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MINISTER'S MESSAGE

This is it. Today's the day I told myself I would have my page for the Annual Report completed.

Mine is both the privilege and the problem of not reporting for a committee. I am given the honour of writing what I want. It's a scary thing, a blank page. I have never lost my fear of it, even though I face it every week, with every sermon. Recently I decided that this is the way it's going to be; facing my fear every time I am asked to say something, with the reasonable expectation, that it be at least modestly of interest to people.

So here it goes.

Reflecting back over 1996, I realize that there were some highlights for me that I could name; services that seemed special for me for one reason or another, moments of connections with individuals or small groups that were significant, times of growth and periods when it seemed I worked and slept and did little else. But it occurs to me that those are only my experiences and highlights and, in all likelihood, would not be yours and the exercise would be rather self-serving. So, I'm not going to do it.

I'd rather take this page of privilege and problem and muse for a moment on a couple of questions. What happened in 1996 that marked it as significant in some way, set it apart from 1995 or 1997? Was our time together Holy time? Were there sacred moments for me? Were there sacred moments for you? Were we faithful enough as a community to be a blessing to each other and to the world? Did I get past my own agitations and irritations so that I could see the pain and fears of the people who challenged me in these ways? And did I have courage enough and grace enough to allow you the same privilege? Did I remain faithful to the spirit that speaks in a still small voice in my heart and soul? Did you? Did we laugh and dare to risk joy?

Aside from the events of any given year, these are always the questions that matter. That we ask them is even more important than their answers because it means that sacred living and the underlying

experience of life as Holy counts. It is hard work being the Church. Our calling to be the presence of Christ in the world is a high calling. It demands much of us. Were we, as a community, faithful to those demands or did we figure it was someone else's job; someone with more knowledge or experience or wisdom?

I've been wondering about these things for the past few weeks and trying to assess how I've fared. Like sitting down in front of a blank computer screen, it's scary. I have found within myself areas that need work and love and understanding. But that's what 1997 and the community of people who see the undercurrent of the Holy in life are for. And I don't want the fear of seeing my warts and wounds to stop me from being a part of that community. So, here I come 1997! Ready or not! I hope you choose to come with me, warts and wounds and unanswered questions and all, it doesn't matter, it's all the stuff of life that beneath the surface is sacred and Holy.

Claire Bowers

#####

MINUTES FROM THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING 1996

The Annual Congregational Meeting of Squamish United Church was held in the church on February 4, 1996 with 28 members present. Dessert and coffee was served. Trevor Harris offered an opening devotion and prayer. Chairperson, Don Behrner, called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

M/S by Trevor Harris/Bruce Manzer that all present be given voting privileges. Carried.

M/S by Peter Gordon/Walter Huber that the minutes of the 1995 Annual Congregational Meeting be adopted. Carried.

M/S by Bruce Manzer/Dave Elliot that we receive all remaining Committee and Group Reports in one block following the Nominating and Finance Reports. Carried.

Nominating Committee Report:

Bruce Manzer presented the following slate of chairs, officers and committee members for 1996:

Executive - Chair: June Halvorson, Past-Chair: Don Behrner, Vice-Chair: Shelley Smith, Treasurer: Bert Ionson, Secretary: Retta Behrner.

Worship Committee - Chair: Patsy Riecker. Members: Carol Finnie, Rev. Claire Bowers, Lynette Halvorson, Sue Puchmayr, Sid Pudney, Joanna Schwarz, Christine Tribe.

Congregational Life & Work Committee - Chair: Peter Gordon. Members: Dave Elliot, Graham Galloway, Kathy McKenzie, Shelley Smith, Rev. Claire Bowers, Retta Behrner.

Finance Committee - Chair: Bert Ionson, Dave Doubek, Mary Larcombe, Shirley Halvorson.

Ministry & Personnel - Chair: Trevor Harris. Members: Grace Halvorson, June Halvorson, Rainer Schwarz.

