



# Mount Seymour United Church



2022

Annual Report

~ Nurturing Spirit ~ Being Community ~ Living Generously

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**MOUNT SEYMOUR UNITED CHURCH**

**2022 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*

## COUNCIL CHAIR | MARY SPARKS



After the struggles of the past couple of years and Covid restrictions that limited our ability to meet together, we are back! 2022 marked a time for coming together, for rebuilding and growth.

During the pause of the pandemic, we had opportunities to reflect on what we missed and what truly matters to our community. We were so grateful to be together for in-person services and to share a meal together again.

We value the small groups like Pilgrims' Path, yoga and Men's and Women's breakfast that help us connect in deep and meaningful ways and foster a sense of belonging.

We continue to post our services online in order to serve members who are unable to attend a service as well as reach out to the wider community.

Like many churches, Covid put a financial strain on our resources. We are so grateful to everyone who responded to our stewardship campaign and to all who support us financially. Over the past couple of years, the Kerr bequest has enabled us to maintain our level of service as well as look toward areas of growth. Three key areas of growth include the Café Space, Sacred Garden and Mental Health Ministry.

The Thrift Shop continues to be a vibrant and important part of the Mount Seymour community. We thank Carla, our manager Alexis, assistant managers Rebecca and John and all the volunteers for their hard work. The newly formed café space brings volunteers and community members together in new and delicious ways. It continues to evolve and grow and we are grateful for Jenn's energy and hard work and to all who have brought this to life.

During Covid, we realized that our outside space has the potential to be as important as our inside space. We started to dream of ways to welcome and support the spiritual growth of our community through a sacred garden. We worked with landscape architects, Leila and Catriona and a small group of interested church and community members to develop a plan which we look forward to sharing with the congregation in the next few weeks.

We are so blessed to have the talent and skill of our core ministry staff, Nancy and Carla. I know that I am not alone in feeling grateful for the inspired services that seem to give me exactly what I need. The

'Good Enough' series last Easter felt like a sigh of relief after a stressful time. I cannot begin to name all the ways that they lead and support our community. But whether it is leading Pilgrims' Path or book study, or through pastoral care, walking with us in the toughest times, we are truly grateful!

We were sad to say goodbye to Anne Ellis, our children and family minister and we shared in her excitement as she began her life as a minister at Summerland United. We thank Ross Shearer our new Children's ministry coordinator who welcomes our children with warmth and kindness. I feel so grateful to be able to play music with Julian Pattison, our inspired pianist and music minister. We have all been touched by Marcus Mosely and Dominique Hogan's amazing musical gifts on Gospel Sundays. Carol Pettigrew and Anne Ellis added beauty and artistry both inside and outside our church. Thank you all!

I want to acknowledge Ward Branch, Kathryn Ferriss, Kelly Nobles, Kirsten Harkins, Younes Skhissi and Lorna Leckie, our committed members of Church Council. Thank you to Steve Wellenbrink for his hard work as head of the Property Committee and to Catherine Branch for all her support with Ministry and Personnel.

As we look into 2023, I have an ever increasing gratitude for the blessings of our church and the ways that we are caring for our wider community. Thank you to all who volunteer and support Mount Seymour in so many ways.

With love and blessings to you all,

Mary Sparks

## LEAD MINISTER | REV. NANCY TALBOT

### **“We are an Easter People.”**



2022 felt like a transitional year in the pandemic. In January, we had to limit our gatherings once again due to rises in Covid cases, but thankfully we were able to continue to worship in person. The Thrift Shop also stayed open with continued care to keep volunteers and customers safe. At times it was challenging to keep the shop staffed as volunteers who were ill or tested positive for Covid stayed home. It was disappointing for groups like Pilgrims' Path to have to shift to an online gathering but the disappointment was short lived, as by February we were back to gathering in person.

The Season of Lent began with an in-person Ash Wednesday service and continued with an in-person book study focussing on our well-chosen theme “Good Enough.” By Easter things were beginning to feel more “normal” with higher than expected attendance at both Good Friday and Easter services. By the time of our Annual General Meeting, we actually shared a meal together for the first time in two years.

Despite the early set-backs in our emergence from the pandemic, we continued to persevere with our hopes and dreams. At our AGM, we approved funding from the Kerr Bequest for three projects: A Sacred Garden; A Café Ministry and an expanded Mental Health Ministry. In the Spring we contracted with a team of landscape architects to help us envision outdoor spaces on our property that would allow the public to engage their spiritual lives without necessarily coming into the building. They met several times with the Council, representation from the Thrift Shop and our volunteer gardeners listening to our needs and desires and making excellent suggestions. In the end, they came up with a plan that exceeded our expectations. We hope to present it to the congregation for feedback shortly after the AGM. Elsewhere in this report you will find a full account of our new Café ministry as well as an update on the Mental Health Ministry.

In June we said goodbye to our Children and Family Minister, Anne Ellis who headed off to complete a Supervised Ministry Experience in preparation for ordination. We are so proud of Anne and so grateful for the ministry she will now offer to the wider church. In September, we welcomed Ross Shearer as our Children's Ministry Coordinator. Ross has been a gentle and welcoming presence for our children each

Sunday, and he conveniently loves to play Board Games and is therefore a great addition to Family Games Nights!

The Thrift Shop also underwent some changes in personnel this year. After Sandi Smith left in July, Jolene Verdicchio filled in as Assistant Manager over the summer until Rebecca Gabriel and John Andreychuk were hired in the fall. Along with our capable Thrift Shop Manager, Alexis, they continue to support the amazing work of our volunteers and summer students. With so many whose lives have been impacted by the pandemic and the spectre of a recession on the horizon, our Thrift Shop continues to be an important ministry to our community both for those who come to shop and for those who create a sense of belonging and welcome with one another through their volunteering.

The good work we do at Mount Seymour cannot be sustained without the generous financial support of our congregation. The Covid years have placed a significant strain on our resources. In the Fall, the Council organized a Stewardship Campaign in which we invited participants to reflect on the significance of Mount Seymour United in their lives; to increase their givings; go on PAR; and consider a gift to the church in their will. We are immensely grateful for those who responded to this call and encourage those of you who may still be able to respond to do so with generosity.

For too many years to count, Fay Butterfield has quietly kept track of our offerings. At the end of December, Fay resigned from her position due to health concerns. We cannot thank her enough for her faithful service to the church.

In 2022, I continued to serve on the Board of Naramata Centre representing Treena Duncan, Executive Minister of Pacific Mountain Region. This year we hired a new Executive Director and began work on a Strategic Plan to sustain the Centre into the future. I also served on the Fundraising Cabinet for the First Forward Campaign to redevelop First United Church. My continuing education time was spent completing a two year certificate program in Spiritual Direction with the Haden Institute. I graduated from the program in May and was honoured to be invited to join the leadership team offering silent retreats at Rivendell Retreat Centre on Bowen Island. As this is a learning curve for me, I will continue to use my continuing education time for this ministry.

In September, I was completely caught off guard by the surprise birthday party thrown for me during our welcome back lunch. It was such a beautiful reflection of the heart of our community that I am so blessed to serve. Those of you who give of your time, talents and presence for the life and work of our church are such an affirmation of our Easter faith. We have endured many hardships these last several years but with faith, perseverance and the love and power of God, we continue to live and proclaim the good news to one another and the world around us.



Thank you to our wise and thoughtful Council, to Mary Sparks, Kathryn Ferriss, Kelly Nobles, Kirsten Harkins, Ward Branch, Younes Skhissi and Lorna Leckie who meet each month to make faithful decisions on our behalf for the direction of the church. Thank you to Catherine Branch and the Ministry and Personnel Committee and to Steve Wellenbrink and the Property Team for their tending of our human and physical resources. Thank you to the Thrift Shop Leadership Team, the Strategic Planning Team and to each and every one who has served our ministry in a myriad of ways.

Our core staff team of Carla, Alexis, Jenn and Julian are to be commended for their tireless efforts on our behalf. Cheryl, Ross, Dani, Marcus, Dominique, Rebecca, John and Sabrina are highly committed part time staff members who do a tremendous job reflecting our core values, getting things done and animating our communal life.

Together, we are a testament to the goodness of life and the ability we have within us to find a way through times of joy and challenge. Thanks Be.

Rev. Nancy Talbot

## ASSOCIATE MINISTER | REV. CARLA WILKS



The Dalai Lama said “*Open your arms to change, but don’t let go of your values.*” We have been through a lot of change over the last few years, but we have always been able to hold on to what is important to us and find meaningful ways to move forward through the difficult times of restricted gathering. Thankfully 2022 gave us a lot more flexibility. I’m so grateful for the openness and commitment of so many people who have worked together to make Mount Seymour what it is today, despite the many challenges and changes.

