



Mount Seymour United Church



2021

Annual Report

~ Nurturing Spirit ~ Being Community ~ Living Generously

Mount Seymour United Church
2021 ANNUAL REPORT

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~ Nurturing Spirit
~ Being Community
~ Living Generously

LIVING THE CORE VALUES OF

Trusting in the goodness of life.

Treating ourselves, others and our world with grace and compassion.

Honouring each individual's spiritual journey.

Empowering people to claim their Spirit-given gifts.

Striving to practise the way of Jesus.

The welcome we extend in this church is as broad and deep as we can make it. We welcome you wherever you are on life's journey, no matter how young or old you are, whatever your marital or economic status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, ethnic or cultural heritage. We welcome those who consider themselves to be Christians, those who are part of other faith traditions and all who seek to explore the mysteries of life and serve the ideals of compassion, justice and peace.

COUNCIL CHAIR | MARY SPARKS

“When you go through deep waters I will be with you.” - Isaiah 43:2



Who would have known that in addition to the ongoing pandemic in 2021, we would have also added new words to our vocabulary like ‘heat dome’ and ‘atmospheric river’. It was again a year like no other. We started the year with pandemic restrictions, services online and hope (always hope!) that restrictions would lift and we would worship in person again soon. Instead, in March we learned of the Delta variant; ‘bubbles’ became smaller and travel was restricted to our own health district. Summer brought heat like we had never experienced, but some relief from Covid.

In the fall, after a year and a half of online services, we met each other face to face and it should have signalled the end of restrictions, except for that other addition to our vocabulary, Omicron. Though, milder, it seemed to touch so many of us, and vaccine or no vaccine, it didn’t seem to matter. Everyone was impacted by this variant.

Along the twists and turns of this year were the staff at Mount Seymour who held on tight and responded with grace. There was no time that this was illustrated more than when health orders changed two days before Christmas Eve. The service that was going to be in person was recorded less than 24 hours after the decision was made to go online. There are churches where that would have been impossible but the folks at Mount Seymour did this with humour, joy and incredible flexibility.

We are so blessed to have the talent and skill of our ministry staff, Nancy, Carla, and Anne. Professional quality Sunday services were recorded, edited, and sent out via Carla’s cell phone. Carla took on more responsibility when Nancy took her sabbatical and continued her leadership with the Thrift Shop. As well as being ‘CEO’ of our large organization, Nancy inspired us with services and new offerings like Pilgrims’ Path that helped members of congregation both deepen faith and connections with each other.

Anne juggled online studies at the Atlantic School of Theology and helped our children and youth stay connected in creative and meaningful ways such as an online newsletter and Dungeons and Dragons games. We are so fortunate to have Alexis and Sandi who have kept the Thrift shop running and thriving through a very difficult year. They managed 8 summer students and took care of the safety and wellbeing of all our customers and volunteers.

I feel so grateful to be able to play music with Julian. He is truly an incredibly talented pianist and has provided countless hours of technical expertise to our online services as well. So many of us have been

touched by Marcus Mosely and Dominique Hogan's amazing musical gifts. Carol Pettigrew, Leslie Buerschaper along with Anne Ellis added beauty and artistry both inside and outside our church. Thank you all!

Throughout the year, our Church Council has been in contact through Zoom and more recently in person to address issues with Covid-19 regulations, finance, and personnel. I am truly grateful to be working with an incredibly committed group of people and am so thankful to Steve Wellenbrink and Frank Luba who are stepping down this coming year after serving on the board faithfully for so long. Steve continues his hard work as head of the property team and our regional representative for the United Church. Many thanks to Kelly Nobles, our new secretary, Ward Branch our treasurer and Kirsten Harkins and Kathryn Ferriss who have joined us as Members at Large. Our board have not only guided us through the pandemic with grace but also are moving us forward toward new initiatives such as a Mental Health Ministry, Thrift Shop Café and Sacred Garden. We are blessed!

Thank you to you, our congregation who volunteer with the thrift shop and support Mount Seymour United in so many other ways. We especially remember Ken Fowler who died in 2021. He served as treasurer for many years and developed and ran our sound system for many more. We also remember Sheldhan who passed away in December and faithfully cleaned our church for so many years. We could not keep the church running without our volunteers and the generous financial contributions of our members. This generosity was highlighted when we raised \$145,383.34 for the First Forward Campaign at First United Church. Thank you all!

As we look into 2022, we are grateful to be with each other for in person services and we have even more appreciation for this wonderful community and the joys of our regular interactions. I also feel blessed to be in a community of people who have not just coped with a difficult couple of years but who are looking beyond our walls to move forward with care and compassion. Thank you so much for all that you have offered this year to help create such a wonderful community.

With love and blessings to you all,
Mary Sparks

LEAD MINISTER | REV. NANCY TALBOT

“How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!” Psalm 84.



Psalm 84 has been called a psalm of longing. Written during the Babylonian exile, it speaks of the psalmist’s yearning for the Temple in Jerusalem and a time when things would return to the way they once were.

In early 2021, as we turned the corner on the first year of the pandemic, we were all experiencing a similar kind of longing. I clearly remember speaking from the pulpit about the marathon we were running in which someone kept moving the finishing line. For the first eight months of the year we ran the church in much the same fashion we had been operating since March 2020.

We held meetings, worshipped, hosted zoom coffee hours, studied and reflected together online. Volunteer shifts and customers in the Thrift Shop were limited in numbers, while an influx of mostly new volunteers, teenagers and young adults, took on the riskier task of working with the public.

One of the developments that took place over the course of the winter was the thoughtful but difficult decision to reclaim the preschool space for the use of sorting goods for the Shop. To keep volunteers safe, we had been using the north narthex (lobby) for sorting since the summer of 2020. Given the growth in goods, the number of volunteers to process them and the anticipation that we might need to continue providing more spacious spaces for sorting, we gave the Preschool notice of our intention to end our relationship with them as of June 2022. With a number of staff planning to leave the Preschool and a small volunteer base, a decision was made by the Preschool Board to close as of June 2021.

The Mount Seymour Preschool was initiated by the members of the Berkley Road church before they amalgamated with the folks of Deep Cove United and built our current building back in 1989. Starting as an outreach in the days before universal kindergarten, the preschool eventually became one of the most well respected centers for early childhood education on the North Shore. We are grateful for the relationship we have had with the children, educators and parents we have come to know over the years. We miss their presence in the building and at the same time are grateful for the space that is enabling us to better serve our volunteers and customers.

Immediately following our AGM at the end of April, I took leave of my office and took up the sabbatical I had postponed from the previous year. The Rev. Janet Gear helped with worship leadership in May and June. Carla, with the support of the staff team, stepped in to take on my various other roles. I owe her a

debt of gratitude for her capable leadership during this time, as well as the staff and Council for supporting my time of rest and renewal.

The primary focus of my sabbatical was the Spiritual Direction course I have been enrolled in with The Haden Institute since last year. I had hoped to connect with my study cohort at a one-week intensive scheduled to meet in Niagara Falls in early May but once again we found ourselves meeting online. I have great hope that our final intensive will happen in person in the spring of 2022.

The other focus of my sabbatical was a discernment process around my sense of call in my leadership at this juncture. The result was some renewed energy for me around the Café Space, the creation of a Spiritual Practice Community and a vision for a Sacred Garden to bring more of the “inside” of the church outside. I look forward to sharing more with you about these projects at our AGM all of which are either well underway or in the initial planning stages.

I confess to being discouraged when shortly after I returned to work in August we were told that the pandemic was not unfolding the way many had hoped and that we were to anticipate further waves in the fall. Although we were able to return to in person worship in September, many were still reluctant to join us even as we welcomed new folks who had discovered us when we were closed. Providing online and hybrid opportunities continued to be important. In October, Covid19 took the life of Ken Fowler, one of our oldest and longest serving members. Ken served the church in a variety of capacities over the years, most recently as our Treasurer and sound board person for Sunday mornings. We are grateful for Ken’s generosity and the many ways he contributed to our ministry.