Property Committee - Chair: Bill Rempel. Members: Don Behrner, George Gilmour, Norm Halvorson, Walter Huber, Rob Pedersen, Harry Whale.

Caring Ministry - Co-Chairs: Maureen Gilmour, June Halvorson.

Members at Large - Dave Elliot, Wilf Grolman, Donnaleen Miller, Shirley Richardson.

Presbytery Representative - Patsy Riecker.

Sunday School Co-ordinator - Susan Ferguson.

United Church Women - Carlotta Liechti.

Men's Breakfast Group - Walter Huber.

Youth Group - open

Nominations were opened to the floor. No additional nominations were received.

M/S by Bruce Manzer/Dave Elliot that the 1996 slate of officers be accepted with the power to add any additional members. Carried.

M/S by Bruce Manzer/Peter Gordon. Given that a significant number of current Board members are approaching or are past the maximum terms specified by the Squamish United Church Constitution, and given that it would be unwise to attempt to replace all these members at the same time, I move that the Board be directed to strike a task group who will present a proposal to the Board at its April meeting which would see the replacement of members such that the terms of all Board members will be in accordance with the Constitution with-in a maximum three year period. Carried. The members of this task force will be named at the next regular Official Board Meeting.

A vote of thanks was given to members of the Nominating Committee: Bruce Manzer, Don Behrner, Carlotta Liechti, Rev. Claire Bowers.

Finance Report and Proposed 1996 Budget:

Acceptance moved by Bert Ionson/Dave Doubek. Carried.

Bruce Manzer spoke on the need to update the office equipment with priority to purchasing a laser printer for the computer. The printer we have now is not adequate.

M/S by Shelley Smith/Bert Ionson that Board determine what equipment is needed and look into ways of obtaining it. Carried.

1995 Committee and Group Reports:

Acceptance of the remainder of the reports moved by Bruce Manzer/Norm Halvorson. Carried.

New Business:

New Hymn Books: The new United Church hymn book "Voices United" will be available soon. The Choir has donated \$150.00 toward the purchase of hymn books. It was agreed to establish a special fund for their purchase. A minimum of 100 books will be needed.

Farewell: It was with regret we learned that the Manzer family would be moving to Ontario. They were wished Godspeed by all in attendance.

VOTES OF THANKS:

Appreciation was expressed to Bill and Lou Rempel for their help in printing and putting together the Annual Report.

Thanks was extended to Rev. Bowers for all her work throughout the year.

Meeting adjourned 8:50 p.m. by George Gilmour in proxy.

#####

We heard a report about the meeting from Marion Reed. Moderator, and the church's response to some aspects of the ministerial school situation. There was a long discussion on balancing the budget and this was resolved as there are needs for ministerial school support for some years. It is hoped it will be balanced by 1985.

President Ralph Milton was called away on a family matter before the last session so Vice President Nina Gunning then presided and over the Sunday service to celebrate ministry including ordination and commissioning. The new President is Rev. Diane

B.C. CONFERENCE ANNUAL MEETING

The 71st Annual meeting was held at Qualicum Beach May 2 - 5 to which Rev. Claire Bowers, her husband Tom and I drove - they stayed at a B & B while I was billeted at Parksville - staying up late talking to my hostess. Heather Puchmayr was part of the Youth Caucus and a very active one as she was always leading the dancing and singing during music intervals. I admired the youth sitting through all the long sessions while the children had a different program - and they produced a clever daily news sheet.

There were 642 delegates - 50 youth - with Mr Ralph Milton presiding and the theme was Shabbat Shalom with speakers Allison Rennie, Rev. Tony Anderson, Janet Sommerville and Rev. Herbert O'Driscoll and music leadership by Dr. Gerald Hobbs using the new "Voices United" books.

The President's address included his speculation about the need for two churches to co-exist - an aging, dying church and a new community. The next day Allison Rennie and the Youth Caucus took a spirited stand against his view point - saying the youth were ready to be part of the whole church - and created 11 very different Commandments. The theme continued to be a major part of the conference with each speaker giving thought-provoking addresses and I chose for my workshop to hear Rev. Herbert O'Driscoll again as he is a very stimulating, intellectual speaker - and has written many books.