I appreciated the small group who joined me in the first half of the year on Wednesday mornings for a reading and some prayer time at Sacred Pause.

Monthly meditation evenings continued and in 2022 I led them simultaneously in person and via Zoom. This allowed those who live far outside the area, plus those who prefer the comfort of their own space, to continue to participate while also allowing in-person meditation in the sanctuary. Other opportunities for reflection and growth together were the Lent and Advent book studies, which always left me feeling inspired by the group conversations that took place.

Our commitment to seeking opportunities for reconciliation continued with our Indigenous Book Study. In the first half of the year we met on Zoom, reading two books together. We decided to do something different in the fall, and we read two additional books and had discussions after church on Sundays. It was great to have people who hadn’t participated before join our studies in the fall. The more that we can learn about the truth of Indigenous experiences in Canada, the better equipped we will be to engage in helpful dialogue when we are faced with misinformation and unjust stereotypes.

In our community outreach ministry, we continue to support First United Church through our Thrift Shop sales and goods, and also through our participation in the Coldest Night of the Year walk in 2022. I know that our contributions to First United make a significant difference in the lives of people living in the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver. I also had the privilege of getting to know and supporting a Palestinian refugee in her plight to get her immigration application processed and her family reunited. I am so thankful for this community for your willingness to help when presented with opportunities to make a difference.

Our mental health ministry team worked throughout the year to get our plan and proposal together, and we look forward to it being launched in 2023.

I enjoy being involved in all aspects of the Thrift Shop, from sharing the values of the church at the new volunteer orientation interviews, interviewing summer students, and getting to know the volunteers during their shift. I love hearing the stories of customers in the Shop and supporting the Thrift Shop staff when and where I can. I enjoy participating on the Leadership team and feel privileged that I get to lead the Strategic planning team. I'm so grateful to all our volunteers for the many hours that they give to the Shop to make it such a success. The connections and support that I have witnessed between the volunteers continues to inspire me, and as part of the leadership team, we continue to find ways to nurture those relationships and that kind of community.

The Strategic Planning Team for the Thrift Shop was rebooted in 2022, with a task to take a look at the strategic plan that was completed in 2020 and implement the plan in ways that will be helpful to the long term stability of the Shop. Also more generally, as a team we look at the Shop from a big picture perspective rather than from a day to day operational perspective.

In my wider church work with the Pacific Mountain Region, I continue to serve on the Lay Leadership Support Committee, and one of the exciting projects that I have been involved with is the online learning modules that we created for the training of Ministry and Personnel Committees throughout the Region. I also had the privilege of being chaplain at the Candidacy Board interviews for United Church students who are at different stages of their ministry exploration/education and training.

As ministers there is an expectation that we will participate in continuing education each year to expand and strengthen our skills. In 2022 I participated in a Dementia Learning Summit which added to the dementia focused learning that I did a few years ago. I also took the Ministry of Supervision course in the fall, which is a required course for accreditation as an educational supervisor for a ministry student. That was a really helpful course, and I have continued to meet regularly with the triad I practiced with during the course, for ongoing practice. In October I attended the Total Clergy Wellbeing event at Naramata Centre. The event was inspiring and renewing and gave me some much needed time for reflection. I had not been to Naramata since I went as a teenager in the early 1990s, so it was really good to be back there. The most valuable thing for me at that event was the opportunity to connect in person with colleagues again. It was a wonderful time of sharing and reflecting together on the challenges and joys of ministry.

Mount Seymour United Church is special, and as many of you know, one of my favourite pastimes is telling people just how special we are. It is even better when we get to hear how special we are from

others. I recently had a great opportunity to do that when I was invited to the office of our MP, Terry Beech, because we received the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Award in November. We received this honour because of our hard work and community dedication as well as for exemplifying the spirit of the Queen's Jubilee, which included providing a safe and welcome space for LGBTQ2S+ folks, and the great work that the Thrift Shop does to support the community through low-cost goods, recycling, and opportunities for volunteerism, and creating community. Mr. Beech also talked about the work that we do to support refugees, and the support of youth through the summer job program. He also noted that we serve the community when we open our building for use by all candidates' meetings and concerts. I took the opportunity to tell him about our support of First United in the Downtown Eastside and the Giving Tree that we have during Advent. I was so proud to represent you and accept the award for all that we do as a congregation in the community.



These were some of the highlights for me of 2022. I don't know what 2023 will bring, but whatever happens, I know we will open our arms to the challenges and opportunities but hang on tight to our values. 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 next year toward even more meaningful ministry in our community and beyond.

With gratitude,

Rev. Carla

## WORSHIP AND CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT

After a last minute change in our plans for in-person worship on Christmas Eve, 2021 due to health restrictions, we started 2022 off with what felt like a daring decision. With an abundance of caution, rather than staying closed on Sundays and returning to having only worship online like most of our neighbouring United Churches, we decided to keep our doors open. It was a good way to satisfy those who wanted to continue worshipping in person while serving those who chose to stay safe at home by posting the weekly recording.

We started the year with our tradition of distributing star gift words on Epiphany Sunday. Inspired by both in person and recorded testimonials about how individual star gifts had guided people (or not!) in the previous year, we are always grateful for those who come forward to share what their word has meant to them. For the rest of the season of Epiphany, we were carried by the theme “Let Your Light Shine” as we explored different spiritual practices that help



us to keep our faith during difficult times. A highlight of this season was having our Children and Family Minister, Anne Ellis, preach. We were so happy to be able to have the Gospel Choir back in our midst to celebrate Black History month in February as the pandemic began to slowly wane once again.



Lent began with an in-person Ash Wednesday service for the first time in two years. Our theme for the season “Good Enough” based on the book of the same name by author Kate Bowler really struck a chord. During a time when our world has felt so off balance, reflecting on how blessed we are, regardless of how imperfect our lives and world might be, hit home. Many people chose to read Kate’s book as part of their Lenten discipline and Rev. Carla and Rev. Nancy hosted both online and in-person gatherings for further discussion.

After a rousing Easter service featuring Marcus Mosely and the Gospel Choir, we settled into several weeks of reflecting on “Life after Death: Living as an Easter People.” One of our Thrift Shop Volunteers, Chris Lovelidge, captured our imaginations when he came one Sunday to talk about his near death experience. To enhance this series, we hosted two evenings to “talk about death.” The first focussed on having a “good death” and was led by Rev. Wade Lifton. The second was a Death Café in which people ended up sharing about their thoughts and experiences with Medical Assistance in Dying.

In the Spring, Anne Ellis ran a group for youth seeking to reaffirm their baptismal faith and Rev. Nancy hosted an adult seekers group for people wanting to become full members of the church. On Pentecost Sunday, four youth and three adults made professions of faith at a wonderful all-ages service. This bittersweet celebration was also Anne's last Sunday with us before she left to complete a Supervised Ministry Experience in Summerland in preparation for Ordination. We are so grateful for Anne's faithful years of service with us and the many lives she touched during her tenure.

During the summer season of "Ordinary Time" Nancy and Carla preached lectionary based sermons and the pattern of our services followed a simpler format. As summer drew to a close, we booked Cates Park for our annual Labour Day Sunday outdoor worship service but for the second year in a row we ended up inside due to rain. It was still a great day to launch our fall theme "Living with Respect in Creation" in which we looked at the ways we could reduce, reuse, recycle, repent, reclaim and rejoice to honour our relationship with creation. A high point of this series was Thanksgiving Sunday when we had our first all-ages service with spiritual practice stations since February 2020.

Our next series, "Reshaped: What We're Made For" was probably our most popular of 2022. Learning about change theory while reflecting on changes in our personal lives and in the church was relevant for many. The fact that each Sunday we were invited to create something with PlayDoh made each week a new adventure.



We followed this series with two weeks of Stewardship focusing on Living Generously. One week we concentrated on why people are generous with their givings to our congregation and the next week we highlighted the ways we are generous towards the community around us. We also celebrated those who have made bequests to the church through their wills.

Our Advent Theme "Reflecting the Sacred" was based on the teachings of Father Richard Rohr. The companion book study helped us stay grounded in the places we see the sacred reflected around us in the world and in one another. Despite record snowfalls, we had a fantastic turnout from the Gospel Choir on Advent Four. When Christmas Eve arrived in the midst of travel disruptions, leaks and floods due to melting snow, we were so grateful to be able to open our doors and welcome the public back for two services for the first time in three years. Hearing the joyous sounds of the many children who came for the 4pm service and standing together to sing Joy to the World at the 7pm service lifted our spirits and reminded us why there really is nothing like gathering in person for worship. The live pageants at both services were made up of every child and youth currently connected to the church. It was so good to be able to celebrate in person!