Ken and his wife Joan were strong supporters of the ministry of First United Church. In November their generosity was mirrored through a matching donation from Ward and Catherine Branch which helped us raised \$145,383.34 for the redevelopment of First United. The ministry of First, which serves the community in Vancouver’s downtown eastside, continues to be an important focus of our outreach.

Elsewhere in this report you will find evidence of the good work that carried on in 2021 despite the challenging circumstances of our times. Often behind the scenes, volunteers have kept the Thrift Shop running and the gardens tended. The Caring Connections team stayed in touch with those going through surgeries and experiencing losses of many kinds continuing to hold many in prayer. Until his own health concerns arose in the fall, James Fulton continued to be our go to person for all manner of issues related to the building including the renovation of the final two washrooms. To all of these and more, your ministry is invaluable.

The Council, under the leadership of Catherine Branch until June and Mary Sparks since then, has continued to lead us with deep wisdom, care, concern and a remarkable spirit of goodwill. At the end of June we thanked Catherine, Kim Branch and Barry Fenton for their faithful service and welcomed Ward Branch, Kathryn Ferriss and Kelly Nobles. I give thanks for the tremendous gift of serving with them.

Early in December 2021 our dear friend Sheldhan Simons died suddenly. Sheldhan was our cleaner for over 30 years. We came to know him as a man of deep faith and strong compassion. His absence has been felt by all who knew him. The week after Sheldhan died, most of the staff team made up of Carla, Anne, Jenn, Cheryl, Alexis, Sandi, Julian, Marcus, Dominique, Owen and Angela were able to come together for a Christmas lunch. While we were enjoying each other's' company, we received notice of new health orders which would make a similar gathering impossible in the days to come. It was a good reminder of the gift of time spent together face to face. In terms of my wider church work, I continue to serve on the Board of Naramata Center and this past year was very honoured to be invited to serve on the Fundraising Cabinet for the First Forward Campaign for the redevelopment of First United.

We continue to yearn for a day when things will look more like they once did but we give thanks that the true dwelling place of Love is within us. We have been called to serve our hurting world together. How blessed we are.

Gratefully submitted by
Rev. Nancy

ASSOCIATE MINISTER | REV. CARLA WILKS



While I often lump the last two years together as “the Covid years” it is good to look back over 2021 and see how much we were able to accomplish and the many ways that we were still able to connect with one another, albeit in different ways.

The year began as per 2020 in a bit of a rhythm of Thursday night worship recording, Friday/Saturday editing, Sunday morning Zoom Coffee Hour. While it was not our usual way of being, it had become meaningful and routine. While we missed being with the congregation on Sunday morning, our Thursday night worship recording sessions with Nancy and Julian were a real gift to me during Covid.

We had many laughs and many touching moments. I enjoyed singing with the two of them and so appreciate what they offered to me personally during that time. I am grateful to so many of you who took on the challenge of technology in order to participate in our online worship through readings or candle lightings or personal sharing. Thank you for helping to make worship meaningful and reminding us of our broader gathered community.

Our Zoom Coffee Hour was another highlight for me during the 18 months that we worshipped online. The conversations that we had in that group, getting to know each other on a much deeper level and hearing people’s stories was inspiring. It was also inspiring to me to see such determination from many of our seniors who stood up to the challenge that technology presented. I remember on a few occasions phoning Ken Fowler just as Coffee Hour started and trying over the phone to walk him through the steps to get back into Zoom. He was so determined, and successful! Getting to know him better through Zoom Coffee was such a gift to me.

I am thankful that Angela, my eldest daughter, started doing the editing of our weekly worship services in March. Thanks to the internet, she does this while going to university in Waterloo!

In May and June during the beginning of Nancy’s sabbatical, I had the pleasure of working with Janet Gear. I really appreciated her wisdom and worship leadership style, and I feel blessed for that opportunity and also for the assistance during the first part of Nancy’s sabbatical time so that I could still have time for my other ministry responsibilities.

One of the most significant experiences for me in 2021 was the Indigenous Book Study. In the fall of 2020 we began with reading three books by Indigenous authors, about the truths of Indigenous experiences both past and present. It felt really important that so many people participated and then wanted to continue throughout 2021 to read three more books. It was a transformative experience for a

number of the participants. Not only did it bring to light much of the history that was new to some of them, but also broadened our awareness to see the news and notice headlines and stories in different ways from a new perspective.

Once the news of the discovery of children's remains on the Kamloops Indian Residential School grounds was shared in Canada and throughout the world, our group was well into our second set of books and more aware of the history of the Indian Residential Schools in Canada. The impact of that news was significant for our participants, as it highlighted just how important it was for us to be learning the truth of our history. The group continued in the fall of 2021 for a third session, and we gained some new participants again. As we acknowledge and give thanks for the land where our church and our homes are located, I see this study group as an important way that we can live into honouring our commitment to learning the hard truths and seeking ways for reconciliation with our Indigenous neighbours.

Another project that we held in 2021 was through the Thrift Shop. Lima Branch made masks from fabric with Indigenous art and we sold them by donation to raise money for the local, North Vancouver based All Nations Elite (Indigenous) basketball team. We raised about \$2000 for them, which was used to purchase their uniforms and help pay for their summer basketball camp. We were honoured to host a time of drumming and singing and sharing stories on the church property in the summer when the coach met with some of us at the church.

The Thrift Shop saw many changes in 2021, and I am so grateful for our manager, Alexis, for the ways that she was able to think outside the box and shift to doing new and different things, adapting to the new restrictions as they were introduced and changed, moving to a new sorting/pricing room, adding an additional shop day, and the list goes on. A big thank you as well to our assistant manager, Sandi, for her adaptability and eagerness to step in and help. Of course the Thrift Shop would not exist without our big team of dedicated volunteers who are here day in and day out to price and sort and who as of September returned to volunteering in the shop on shop days. I love having the opportunity to connect with so many volunteers in the shop on a daily basis.

For my wider church work with the Pacific Mountain Region, I serve on the Lay Leadership Support Committee. I was part of an exciting project in 2021, which was to develop an online training course for members of Ministry and Personnel Committee members throughout the Pacific Mountain Region. As part of that committee I am involved in ongoing work, developing other resources for lay leaders in our United Church congregations, but the M&P one was the first to launch in late 2021.

For continuing education in 2021 I took a few courses which were offered by Leadership of the Pacific Mountain Region. I took a four week course with Susan Beaumont called How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You're Going, which provided us the opportunities to explore some of the challenges and opportunities that we have been presented with during this Covid time, which Susan Beaumont called a 'liminal' time, an 'in-between' time when things have ended, but the new thing has not yet begun. I took a

few workshops on how to enhance our online worship experience. I was also part of a series with Rev. Bev Brazier and Rev. Andy O'Neill called 'Faith Leaders at Such a Time as This' which was a rich time spent with some of my colleagues reflecting on ministry during this time.

Throughout the year I led the monthly meditation evening online, returning briefly to in-person/online hybrid in the fall and then back online only again once case counts increased again. I brought back Sacred Pause again in the fall on Wednesday mornings, a brief time of quiet, sharing some reflections, praying together and sharing meaningful conversation.

It sure felt like coming home again that first Sunday that many of us gathered for the first time in-person in 18 months. I remember that hearing congregational prayer response and congregational singing for the first few times just gave me chills and reminded me how much I missed our community gathering. And what a lovely surprise to find that we needed to schedule a Newcomers' gathering, because we met some folks who had found us online during the previous year.

