



## **Squamish United Church Congregational Meeting Minutes**

Sunday, November 15, 2020, 11am

Present: Karen Millard, Grace Halvorson (Chair), Heather Mann (minutes), Julie Larson, Bruce Larson, Trevor Harris, Joanna Schwarz, Patricia Yendall, Barbara Stover, Sean Nelson, Cindy Roy, Marilyn Caldwell, Hugh Kerr, Elizabeth Kerr, Walter Huber, Julie Murakami, Jeff Larcombe, Mary Larcombe, Kayla Mak, Valerie Stainton, Wendy Sellers, Arlene Ingraham, Carlotta Liechti, Lisa Cameron, Elaine Graham (non-voting participant), Patsy Riecker, Judi Rhodes, Louise Martin, James MacDonald, Susan MacDonald, Ian Brown, Vicki Haberl, Kevin Haberl

### **1. Welcome** (Grace)

Thank you for coming.

### **2. Opening Prayer** (Karen)

### **3. Approval of agenda (with amendments)**

*Motion to move forward with agenda carries.*

### **4. New member**

- Karen presents Heather Mann who we welcome into the membership of this community of faith.
  - Karen: Heather Mann will you join Squamish United Church as together we celebrate God's presence, live with respect in creation, love and serve others, seek justice and resist evil?
  - Heather: Yes, I will with God's help.
  - Congregation responds with Commitment of the Congregation, Creed, Mission Statement of Squamish United Church, and raising of hands in blessing.

## 5. Why are we here? (Grace)

- Bit of History
  - This year has seen highs and lows -- one challenge is that we have not had enough funds to cover staffing. Last October, we contacted Marc Coulombe from Pacific Mountain Region regarding this situation.
  - A Leadership Team was struck with 10 members from the church. The Leadership Team worked with Rev. George Meier to consider our situation and where the Spirit is leading
  - A team of 3 (Grace, Karen, Heather) revised the Church Constitution. So much has changed in Church life. We borrowed a model from Nelson United Church to reduce the number of Board members to 5 members, who are elected on 1, 2, or 3 year terms.
  - The Board struck a Pastoral Relations Committee. (Marilyn, Carlotta, Cindy, Julie, Bruce, Karen, and Grace). This group put together a community of Faith Profile.

## 6. Revision of the Constitution (Grace)

- We were overdue for a revision on our governance framework. This was part of the Leadership work done this spring. It is recommended that the size of the board be reduced to 5 members: Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, and 2 members at large. A Board of this size is more workable for the size of our congregation.

**MOTION:** It has been moved by Carlotta and seconded by Arlene that we, the congregation of Squamish United Church, accept the new revised Constitution.

Discussion:

- Trevor: I like the “lean and mean” approach - very realistic. I like the frequent references to the manual. Wanted to speak in favour, looks great.

*Motion carries.*

## 7. Pastoral Relations Team Community of Faith Ministry Profile

- Financial Summary (Bruce)

- Conducted a detailed financial review of the last five years.
- Many people helped, but especially wants to thank Hugh, Trevor, Peter, and Grace for helping.
- We have run a deficit for the past 5 years, in the range of 50-80K.
- Reviewed the situation with Marc Coulombe of Pacific Mountain Region.
- If we go to 50% ministry, we project that we will be within 5-8K of a balanced budget.
- To do this we need a strong and viable CUP to share costs of shared space.
- Position Descriptions (Marilyn)
  - Cindy Roy helped a lot with the revised position description.
  - Fellowship, families, and worship were really important to the congregation.
  - We looked at the current position, tried to figure out how to revise and create a workable model keeping these priorities as a focus. We concluded that some high-functioning committees needed to be developed.
  - In terms of time, we would move to 2 services fully-led by Karen per month, with input from the Worship team. One of these Sundays would be a communion Sunday. Karen would provide guidance to the Worship team while away. With input from the Worship Team, the Minister plans services for Christmas and Easter and Holy Week. The Minister would still conduct baptisms, weddings, and funerals as required. Currently, the Minister works about 33 out of 40 hours/week on that.
  - Valerie: When would all this take place?
    - It would start January 1, 2021
  - The Minister would provide training and guidance to the Pastoral Care Team, as opposed to providing this care directly. In terms of Outreach, this is still a strong focus, but the portion allocated through Squamish United Church would be reduced. The Minister organizes and conducts an introduction to new members as needed. The Minister attends meetings with Pacific Mountain Region as required.