## **Music Ministry**

With in-person worship back in session this year we were so grateful to have our amazing music ministry team of Julian Pattison, Marcus Mosely and Dominique Hogan in place on Sunday mornings. They do an excellent job at choosing and creating music to amplify our worship experience. Marcus and Dominique were joined regularly by Dan Morrison on drums and the days when Mary Sparks showed up with her flute were always appreciated. Marc and Michelle Coulombe shared their musical talent with us both for our Cates Park service and then again on Christmas Eve. Tierney Ness and Catherine Branch loaned us their voices on Christmas Eve, making our worship truly special. We are so grateful for all who share their musical gifts with us.

During the summer months we give our musicians a break. This year Sean Bayntun and Arielle Balance covered most weeks.

## **Audio Visual**

Owen Hoover has done a great job running the power point and sound system on Sunday mornings, for Memorial Services and special events . We were sad to say goodbye to him in December when he moved to Summerland but grateful that Dani Durland was willing to take over the position. Sheida Canary has also been trained on the system and she has filled in for both Owen and Dani on occasion. Angela Wilks has been editing our services from Waterloo, Ontario, where she attends university. This allows people not able to be with us in person to watch the service online after it has been posted.

## **Adult Faith Formation**

The Meditation Group, led by Rev. Carla, continued to meet via zoom once a month and most months in person as well.

Pilgrims' Path, led by Rev. Nancy, met monthly to worship, share a meal and engage in Spiritual Practices. Their January retreat was cancelled due to Covid but the May and September retreats went ahead. In September we had an intake of new members and the format was somewhat changed. We no longer share a meal before we meet and groups of three and four meet once a month in between sessions to share experiences. There were over 22 participants enrolled in Pilgrims' Path this year.

Healing Yoga was offered on Monday evenings throughout the fall by Kirsten Harkins. Donations for the United Church Healing Fund in support of Residential School Survivors are collected each week. Thank you to Kirsten for offering this ministry which reaches out to the community and supports a worthy cause.

In both the Spring and Fall, Rev. Carla led Indigenous Book Studies to explore issues related to Indigenous people in Canada. In the Winter and Spring they met online and read “They Called me Number One: Secrets and Survival at an Indian Residential School” by Bev. Sellars and “Five Little Indians” by Michelle Good. In the fall they met in person following Sunday worship reading “My Conversations with Canadians” by Lee Maracle and “Highway of Tears: A True Story of Racism, Indifference and the Pursuit of Justice for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls” by Jessica McDiarmid.

Online and in-person book discussion groups were offered during the seasons of Advent and Lent. During Lent we read “Good Enough” by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie and for Advent we read “Every Thing is Sacred” by Richard Rohr and Patrick Boland.

A Seekers Group was offered in May to those wishing to become full members of the church.

Our weekly worship services and faith formation programs are planned and executed by a small but dedicated team made up of staff and most importantly, volunteers. Carol Pettigrew continues to enhance our worship experiences through beautiful visual displays based on each season’s themes. Kathryn Ferriss makes sure we have bread to share and cups to bless for communion each month. To each of you who has said “yes” to reading scripture, sharing a story about your life of faith, serving communion or lighting the Advent wreath, we say thank you for enriching our worshipping life. To the greeters who do such a wonderful job of welcoming us each Sunday and then grabbing people to help take up the offering we offer our heartfelt appreciation. Thanks also to our “alumni” who returned home at Christmas and so willingly stepped into the roles of greeting, lighting candles and taking up the offering.

Respectfully submitted by Rev. Nancy on behalf of the worship team: Kathryn Ferriss, Jen-Beth Fulton, Carol Pettigrew, Julian Pattison, Rev. Carla Wilks, Anne Ellis and Ross Shearer.

## **Children and Youth**

Anne Ellis spent time with the children in Children’s Community each Sunday until her last Sunday with us in June. She also continued to host regular gatherings for local youth to play Dungeons and Dragons.

What a gift Anne has been to our community and to a generation of children and youth at MSUC. They showed their appreciation by coming to bless her on her way on her final Sunday.



During the summer we had some youth volunteers be with the children on Sundays. Thank you to Katie, Sam and Heather for helping us out in the summer.

In September Ross Shearer was hired to be our Children's Ministry Coordinator. He comes to us from Trinity United Church in Port Coquitlam, and he has worked at Camp Spirit (our Regional Summer Day Camp for Children) for many years. He has been planning the Sunday morning Children's Community and developing relationships with our MSUC children.



Games Night continued throughout 2022, with Anne Ellis hosting them once a month until April. Rev. Carla and her partner, Billy Harasymow have been hosting them since May. Games night continues to be a fun evening event for all ages. Families, seniors, children and everyone in between come to play a variety of board games at a number of different tables.

During Advent the children had some fun Advent activities, like baking cookies, and the children and youth enjoyed participating in our Christmas Eve services.

Submitted by Rev. Carla

## MISSION AND OUTREACH



In 2022 we did not meet as a formal committee, but as a congregation we participated in a number of outreach projects. In February we had a team in the Coldest Night of the Year walk, and we raised \$2980 for First United Church.

We were involved in some advocacy and support for a local Palestinian refugee who has experienced many setbacks and delays in the process of her immigration and has also been trying to bring her husband, a journalist in danger in Gaza, to Canada to be with her and their sons. We coordinated a meeting between her and our MP, and we also gave her a financial gift from our refugee fund to help with the fees associated with her application.

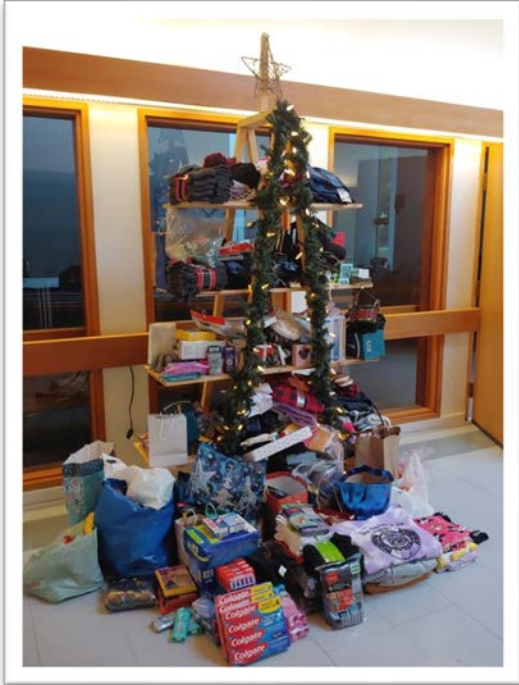
Our Thrift Shop continues to be a significant place where outreach to the community happens. We provide goods in need to a number of organizations. On several occasions in 2022 we provided goods for families in need who had experienced devastation in some way (lost everything in a fire, new to this country and neighbourhood as refugees, lost income, etc.) or were otherwise in need.

In September we had a table at Parkgate Days. We had some great opportunities to share about Mount Seymour United's programs and activities to members of the community, and hear about Mount Seymour's impact and community focused reputation from members of the wider community.

In 2022 for the second year, we participated in the Blueridge Cares Christmas hamper program. We provided Thrift Shop gift certificates to all of the individuals who were supported by the hamper program.



Our Giving Tree was a success again in 2022, with many items collected for both Hollyburn Family Services (North Shore Youth Safe House) and First United Church.



Thank you for remaining committed to the ways that we reach out to the community beyond our walls and help to make a difference in people's lives.

Submitted by Rev. Carla

### **Mental Health Ministry**

Mount Seymour United Church is committed to supporting the mental health of our community.

In that respect, we have identified a gap in the availability of counselling for those suffering from mental health challenges, particularly given the limitations on the extent to which counselling is covered by public or private insurance plans.

To assist in remedying this problem, Mount Seymour United Church has created a pilot project with a commitment of \$35,000 to fund various initiatives over the next year, including financial assistance to support individuals who are seeking therapy. A team has been working throughout 2022 to get this project up and running. We hope to launch it in 2023. There is more information and an application on the church website.

Submitted by Rev. Carla on behalf of the team: Ward Branch, Tierney Ness and Mary Sparks

ART INSTALLATIONS | ANNE ELLIS AND BRENDA FAWKES



## CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

### **Sunday Morning Coffee**

One thing we missed at the height of Covid was the opportunity to be in face to face conversation with one another. Even after we returned to the building, it was a long time before we started serving coffee and tea on Sunday mornings and encouraging people to stay and visit with one another after our services. By the fall, the buzz after church had returned to pre-Covid levels. Thank you to everyone who came in early on Sundays, made coffee and tea, served it and cleaned up and to Pat Wall who organizes the team.

