular United Church Calendars for our congregation. The calendars depict photos of different United Churches across Canada. Thanks to Patsy Riecker for coordinating this fundraiser.

Another fun and successful event was held in December - the Winter Christmas Market. Our UCW provided a table with crafts and baked goods for sale. It was delightful to meet members in our community as they displayed their hand-made wares and goods. Such talent abounds!

December brought a close to our year with a Xmas party meeting and gift exchange. It is a joyous time to reflect on the past year, our friendships and what the church means to us. We also finalized and disbursed the monies raised throughout the year. We are pleased to contribute these funds to Squamish United Church.

In closing, our UCW supports our church and community in many ways. If you would like a friendly place to serve and to be part of our unit, please contact me or any of our UCW members. We welcome you with warmth and fellowship.



**Blessings,
Carlotta Liechti
UCW President**

UCW Financial Report

January 1, 2022 Opening Balance		\$383.70
INCOME:		
Vegetable Sales	3,279.50	
Let's Talk Turkey Luncheon	400.00	
Hanging Basket for Refugees	65.00	
60 th Anniversary UCW Pins	100.00	
Bake and Craft Sale	390.00	
Total Income	\$4,524.53	\$4,524.53
EXPENSES:		
Vegetable Sales	2,033.00	
First United (Christmas Turkeys)	400.00	
60 th Anniversary UCW Pins	108.00	
Donation to SUC	1,600.00	
Hanging Basket for Refugees	40.00	
Service Charges	3.60	
Total Expenses	\$4,184.60	\$4,184.60
Closing Balance as of December 31, 2022		\$ 339.93

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Larcombe
Treasurer UCW



Squamish United Church
2022 Annual General Meeting Minutes
April 3, 2022, 11:30am

In attendance: Grace Halvorson (Chair), Rev. Karen Millard, Bruce Larson, Julie Larson, Trevor Harris, Kevin Haberl, Hugh Kerr, Elizabeth Kerr, Carlotta Liechti, Wendy Sellers, Cindy Roy, Glen Van Brummelen, Patsy Riecker, Arlene Ingraham, Heather Mann (Secretary), Jeff Larcombe, Mary Larcombe, Gus Ryan
Online: Julie Murakami, Barbara Stover, Peter Gordon

1. Opening Prayer
2. Opening Comments
3. New Members
 - a. Ashley and Jason Ketch have become members through transfer of membership
4. Motion for Voting Privileges (**Motion 1**)
5. Review and adoption of minutes of April 18, 2021 AGM (**Motion 2**)
6. Review and acceptance of 2021 committee reports
 - a. Minister's Report
 - b. Board Chair Report
 - c. Pastoral Care Report
 - d. Board of Trustees Report.
 - i. We acknowledge Marilyn Caldwell's resignation from the Board of Trustees. Marilyn's note:

Please accept this as my resignation from the Trustees Group for Squamish United Church.
Thank you for allowing me the privilege of holding this position for past number of years,
Marilyn Caldwell
 - e. Stewardship Report

- f. Finance Committee Report
 - g. Treasurer's Report
 - h. Worship Report
 - i. Mission and Service Report
 - j. Salam Sponsorship Group Report
 - k. Administrator's Report
 - l. United Church Women's Report
 - m. Men's Breakfast
7. 2021 reviewed financials in progress (Birch Accounting)
- a. Cindy reports on the reviewed accounts by Birch Accounting. These were only received at 4pm yesterday, so the numbers differ from those presented in the annual report.
 - b. Many of our operating costs are now shared with The CUP: strata, insurance, utilities, etc.
 - c. The number of donors has dropped from 58 donors in 2020 to 38 donors in 2021.
 - d. COVID subsidies for both The CUP and SUC totaled ~\$34,000. The Church received subsidies of ~\$14,000.
 - e. A CEBA loan of \$60,000 was received in 2021. \$10,000 was moved into the general account; the remaining \$50,000 was kept aside. We have included another \$8,000 from this loan in our budget for 2022. The Church can keep \$20,000 provided we repay \$40,000 by the end of 2023.
 - f. Hugh recognizes Cindy Roy for her tremendous work in getting our books cleaned up. Bruce also recognizes Gus for his diligent bookkeeping efforts.
8. Transition to 50% ministry time - review pending (discussion)
- a. Elizabeth Kerr asks whether it is possible to take on more of Karen's responsibilities so that she can preach more often (3 or 4 Sundays a month), with congregational members picking up more of Karen's responsibilities. Trevor echoes this, and that having Karen preaching more may be key to growing the congregation.
 - b. Cindy Roy would like to say that this morning's service was wonderful. Grace concurs with this. Joining online has been frustrating. Wendy agrees,

would like a sense of what it would mean for the congregation to pick up the slack.

9. The CUP - updated

- a. The CUP has continued to take over after-school care. CUP Kids is struggling with COVID and is under review. Staffing has been challenging since the beginning. Some programs have been tried over the past year: The CUP partnered with Rising Villages to host a women's retreat, a February Focus with 28 days of meditation. Two week-long summer camps in 2021 were well attended, as were Pro-D Day camps. Yoga with Karalee; last week was candlelight yoga. Hoping to do a weekly meditation practice starting after Easter. Monthly "Wild Church". Michelle Ulmer was involved as staff; she and her family have moved to Vernon. Megan Reynolds is the Chair of the Board for The CUP. Karen is working with Megan on finalizing the budget for The CUP, and will be likely looking to hire someone to lead programs for The CUP once the budget is finalized.

10. Budget 2022

- a. Last year we expected a deficit, but we essentially broke even. We had some unexpected income in terms of COVID subsidies and the last installment of the provision grant.
- b. The vast majority of expenses are fixed: building expenses, utilities, salaries. Congregational giving has been relatively flat, and doesn't match what we pay in salaries. Worship is one of the only areas where we have discretion. The finance committee would love it if a few people could get together to brainstorm how we might fundraise to bring in more income; hoping to raise \$2500.
- c. There is a question on whether the Administrator's salary should be increased.
- d. Many hours of work were put in by the Finance Committee to prepare the 2022 budget.

11. Nominations for 2022 board

- a. Carlotta Liechti and Heather Mann will be stepping down from the board
- b. Grace presents a slate from the Nomination Committee: Trevor Harris, Cindy Roy, Glen Van Brummelen, Bruce Larson, Grace Halvorson. No other nominations are made. **(Motion 6)**

12. Next meeting date: March 2023

13. Adjournment and closing prayer

MOTION moved by Julie and seconded by Carlotta that we adjourn. **Motion carries.**

MOTIONS

1. Moved by Trevor, seconded by Arlene that voting privileges be given to all members and adherents in attendance. **Motion carries.**
2. Moved by Carlotta, seconded by Kevin that the minutes of the April 18, 2021 Annual General Meeting be adopted. **Motion carries.**
3. Moved by Mary Larcombe, seconded by Elizabeth Kerr that the Committee Reports except for the Nomination Committee be received as amended. **Motion carries.**
4. Moved by Cindy Roy, seconded by Bruce Larson to accept the 2021 financial statements as reviewed by Birch Accounting. **Motion carries.**
5. Moved by Bruce Larson, seconded by Carlotta Liechti that the 2022 Budget as presented be approved. **Motion carries.**
6. Moved by Grace Halvorson, seconded by Kevin Haberl that the Nomination Committee report be approved. **Motion carries.**