

Squamish United Church Board Minutes
November 20, 2024 at 7:00 pm
By Zoom

Present: Rev. Anita Spiller, Trevor Harris (Chair), Cindy Roy (Secretary), Kevin Haberl, Grace Halvorson, Glen Van Brummelen, M&P Non-Board Member-Julie Larson

1. Call to Order and Land Acknowledgment (Trevor): 7:04 pm
2. Opening Prayer (Rev. Anita)
3. Agenda approved – Moved by Kevin, seconded by Glen. Carried
4. Approve October Minutes – Moved by Cindy, seconded by Kevin. Carried
5. Reports:

- a. *Minister* – Rev. Anita reported that the Worship Team was very busy preparing for the upcoming Advent and Christmas Seasons.

FAT Jazz Coffeehouse Fundraiser: Thank you to the many volunteers who made this event so successful. The event raised \$1,438.

- b. *Worship* – see attached report. Julie reminded the board that decorating the Sanctuary would take place on Wednesday, November 27 at 1 pm.
- c. *M&P* – see report attached. M&P are excited to welcome a new cleaner, Alisha Matthews, who will start work the weekend of November 23/24.

Staff and Salaries:

The meeting moved in camera at 7:20 p.m. and out of camera at 8:12 p.m.

Motion: Moved by Glen and seconded by Kevin that Rev. Anita Spiller’s salary be increased by 3% and Sarena Jonah’s salary be increased by 4.2% effective January 1, 2025. Carried.

Glen left the meeting at 8:15 pm.

- d. *Finance & 2025 Budget Worksheet:* See attached financial reports. Completing the budget numbers will be a major topic at the next meeting.

Moving the Piano: Grace noted that we have a request to move the piano that is currently on the stage. This would be a cost to the church.

Stewardship: Bruce is doing a great job on stewardship and talking openly about money which is difficult to do, particularly in churches. He has additional talks scheduled.

Appointment of Auditor for Annual Review: Cindy moved and Kevin seconded that we appoint Amanda Birch of Birch Accounting to conduct the year-end review for Squamish United Church for the year ending December 31, 2024. Carried.

GIC Renewal: The current rate for one-year GICs with Vancity is 3.85%. Grace and Kevin will finalize the renewal process.

- e. *Pastoral Care* – Grace reported on a congregant who is currently in Squamish General and would like visitors.

6. Old Business:

- a. *UCC Protect Insurance Plan:*

Insurance with UCC Protect has been arranged to start on December 1, 2024 and current insurance with Westland has been cancelled effective the same date.

7. New Business: There were no items for discussion under New Business.

8. Upcoming Events:

- a. *Talk Turkey Luncheon* – Sunday, November 24 following the service. This is a fundraiser for First United in Vancouver.

9. Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 18 via Zoom.

10. Closing Prayer (Anita)

11. Adjourn Meeting: 8:45 pm

Signed:

Trevor Harris, Chair

Cindy Roy, Secretary

Worship Committee Report for the Board Nov. 20, 2024

November worship services have been well attended and received.

At our Worship Committee meeting we had good discussions about previous worship services as well as planning ahead for Advent and beyond.

The November 3rd All Saints Day Service was appreciated by many. A few found this a difficult service; Rev. Anita and the committee will look for ways to provide more information ahead of time for services that may have a strong emotional impact. We want the church to be a safe place for all emotions.

The lay-led Remembrance Day Service on Nov. 10th received lots of positive feedback. The Worship Committee is grateful for Rev. Anita's leadership and organization of this service before her leave began. The Committee discussed that some people would like this service to have a more modern focus-current conflicts and victims both military and civilian. Many UCC churches have a Peace Sunday following Remembrance Day which includes these elements. All food for thought moving forward.