### **Sunday Lunches**

In April, Frank Luba and Lima Branch organized our first in-person lunch since the start of the pandemic. Perogies, cabbage rolls and polish sausage were made and served as a fundraiser to assist those fleeing the war in Ukraine. \$1000 was raised. Thanks to everyone who volunteered and supported the cause

In June, Peter and Ellen Muirhead returned to the kitchen to organize our annual Church Picnic. This event dovetailed beautifully with our farewell celebrations for Anne Ellis.

Peter and Ellen hosted well attended lunches in September and October as well as the annual Turkey Lunch fundraiser in November. Being able to gather at table with good food, company and conversation really helped us to regain a sense of being community once again. Thank you Ellen, Peter and all who volunteered to help out.

### **Men's and Women's Breakfast**

Both groups have seen growth during 2022 welcoming new members into their fold. The women meet in the Café space on Saturday mornings for coffee and the men meet on Thursdays and purchase their breakfast from the Café. Men's and Women's Breakfast are the longest standing groups at the church. The mutual support and belonging they offer one another is a vital part of our ministry.

### **Caring Connections Team**

The team, made up of Ruth Townsend, Sherrill McLeary, Jen-Beth Fulton, Judy Frey, Mardi Joughin, Carla Wilks and Nancy Talbot, meet once a month. In between meetings they pray for, phone, visit, deliver prayer shawls and send cards to people in need. They offer hospitality for our Blue Christmas service and deliver poinsettias to those who live in care homes or those who have had a challenging year. Carla also oversees Meal Trains as needed.

## **Prayer Shawl Ministry**

Judy Frey took over leadership of this ministry from Sylvia Zandberg this year. She ensures that there is wool available for knitters and organizes the shawls that have been made. Thank you to Judy and to everyone who has donated wool, knit and delivered shawls to those in need of care.



## **The Library**

This summer the library was moved out into the hallway across from the offices in order to turn the former library spaces into a children's ministry area. Sharon Brain created this new space which has been very well received. People are enjoying having the books in a higher traffic area. Thanks to Sharon and all the volunteers who tend the well curated books.

## PASSAGES

### We Remember

Janice Marie Finney (October 31, 1946 - May 20, 2022)

Betty Blair (January 14, 1926 – March 19, 2020) at the Shadbolt Center on May 27, 2022

Dilys Sostad (November 29, 1942 – December 21, 2020) Memorial service held at MSUC on May 14, 2022

Jean Wilkinson (September 24, 1935 – February 19, 2022)

Ron Morrice (July 12, 1928 – April 3, 2022) Memorial Service at MSUC on July 12, 2022

Gwen Kendrick (October 7, 1939 – July 13, 2022)

George and Ann Lactin (Ann - September 5, 1947 - August 16, 2022 | George - December 28, 1940 - March 2, 2022) Memorial Service at MSUC on December 3, 2022

Marie Querns (October 27, 1926 – September 1, 2022) Memorial Service at MSUC on October 26, 2022

Bryan Ralph (January 25, 1941 – November 4, 2022) Memorial Service at MSUC on November 22, 2022

Helen Talbot (October 26, 1924 – November 21, 2022)

Alan Furniss (June 14, 1936 – December 6, 2022) Memorial Service at MSUC on December 10, 2022

### Celebrations

#### WEDDINGS

Durwin Foster and Fabienne Kuhn were married at the church on October 23, 2022

#### CHURCH MEMBERSHIP by Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows

- Allison Branch
- Abigail Grace Keith
- Samantha Irene McKay
- Kathryn Rose Adele Savoy
- Tierney Sue Ness
- Jennifer Joanne Skhissi
- Younes Skhiss



## ADMINISTRATOR/COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR | JENN FARRELL



The past year has been an increasingly busy time full of more church activities, more and more friendly faces, increased rental inquiries, operational improvements and exciting changes in our Café space.

We have welcomed back in-person many familiar programs like meditation, spiritual study groups, book studies, congregational lunches, Gospel Choir and have added yoga for healing into our weekly and monthly activities.

Comfort in the Cove has returned as our weekly Monday night renter and we are pleased to now host the Lynn Valley Gardening Club's monthly speaking event. We have also enjoyed having the very popular Deep Cove Coffee House back in our sanctuary.

Operationally, we have leased a new photocopier machine and have purchased the sanctuary's projector outright. We have a new cleaning company WJ Cleaning owned by Wilfredo Muñoz who have taken on helping us keep the increasingly busier space clean.

Cheryl Shott continues to be a great support with my financial administrative tasks. Donna Pawluk has been a valued asset in counting, depositing funds and also became another signing officer which is a great help in ensuring cheques can be issued in a timely manner. Fay Butterfield has been wonderful to work with and to her great credit has kept all our tax records straight throughout the years. Steve Wellenbrink has become a great asset and resource in helping manage building maintenance and problem solving. I really appreciate all of their help.

One of the biggest changes and exciting challenges this year has been the launch of the Café project. We started planning in early spring, spent the entire summer working through renovation plans, repairing espresso/coffee equipment, re-organizing the kitchen and working with volunteers to re-imagine the look and feel of the café space. Logan Grotta, student from the Thrift Shop summer program, was incredibly helpful in assisting with cleaning, re-organizing, painting and staffing the Café once we opened.

As we have learned and grown, we welcomed Cristina Arnold into our Café who was able to help move us even closer to where we are today. I am very grateful for all their help and the support we have received from everyone at the Church.

Jenn Farrell, Office Administration and Communications



## THRIFT SHOP | ALEXIS DOSS



2022 was another remarkable year for the Thrift Shop – here are a few statistics:

We raised \$37,238.70 for First United.

Our sales Thrift Shop sales for 2022 was \$248,258.00.

We made \$5726 from craigslist and Sport Swap sales in 2022 for combined total of \$253,984.

Our social media presence has grown steadily. We now have 414 followers on Instagram, 663 followers on Facebook.

We hired two assistant managers (John Andreychuk and Rebecca Gabriel) to join our team.

Our customer demographic increased as well in both age and gender. The numbers of customers are now reaching that of pre-covid.

The shop is now open three days a week (Thursdays 11-6pm, Fridays 11-4pm, and Saturday 11-4pm). This has been well received by customers and has allowed us to move more products and reach more customers.

We added 15 new volunteers to our roster, for a total of 115 active volunteers – some of which take a leave or are not able to be active on a regular basis.

Our donations have continued to increase. We continue to have pickups from Diabetes Canada, Big Brothers and Salvation Army which take everything we cannot sell three times a week.

We continue to recycle items we can not sell or use. Our volunteers graciously offered to drop off books, clothing, metal, stationary, toys and electronic recycling to various recycling stations.

Last summer we had 8 paid student employees funded by a grant from the Federal Government.



By any measurement, we are a growing and thriving social enterprise operation that serves our neighborhood and community. We give 15% of our revenue to First United Church, but we also give in-kind clothing and other items they tell us they need.

**Some of the community organizations we support are:**

Yarn for Prayer Shawls at the church

Looking Glass Project on North Shore (yarn to support those suffering from bulimia, anorexia and other eating disorders)

North Shore Youth Safe House

First United Church

Eyeglasses to Third World Eye Care Society

**We have also:**

Supported Thrive for Blacks donation drive for families impacted affected by Covid-19 with clothing and household goods

Donated towels to Wildlife rescue B.C.

Donated cutlery to Windsor Secondary School recycling initiative

While we do not ask prospective volunteers about their spiritual beliefs, we do reflect the values of Mount Seymour United Church, and we are clear with prospective volunteers that we are part of the church community.

We are looking into a permanent second donation shed in lieu of the rented shipping container we have now and continue to look for new ways to outsource items we can't use or don't accept.

I want to close by telling you that my work with MSUC Thrift Shop has given me many contacts and friends that I would not have made otherwise – so am very appreciative of this opportunity – and to get to know so many special people on many levels.

It has also shown me how caring our volunteers are –they take on responsibilities of working with others who may be suffering in many ways; they network with other agencies in the community and make our shop a compassionate and caring environment.

Rev. Carla and I would like to express our gratitude for the Leadership Team of the Thrift Shop, who meet monthly to work to discuss and problem solve to keep the shop running smoothly on a daily basis. The Leadership team consists of Alexis Doss, Rev. Carla Wilks, Judy White, Norma Austin, Jill Greengrass, Toni Rivera, Irene Huva, Ginny Lovelidge, Maya Regehr, Mavis Simmons, Eileen Wegwitz and Gail Whitney.

The Thrift Shop Strategic Planning team was rebooted in 2022, with an eye on the longer-term goals of the shop and on helping to problem solve the issues inhibiting the shop's growth, some of which were identified in the strategic plan that was completed in 2020. Many thanks to this team for their time and energy and commitment to the shop's success. The team includes Rev. Carla Wilks, Roger Brain, Kim Branch, Judy White, Gail Whitney and Dale Kobewka.