We heard a report about the Healing Fund from Marion Best, Moderator, and the church's response to some aspects of the residential school situation. There was a long discussion on balancing the budget and this was rescinded as there are needs for Conference staff support to some presbyteries, it is hoped it will be balanced by 1998.

President Ralph Milton was called away on a family matter before the last session so Past President Nina Cumming then presided and over the Sunday service to celebrate ministry including ordination and commissioning. The new President is Rev. Dianne

Condin and the President-Elect is Rev. Harlene Walker of Whistler.

Sunny Qualicum Beach didn't live up to its name as we froze eating in tents while it poured with rain, but I did manage a walk to the shore and met many interesting, dedicated United Church members - and had lunch with Jack Lindquist - from all over B.C.

Respectfully submitted by,

Patsy Riecker

#####

VANCOUVER BURRARD PRESBYTERY

Our church belongs with 22 others, to the Vancouver Burrard Presbytery, Chair Rev. Shelagh MacKinnon, and under the new plan we now meet five times during the year with more focus on theme workshops. The various standing committees meet separately and then report to the Executive Committee, which meets monthly, instead of Presbytery as a whole. There is a short report from the divisions to the presbytery in plenary session, but this has mostly eliminated long discussions.

I am on the Global Concerns division but under this new plan have not met as a group, and as I was unable to attend the two day Annual General Meeting in March with staff and other presbyteries - which from the minutes sounded as they also struggled how to energize the local church, as they recognized the church is becoming more congregationalist.

Though most workshops have been interesting - and emotionally involving when we heard about the history of the United Church Residential Schools and heard from two Native Indians who had different experiences at their schools.

I will be interested when a review of this New Vision is conducted and hope it meets the needs of Presbyters and the work that has to be performed. I feel I'm less informed of the issues in the other churches, but I enjoy meeting and talking to the other members and hearing their news and ideas about their faith journeys.

Respectfully submitted by,
Patsy Riecker

In 1995/96 I served as Vice-Chair of the Pastoral Relations Committee to the Presbytery, leaving in the capable hands of Linda Ervin the seat as chair of Home Missions.

The Pastoral Relations Committee serves a significant function in the Presbytery, dealing with concerns and matters of the pastoral relationship between salaried ministerial staff (including, ordained, commissioned and lay persons).

In 1996 St John's United, Vancouver called the Rev. Brad Newcombe to a 3/4 time ministry.

Canadian Memorial, Vancouver called the Rev. Bruce Sanguin to a full time ministry.

Renfrew United, Vancouver called the Rev. Ryan Knight to a full time ministry.

Bowen Island United and the Rev. Bill Dyer contracted with the Presbytery for a 18 month Interim ministry.

West Point Grey United, Vancouver called the Rev. Cheryl Black to a full time ministry.

Claire Bowers

#####

SQUAMISH UNITED CHURCH OFFICIAL BOARD

HIGHLIGHTS:

- January - Started the new year with \$19,507.05 in the building fund.
\$10,000. for roof not paid.
- Work progressing on organ enclosure.
- February - Nursery up and running. Girls in the congregation hired
for staff
- March - Farewell dinner for the Manzer family.
- New blinds at the Manse.
- Hymn book fund started. \$2600. needed.
- April - Name tag racks completed.
- Spiritual Nurture of our Children Assessment sponsored by
Congregational Life and Work Committee.
- May - Plant and Garage Sale.
- Presbytery visitation with Revs. O'Neill and Faris a time of
self evaluation.
- Renovation plan for chancel completed
- Spring cleaning bee.
- June - Exterior painting completed.
- 100 hymn books ordered.
- July and August - Services: U.C.W. - July 14th, Syd Pudney -
July 21st, Bert Ionson - July 28th, Carol Finnie -
August 4th, Rev. Chris Burnett - August 11th,
Christine Tribe - August 18th and 23rd.
- September - Board retreat - Rev. Don Robertson facilitator.
- Farewell dinner for Nancy Hutchinson.
- October - Fall dinner hosted by the Behrners.
- Evening study at the Harris'.
- Wednesday morning in the annex - 'Living a Spiritual
Life'.
- November - Goods & Service auction sponsored by the finance
committee.