Our Mission and Outreach team kept in touch throughout the year by e-mail and members of the team supported some of our yearly campaigns. In 2021 we had a successful team who participated in the Coldest Night of the Year walk and raised over \$3500 for First United Church. We had a very successful Giving Tree again in 2021, collecting items for First United and the North Shore Youth Safe House (NSYSH), collecting \$765 in gift cards for NSYSH, almost 300 pairs of socks, over 100 toothbrushes, many pairs of gloves, toques and other toiletries and necessities. Both First United and North Shore Youth Safe House were blown away by the generosity of our community.

In the fall I had the opportunity to meet and get to know a Palestinian refugee who lives nearby with her sons. A number of Council members and Mission and Outreach members signed a letter of support for her to our local MP, requesting help and attention to her case. Her husband is a journalist in Gaza, and he is not able to leave Gaza to join his family here. She is a lovely woman who works very hard to support her family, and wants more than anything to have her husband safe here with her and their boys.

These were some of the highlights of 2021. It is such a privilege to be in ministry with you here at Mount Seymour. I am so grateful for the ways that you share your gifts and your lives and your faith journeys.

What an honour to witness such faithfulness at work. It is such a blessing to work with a supportive, resilient and caring ministry team, staff, Council and group of volunteers. I pray that God will guide us through this liminal time toward even more meaningful ministry in our community and beyond in the year ahead.

With gratitude,
Rev. Carla

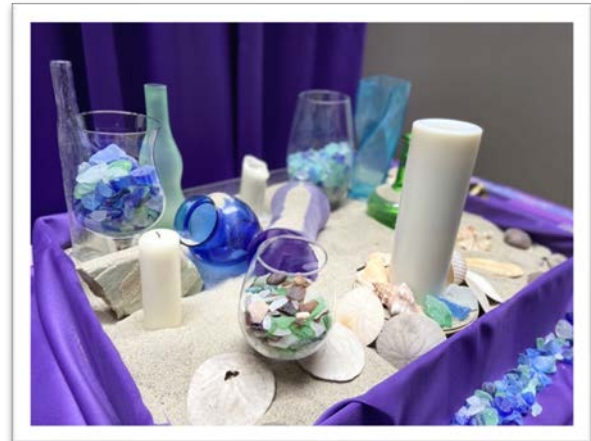
WORSHIP AND CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT



In 2021 our team became much more used to the rhythm and flow of offering both online and in person worship as well as hybrid learning experiences. Carla continued to lend her expertise to the task of video editing in the early part of the year but by March Angela Wilks took over from her. In the fall we purchased a new camera allowing us to record from a greater distance. All services are now offered in both recorded and live formats. Owen Hoover returned to the sound board in September and has capably handled the audio recordings each week thanks to Julian's skills at making sure we are running microphones to the right places and keeping the input balanced. In the winter and spring Anne also produced a weekly video for the children and youth community and in September Nancy started posting a weekly video reflection.

The true test of our capacity to pivot came two days before Christmas Eve when the omicron variant made it wise to shift from in-person to online worship only once again. Without skipping a beat the staff team, readers and musicians shifted gears to bring us a meaningful and moving recorded service.

Over the course of the year we engaged a variety of worship themes to keep us rooted in our faith during these challenging times. January began with the series "God is Holding Your Life" followed by a deeply rich Lenten season gathered around the theme "Holy Vessels." Carol Pettigrew's display of various vessels nestled in sand served as a potent reminder of both our strength and fragility.



Although our capacity to gather was still limited during the Easter season, we chose the theme "Resurrection Stories" to help us reflect on the transformations that have been taking place in our lives during the pandemic. Each week incorporated reflections from the community and included members of the Meeting the Beloved group and the Indigenous Book Study group.

At the end of April Nancy left for a sabbatical and the Rev. Janet Gear joined us for two months with primary responsibility for worship leadership. Janet's five-week worship series "The Theological Banquet" based on her research on the five ways people experience and express their relationship with God was

informative and engaging. Perhaps you still recall your own preferred style. Hearing from various members of our community of faith who have a preference for one style over another helped bring Janet's research closer to home and helped us to honour and celebrate our differences.

Carla preached for most of July joined by Marcus Mosely and Anne Ellis. Once again this year we joined with Highlands United for two summer Sundays via their livestream services. By mid August, Nancy had returned to the pulpit and in early September we were grateful to be welcoming people back into the sanctuary of the church for in person worship for the first time in 18 months. Our first in person worship service was planned for Cates Park. When we were rained out we happily gathered inside the church with music provided by Marc and Michelle Coulombe.



Transitioning to hybrid worship in the fall was easier than we anticipated. What proved more challenging was accepting that the pandemic was still making it so that not everyone felt safe enough to gather in person. We were surprised to discover that we had new people join us during the online phase of our ministry in the previous year and a half and were so happy to greet them in person when they showed up on Sunday mornings. Gathering around the theme "The Tie that Binds" served to remind us that even though we had been apart all those months we were still united in so many ways. With the pandemic raising so many

questions about God, our purpose, suffering and the division we were experiencing over vaccine passports and mask mandates our series on "Life's Big Questions: The Pandemic Version" gave us space to ponder our responses these dilemmas.

In October Flavio Caron joined us to help us consider our response to the horrific discoveries of remains on the lands of former Indian Residential Schools. In November, the Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne, Executive Director of First United helped us launch our ambitious goal to raise \$100,000 for the First Forward Campaign to redevelop the building at Hastings and Gore. With a generous matching gift from Ward and Catherine Branch we were able not only to reach our goal but to exceed it by almost \$50,000.

Our Advent theme "Housing the Holy" gave us the chance to consider not only how our church is a sacred place in our community but also how each one of us bear witness to the holy in our own lives. The team set up spiritual practice stations in the sanctuary and hosted an evening and afternoon for the public to come in and explore the theme. We were also able to welcome people back for an in person Blue Christmas service with Marcus Mosely and Julian providing the music.

We were thrilled to have the Gospel Choir join Marcus and Dominique Hogan on Advent 3 for the first time in over 20 months. On Advent 4 and then again on Christmas Eve, Marc and Michelle Coulombe gifted us with their musical talents. Thanks to Catherine Branch and Mary Sparks who also loaned their voices and instruments to enhance our music throughout the year. And of course a huge word of gratitude to “The Thursday Night Specials” aka Carla and Nancy who joined Julian week after week to sing their hearts out making our recorded worship services feel as close as possible to the worshipping life we have come to know and love..



Adult Faith Formation: “The Meeting the Beloved” group which started in the fall of 2020 continued to meet online ending with a daylong virtual retreat in May. In September, Nancy started a Community for Spiritual Practice called “Pilgrims’ Path.” This committed group of 24 people meet once a month for a simple meal, worship and engagement of a spiritual practice.

In December an Advent Retreat was held providing time for people to set intentions for a more spiritually grounded season.

In both the Spring and Fall, Carla led the Indigenous Book Study group through an exploration of issues related to Indigenous people in Canada. They met via zoom and in person when that was possible this year and have read and discussed six additional books, a combination of fiction and non-fiction, all by Indigenous authors and about the truths of Indigenous experiences, both past and present. In 2021 we read *The Break* by Katherena Vermette, *Indigenous Relations* by Bob Joseph, *Ravensong* by Lee Maracle, *The Inconvenient Indian* by Thomas King, *They Called me Number One* by Bev Sellers and *Five Little Indians* by Michelle Good. This has been a transformative experience for many of the participants and is an important element in our commitment to truth and reconciliation with our Indigenous neighbours.