I can't close without giving special acknowledgement to our faithful and long-standing volunteer – Bud Taggart – who we need to acknowledge with a big VOTE OF THANKS – Let's give him a BIG ROUND OF APPLAUSE...

I would also like to thank Chris Loveridge for all the shelving, hanging and fixing he has done for the shop in the past few years.

Thank you all for your support and friendship.

Alexis Doss, Manager, MSUC Thrift Shop

## THE CAFÉ PROJECT

One of the most exciting developments at the church this year has been the creation of a Café. The Café is open three days a week from 11 – 3pm serving delicious food and drinks at a reasonable price.

The Café Project was initially conceived by a team of Lori Keith, Lisa Banks, Nancy Talbot and our office administrator, Jenn Farrell as a way to create opportunities for vocational development for people with social economic barriers while providing a place of welcome and belonging for Thrift Shop customers and neighbours. Funding for the start up came from three sources: The Kerr Bequest; A Pacific Mountain Region Provision Grant; and a private donation.



Jenn, who has extensive experience in the hospitality industry, was hired to oversee the development of the project. Over the course of the summer she worked with contractors to renovate the kitchen and with Thrift Shop volunteers who decorated the café space. Our first barista was hired in September and by October we opened our doors to the public. As word of mouth spread through the community throughout the fall, more and more customers started showing up. Volunteers stepped in to help with hosting and clean up.

On the Thursday before Christmas, one of the last days the café was open in 2022, Ruth Townsend and her Parkgate Singers hosted a Christmas Carol Sing-along. It was a great way to introduce the café to a wider audience.

The Café is a pilot project we will continue to nurture into 2023. A Partnership with The North Shore Foundry is underway and in the Spring we will apply for a grant from the National Church's Seeds of Hope program. Stop by for lunch or coffee and a scone. Bring your friends!

Jenn Farrell, Café Manager and Rev. Nancy

## MINISTRY & PERSONNEL | CATHERINE BRANCH

As Chair, I am so lucky to work with one of the best staffs ever. Mount Seymour is very lucky to have such a dedicated group working with us every day.

### **Ministry**

Rev. Nancy Talbot continues to provide outstanding leadership and oversight, supervision to our ministry team and lay staff, worship, pastoral care, faith formation and spiritual practices to our church community.

Rev. Carla Wilks, has been working diligently and pastorally supervising the volunteers and staff in the Thrift Shop, engaging with the local community, leading worship, book study and Sacred Pause.

In June, we were very sad to have our long time Minister of Children and Families, Anne Ellis, move on from her home here at Mount Seymour to take on her own congregation in Summerland, BC. Our loss is Summerland's gain and we sent Anne along with our love and prayers.

In September, we hired Ross Shearer as our Interim Children and Families Minister. Ross comes from a background of the United Church's Camp Spirit and has been keen on working here with our children's group and is doing a great job.

### **Music**

Julian Pattison remains our Music Minister. He leads our worship three Sundays a month with a selection of moving, meaningful and joyous music and we are so grateful to have him.

Marcus Mosely and Dominique Hogan are back with our much-loved Gospel Choir Sundays ten times per year. Gospel Sundays are a source of joy for many in our congregation and Marcus and Dominique share their talents with us with grace.

### **Thrift Shop**

Alexis Doss, our fearless Thrift Shop Manager, has kept the Shop running like clockwork and taken on new ways of reaching out to the community. For example, we are lucky to hire eight summer students through a Federal government employment grant. Alexis has taken this program for students and expanded it beyond just work experience. She has programming for the students to make it a more enriching experience.

In July, Sandi Smith, the Assistant Manager decided to leave us. We have been very lucky to have Rebecca Gabriel and John Andreychuk join us. Between them, they share Sandi's hours and give us twice the flexibility to cover holidays and other absences. They also give us twice the ideas and initiative and we are thrilled to have them.

## **Administration**

Jenn Farrell has been working away, both in her office and out! She continues in her main role as our office administrator, creating PowerPoints for Sunday, putting together the e-news weekly, upkeeping the website and then taking care of all of the other office items and financial paperwork that come across her desk. Outside of the office, she has taken on a contract to get our new Café up and running! She has used her skills in food management to help get the kitchen ready, staff in place and everything started. She even does the baking!!

Cheryl Shott continues as our bookkeeper. While she is travelling a lot in her semi-retirement, she is in touch and working when we need her.

Thank you so much to the Ministry and Personnel team this year: Michelle Coulombe, Kirsten Harkins, Dale Kobewka, and Peter Muirhead and a special thank you to Kirsten for attending Council meetings on our Committee's behalf.

Catherine Branch

Chair, Ministry and Personnel Committee

## PROPERTY | STEVE WELLENBRINK

2022 was a year where we welcomed people back into the church. The renewed property team met several times in 2022. We made progress on some issues and are working on several priorities in 2023.

The kitchen renovation to accommodate the café was completed in 2022. The result has been well received. The upgraded configuration serves the café well. It also seems to work well for rental users and for Sunday morning food and beverage service. One concern that we have is the 30 year old dishwasher, and that it is getting near the end of its service life. We are putting together a contingency plan/budget for its eventual replacement.

We had to find a new snow plowing and salting contractor, as The Parkway Crew discontinued offering those services. We got off to a bit of a rough start with the new contractor, but eventually they got the message that we are not a one day a week kind of operation.

Thank you to all the gardening team volunteers for keeping our gardens looking so good. Last Fall we contracted with Holland Landscapers Ltd. to do an end of the season clean-up. Starting March 2023, we have hired Holland Landscapers to do garden maintenance every two weeks. This is in support of our volunteer gardeners. Holland will mow and edge the lawns, weed beds, trim and prune as needed. They will be on site every second Friday at about 11:00.

There was a leak into Nancy and Jenn's offices on Christmas Eve. The leaks occurred during snow melting and warming temperatures. We contacted our insurance carrier, who dispatched an adjuster and a contractor to look at the situation. The damage is minimal, and doesn't warrant a claim. Burrard Roofing investigated the possibility of a roof leak. At this point there is no definitive reason for the leak. In the meantime we will have to open up the wall to check for toxic mould.

We are hoping to organize another Spring cleaning Saturday this year. Our Spring cleaning day was well supported and yielded great results. Believe it or not, it was also a fun way to be together and get to know people a little better. Thanks to everyone who came out to help.

The motorized door at the thrift shop entrance was repaired this year, however, there are still ongoing problems with its operation. I sure hope that I'm not writing about the thrift shop door again next year.

In 2022 we started investigating the upgrading of our sanctuary sound system. We are currently evaluating proposals from two audio/visual firms which specialize in audio/visual systems for churches. We intend to get input from key users (Deep Cove Coffee House, for example) in making a decision. A modern system, with a digital mixer will make things easier for existing users (as they will just have to push a button to get back to their settings after a different user has changed things). It could also prove

to be a selling point in attracting new rental groups who require a better sound system than what we currently have. The good news is that our projector that broke down recently can be repaired for a few hundred dollars, rather than the ten to twenty thousand for a replacement. Good news.

Please let me know if you have and comments or concerns around property issues.

Kindly,

Steve Wellenbrink, Chair

Jenn Farrell

Brenda Fawkes

Jocelyne Cottier

Frank Luba

Heathir Naesgaard



## 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. As covid restrictions have eased and comfort levels have increased, we have been able to host new and returning groups back into our space.

### **Concerts and Recitals**

Windsor Secondary School

Seycove Secondary School

Mom Bop Band

Marcus Mosely Chorale & Roxie Giles

Little Mountain Brass Band

Universal Choir

Lions Gate Youth Orchestra

Deep Cove Music

Small Private Music Recitals

### **Annual General Meetings**

Parkgate Manor

### **Community Group**

11<sup>th</sup> Seymour Scout Group

Blueridge Community Association | All Candidates Meeting, District of North Vancouver Election

Small Family Dinners

### **Long-term Rentals**

Deep Cove Coffee House

Lynn Valley Gardening Club

Comfort in the Cove

Bursting with Broadway

## TREASURER'S REPORT | WARD BRANCH

The lingering effects of COVID 19 continued to affect our financial situation in 2022. This Annual Report contains the 2022 financial results and delivers our 2023 budget.

### **2022 Income Statement and Balance Sheet**

We have essentially made it about half way back from the depths of COVID. Givings were up, as was revenue from the Thrift Shop. Indeed, regular givings were as high as they have been in a decade, and the Thrift Shop activity was nearly back to pre-pandemic levels. On the other hand, rental income remains down, largely because we have taken space out of commission for the Thrift Shop expansion, but also because demand for in person meetings has not returned to pre-pandemic levels. Furthermore, our expenses are up, as we have hired additional staff to support new initiatives such as the Thrift Shop expansion and our new café. Another negative element was the fact that there were no more COVID government supports in 2022 to offset our wage costs.