December - Christmas dinner hosted by the Rempels.

The Official Board met 10 times in 1996. Most meetings were well attended with members only absent when it was unavoidable.

The presbytery visit in May was a pleasant experience for all. The visitation committee met with the ministry and personnel committee in the afternoon, then with Claire over supper, and with the board in the evening. We felt there are many things to celebrate in our congregation. Just to name a few:

- the excellence of organists - choir leaders - choir
- the harmony within the congregation
- new faces appearing
- age range - intergenerational events
- openness to new ideas
- vibrant mens group

One of the highlights of the year was our retreat in September kindly hosted by the Behrners. Don Robertson was the facilitator and he used our mission statement as the basis for discussion and for setting priorities. It was a stimulating and enjoyable afternoon.

The board is grateful to everyone in the congregation for their continued support, and grateful for Claire and her caring leadership. We go into the new year with high hopes of increased commitment and growth.

Submitted by,

June Halvorson, Chair

#####

WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE

Members: Claire Bowers, Carol Finnie, Sue Ferguson, Lynette Halvorson, Sue Puchmayr, Syd Pudney, Joanna Schwarz, Christine Tribe, and Patsy Riecker met with the minister in our responsibility for the spiritual matters of the church as expressed in the services, music, baptisms and communion. We regretfully accepted Carol Finnie's resignation in the fall due to pressure of her other responsibilities.

Baptism was offered May 12 and November 24 with a member of the committee assisting the minister in preparation and during the service.

Communion was celebrated on five Sundays with members assisting the minister in serving the elements.

After enquiries about possible sites for our Outdoor Service on May 26 it was successfully held in our own church grounds and all enjoyed the time of fellowship and lunch which followed.

Sue Puchmayr has valiently been organizing the monthly (4th Sunday) Hilltop House hymn sing now at 1 p.m. and thanks to all those who have offered their services of leadership, piano playing and singing and we encourage more to join us in this worth while outreach to our seniors.

We would like to thank the local people who presided over the services for the 12 Sundays the minister was away: Christine Tribe, Bert Ionson, Syd Pudney, Carol Finnie, the Men's Breakfast Group, the U.C.W., and the Choir.

We are sensitive to any suggestions regarding the order of service, such as the recent change in the Minute for Mission reading. Thanks to the regulars and also the newcomers who volunteer faithfully for the Scripture readings. Please contact Patsy if you are able to assist in this weekly service.

After much discussion on a second Christmas Eve Service, it was decided to have the traditional 7:00 p.m. service and a 11:15 p.m. quieter candlelight service with special solo singers. This was

well attended and very meaningful - especially as we greeted the birth of Christ under a spectacular full moon.

On the music scene the big change is the new hymn books introduced this fall - and thanks to the choir for their leadership in introducing us to some new hymns and welcoming back some old ones.

It has been a pleasure and a growing experience to work with the minister and the committee members in furthering the work of the church as regards its spiritual and service aspects.

Respectfully submitted by,

Patsy Riecker, Chair

#####

SENIOR CHOIR

After a busy Christmas season, the choir began regular rehearsals in early January. We sang anthems most Sundays from February through to Easter, combining old material and new. We sang regularly through the winter and spring, assisting Reverend Bowers in the Sunday worship services. Our church hosted the Singing the Faith ecumenical service, where our local churches joined in song. The excitement of the Fall has been the acquisition of the new Hymn Book. The Choir enthusiastically jumped in to peruse the book, learning both old familiar tunes, and new ones. A second order of choir tapes was made (30), and many were sold over Christmas.