Thank you to everyone who has participated in programs and services this past year both in person and on-line. We appreciate all the greeters, readers, candle lighters and reflectors as well as those who attend various studies. A big thank you to Carol Pettigrew, Jen-Beth Fulton and Kathryn Ferriss who continue to offer their time and energy for the work of our team along with ministry staff Nancy Talbot, Carla Wilks and Julian Pattison. A special thank you to Anne Ellis for a decade of faithful service to our Children and Youth community. 2021 was her last full year with us before she heads out for further training on her path towards ordination. We will miss her creative and thoughtful presence in our midst.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH | ANNE ELLIS



2021 saw a lot of ups and downs in Children, Youth and Families Ministries here at Mt. Seymour. Not so different from the rest of our lives as Covid continued to influence every aspect of our lives.

Anne continued to create weekly videos for our Children and Youth throughout the winter and spring of 2021. Each video contained a story or other piece of learning and a craft or activity for families.

During Lent, a Wish Tree was placed outside the Church inviting the community to write down their wishes and add them to the tree. Many wishes were received. After Lent, Anne turned the wishes into Wildflower Seed Paper – which has been given away to anyone wanting to plant and grow the community of wishes started on the tree. The wish tree, a Dogwood, was then planted on the Church property, where it will grow and remind us of our community that came together during the hard times of Covid-19.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=22X6DZPRPGE>

Wild Church at Home continued once a month for winter and spring, with the final two held in May and June happening in person at Cate's Park and the Church Garden when some restrictions lifted in early Summer.

A number of our children participated in Camp Spirit over the Summer months, and a couple of Youth were employed as Camp leaders as well.

Fall saw a further relaxation of Covid restrictions and a return to in-person worship. This also made it possible for the popular monthly Tabletop Board Games Nights to resume. Many families enjoyed the opportunity to gather together to play games, share fellowship and be back in touch with our community. An average of 3-4 families and up to 12-15 people attended each month

Fall also saw the creation of a Youth Dungeons and Dragons Group. This group met bi-monthly to play the popular Role-Playing Game and hang out together. This group has brought together Youth from our congregation with Youth from the surrounding community. They experience the opportunity to practice public speaking, working as a group to solve problems and leadership skills in a fun-filled atmosphere.



With the return of in-person worship, we also saw the return of our Children and Youth community on Sunday mornings. This gathering was quiet, with usually one or two children attending weekly. A couple of new families joined our Church in the fall, which was a delightful addition to our congregation and Children's Community.

Anne shifted from making weekly videos to providing a zoom meeting link for Sunday mornings. Families that have not been ready to return in-person worship had the opportunity to join Sunday's Children's Community via zoom to partake in the storytelling and activities.

Covid restrictions tightened again in Mid-December, making it necessary to return to pre-recorded Christmas Eve services. The 4 pm service recorded in 2020 was re-posted for families to watch on Christmas Eve 2021, and a new 7 pm service was pre-recorded in the days before Christmas eve, with the participation of one of our new church families.

The Youth Day Retreat, planned for the winter break, moved online, as did the rest of the Dungeons and Dragons' sessions for the remainder of 2021.

Despite the ups and downs of Covid, our Children and Youth Community worked to stay connected to our families and looks forward to a time when we call all safely gather together once again.

Gratefully submitted by
Anne Ellis

ART INSTALLATIONS | LESLIE BUERSCHAPER & ANNE ELLIS



CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Men's and Women's Breakfast

Both groups continued to meet through 2021. The men met at Bean Around the World and the women met on the lawn of the church until the public health orders shifted and they were able to meet inside once again. These groups have met longer than any other in the history of MSUC. Their friendship, care and dedication to one another was an important ministry during this time.

Caring Connections Team

The team made up of Ruth Townsend, Sherrill McLeary, Jen-Beth Fulton, Katie Ekroth, Mardi Joughin, Carla Wilks and Nancy Talbot continued to pray for, phone and send cards to people in need throughout the year. We managed to hold one in person meeting in the fall before restrictions became prohibitive. At Christmas poinsettias were delivered to people living in care homes.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Sylvia Zandberg continued to tend the prayer shawl ministry despite the challenges of not being able to access the building for a good portion of the year. Thank you to everyone who donated wool, knit and delivered shawls to those in need of care. Sylvia is going to step down from this ministry after years of faithful service. We are grateful for her commitment. Judy Frey has agreed to take over leadership of this ministry.



The Library

Our beautiful and carefully tended library was unused for much of the year but did on occasion provide a quiet space for reflection and conversation. Thank you to Sylvia Zandberg for her dedication in creating and sustaining the library.

PASSAGES

We Remember

Zeeta John who died on January 16, 2021 — Memorial Service at Amherst Crematorium held on January 19, 2021.

Mae McInnes who died February 24, 2021 — Private family Service.

Ken Fowler who died on October 23, 2021 — Memorial Service on December 23, 2021 at Mount Seymour United Church.

Sheldhan Simonss who died on December 4, 2021 — Burial service at Boal Chapel held on December 15, 2021.

THRIFT SHOP | ALEXIS DOSS



As we end our sixth year in our dedicated shop space, we can report that we continue to be a hardworking and successful social enterprise.

Meg Clarke retired from the leadership team but has stayed on as a volunteer. The leadership team now consists of Irene Huva (Merchandising Leader), Ginny Loveridge (Clothing Leader), Rev. Carla Wilks (Church Liaison), Gail Whitney and Lima Branch stayed on as (Volunteer Well-Being leaders), Judy White (Leadership Minutes Taker) and Jill Greengrass (Member at Large).

Alexis Doss the Thrift Shop Manager continues to work full-time at 35 hours a week and Sandi Smith our assistant manager works 18 hours a week.

The number of volunteers is increasing. This year we have accepted 17 new volunteers. Communications to our volunteers (now over 100) continues to improve. The new improved MSUC website has also been helpful and so has the Thrift Shop Facebook page (for Thrift Shop volunteers only). Last summer we had 8 paid student employees funded by the church and a grant from the Federal Government.

Some of the improvements we have experienced over this past year include:

- New shelving in the shed (donated by Sharon and Roger Brain)
- New cashier units (made by Chris Loveridge)
- New slate walls (sourced by Alexis Doss)
- New Shelving units for the Treasure Cove room (donated by Vivienne Lenhart and Cathy Blaney)
- New metal shelving for games (sourced by Alexis Doss)
- New bookshelves (donated by Sharon and Roger Brain)
- New layout of shop
- Friday shop days
- New TikTok page for the thrift shop

The preschool space was opened to us in June for the new permanent volunteer space. We also expanded the thrift shop down the corridor and into Ross's office. The space known as Ross' office is now home to Treasure Cove as of September 2021. The Treasure Cove has provided us with dedicated space for jewelry and high value items.

Some of the special events we held or participated in during 2021:

- During September and November, we held two "blitz" sorting/pricing events: Halloween and Christmas respectively. We encouraged all volunteers to attend, we priced the seasonal items stored over the year. It is a day when we get to meet volunteers that we do not necessarily work with during the week.

Charities we supported with donations this year were:

- Salvation Army – picks up donations one day a week
- Diabetes Canada -picks up donations once a week.
- First United- a volunteer delivers donations of warm clothing, blankets and toiletries items.
- Christmas Vouchers- \$50 merchandise certificates were given to North Shore Youth Safe House for at-risk youth.
- RAIN City- we donate cutlery and dishes to this organization that helps women dealing with recovery from drug addiction.
- Yarn for Prayer Shawls– Sylvia picks up yarn as needed.
- Looking Glass Project– Connie O'Connor (volunteer) takes yarn that will not sell in the Shop for the co-ordinator of this project.
- High School IB Program– Connie O'Connor collects and delivers yarn/fabric not saleable in the Shop to this program.
- North Shore Red Cross– items are collected and delivered by Jill Blair.
- Various LITTLE FREE LIBRARIES in the Vancouver area - for children's books not good enough to sell at the shop
- North Shore Little Lending Libraries – school aged books
- Shelter To Home- Items needed for people transitioning from shelters to home.