Thankfully, we continue to have capital available to sustain us while we continue to expand our services and outreach. Hopefully the increased revenue we expected to earn from our various new projects and initiatives before COVID will finally reach the levels we were hoping for in 2019.

If there is good news, it is that we expected our funds to have to fall by about \$218,000 last year, but they only fell about \$197,000. So we can at least say that we did better than expected!

Thank you to Meg Clarke for her help organizing our Living Generously stewardship campaign this fall and to everyone who responded by increasing their givings, going on PAR or adding a bequest to their will. Your commitment is making a difference.

### **2023 Annual Budget**

This will be another tough year, unless we see some positive surprises in terms of givings, Thrift Shop revenue or rentals. Furthermore, we will need to pay back \$40,000 of one of the government's COVID loans by the end of the year (silver lining: \$20,000 of this \$60,000 loan will be forgiven). We are projecting that we will need to use a further \$191,000 from our funds this year. On the positive front, this drawdown embeds plans for continued work on special projects such as the Sacred Garden, a Mental Health Ministry, the new Café, and continued support for the Thrift Shop. If all goes well, we are hopeful that we will "turn the corner" in 2023. This budgeted fund drawdown should still leave our reserve funds at more than \$900,000, so we aren't in imminent danger. But we clearly cannot continue on this same

path long term. Either revenue will have to go up (more fun!) or expenses will need to go down (less fun) long term.

Our bookkeeper, Cheryl Shott, is to be commended for her continued good work keeping our financial house in order. She is assisted by our office administrator, Jenn Farrell, who writes cheques, handles our banking and oversees our capable counters, Verna Wilson, Doreen Habbkirk, Gladys Johnston and Marlene Plezia. Donna Pawluk continues to complete our weekly deposits. We thank them for them all for their service.

Our Envelope Secretary, Fay Butterfield, has kept track of our offerings and issued annual tax receipts for several years. We appreciate her dedication to this work and wish her well as she steps down from this position.

Ward Branch

Treasurer

## PACIFIC MOUNTAIN REGION | STEVE WELLENBRINK

The 2022 annual general meeting of Pacific Mountain Region (PMRC) was held in Prince George. The meeting was held in a hybrid style with some attending in person, and others participating online. Carla represented MSUC in person, while Nancy and I participated on line. The keynote speaker was Jeff Chu, and the theme was “Rooted and Grounded in Love” based on Ephesians 3:14-21. It was very inspirational.

In 2023 the annual general meeting will be held in Abbotsford June 1-4. I plan on attending in person, representing MSUC as a lay delegate. We are allowed a second delegate, so hopefully someone will feel called to join our MSUC team for the conference, participating in and bearing witness to the exciting work of the wider church.

Throughout the year PMR staff have continued to provide resources to support the wide diversity of ministries within PMRC. You can learn all about PMRC by exploring their website [pacificmountain.ca](http://pacificmountain.ca) . They all work very hard on our behalf, and we are grateful.

Kindly,

Steve Wellenbrink

MSUC PMRC lay representative

## APPENDIX 1 | 2021 MINUTES ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

### Minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting of Mt. Seymour United Church

1200 Parkgate Avenue and via Zoom

Sunday, April 03, 2022

The following 36 members/adherents were present:

#### Members/Adherents:

Burton Branch, Ellen Muirhead, Peter Muirhead, Marlene Plezia, Marianne Hansen, Toni Rivera, Donna Pawluk, Lori Keith, Fay Butterfield, Alexis Doss, Judy Frey, Joyce Jones, Ruth Townsend, Jim Crook, Jen-Beth Fulton, James Fulton, Carol Pettigrew, Tierney Ness, Jocelyne Cotlier, Anne Ellis, Rev. Nancy Talbot, Michelle Coulombe, Younes Skhissi, Jen Skhissi, Fanella Lane, Bill Mathieson, Meg Clarke, Lorna Leckie, Lima Branch, Frank Luba, Kathryn Ferriss, Mike Hetherington, Bette Shippam (by Zoom), Mary Sparks (by Zoom), Catherine Branch (acting Chair), Ward Branch (Treasurer), Steve Wellenbrink (Property Team), Kirsten Harkins, Rev. Carla Wilks, Kim Branch (recording secretary)

1. **Acting Chair Catherine Branch** welcomed those present in person and by Zoom and called the meeting to order at 12:15 pm. It was noted that over \$1,000 was raised for the Ukrainian fundraiser. Rev. Carla Wilks opened the meeting with a prayer.
2. Catherine Branch confirmed there was a quorum of over 30 members present.

#### 3. Motion to give adherents the right to vote

M/S (Jim Crook / Fay Butterfield) that adherents can be permitted to vote. **Carried unanimously.**

#### 4. Motion to approve AGM Agenda

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

#### 5. Introduction of Council members and staff

Catherine Branch introduced Council members, appointees, and staff.

(a) Rev. Nancy Talbot (Minister), Rev. Carla Wilks (Minister), Mary Sparks (Chair), Steve Wellenbrink (Pacific Mountain Region Representative/Property Committee), Ward Branch (Treasurer), Kelly Nobles (Recording Secretary), (Member-at-Large), Frank Luba (Member-at-Large), Kirsten Harkins (Member-at-Large), Kathryn Ferriss (Member-at-Large)

(b) Council Appointees – Fay Butterfield (Envelope Secretary)

(c) Staff – Rev. Nancy Talbot (Lead Minister), Rev. Carla Wilks (Minister of Community Outreach & Pastoral Care), Anne Ellis (Minister of Children, Families & Congregational Life), Julian Pattison (Music Minister), Jenn Farrell (Office Administrator), Cheryl Shott (Bookkeeper), Alexis Doss (Thrift Shop Manager), Sandi Smith (Assistant Thrift Shop Manager), Marcus Mosely & Dominique Hogan (Gospel Ministry)

**6. Motion to approve AGM Minutes of April 25, 2021**

M/S (Michelle Coulombe / Fay Butterfield) that the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of April 25, 2021 be approved. **Carried unanimously.**

**7. Minister's Report:** Rev. Nancy Talbot provided a summary of 2021 activities, highlighting her sabbatical, the return to in-person activities in the Fall of 2021, and gratitude to Council and staff for their continued adaptability.

For 2022, projects include opening a café space (Lori Keith leading this initiative), focusing on the outdoor space and potential for a sacred garden, a mental health ministry (led by Ward Branch). These projects will be funded from the bequest. Suggestions from the congregation for projects are welcomed.

Anne Ellis is continuing her ministry training at the Atlantic School of Theology and will be completing her Supervised Ministry Experience with another congregation.

The floor was opened to questions. No questions posed.

**8. Thrift Shop Report:** Rev. Carla Wilks provided an overview of Thrift Shop activities in 2021, which has continued to grow. Currently, there are over 100 volunteers, including 17 new volunteers joining this year. The new sorting space was opened in the summer. The Treasure Cove was opened as a dedicated space for jewelry sales. Shop days were extended to three (Thursday, Friday and Saturday). Eight summer students were hired through the federal Canada Summer Jobs program. Senior volunteers were able to return to work on shop days in the fall, and tea time has started again. The floor was opened to questions. No questions posed.**9. Team Reports:** Steve Wellenbrink provided a property report. Special recognition to James Fulton and Gladys Johnson for their stewardship of the building and gardens. Additional volunteers would be welcome, due to these recent retirements. The floor was opened to questions. No questions posed.**10. Treasurer's Report 2021 Financial Statements and 2022 Budget (W. Branch):**

W. Branch presented the Financial Statements for 2021.

From the Balance Sheet (Appendix 2) and Preliminary Income Statement (Appendix 3, including budget), it was noted that:

- The endowment fund was held at its opening balance.
- Government programs were accessed, such as the wage subsidy, which were extended during 2021 but have now ended. The Canada Emergency Business Assistance Loan is an interest free loan until December 31, 2023, with \$20,000 forgiven if repaid by that date.
- Major donors have recently passed, which is impacting the givings.
- The Thrift Shop contribution to First United was \$31,258 – a significant increase from 2020.
- The increase in the National UCC Assessment is a reflection of the financial health of MSUC.
- The Thrift Shop contribution to First United was \$31,258 – a significant increase from 2020.

- The operating deficit was \$48,926, which was better than expected, in large part due to the government programs accessed.
- Proposed growth initiatives are budgeted for 2022:
  - Mental Health Ministry: \$35,000
  - Café Space 2022 Expenses: \$25,000
  - Sacred Garden 2022 Expenses: \$25,000
  - First United Building Contribution: \$10,000
- The proposed 2022 budget will result in a deficit of \$291,197, which will be covered by the endowment fund, bringing the balance of the fund to \$1 million.