As always, the Choir has taken their role in the life and work of the church enthusiastically. We have continued to grow in numbers and in our ability to work together in providing music as an offering during the morning services. We have been a support to one another through this ministry, and will continue to do so through 1997. Thank you to Arlene Smith for her faithful work in accompanying the Choir, and to Joanna Schwarz and Carol Finnie for their assistance at the keyboard as well.

Faithfully submitted by,
Marilyn Caldwell

#####

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE AND WORK COMMITTEE

1996 marked the second year of our committee. We were busy with scheduling church activities such as the annual garden sale, and the congregational advent celebration. We also did some major review of the Sunday School program. This included a congregational discussion session regarding the spiritual nurturing of our children. Our thanks to Kathy MacKenzie for skills and commitment to this project. This work continues as we try to come to terms with our children's Christian education and spiritual development in the new millennium. We also reviewed the youth group and the vacation bible school. We also assisted Claire in organizing the upcoming youth confirmation classes. It is hard to believe another year has past. Thank you to Claire, Shelley Smith, Dave Elliot, Retta Behrner, and Kathy MacKenzie. There is still room for others if the work of our committee provides some interest.

Submitted by,
Peter Gordon, Chair

#####

CARING MINISTRY

In the Fall we were encouraged to have Olly Adams, Evelyn Dawson, Lynette Halvorson, Lou Rempel, Diane Turley and Irene Vickers become part of our Caring Ministry team.

At a meeting in October with our minister we shared thoughts and ideas on how best to care for those in our congregation. A story in the September issue of the Observer told of a church in Ontario who gives out care bears to those who are sick, bereaved, lonely or depressed.

We gave this idea for our church much thought but it was suggested instead of a bear, how about a little lamb as after all people who need caring are all part of our flock. Two of our talented Caring Ministry gals made a few of these cute and lovable lambs.

Not too many people have been the recipients of a lamb as yet but those who have received them seemed to really appreciate getting one.

On November 3, the congregation and Caring Ministry were pleased to offer special congratulations to Norman and Shirley Saugstad on the occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary.

With renewed enthusiasm we look forward with God's blessing to reaching out and touching someone in need of caring.

Submitted by,
Maureen Gilmour
and June Halvorson
Coordinators of Caring Ministry

#####

MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The Ministry and Personnel Committee is a committee that is confidential in nature and provides the opportunity for consultation with and support and assessment of all staff persons. The committee reports to the Official Board, making recommendations when applicable. This year we met 5 times, January, March, June, September and November, reviewing working conditions and remuneration of staff, dealing with study leave and compassionate leave, supporting staff in general and organizing summer replacement for our organist and minister. Our custodian, Evelyn Dawson is on indefinite medical leave and the M & P committee did the ground work for her replacement recommending Elizabeth Galbavy. This has worked out well, as Evelyn recovers. We organized a church service while Rev. Bowers was on compassionate leave - thanks to the choir for leading a service of song during that time. Members of the M & P Committee are Rainer Schwarz, Trevor Harris, June Halvorson. Any questions or concerns regarding church staff and their work may be directed to any M & P member as we strive to promote harmony between staff and the congregation.

Respectfully submitted by
Grace Halvorson, Chair

#####

SUNDAY SCHOOL

January to June 1996:

Each Sunday we gather together and sing a song while we receive the offering. The doxology is sung then off to classes. Our average attendance was 26 children. In February the coordinator changed hands to Susan Ferguson as Laurie Manzer moved to Ontario.

September to December 1996:

Classes began on September 22. Once again we are using the Whole People of God curriculum. The average attendance is 32 children. Now there is one more class this year making 5 classes. Ages 3 and 4; Kindergarten and Grade 1; Grades 2 and 3; Grades 4 and 5; and Grades 6 and 7. Each class has a team of teachers that usually take two of the six units. Each unit is approximately 4 teaching Sundays. Interspersed in the curriculum were 2 intergenerational Sundays and 2 video Sundays. While we receive the offering we sing a song or say a verse with actions or hear a message relating to that Sunday's theme. The doxology is sung then off to classes.