We have also:

- Raised \$2000.00 for All Nations Elite Basketball Camp
- Supported Thrive for Blacks donation drive for families affected by Covid-19 with clothing and household goods
- Donated clothing, toys, and household goods to the victims of floods in Abbotsford
- Donated towels to Wildlife rescue B.C.
- Donated cutlery to Windsor Secondary School recycling initiative
- This year we donated \$31,258.00 of our thrift shop sales to First United.

Respectfully submitted by
Alexis Doss
Manager, MSUC Thrift Shop

MINISTRY & PERSONNEL | CATHERINE BRANCH

It is a wonderful time to have Spring arrive and to be worshipping in person for the most part! As things become busier around the Church, so has the Ministry & Personnel Team.

Reverend Nancy and Reverend Carla continue to do the amazing work on which we have all come to rely. They were flexible and creative during the pandemic at finding ways to nurture the congregation, provide pastoral support where it was needed and generally keep things running while most of us were at home.

Our Children and Youth Coordinator, Anne Ellis, also did extremely creative work and continued her connections with our children and youth online through worship and through games. As you may know, Anne has been working toward her Master of Divinity degree and towards a call to Ordination. We have been lucky to have her as she has worked part time on her studies, but we are going to have to say our good-byes to her on June 10. She will be leaving to finish her studies and move on to a supervised ministry experience with another congregation. We will miss her positive, creative energy and hope that she will come “home” to visit as much as she can!!

Jenn Farrell is our administrator and was hired during the lock down so not all of you may have met her yet. Jenn has been a wonderful addition to assisting the ministry staff. Her computer and web design skills have been an amazing addition and she has taken on some of the church financial work to ease Cheryl's load. We are grateful to have her!

Our music leadership has continued to be the best! (No exaggeration!) Julian Pattison continues to lead us three Sundays a month. During the pandemic, he helped out both musically and technologically to ensure that our online services were of top quality. And he continues to grace us with the most beautiful piano and organ music that is one of the highlights of Sunday mornings. Marcus Mosely continued to share his musical gifts with us during the pandemic and we are blessed to have him. He and Dominique Hogan have started the Gospel Choir back up again. They will join us once per month and we look forward to having them back.

Cheryl Shott is our amazing bookkeeper. She keeps all of the paperwork in line, deals with all of the employment calculations and has been invaluable during the pandemic working to ensure that all of the government programs that were available to us were taken advantage of. Plus, she is a delight to work with!

The Thrift Shop has worked very hard now and during the pandemic. Under the management of the tireless Alexis Doss, the Thrift Shop reopened during the spring of 2020 and stayed open more or less since that time but with a variety of restrictions on numbers allowed in based on the provincial restrictions. Sandi Smith was hired as the assistant manager of the Shop so that Alexis did not always need to be on the Shop floor and to allow her a proper vacation! Sandi is a force of nature and has a real passion for

our beloved Shop. Alexis built on the summer student program that she created and based on their positive experience as paid volunteers in the summer, many have stayed on to work during the school year and word of mouth has attracted more students. It is great to have the extra hands and to have intergenerational contact in the Shop.

Owen Hoover has taken on our Sound Technician position. It is lovely to have someone who grew up in the Church find a way to transition into the position of employee! Beginning in March, Carla's daughter Angela Wilks started editing the recordings of our worship services. She is our only employee working out of province all the way from Ontario where she is attending the University of Waterloo.

As many of you may know, our custodian of many years, Sheldhan Simonss, passed away this year. We are devastated to lose such a kind man with a big heart and a love for our Church. Our prayers have been with his family. The Administrative Team will be looking for a proper replacement.

Finally, a big thank you goes to the members of the Ministry and Personnel committee who help with, among other things, staff evaluations, hiring decisions, employee benefit and other decisions. Thank you to Michelle Coulombe, Peter Muirhead, Lori Keith, Kirsten Harkins, and Dale Kobewka.

Thank you so all of the staff for all they have contributed to the life and work of Mount Seymour United Church and blessings to you all!

Respectfully submitted,
Catherine Branch, Chair

PROPERTY | STEVE WELLENBRINK

2021 was a year of reduced activity at the church, particularly due to the absence of rentals and other pandemic related restrictions. The property team did not meet in 2021 partly as a result of being covid cautious. Issues were dealt with as they came up by means of communication from Jenn in the office to the appropriate volunteer. This worked fairly well, thanks to diligent work by Jenn, who has proved to be a great asset to MSUC.

The washrooms renovation project was completed in 2021 by Two by Four Construction. Special thanks to James Fulton for co-ordinating this work on our behalf. The washrooms look great and are better suited to our needs now that the pre-school is no longer here.

Major repairs to our HVAC system (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) occurred in 2021. Supply chain issues lengthened the time frame for completing these repairs. Thank you to James for co-ordinating this work as well.

The atmospheric river event in November led to a roof leak by the skylight at the north end of the Narthex. This likely caused a problem with our alarm system. The alarm system has been repaired, and we have a contractor looking at repairing the leak and resultant damage to the wall.

Thank you to Gladys and all the gardening team volunteers for keeping our gardens looking great.

Contemplated upcoming projects for 2022 include replacing our parking lot light fixtures with energy efficient LED fixtures, working on a kitchen renovation to accommodate a proposed café project, and working on a multi-phase concept plan for changes to our landscape in the former pre-school area. These projects are subject to council or congregational approval.

The current property team is very small in number (3) as a result of many long-time members deservedly retiring. Thank you all for the many years of faithful service on our behalf. We are looking for a few more volunteers who may feel called to serve on the property team.

Kindly,
Steve Wellenbrink

RENTALS

In addition to the many church-related activities taking place in our church building, many community groups rent our facilities on either a long-term or occasional basis. Due to covid related issues, no long-term groups have used our facility; however, a few groups have been able to celebrate and share our space.

Concerts and Recitals:

Windsor Secondary School

Seycove Secondary School

Mom Bop Band

Marcus Mosely Chorale & Roxie Giles

Blueridge Community Association | All Candidates Meeting, Federal Election

Small Private Music Recitals

TREASURER'S REPORT | WARD BRANCH

The outbreak of COVID 19 largely controlled our financial situation again in 2021. This Annual Report contains the 2021 financial results and delivers our 2022 budget. The 2021 financial results have not yet been finalized by Cahill Professional Accountants, but Council felt it was important to get our internal version to the congregation as soon as possible. The final financial statements will be available in short order and will be made available on the website.

2021 Income Statement and Balance Sheet

Given the major reduction in our rental income, and the continued restrictions in Thrift Shop operations, it was another difficult year financially. Thankfully, this was partially offset by a Seniors Grant organized by Reverend Carla, as well as the Federal Government's decisions to continue with its wage subsidies longer than expected, and to provide further loan supports. That still left us \$50,000 under water, however. Thankfully, we continue to have the capital available to survive such short term COVID-19 shocks (assuming we can still call COVID-19 a "short-term issue" after two years!). On a positive note, we ended up providing more than \$50,000 to a range of outreach projects, such as First United and the National Indigenous Healing Fund.

2022 Annual Budget

Unfortunately, the federal wage support programs are now coming to an end. This, along with continued rental softness and Thrift Shop restrictions, means that we will finally have to face the full force of COVID-19 this year. We have also lost several major donors over the course of the past two years. This all adds up to a projected operating budget deficit of about \$123,000.

Thankfully, we do have the capital funds available to support these costs. Indeed, we are not intending to sit back on our laurels or, more appropriately for a United Church, we do not intend to "hide our light under a bushel". Rather, Council have decided to make use of our Kerr Bequest fund to "go big" rather than "go home"! (Can you tell that your new treasurer likes metaphors?) To that end, we will be allocating \$35,000 to a new Mental Health Ministry, \$10,000 to support the new First United building, and we have earmarked an initial \$50,000 to start two new projects, being the development of a café space, and the creation of a sacred garden. After these expenditures, we are projecting a final negative figure of about \$290,000. However, our Kerr Bequest is still sitting at more than \$1.25 million, so these investments and COVID offsets will still leave us with about \$1 million in reserve, with which Council remains more than comfortable.

