

Squamish United Church Board Minutes
October 16, 2024 at 7:00 pm
By Zoom

Present: Rev. Anita Spiller, Trevor Harris (Chair), Cindy Roy (Secretary), Kevin Haberl, Grace Halvorson, Glen Van Brummelen.

1. Call to Order and Land Acknowledgment (Trevor) 7:02 pm
2. Opening Prayer (Rev. Anita)
3. Additions to the Agenda – under Reports, add:

- a. Pastoral Care

Agenda approved as amended – Moved by Glen, seconded by Kevin. Carried

4. Approve September Minutes – Moved by Cindy, seconded by Glen. Carried

5. Reports:

- a. Minister and Worship – Rev. Anita thanked everyone who covered for Arlene

Robinson during her time away and for Rev. Donald Lawton who covered for Anita during her study/vacation leave.

Welcome Back BBQ – She also expressed gratitude for everyone who came dressed in their Super Hero costumes.

Christine Tribe's Memorial – the family expressed thanks for both the space and for everyone who came out to honor Christine.

First Intergenerational Service – the service went well and we are grateful for trying new things.

Children's Church – Nia and Noa's mother, Téa, has agreed to teach some Sundays which will help greatly.

Baptism – Arlene Robinson's granddaughter will be baptized Sunday, October 20.

- b. M&P – Glen reported that M&P have finalized the contract for the cleaner and are proceeding with next steps.

- c. Finance – See attached.

- d. Pastoral Care – Grace reported that it has been suggested that we host a coffee time, during the week, sometime in November if possible and asked for feedback.

- e. Community Christmas Care – Rev. Anita reported that the Community Christmas Care forms have just been released. The return date is November 15. Squamish

United has been asked to help collect donations and funds. The delivery date for the hampers is December 17.

6. Old Business:

a. UCC Protect Insurance Plan:

Motion: Moved by Kevin and seconded by Trevor that the insurance coverage for Squamish United Church be changed over to the UCC Protect Insurance Plan effective December 1, 2024. **Carried.**

7. New Business:

a. Refugee Update: See attached report. Kevin provided a brief overview of the current status of the three families. At this time, it is assumed that two of the families will settle in Calgary and one family will settle in Squamish. We continue to be in contact with Hillcrest United in Calgary as a congregation who could “adopt” the two families designated to settle in Calgary.

8. Upcoming Events:

- a. SUC Coffeehouse – Saturday, November 2. *Fat Jazz* will be performing. They are a wonderful group of artists from Vancouver and will put on a great show. The UCW has also offered to host a Silent Auction during the Coffeehouse.
- b. Talk Turkey Luncheon – Sunday, November 24 following the service. This is a fundraiser for First United in Vancouver.

9. Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 20 at 7 pm.

10. Closing Prayer (Anita)

11. Adjourn Meeting 7:45 pm

Signed:

Trevor Harris, Chair

Cindy Roy, Secretary

Squamish United Church

Profit and Loss

September 2024

	TOTAL
INCOME	
500 Donations	
501 General Donations	6,038.00
Total 500 Donations	6,038.00
526 Facility Donations	2,241.25
Total Income	\$8,279.25
GROSS PROFIT	\$8,279.25
EXPENSES	
600 Operating Expenses	
611 Website Expenses	26.98
612 Software	32.26
627 Office Cleaning	300.00
642 Facility Rental Expenses	100.00
689 UCC Annual Assessment	420.63
Total 600 Operating Expenses	879.87
660 Building Expenses	
667 Strata Fees	1,474.79
668 Communications	143.40
Total 660 Building Expenses	1,618.19
670 Administrative Expenses	
671 Insurance	233.20
672 Legal & Accounting	25.63
673 Service Charges	41.90
Total 670 Administrative Expenses	300.73
850 Salaries & Benefits	
851 Salary Expense	4,197.40
853 Employer-paid	863.40
854 Phone Allowance	70.00
855 Service Charges	53.72
Total 850 Salaries & Benefits	5,184.52
Total Expenses	\$7,983.31
OTHER INCOME	
535 M&S Flow Thru Income	0.00
Total Other Income	\$0.00
PROFIT	\$295.94

UPDATE ON REFUGEES

Hello to the Board from Ontario! As I bet you heard at the meeting on Sept. 4, there has been some activity on our committee, and Louise quite rightly suggested a board update was appropriate...so here it is, a bit late as per my practices!