The Committee is working to support Rev. Anita in creating an Advent and Christmas Worship Series. Rev. Anita can provide information about the content of this series. Organizational pieces to note are:

- Arlene Robinson and our many musicians are creating an Advent/Christmas choir. Rehearsals begin Saturday, Nov. 23 at 2:30 p.m.
- Dec. 1- Is the first Sunday in Advent. We will encourage people to bring their toys for Community Christmas Cares on this Sunday. Toys can be accepted until Dec. 8. Squamish United Church has been asked to focus on toys for infants (birth-18 months).
- Dec. 8- Rev. Anita and Rev. Cameron are planning a joint worship to take place at St. John the Divine at 10 a.m. This is an opportunity to join together with both ministers presiding and shared music and children's elements. All are encouraged after coffee at St. John's to gather at Squamish United for a pancake lunch provided by the Scouts.
- Dec. 29th- will be a lay-led service of carols and hymn led by our musicians under the guidance of Arlene Robinson and Carol Grolman.

Help Needed: Join in fellowship and fun to decorate the sanctuary for Advent on Wednesday, Nov. 27th at 1:00 p.m.

M&P Report for the Board

Nov. 20, 2024

We are happy to announce that beginning this weekend Squamish United Church will have a new cleaner, Alisha Matthews.

Jason, our previous cleaner, was informed that his services are no longer needed. Julie Larson met with him Tuesday, Nov.19 to collect his fob and final invoice and to assist him in gathering personal cleaning materials that he was storing at the church. In addition, to his final invoice we have agreed to pay him for two additional weeks as severance pay. Grace has the invoice.

Alisha Matthews comes well recommended. M+P thanks Cindy Roy and Sarena Jonah for participating in interviewing Alisha. Alisha often travels by bicycle and therefore we have agreed to provide cleaning supplies. At this time, a new dust mop and new wet mop have been donated. The vacuum cleaner situation is ongoing but on the way to being solved. Many of our consumable supplies have been donated. Alisha will be responsible for washing cleaning cloths and mops so that we can rely less on single use products. Estimated additional costs to the church for supplies should be less than \$30 per month. Having our own supplies also allows us and renters to do a better job of cleaning up after activities. Most often Alisha will clean very early on Sunday mornings. She knows that cleaning must be completed, and floors dry by 9 a.m. She will also do mid-week and special event cleanings as needed and directed by Sarena.

November 20, 2024

Finance Committee

1. I have included an excel worksheet that you can use to start 2025 planning. In the column for 2025 I have put in the summation equations where they belong.

2. Some thoughts:

I think that congregational giving will come in just about on budget. However, that includes the \$5000 unexpected donation. This is an increase of about 9% from last year, exceeding inflation.

Facility donations will underperform by about 10%

Fund raising estimates are difficult because of our age-old problem of double counting between UCW and non-UCW events.

Of course the expense for the blinds was a big hit. I was not here when that happened, but that is an example of what targeted donations could have been used for. Targeted donations is the category for saying something happened outside of our budget and we need to collect donations for this specific use. I believe in the old adage, "don't waste a good crisis".

Worship came in quite a bit over budget, their expenses are essential, so it is just a matter of getting a better estimate for next year

The board did a great job to reduce insurance expenses.

Squamish United Church

Profit and Loss

October 2024

	TOTAL
INCOME	
500 Donations	
501 General Donations	5,990.00
Total 500 Donations	5,990.00
511 Fundraising	-800.00
526 Facility Donations	2,226.25
Total Income	\$7,416.25
GROSS PROFIT	\$7,416.25
EXPENSES	
600 Operating Expenses	
611 Website Expenses	26.98
612 Software	32.39
627 Office Cleaning	325.00
642 Facility Rental Expenses	125.00
689 UCC Annual Assessment	420.63
Total 600 Operating Expenses	930.00
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	34.59
673 Service Charges	43.70
Total 670 Administrative Expenses	311.49
690 Worship Expenses	
697 Supply Ministers	570.00
Total 690 Worship Expenses	570.00
850 Salaries & Benefits	
851 Salary Expense	4,680.40
853 Employer-paid	894.70
854 Phone Allowance	70.00
855 Service Charges	55.04
Total 850 Salaries & Benefits	5,700.14
Total Expenses	\$9,129.82
OTHER INCOME	
535 M&S Flow Thru Income	0.00
Total Other Income	\$0.00
PROFIT	\$ -1,713.57