A word of thanks is due to our bookkeeper Cheryl Shott who has worked extremely hard through Covid to help us navigate the various grants we have received. She is assisted by our office administrator Jenn Farrell who writes cheques, handles our banking and oversees the counters, Verna Wilson, Doreen

Habkirk, Gladys Johnston and Marlene Plezia. In addition, Donna Pawluk graciously completes our weekly deposits.

Fay Butterfield continues to serve as our Envelope Secretary, and we are grateful for her dedication to this task especially this year as many folks gave to the church through e-transfers and other online platforms adding complexity to her work.

PACIFIC MOUNTAIN REGION | STEVE WELLENBRINK

In 2021 Pacific Mountain Region held it's annual meeting online due to public health orders that related to gatherings.

During the annual meeting, Pacific Mountain Region voted 97.1% in favour of becoming an Affirming Ministry of The United Church of Canada. This strong commitment to being inclusive echoes the welcome that MSUC extends at the start of each Sunday service. I believe that MSUC should investigate the process of becoming an Affirming Ministry and learn more about what that means for us and for our leadership role in the wider community.

At the 2021 annual meeting PMRC made specific decisions about reconciliation regarding the Alberni Indian Residential School that was operated by The United Church. PMRC voted to fund a ground penetrating radar search of the school site to search for human remains, to participate as invited by the Alberni First Nation in the healing and reconciliation process and committed one million dollars towards the construction of a healing centre on the AIRS site. We pray for all victims of the residential school system, their descendants, and all the faithful who work to implement the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. This work of the wider church is also the work of MSUC, as we discern how to walk a walk of reconciliation with our indigenous neighbours.

Throughout the year PMRC offered timely guidance for congregations around pandemic safety practices. Dr. Henry held regular conference calls with faith leaders. PMRC leadership (including Nancy and Carla) participated in these calls which gave our leadership the information to make specific recommendations about how to conduct our church activities safely through the pandemic.

Throughout the year PMR staff have continued to provide support, guidance and resources for faith communities throughout the region. It has been challenging times for the church through the pandemic, and we are grateful for the PMR staff's faithful hard work on our behalf.

Kindly,
Steve Wellenbrink
MSUC PMRC lay representative

APPENDIX 1 | 2020 MINUTES ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting of Mt. Seymour United Church Held via Zoom - Sunday, April 25, 2021

The following 37 members/adherents were present:

Members/Adherents:

Joyce Jones, Faye Butterfield, Roger Brain, Sharon Brain, Lorna Leckie, Lori Keith, Carol Pettigrew, Patrick Brown, Lynda Kearns, Michelle Coulombe, Marc Coulombe, Bette Shippam, Mike Hetherington, Jim Crook, Kelly Nobles, Ken Fowler, Gail Whitney, Bill Mathieson, Meg Clarke, Burton Branch, Lima Branch, Barb Ralph, Jen-Beth Fulton, James Fulton, Ellen Muirhead, Pete Muirhead, Frank Luba, Kirsten Harkins, Mary Sparks, Catherine Branch, Ward Branch, Barry Fenton, Anne Ellis, Rev. Carla Wilks, Rev. Nancy Talbot, Kim Branch (recording secretary)

1. **Chair Catherine Branch** welcomed those present and called the meeting to order at 11:00 am
2. **Rev. Carla Wilks** opened the meeting with a prayer.
3. Catherine Branch confirmed there was a quorum present. C. Wilks confirmed comfort level with recording the AGM, which will not be shared publicly.
4. **Motion to give adherents the right to vote**

M/S (Bette Shippam / Sharon Brain) that adherents can be permitted to vote. **Carried unanimously.**

5. **Motion to approve AGM Agenda**

M/S (Michelle Coulombe /Jim Crook) that the agenda be approved. **Carried unanimously.**

6. **Introduction of Council members and staff**

Catherine Branch introduced Council members, appointees, and staff. **Motion to approve AGM Minutes of October 4, 2020**

M/S (Carol Pettigrew / Gail Whitney) that the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of October 4, 2020, be approved. Michelle Coulombe noted error in the attendance: Lorna Leckie to be removed from in-person list. **Carried unanimously** as amended

7. **Minister's Report:** Rev. Nancy Talbot provided a summary of 2020 activities. Council met with indigenous facilitator Flavio Caron in the Fall. At that time that we started the land acknowledgement at the start of each service, putting us on a solid footing towards meeting our Truth and Reconciliation Commission commitments.

We recognized a need for a strategic plan for the Thrift Shop to respond to the growth. Rosa Flinton Brown facilitated. She led a community gathering on March 8, 2020, and then created a report. Council set up a strategic planning team to address the recommendations. An urgent need for an assistant Thrift Shop manager was identified and we hired Sandi Smith in the Fall – she has made significant contribution to the operations of the shop.

We experienced rich and meaningful worship. New members were welcomed in February 2020. We had a solid foundation, and we were thriving. Then, the building shut down in March. Lay Leadership of the church and staff found a way to move online, with wise and thoughtful decision-making. Rev. Carla and Alexis Doss pieced together a capacity to open the shop in the summer. No transmission of COVID 19 at the church. We have had volunteers in the building since the fall, with thanks to the diligence of the Rev. Carla and Manager Alexis Doss. Anne Ellis went online with the children's community. Finance team accessed government programs and created budget (Ward Branch, Barry Fenton, Cheryl Schott). Our Gardening team has remained active, along with the Building team (James Fulton, Steve Wellenbrink). Offerings coming in through e-transfers. We have ongoing work and commitment to the life of the church.

Our Administrator Cindy Nelms moved to the Island in the fall. Catherine assisted with the office. Catherine took over M&P team and helped us to hire Sandi Smith and Jenn Farrell. Jenn Farrell has fixed up the website. We suffered through the loss of our anchor, Dilys Sostad in December. Council functioned thinly great to have Kirsten join in the fall. Sharon Brain led meditation group for 5 years, and Rev. Carla has carried on that group. The Beloved group continued to meet. The after church Zoom coffee group weekly. Thanks, shared for our community of faith.

8. **Team Reports** – Catherine shared that the Annual Report was abbreviated this year, since previous report was October 4, 2020 (due delayed 2019 AGM) and reflecting that fewer activities are being held at this time. The floor was opened to questions. No questions posed.
9. **COVID-19 update.** Catherine provided an overview. In March, worship was moved online. In June Council and Thrift Shop manager Alexis Doss created protocols for a July opening. Students were hired over the summer. In the fall, volunteer shifts for sorting and pricing were introduced for seniors. Preschool protocols were also developed. The North lobby is being used for sorting, which allows for social distancing.

A watch party was organized in October, coinciding with the AGM. Unfortunately, we were unable to continue, however we have worked creatively to stay in contact. We continue to pay close attention to government updates. The office is open 9:30-2:30 (call ahead to control adherence to protocols). Thrift Shop continues to be open – meeting challenges as they come. Student volunteering was paused in late April due to an increase in school outbreaks on North Shore, to reduce risk. Appreciation was shared of Alexis and Rev. Carla for their ability to pivot and the Management team for their support.

10. Treasurer's Report 2020 Financial Statements and 2021 Budget (B. Fenton and W. Branch):

Barry Fenton presented the Financial Statements for 2020. The Finance Committee of Ward Branch, Barry Fenton, Cheryl Stott put developed the budget. Deposit team led by Donna Pawluck, with Fay as envelope secretary

Highlights:

- Notice to reader report by Cahill Chartered Accountants.
- Many new government programs were accessed.
- Appendix 3 of the Annual Report contains income statement. Objective was to breakeven using the federal government wage subsidy and the Kerr bequest.

