

**Squamish United Church Board Retreat  
September 23, 2018**

**Attendees:** Karen Milliard, Trevor Harris, Elizabeth Kerr, Julie Murakami, Louise Martin, Hugh Kerr, Walter Huber, Grace Halvorson, Judi Rhodes, Val Stainton, Ian Kent, Kaija Belfry-Munroe

Agenda

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|---|----------------|
| 1. Lunch                                  | Judi and Grace |
| 2. Governance: Roles and Responsibilities | Karen          |
| 3. Financial Overview:                    | Hugh           |
| 4. Review of the Visitation Report        | Grace          |

1. Thank you to Judi and Grace for providing a delicious lunch!

2. Karen led a power point presentation that briefly outlined the roles and responsibilities of board members.

See the attached document. (1)

It was noted that the board chair (co-chairs) were not signing the minutes.

**Action Item:** The minutes will be signed following the approval of the minutes at the following board meeting.

It was also noted that after October 2018, BC Conference becomes regionalized and Presbytery as we now know it will no longer be. Squamish United Church will be in the Pacific Mountain Region.

3. Hugh explained, in a user-friendly form, the current financial situation. A discussion followed and it was recognized that while we are facing a significant deficit, we are encouraged by the new Spirit Kids Program. We are off to a great start with Spirit Kids, which has met Kaija's initial projections for enrollment. With time this program will grow and significantly contribute to reducing our debt. Thank you so much to Kaija for the grant writing and to Kayla and Karen for their work on bringing this project to fruition.

There were further discussions around grant writing, rentals and Stewardship. A Stewardship focus will be taking place in late October

and November. A 3 Year Financial plan is proposed. More discussion regarding this will be referred to the board.

4. We are very appreciative of the visitation team who quickly and thoroughly visited many of our congregants. Please see the full visitation report. The visitation report was reviewed point by point.

Themes arising were:

- Sound in the sanctuary. A lengthy discussion was held. Problems with difficulty hearing, i.e. the microphones and sound system, and the need for baffles were at the forefront.

**Action Item:** It was recommended that we address the sound problem as soon as possible and that we ask Brian Marchant to give us his opinion.

Hugh has done research on the sound absorption panels. There was mention of hiring a consultant and also of how to use the \$35,000.00 plus that is now available from the initial building of Centrepont to remedy the situation. This will be referred to the next board meeting and dealt with asap.

- Caring for our congregation. People enjoyed the visitations and would like visits more often.

**Action Item:** It was suggested that the POD system be reinstated to better connect with our congregants.

- Transportation of those who do not drive.

**Action Item:** Suggest a Caring team be struck and the POD system be revisited

- Finances and how long can we exist as we are. Do we need to move to a half time minister, etc?

**Action Item:** The suggestion of a 3 Year Financial Plan was endorsed.

- \* Property: A cross inside and outside, signage outside, railings on the stairs are all needed.

**Action Item:** Most of these concerns are currently under way. Property committee members are being recruited.

- It was suggested that the 8 Point Document developed by the former board be revisited in January. This could help us set goals and construct a Road Map to define tasks to accomplish our goals.
- The importance of transparency and good communication is desired. The Board will endeavor to make this happen.
- Issues around Worship will be referred to the worship committee
- Issues around staffing will be referred to the Ministry and Personnel committee.

We will use the report as a working document to guide us over the next year. The action items will be dealt with as quickly as possible. We will endeavor to make the congregation more aware of committees and their roles and encourage congregants to join committees. In summary we hope the church continues to allow all “a chance to serve”, and “help keep one’s (my) faith” and provides an opportunity for “fellowship and friendship”. See “What does the church mean to You? .....” in the Visitation Report.

(1) <Board roles and responsibilities.docx>