The floor was opened to questions.

A question from the floor was a clarification the amortization line item of \$73,362 is an accounting item, and does not represent cash loss (Mike Hetherington).

A question from the floor sought clarification on Thrift Shop impacts (Jim Crook). Improvements to the shop were expensed at \$14,636 in 2021 and budgeted at \$10,000 in 2022. The revenue for 2022 is forecasted at \$235,000, significantly more than in 2020 (\$134,221) and an increase from 2021 (\$213,171). The contribution to First United will continue to increase proportionately.

Motion that the Financial Statements for 2021 as set out in the Annual Report be approved, subject to financial review by Cahill Chartered Accountants. M/S (Kirsten Harkins /Frank Luba) **Carried unanimously.**

Motion that the budget for 2022 as set out in the Annual Report be approved. M/S (Frank Luba /Faye Butterfield) **Carried unanimously.**

**11.** Motion to adopt 2021 Annual Report. Acting Chair Catherine Branch expressed appreciation to staff for its preparation. M/S (Jim Crook /James Fultom) **Carried unanimously.**

**12. Council Elections**

As a result of the two-term maximum, the following members are ending their terms:

- Frank Luba
- Steve Wellenbrink

Volunteers are sought for the Pacific Mountain Region representative.

In summary:

(a) Continuing Council: Rev. Nancy Talbot (Minister); Rev. Carla Wilks (Minister)

- Mary Sparks (2016 – 2020, 2021 – 2023) Chair
- Kirsten Harkins (2020 – 2022) Ministry & Personnel Team representative
- Kelly Nobles (2021 – 2023) as Recording Secretary
- Ward Branch (2021 – 2023) as Treasurer
- Kathryn Ferris (2021 – 2023) as Member-at-Large

(b) 2022 Nominations:

- Younes Skhissi (2022- 2024) as Member-at-Large
- Lorna Leckie (2022- 2024) as Member-at-Large

Motion that Younes Skhissi be voted in as Member-at-Large. M/S (Kirsten Harkins /Frank Luba) Carried unanimously.

Motion that Lorna Leckie be voted in as Member-at-Large. M/S (Lima Branch /Meg Clarke) Carried unanimously.

### **13. Reappointment of Trustees for a further three-year term:**

Motion to reappoint the following people as Trustees: James Fulton, Bill Mathieson, Bette Shippam, Barry Fenton and Ward Branch. M/S (Jim Crook /Mike Hetherington) Carried unanimously.

### **14. Closing Prayer – Rev. Nancy Talbot**

Motion to close the meeting (Kathryn Ferriss). Carried.

**Catherine Branch** adjourned the meeting at 1:30 pm.

**Catherine Branch, Acting Chair**

**Kim Branch, Recording Secretary**



## APPENDIX 2 | BALANCE SHEET AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2022

<b>ASSETS</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash	65,668	72,591
GIC/Term Deposits	1,145,628	1,342,528
Accounts Receivable	37,886	5,110
	1,249,181	1,420,229
<b>Property, Plant and Equipment</b>		
Land	425,151	425,151
Building	2,048,963	2,048,963
Building depreciation	-523,126	-459,549
Furniture and Equipment	110,229	105,802
Furniture and Equip Depreciation	-87,349	-81,693
Café - Bldg Improvements - Cost	11,424	
Café - Bldg Improvements - Depreciation	-228	
Café - Equipment	4,860	
Café - Equipment - Depreciation	-486	
	1,989,437	2,038,674
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>3,238,619</b>	<b>3,458,903</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts payable	2,061	4,141
CEBA Loan	40,000	40,000
Mission and Service	6,725	13,220
Misc. Funds	668	704
First United Church	393	2,535
Syrian Refugee	4,989	7,989
NHSP - New Horizons Seniors Grant	0	6,250
Provision - Youth & Leadership	960	
Payable to First United - Thrift Shop	19,453	17,818
Youth ProVision Grant	0	0
	75,249	92,657
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
VIM Loan	305,045	305,045
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>380,294</b>	<b>397,703</b>
<b>EQUITY AND FUNDS</b>		
<b>Funds</b>		
Sabbatical Fund	15,632	15,632
Memorial Fund	35,714	36,364
Peace Garden Memorial Fund	29,982	29,982

Endowment	1,216,213	1,256,213
Building Contingency Fund	<u>57,641</u>	<u>57,641</u>
	1,355,181	1,395,832
<b>Equity</b>		
Opening Balance	1,665,370	1,762,403
Surplus/Deficit - Operating	-92,279	-25,502
Surplus/Deficit - Depreciation	<u>-69,947</u>	<u>-71,531</u>
	1,503,143	1,665,370
<b>TOTAL EQUITY AND FUNDS</b>	<u><b>2,858,324</b></u>	<u><b>3,061,202</b></u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITES, EQUITY AND FUNDS</b>	<u><u><b>3,238,619</b></u></u>	<u><u><b>3,458,903</b></u></u>

## APPENDIX 3 | INCOME STATEMENT

FOR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2022 & 2023 BUDGET

	<b>2022 Actual 31-Dec</b>	<b>2021 Actual 31-Dec</b>	<b>2023 Budget Annual</b>
<b>REVENUE</b>			
Offerings - Envelopes, PAR, & Other	149,355	142,414	163,024
Open Offering	2,889	709	2,889
Special Offering	14,000		18,167
Fund Allocation from Equity Funds	53,500	23,414	
<b>Total Givings</b>	<b>219,744</b>	<b>166,537</b>	<b>184,080</b>
<b>OTHER REVENUE</b>			
Rentals	7,125	9,355	10,000
Memorials & Weddings	693	0	693
Thrift Shop	253,984	213,171	279,383
Interest	22,516	22,220	17,000
Endowment Investment Income	4,630	36,680	6,000
Fundraising (Coffee House)	399		2,000
Fundraising (Youth/BBQ/Turkey Lunch)			3,000
Mental Health & other Donations/Grants			8,000
NHSP - New Horizons Seniors Grant	6,250	18,750	
Café			57,500
Misc	5,438	20,000	2,500
<b>Total Other</b>	<b>301,036</b>	<b>320,176</b>	<b>386,076</b>
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>520,780</b>	<b>486,714</b>	<b>570,155</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
<b>A Team</b>			
Copier	4,880	2,648	5,000
Office Supplies & Postage	1,434	2,563	1,400
Telephone	1,680	2,046	1,200
Bank Charges	5,993	1,768	3,400
Accountant	1,281	1,281	1,300
Investment Mngement Fees	14,861	24,430	16,000
Computer/Misc	3,124	2,268	2,000
<b>Total Administration</b>	<b>33,254</b>	<b>37,005</b>	<b>30,300</b>
<b>Property</b>			
Bld Maint	4,984	4,745	5,000

Equip Maintenance	195		1,000
Grounds/Handyperson	2,287	3,197	9,000
Sound Maint	1,115	200	700
Bld Heat Maint	320	8,887	1,000
Security	1,193	304	800
Janitorial	22,268	13,067	22,500
Garbage	4,586	5,757	5,000
Water & Sewer	1,807	1,594	2,000
Gas & Electric	13,272	9,574	15,000
Snow	2,465	3,965	3,000
Telephone Office	1,182	873	1,100
Insurance	13,663	11,952	13,600
Kitchen Supplies	492	0	500
Special Projects	see below		5,000
Café - Food/Supplies			17,250
Thrift Shop Improvements	13,957	14,111	12,000
<b>Total Property</b>	<b>83,786</b>	<b>78,225</b>	<b>114,450</b>
<b>TOTAL ADMINISTRATION TEAM</b>	<b>117,040</b>	<b>115,229</b>	<b>144,750</b>
<b>Worship &amp; CD</b>			
Pulpit Relief	100		400
Mental Health			
Youth	470	216	2,500
Library/Misc	9	20	200
Adult Christian Development	1,041	688	1,000
Congregational Meetings			500
Music Supplies	569	1,569	500
Music Director Relief	1,800	750	1,800
Volunteer Training			500
Music Piano/Organ Tuning	726	203	750
Worship Misc Supplies	1,836	1,156	1,800
Sound Production	6,828	4,214	6,900
<b>TOTAL WORSHIP &amp; CD</b>	<b>13,379</b>	<b>8,815</b>	<b>16,850</b>
<b>COUNCIL</b>			
National UCC Assessment	19,618	13,188	24,233
Other Expense	256	552	500
<b>TOTAL COUNCIL</b>	<b>19,874</b>	<b>13,740</b>	<b>24,733</b>
<b>CONGREGATIONAL LIFE</b>			
Advertising	617	1,082	1,200
Fellowship (Lunches/welcoming)	1,436	142	1,000
Mandate Magazine	200	150	200
Sundays - Coffee	868	117	1,000
Pastoral Care	301	126	300