- Joanna: Remind me what the acronym is for CUP?
  - Centre for Uniting People with their Passion and Purpose
- Grace: The networking with the Region is quite invaluable. We want to support Karen in doing this. E.g. bringing them into services during COVID.
- Worship and Pastoral Care Teams (Julie)
  - The move to half-time ministry is a call to all of us to be active. This is what makes us a community of Faith. It is important that we partner with our minister. These two teams make an opportunity for partnership.
  - Worship Team: Working in tandem with the minister, plans, facilitates, and leads worship services. The team is composed of the Minister, a paid musician, and a minimum of 3 members of the congregation. Gifts of Leadership, creativity, and enthusiasm. The team will plan services that the Minister isn't leading, and will support the minister in services that she is directly leading.
  - Has the team been formed?
    - Not yet. There is a team working on Advent series.
    - Kayla: If you want to be part of the team, reach out to Karen.
  - Pastoral Care: This team takes a leading role in supporting the pastoral care for members and adherents. Membership is Minister and lay members of the congregation. Requires compassion, care, and respect for confidentiality. Provides routine pastoral care to members and adherents, especially those adjusting to pain, loss. Keeps minister informed of pastoral care needs, and in consultation with the Minister, coordinates with the Minister for visits. Sends out cards on behalf of the congregation when appropriate.
- Living Faith Story (Carlotta)
  - That involved Julie, Bruce, Marilyn, Carlotta, Grace, Karen.
  - Living Faith Story was quite a process. We had several team meetings, filled out the document together. There was extensive input, study, and review. There were 8 sections. Administration, Community Outreach and Social Justice, Denomination and Communities, Faith Formation and Christian Education, Leadership, Pastoral Care,

Self-Care, and Worship. It was eye-opening and rewarding to work through this into something we could present to say: this is what we have been doing.

- Grace: The Region was very supportive of everything. Marc Coulombe was an excellent guide and advocate for us.
- It was proposed in the October 28 board meeting that we would bring this to the Congregation in a congregational meeting.

**MOTION:** It has been moved by Bruce and seconded by Trevor that we, the congregation of Squamish United Church, move from full time ministry to half time ministry. We will reduce our minister's time to 50%.

Discussion:

- Louise asks if we need to review the Administrator's position.
  - For today, we are just focused on the Minister's position.

*Motion carries.*

## **8. What will SUC look like going forward?**

- Half time SUC (Grace and Karen)  
Important for us to keep in touch, continue to reach out to pods by phone.
- Half time The CUP: Wellness Centre (Karen)
  - The name originated from a conversation with a group of women from the Church. Image of the cup overflowing had resonance. Want to keep "united" in the name.
  - Under the CUP, Karen will be working under the Region. We know that religion is not high on people's radars, but Karen believes that spirituality is. The CUP is about creating a space for all people in the Sea to Sky Corridor to become more whole.
  - Spirit Kids will land under the CUP as a program that cares for families. Michelle Ulmer has also started a tutoring program, and is working with families on homeschool programs.
  - There is a need in this community to support children and families. We have had many contacts since Vicki, Julie and Karen met with a number

of representatives in the community to explain The CUP concept. For example, people needing space for programs that are caring for the community. We are currently hosting BC Pain -- an 6-week course for people who have come out of rehab or addiction.

- For some time, Karen has been talking with other Pastors in town to offer counseling -- all of them are trained in this capacity.
- Joanna: Is Messy Church part of this program?
  - Grace: It will probably be part of the CUP once/month and the Church once/month.

## **7. Fellowship "Coffee Time"**

- How are we managing in COVID era?
  - We hope everyone is doing well.
- Talk Turkey Luncheon (Marilyn)
  - If you haven't had a chance to see Karen's sermon this morning, I found it very helpful.
  - Turkey luncheon will happen virtually on November 29 at 11am. We are asking people to donate to fund the turkeys.
- Advent:
  - Julie mentions that take-home advent kits are available. If you would like one, please complete the order that was in the e\_news.
  - Karen would like to take a moment to share a preview of Advent.
- Trevor: Wanted to say thank you on behalf of the Board and the Congregation. This has not been an easy time.
  - Grace: Thank you. I do love the Church.
- Joanna: Echo what Trevor said. I can see how much work this was, and it is greatly appreciated.
- Kayla: Wanted to speak on the worship series. My part of it will be music. You heard the anthem for the series. Thought is to have a virtual choir.
- Val: Would also like to express appreciation. Two concerns: Years ago, recorded music on tapes and distributed as a fundraiser. For the zoom, is that going to be UCW or the Church?
  - Grace: Karen will be setting up. UCW would be doing most of it.

- Pat: Concerning pastoral care - would like to make packages and cards for people who are left off of zoom so they still know they are included. If anyone knows anyone in this category, please send me their names.
  - Carlotta suggests pod groups go through their lists.
- Vicki: Suggests discussion topic for the Turkey lunch: what have been the gifts of the COVID era that would not have happened otherwise?
- Joanna: I wonder if we could get that music out from the old tapes?
- Grace: [Since Karen is having internet issues] Would anyone like to lead in prayer?

Joanna leads closing prayer.