Thank you to all the teachers and helpers who gave their time to let our children know they are special.

Submitted by,
Susan Ferguson
Coordinator

#####

SUNDAY SCHOOL FINANCIAL REPORT 1996

Receipts:

Bank balance December 31, 1995	618.56	
Sunday School offerings	<u>577.25</u>	
	1195.81	1195.81

Disbursements:

Sunday School Curriculum	476.18	
Other Expenses	<u>99.21</u>	
	575.39	<u>575.39</u>

Bank balance December 31, 1996		\$620.42
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Respectfully submitted by,
Patsy Riecker

#####

YOUTH GROUP REPORT

From January to June, Youth Group met every other week. About 17 youth participated. Some of our events included: Car wash and ballgame (in conjunction with the plant sale - we raised \$102.00), a dance in the annex, and a chocolate egg hunt, as well as blowing and decorating Easter eggs.

In February, Jen Cummings and Youth Presbytery Reps. held a retreat in our annex. We were all treated to a wonderful Lagsagna dinner prepared by Retta and Don Behrner, then went to the pool for a fun evening. The youth then participated in Sunday morning worship. It was a very inspirational weekend.

In April we had a small turnout for a very special get together with Paul and Minnie Kahlan who spoke of their Sikh Religion and gave us a tour of the Temple. We were especially lucky as the tour coincided with the Priest and his sons practising music for their services and interpreted the meanings of some of their hymns. We were all surprised at the similarities of our beliefs, and all felt we had learned some very valuable information.

Five of the group enjoyed a weekend retreat at Camp Fircom. We wound up June 2 with a hike around the Four Lakes Trail and a weiner roast.

In September we changed our format. We met each week for six weeks and two planning meetings, where the youth set the agenda. Our highest attendance was 20, with 12-15 on a regular basis. Events included a workshop with Annette Young at Xocolatl (Yum, thanks Annette!), theatre sports, talent show, movie night, games night (which included fun in the snow!), and Christmas crafts. Some of our young people attended a "Back to the Future" dance at Ryerson United. A few times we were privileged to have Claire come to lead us in Spiritual meditation. Thank you Claire.

We are pleased that Heather Puchmayr is co-editor with Jen Cummings of the Youth Presbytery Newsletter, "News Testament".

For Spring term, youth from Grade 7 - 12 are invited to attend

Confirmation classes led by Claire and assisted by Carlotta Liechti.
It's possible a few fun events will be planned as well.

This is the last term in which Donnaleen, Wilf and Carol will
be involved as Youth Group leaders. We have really enjoyed the
last year and a half (three years for Carol) in this rewarding
position. We have many great young people and families in this
congregation, for which we give God thanks. And thanks, too, for
the support of the congregation.

Yours in Christ,

Carol Finnie
Donnaleen Miller
Wilf Grolman

#####

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

The United Church Women continues its commitment to living our faith through fellowship, fund raising, and prayer.

We currently have four UCW Units:

Alpha Unit meets on the 2nd Thursday at 2 p.m. in the church kitchen.

Bethany Unit meets on the 2nd Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in homes.

Harmony Unit meets on the 2nd Thursday, alternating times at 1:30 p.m. or 7:30 p.m. in homes.

MacKenzie Unit meets on the 2nd Monday at 7:30 p.m. in homes.

We extend a warm invitation to any women of our congregation to join the UCW. Come join us!

Our Units are actively involved with fund raising. We hold two rummage sales each spring and fall with the Harmony Unit co-ordinating these very successful sales. It requires many hours of time and hard work. Harmony Unit is also involved with the monthly Hilltop House birthday party celebrations. The Bethany Unit handles two chicken sales a year which are a great source of fund raising. They also made 10 sets of curtains for Camp Fircom. MacKenzie Unit continues its spring and Christmas Regal catalogue sales. As well, some of the women from the MacKenzie Unit drove to Vancouver where they prepared and served a special luncheon for First United Church. The Alpha Unit supplied tins of cookies and knitted toques for First United Church. In September, Alpha Unit held a special going away luncheon for long time member, Nancy Hutchinson. Nancy has moved to Stewart, B.C. to live with her daughter. The UCW also fund raises through catering and selling church calendars. Our efforts support the Mission and Service Fund, The Project Fund of B.C., and the Squamish United Church.