BACKGROUND: In summer 2023, and working with two separate groups of Squamish Community (not church) members, we submitted three separate refugee sponsorship applications to the United Church of Canada National office. Each of these three applications are family-reunification efforts, related to families that we have previously sponsored to live in our town. These three independent applications are for SAFO, Dara (family of 4); SAFO, Rouni (6); and ELSELLUM, Hasan (3). We were told at the time of application that these "may" make it up to the top of the UCC pile for processing by sometime in 2024. Subsequent to the applications being submitted, the family members of the two SAFO family applicants relocated to Calgary.

CURRENTLY: A couple of weeks ago, Ammar Youzbashi (staff in Toronto at UCC) sent me an email, stating that the SAFO, Dara file was "up", and asking me to confirm three things: a continued interest in resettlement in Canada; no changes to the information in the SAFO, Dara application; and an official response from SUC stating the exact amount of funding currently held for this specific application.

I called Ammar on Tuesday Sept. 3 and had a good conversation, and learned a few things:

- The reason for the funding information request is because (quite rightly) as the Sponsorship Agreement Holder, the UCC is on the hook as a full partner in this resettlement with us; sounds like there have been a few examples of best intentions not resulting in adequate funds being on hand. Makes sense to me and we can provide that info now.
- The other two applications (SAFO, Rouni; ELSELLUM, Hasan) are the next two files on Ammar's list, and he said we can go ahead and respond now with the same information for each of these applications too.
- Timing of actual arrival is very uncertain, and almost certainly not in 2024. It depends largely on IOM (the International Organization for Migration, part of the UN system), and the timing for IOM from different countries is variable. His notes said that currently the processing time from Turkey (ELSELLUM) is "more than months", and from Iraq (both SAFO applications) is "undefined".
- I reminded Ammar that we had approached Hillhurst United in Calgary as a congregation that could adopt the two SAFO files from SUC, once we got closer to this stage (Hillhurst had agreed to do so last winter). Ammar will help facilitate this as we go forward.

I thanked Ammar and told him we would reply in writing as soon as we could.

At the time of the message from Ammar, the funds previously raised and held by SUC for the two SAFO families was around \$17K. Further fundraising, particularly from the family members both here in Canada and in Europe, resulted in another \$30K being raised. We are currently holding about 76 percent of our target funds for the two SAFO families.

I e-mailed the local group supporting the ELSELLUM, Hasan application, and informed them of this status report; they were happy to hear from us. Finally, a video call with the SUC Refugee / Newcomer committee happened last week and our next steps were reviewed.

A special thanks to CINDY (!!) for her support with the banking related to these applications; we've had to do a few transfers, and she used her experience and knowledge to help make this quick and smooth. Apologies, Grace, for working behind your back on this.

GOING FORWARD: I have drafted the response letter from SUC to Ammar over my signature answering his questions; if anyone thinks this should be from Trevor, please let me know. Additional fundraising is ongoing to raise the remaining required funds to support all three of these applications.

Don Workman, long-time lead of the (Calgary) Hillhurst United Newcomer Support committee, is stepping down from that role. He is aware of the status of these two SAFO files, and is actively looking for someone new to step into a leadership role on that team. In the meantime, Hillhurst has "paused" their commitment to adopt these two applications; Don said he would keep me updated as this change progresses.

I think that's it for now; if anyone has any concerns about the proposed next steps, please let me know.

Thanks,
Kevin Haberl