- Total givings were \$153,816, which exceeded our target. Kerr bequest was used to balance the budget. We did much better than anticipated deficit, the financial performance was stronger than forecast. We saw a significant drop in Thrift Shop sales, however, did end up coming close to 2020 budget. Total revenue was \$452,000 including fund allocation from Kerr bequest.
- Expenses totalled \$432,811, which includes \$16,000 paid to BlueShore to manage the Kerr bequest. The First United donation is calculated at 15% of Thrift Shop sales. All staff were retained during 2020, thanks in part to the \$95,000 from the federal wage subsidy. We also accessed the federal \$40,000 business loan program. We had to rely on the draw down of the Kerr bequest than we had projected.
- Barry opened the floor for questions.
- Meg Clarke raised a question regarding government programs. Only \$30,000 of the loan is due as repayable by 2022. The wage subsidy does not need to be repaid.
- Michelle Coulombe asked for clarification how the value of the land is that determined, found on page 6. The land value presented in the financial statements is the original cost figure at the time the land was purchased, not current market value. The property is zoned for community use.
- Roger Brain commented on how well the budget is managed by finance committee. Better than expected results. An update on the Kerr Bequest was requested. Ward Branch responded that decisions were made the year prior to top up the building and sabbatical funds. This year we drew down from the building fund for the renovations to the bathrooms and sanctuary, not the bequest. The bequest held \$1.2M at beginning and at end of the year. We earned 4% on investments, which are invested using a conservative approach. Next year we will have to draw down on the Kerr bequest.
- Steve Wellenbrink noted that the Presbytery expense line item is to support Pacific Mountain Region. Update to the report needed.

M/S (Fay Butterfield /Roger Brain) that the Financial Statements for 2020 as set out in the Annual Report be approved. **Carried unanimously.**

The 2021 budget was then presented by Ward Branch.

- It was a challenge to develop the 2021 budget given the impact of COVID-19. The Finance Committee picked numbers halfway between 2019 and 2020 as the drafting assumption and made adjustments from there. A \$116,000 deficit is projected, based on assumption that things will turn around at end of the year. We will borrow from existing funds to make up: \$5,000 from sabbatical fund, \$20,000 from building fund to finish bathroom renovation and \$91,000 will come from Kerr bequest. This will result in a balanced budget. The wage subsidy program may be extended. If investment interest increases that will decrease amount needed to come from Kerr bequest.
- Barry opened the floor for questions.
- Meg Clarke raised a question about increase revenues from Thrift Shop. We are looking at \$170,000 in sales as a conservative ballpark. Rev. Carla based this on income so far and trends. We anticipate opening up a bit more in the Fall, allowing more customers in the shop (currently capped at 10).

- Jim Crook raised a question about provincial taxes on Thrift Shop sales. The Thrift Shop is exempt from PST because it is associated to the church (MSUC and First United). The Thrift Shop is considered a ministry and connected to the core values of the church.

M/S (Burton Branch/Jen-Beth Fulton) that the budget for 2021 be accepted as presented be approved. **Carried unanimously.**

11. Motion to adopt 2020 Annual Report. Opened for questions. None.

M/S (Barry/Kirsten) **Carried unanimously.**

12. Council Alterations

Catherine Branch summarized temporary adjustments were approved in 2019 to the composition of Council, with a report back last year. Now seeking approval to make these changes permanent. The proposed Council will consist of a Chair, recording secretary, and representatives from the following committees: Finance, Ministry and Personnel, Property and Pacific Mountain Region. In addition, Council's recommendation is for no less than 2 and no more than 4 members at large.

The advantage of the new composition is that attendance has been almost perfect, which supports continuity and streamlining of decision-making.

M/S (Joyce Jones/Kirsten Harkins) to approve the composition of the Council and change to the constitution. **Carried unanimously. (2/3 quorum vote required because of change to constitution)**

M/S (Barry Fenton/Lima Branch). Based on change of governance structure, constitution will be reviewed for further alterations as necessary. **Carried unanimously.**

13. Council Elections

As a result of the two-term maximum, the following members are ending their terms: Catherine Branch, Kim Branch, Barry Fenton. In addition, Dilys Sostad's passing has left a big hole.

Continuing as member at large: Frank Luba.

Mary Sparks has agreed to sit as chair.

Steve Wellenbrink has agreed to be Property Team chair and continue as Pacific Mountain Region representative.

Kirsten Harkins has agreed to be the M&P representative at Council. Catherine will be the chair of the M&P Team.

New additions: Kelly Nobles has agreed to be the recording secretary.

Kathryn Ferriss was presented as a new member-at-large.

Ward Branch presented as a new member-at-large. Council will then name him treasurer.

Motion that Mary Sparks be voted in as Chair of the Council (Jen-Beth Fulton/Meg Clarke). **Unanimously carried.**

Motion that Steve Wellenbrink be voted in as Property Team Chair in addition to Pacific Mountain Regional representative (Sharon Brain/Faye Butterfield). **Unanimously carried.**

Motion that Kirsten Harkins be voted in as representative for the Ministry & Personnel Team (Jim Crook/Lori Keith). **Unanimously carried.**

Motion that Kelly Nobles be voted in as Recording Secretary (Carol Pettigrew/Jen-Beth Fulton). **Unanimously carried.**

Motion that Ward Branch be voted in as a member-at-large (Barry Fenton/Bill Mathieson). **Unanimously carried.**

Motion that Kathryn Ferris be voted in as a member-at-Large (Kelly Nobles/Jen-Beth). **Unanimously carried.**

In summary:

- (a) Continuing Council: Rev. Nancy Talbot (Minister); Carla Wilks (Minister)
 - Mary Sparks (2016 – 2020, 2021 – 2023) (Member-at-Large)
 - Frank Luba (2017 – 2020, 2021 – 2023) (Member-at-Large)
 - Steve Wellenbrink (2019 – 2021) Pacific Mountain Region representative
 - Kirsten Harkins (2020 – 2022) Ministry & Personnel Team representative
- (b) 2020 Nominations:
 - Kelly Nobles (2021 – 2023) as Recording Secretary
 - Ward Branch (2021 – 2023) as Member-at-large
 - Kathryn Ferris (2021 – 2023) as Member-at-Large

14. Preschool Update

Catherine Branch provided an update of the current status of the Mount Seymour Preschool. She reminded us that Rosa Flinton-Brown was hired in early 2020 to prepare a strategic plan for the Thrift Shop, with community input sought in March 2020. The consensus of the attendees was that they did not want to see a limitation of intake of goods. We therefore need increased space to manage intake of donations. The majority of those present considered the preschool space as a good option. As a recommendation out of the report, a strategic planning committee was struck (Alexis Doss, Judy White, Gail Whitney, Catherine Branch, Roger Brain). The issue of space was the first matter of business the committee considered, looking closely at the focus of our mission on the wider community and that through the Thrift Shop we minister to more people than ever before (volunteers, customers, donations and gifts as a result of money raised, and gift of proceeds to First United). The Strategic Planning committee and Council met together, and it was agreed to give notice of the end of the rental agreement to the Preschool for June 2022, to allow time for the Preschool to seek alternatives. This lengthy notice time allowed for as easy a transition as possible. Discussions with Preschool board were held. In the end, the Preschool has decided to close its doors in June 2021.

Question from Fay Butterfield on dates. Catherine clarified that they were given to June 2022. They decided on their own to leave at end of June 2021. It was noted that they were in a challenging situation prior to our notice.

15. Closing Prayer

Carla Wilks recognized that this coming week would be the last Sunday prior to Nancy's sabbatical. Blessings on her time away for rest, study and renewal. Carla then led a prayer.

Catherine Branch shared that Rev. Janet Gear will be bringing a series this spring. This is her last meeting and she shared gratitude for 5 years as chair.