At our monthly meetings we studied videos on Women in the Bible, the Peace Train to China and the Women's Conference in China.

Our outreach includes: United Church Circle Luncheon held each May for First United Church members. This annual event is a highlight of the year for First United Church and our group looks forward to serving at this popular annual event. We also bake pies

and serve at the Hilltop House Harvest Bazaar and Tea held each October.

We continue to host coffee hours after the church service two times a month, with a break for the summer months in July and August. These coffee hours enable the congregation to meet in fellowship and to share our lives with one another.

The United Church Women will host the World Day of Prayer in March of 1997. As well, the UCW celebrates their 35th Anniversary in 1997.

Our new 1997 Executive will be as follows:

President - June Halvorson, Vice President - open, Past President - Carlotta Liechti, Secretary - Maureen Gilmour, Treasurer - Arlene Smith, Social & Catering - Shirley Halvorson, Kitchen - Pat Pawlett, Nominating - Patsy Riecker, Life Membership - Shirley Pudney. The Unit Presidents also sit on the Executive which meets four times a year.

Many thanks to all our church members who have supported the UCW throughout the year. A special thank you to the women on the General UCW Executive for your willingness to share your talents and time. I consider it a privilege to have been president these past two years, and am especially grateful for your support and generosity. I am confident that your kindness will extend to our new UCW General President, June Halvorson, and her executive.

Yours in Christ,

Carlotta Liechti
President, UCW Executive

#####

U.C.W. FINANCIAL REPORT

January 1, 1996 opening balance \$1,012.64

Receipts:

Units	301.55	
Catering	150.00	
Rummage Sales	2,223.52	
Regal Sales	1,066.60	
Chicken Sales	16,809.78	
Calendar Sales	125.25	
	<u>20,676.70</u>	<u>20,676.70</u>
		21,689.34

Disbursements:

Chicken Sales	14,374.05	
Catering	42.00	
B.C. Project Fund	800.00	
M & S Fund	500.00	
United Church General Fund	4,800.00	
Calendars	186.72	
Other	452.52	
	<u>21,155.29</u>	<u>21,155.29</u>

December 31, 1996 closing balance \$534.05

Submitted by,

Arlene Smith

General U.C.W. Treasurer

#####

TOQUES

Frances Marsh once again knit more than 100 toques for First United. In total 184 toques were donated to warm the heads in the Downtown Eastside.

#####

CANADIAN METAL HEALTH

Each November the CMHA puts out an appeal for gifts to be presented to their clients at Christmas and at birthdays. Members of this congregation and of the Anglican church donated three boxes of gifts in 1996. One of our members also forwarded \$20 which was used to help finance the dinner that CMHA hosts in December.

#####

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CARE

The congregation of Squamish United Church was well represented on the CCC committee. Claire Bowers chaired the meetings. As well, many of you helped us on our final three days of sorting, packing and delivering. Thousands of tins were sorted and packed into 261 hampers serving 757 people. Toys were supplied to all children to the age of fifteen.

The community, including many of you, contributed money (over \$30,000), food, toys, time, and trucks to this effort.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted by,
Lou Rempel

MEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP

For over ten years, this group has met monthly to enjoy breakfast together followed by discussions on a variety of topics.

During 1996, the attendance was solid and further growth took place. On average about 10 - 15 men came out to participate. Different people played leadership roles by presenting a topic and challenging the group to respond to key questions. This group does not need any motivation, different perceptions and background, personal experiences, a great sense of humour and sometimes boisterous singing make these sessions a unique experience.

After the discussion, the group sometimes does some maintenance work and gardening.