<b>TOTAL CONGREGATIONAL LIFE</b>	3,421	1,617	3,700
<b>CONG. MISSION</b>			
Mission and Outreach			300
First United Thrift Shop Donation	37,239	31,258	41,907
Help Fund			500
<b>TOTAL MISSION</b>	<u>37,239</u>	<u>31,258</u>	<u>42,707</u>
<b>MINISTRY &amp; PERSONNEL</b>			
Wages	298,260	296,077	334,671
CEW - Wage Subsidy		-37,308	0
Ministers' Travel	622	75	700
Sabbatical Fund		4,600	0
Staff Dev. Cont Ed	4,262	4,304	5,200
Honorariums			
CPP	12,883	11,685	13,527
EI	5,792	4,963	6,082
Employee Benefits	48,797	47,156	51,237
M&P Discretionary	1,107	28	300
Work Comp	617	295	650
Hosting	673	417	700
Other Payroll	9,264	9,264	9,264
<b>TOTAL MINISTRY &amp; PERSONNEL</b>	<u>382,279</u>	<u>341,557</u>	<u>422,331</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<u><b>573,232</b></u>	<u><b>512,216</b></u>	<u><b>655,072</b></u>
<b>Operating Surplus/Deficit</b>	<b>-52,452</b>	<b>-25,502</b>	<b>-84,917</b>
Amortization/Depreciation of Assets	-69,947	-71,531	-69,947
<b>GROWTH INVESTMENTS</b>			
Covid Loan repayment			-40,000
Mental Health Ministry			-35,000
Café Space 2022 Expenses	-24,828		0
Sacred Garden 2022 Expenses	-5,000		-20,000
First United Building Contribution	-10,000		0
<b>SURPLUS/DEFICIT</b>	<u><u><b>-162,226</b></u></u>	<u><u><b>-97,033</b></u></u>	<u><u><b>-249,864</b></u></u>

**Outreach Contributions**

M&S	13,212	13,021	3,212
Thrift Shop Contribution to 1St United	37,239	31,258	41,907
NSYSH	58	105	
Ukraine Relief Fund	45		
All National Elite Basketball		2,000	
National Indigenous Healing Fund	550	1,601	
First Forward Contributions - Sunday Offering	640	1,635	
First United	888		

## APPENDIX 4 | 2022 STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES

FOR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2022

## MOUNT SEYMOUR UNITED CHURCH

Statement of Changes in Fund Balances  
Year Ended December 31, 2022

	2021 Balance	Deficiency of revenue over expenses	Contributions	Withdrawals	2022 Balance
<b>Equity</b>	\$ 1,665,368	-162,226			\$ 1,503,142
<b>Funds</b>					
Sabbatical Fund	15,632				15,632
Memorial Fund	36,364			(650)	35,714
Building Contingency Fund	57,641				57,641
Endowment Fund	1,256,213			(40,000)	1,216,213
ProVision Fund for Youth	0				0
Syrian Refugee Fund	7,989			(3,000)	4,989
Redlinger Peace Garden Memorial Fund	29,982				29,982
	<b>\$ 3,069,189</b>	<b>\$(162,226)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$(43,650)</b>	<b>\$ 2,863,313</b>

## Previous Year

Statement of Changes in Fund Balances  
Year Ended December 31, 2020

	2020 Balance	Deficiency of revenue over expenses	Contributions	Withdrawals	2021 Balance
<b>Equity</b>	\$ 1,762,403	-97,034			\$ 1,665,369
<b>Funds</b>					
Sabbatical Fund	20,432			(4,800)	15,632
Memorial Fund	30,314		6,050		36,364
Building Contingency Fund	76,455			(18,814)	57,641
Endowment Fund	1,256,213				1,256,213
ProVision Fund for Youth	0				0

Syrian Refugee Fund	7,989			7,989
Redlinger Peace Garden				0
Memorial Fund		29,982		29,982
	<b>\$ 3,153,806</b>	<b>\$(97,034)</b>	<b>\$ 6,050</b>	<b>\$(23,614)</b>
				<b>\$ 3,039,208</b>

**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**Year Ended December 31, 2022**

**1. PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT**

	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Accumulated Amortization</b>	<b>2022 Net Book Value</b>	<b>2021 Net Book Value</b>
Land	\$ 425,151		\$ 425,151	\$ 425,151
Buildings	2,060,387	523,354	1,537,033	1,589,414
Café Equipment	4,860	486	4,374	
Computer Equipment	2,236	615	1,621	
Furniture and fixtures	107,992	86,734	21,258	24,109
	<b>\$ 2,600,626</b>	<b>\$ 611,189</b>	<b>\$ 1,989,437</b>	<b>\$ 2,038,674</b>

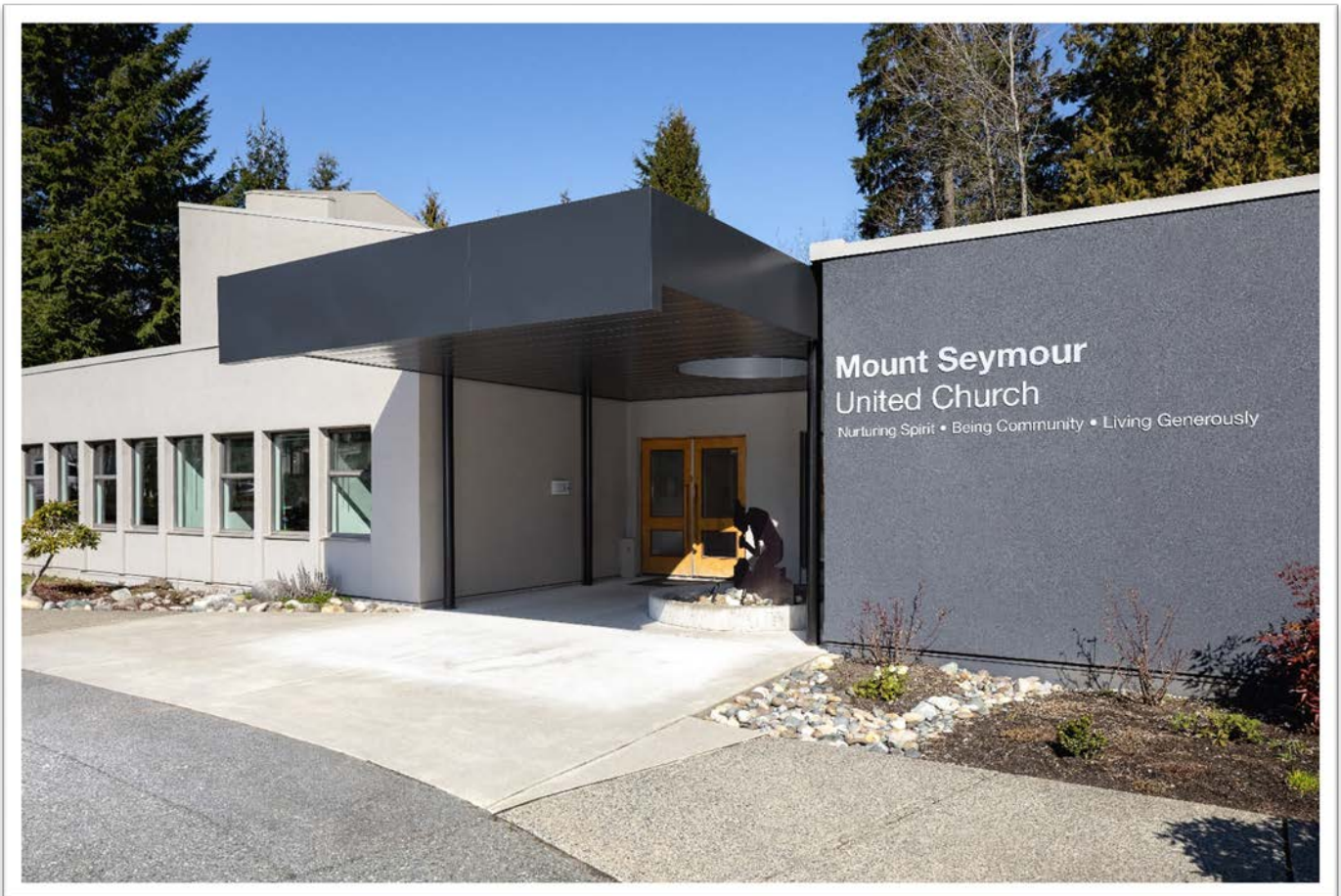




~ Nurturing Spirit

~ Being Community

~ Living Generously



## Mount Seymour United Church

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