Rev. Nancy Talbot shared update on the First United redevelopment and that MSUC will be participating in the fundraising. Nancy has been asked to sit on the cabinet committee. She shared appreciation from staff for continued employment through this time. Thank you to Catherine Branch. She then led a closing prayer.

Motion to close the meeting (Jim Crook/Bill Mathieson). Carried.

Catherine Branch adjourned the meeting at 12:45 pm.

Catherine Branch, Chair

Kim Branch, Recording Secretary

APPENDIX 2 | PRELIMINARY BALANCE SHEET AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2021

ASSETS	2021	2020
Current Assets		
Cash	69,383	66,159
GIC/Term Deposits	1,306,518	1,301,626
Accounts Receivable	55,883	59,602
	<u>1,431,785</u>	<u>1,427,387</u>
Property, Plant and Equipment		
Land	425,151	425,151
Building	2,048,963	2,030,909
Building depreciation	-393,700	-393,700
Furniture and Equipment	105,802	103,037
Furniture and Equip Depreciation	-76,011	-76,011
	<u>2,110,205</u>	<u>2,089,385</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>3,541,990</u>	<u>3,516,773</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable	18,861	4,870
* CEBA Loan	60,000	40,000
Mission and Service	13,140	12,467
Misc. Funds	704	50
First United Church	2,875	130
Syrian Refugee	7,989	7,989
NHSP - New Horizons Seniors Grant	6,250	0
Payable to First United - Thrift Shop	17,818	
Youth ProVision Grant	0	404
	<u>127,637</u>	<u>65,909</u>
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
VIM Loan	305,045	305,045
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>432,682</u>	<u>370,955</u>
EQUITY AND FUNDS		
Funds		
Sabbatical Fund	15,632	20,432
Memorial Fund	36,364	30,314
Peace Garden Memorial Fund	29,982	
Endowment	1,256,213	1,256,213
Building Contingency Fund	57,641	76,455
	<u>1,395,832</u>	<u>1,383,414</u>

Equity

Opening Balance	1,762,403	1,816,958
Surplus/Deficit - Operating	-48,926	19,076
Surplus/Deficit - Depreciation	TBA	-73,632
	<u>1,713,477</u>	<u>1,762,403</u>

TOTAL EQUITY AND FUNDS

3,109,308	3,145,819
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TOTAL LIABILITES, EQUITY AND FUNDS

3,541,990	3,516,773
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- * Canada Emergency Business Assistance Loan
Interest free loan until Dec 31, 2023.
\$20,000 forgiven if repaid by Dec 31,2023

APPENDIX 3 | PRELIMINARY INCOME STATEMENT

FOR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2021 & 2022 BUDGET

	2021 Prelim 31-Dec	2020 Actual 31-Dec	2022 Budget Annual
REVENUE			
Offerings - Envelopes, PAR, & Other	138,974	152,909	135,000
Open Offering	681	907	1,500
Special Offering			
Fund Allocation from Equity Funds	23,414	82,597	
Total Givings	163,069	236,413	136,500
OTHER REVENUE			
Rentals	9,355	16,967	10,000
Memorials & Weddings	0	100	1,000
Thrift Shop	213,171	134,221	235,000
Interest	<i>23,214</i>	28,215	23,214
Endowment Investment Income	<i>28,000</i>	32,701	28,000
Fundraising (Coffee House)		1,770	2,000
Fundraising (Youth/BBQ/Turkey Lunch)		205	200
Mental Health & other Donations/Grants			
NHSP - New Horizons Seniors Grant	18,750		6,250
Misc.		1,295	
Total Other	292,490	215,474	305,664
TOTAL REVENUE	455,559	451,887	442,164
EXPENSES			
A Team			
Copier	2,648	5,673	3,000
Office Supplies & Postage	2,563	2,952	2,750
Telephone	2,046	1,680	2,000
Bank Charges	1,768	1,010	1,800
Accountant	1,281	1,538	1,300
Investment Management Fees	15,749	15,749	16,000
Computer/Misc.	2,268	2,257	2,000
Total Administration	28,322	30,858	28,850

Property			
Bld Maint	4,745	5,116	5,000
Equip Maintenance		5,041	5,000
Grounds/Handyperson	3,197	3,494	4,000
Sound Maint	200	148	200
Bld Heat Maint	8,887	1,317	5,000
Security	304	465	400
Janitorial	13,067	15,494	20,000
Garbage	6,382	5,043	6,500
Water & Sewer	1,594	2,083	2,000
Gas & Electric	9,574	8,815	10,000
Snow	3,965	2,142	4,000
Telephone Office	873	798	850
Insurance	11,952	10,608	12,000
Kitchen Supplies	0	47	900
Special Projects		17,456	0
Thrift Shop Improvements	14,636	12,122	10,000
Total Property	79,375	90,189	85,850
TOTAL ADMINISTRATION TEAM	107,697	121,047	114,700
Worship & CD			
Pulpit Relief		900	200
Mental Health			
Youth	216	70	1,000
Library/Misc	20		200
Adult Christian Development	688		500
Congregational Meetings			500
Music Supplies	1,569	350	500
Music Director Relief	550	786	2,000
Volunteer Training			500
Music Piano/Organ Tuning	203		250
Worship Misc Supplies	1,156	354	1,000
Sound Production	4,214	1,943	4,000
TOTAL WORSHIP & CD	8,615	4,403	10,650
COUNCIL			
National UCC Assessment	13,188	14,506	19,618
Other Expense	552		500
TOTAL COUNCIL	13,740	14,506	20,118

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Advertising	1,082	1,232	1,200
Fellowship (Lunches/welcoming)	142	248	500
Mandate Magazine	150	300	200
Sundays - Coffee	117	894	1,000
Pastoral Care	126	326	300

TOTAL CONGREGATIONAL LIFE	1,617	3,001	3,200
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CONG. MISSION

Mission and Outreach		151	300
First United Thrift Shop Donation	31,258	20,133	35,250
Help Fund		2,500	500

TOTAL MISSION	31,258	22,783	36,050
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MINISTRY & PERSONNEL

Wages	296,177	292,101	295,000
CEW - Wage Subsidy	-37,408	-95,328	0
Ministers' Travel	75	322	700
Sabbatical Fund	4,600		0
Staff Dev. Cont. Ed	4,304	4,952	5,800
Honorariums			
CPP	11,685	10,945	12,700
EI	4,963	4,795	4,900
Employee Benefits	47,156	38,790	50,547
M&P Discretionary	28	558	300
Work Comp	295	294	300
Hosting	417	555	500
Other Payroll	9,264	9,088	9,264

TOTAL MINISTRY & PERSONNEL	341,557	267,070	380,011
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TOTAL EXPENSE	504,484	432,811	564,729
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Operating Surplus/Deficit	-48,926	19,076	-122,565
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Amortization/Depreciation of Assets	-73,632	-73,632	-73,632
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GROWTH INVESTMENTS

Mental Heath Ministry			-35,000
Café Space 2022 Expenses			-25,000
Sacred Garden 2022 Expenses			-25,000
First United Building Contribution			-10,000

SURPLUS/DEFICIT	-122,558	-54,556	-291,197
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APPENDIX 4 | 2021 OUTREACH CONTRIBUTIONS

	2021 Prelim 31-Dec	2020 Actual 31-Dec
Outreach Contributions		
M&S	13021	12467
Thrift Shop Contribution to 1St United	31258	20133
CanaDare		439
NSYSH	105	199
Gifts with Vision		698
World Food Day		520
First United Misc.	1975	1651
Christmas in June		415
All National Elite Basketball	2000	
National Indigenous Healing Fund	1601	
First Forward Contributions - Sunday Offering	1635	
Syrian Refugees - Covid-19 Assistance		6000
	51595	42522