We would like to invite all other men to join us. It's an excellent opportunity for fellowship and personal growth. With an early 8:30 start we usually finish around 10:30 a.m. and there is still plenty of time for personal weekend activities.

Special thanks to Walter Huber who faithfully coordinated and often led these meetings, the cooks who came in early to prepare the meal, and the other people who led during discussion time.

Respectfully submitted,
Rainer Schwarz

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PROPERTY COMMITTEE

The property committee had another good year. Further improvements were made to our church facilities; the most significant being the changes made to the chancel area. This included relocating the organ and moving the choir to terraced pews on the left side. New carpeting was then installed in the modified chancel area.

For the record, and future reference, other projects completed in 1996 included:

- additional sensor flood lights on buildings.
- new window shades at manse kitchen and minister's office.
- new hot water tank at manse.
- replaced rotten floor joists at annex vestibule.
- painted exterior of the church building.
- replaced all 32 sanctuary windows with double-paned glass.
- installed 4 new double-paned windows at the manse.
- partitioned room in annex to provide another classroom.
- installed vapour barrier below church and annex.
- replaced ceiling tile in men's bathroom.
- acquired a new office safe.
- modified several cupboards in church kitchen.

The church facilities are in relatively good condition and are being well maintained. However, all of the buildings are quite old and in need of further upgrading to ensure their continued use in serving the congregation and community. We would like to see about \$10,000 per year set aside for maintenance and improvements for the combined three buildings in our care.

I would like to thank our property committee members for their continued support as well as all of the other volunteers who showed up for our various work bees. Property committee members this year were: Bill Rempel, Walter Huber, Don Behrner, Norm Halvorson, George Gilmour, Harry Whale, and Rob Pedersen.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Rempel, Chair

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Squamish United Church undertook to meet significant obligations in 1996. Thanks to the generous support of the congregation these obligations were met.

As can be seen by the following statements, we started the year with over \$5,000 in the General Operating Account, however by March the surplus was depleted and \$3,000 had to be borrowed from the Building Fund; a liability that could not be covered until late December.

The Building Fund started the year with over \$19,000 however roof repairs carried out in 1995 (\$10,000) had yet to be paid out. As a result, the opening balance for 1996 was somewhat misleading. Although there were a number of projects carried out, donations and grants kept pace with expenditures resulting in a year end balance of over \$10,000.

Expenditures were made following the budget affirmed by the 1996 general meeting. An additional donation provided for the purchase of the organ enclosure which is shown as the capital expenditure in the following statement.

Separate from the General Operating Account, the ministry of music was greatly enhanced by the purchase of 100 hymn books. This was the result of a special funding drive. The support of the congregation is very much appreciated in this regard.

The Finance Committee sponsored the Goods and Service Auction. In spite of a reduced turnout due to a delayed start and poor weather, in excess of \$4,000 was realized by this venture.

The Finance Committee would like to acknowledge the contributions of individual church members and adherents. This support has increased steadily over the past few years. Clearly without this level of support, many of the things we do simply would not be possible.

Also, a significant portion of the returns was a result of volunteer fund raising efforts; both within the auxiliary groups and the general church. The committee would like to recognize these efforts.

We would also like to recognize the efforts of staff to use measures to minimize expenditures wherever possible.

For 1997, the Finance Committee is again proposing a budget increased over that of the previous year. We would very much like to acknowledge the support of the congregation in all our efforts. Many of you have assessed your level of support and modified those givings to meet our increasing financial needs. Your continued support will be required to ensure Squamish United Church remains a thriving place of worship and spiritual growth.

Submitted by,

Bert Ionson

Chair - Finance Committee

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RECEIPTS AND DONATIONS FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1996
SQUAMISH UNITED CHURCH - GENERAL ACCOUNT

A. LOCAL RECEIPTS AND DONATIONS:

By envelope & P.A.R.	59,255.29
Open offering	5,386.28
Gifts & donations	4,518.95
U.C.W. donations	4,800.00
Fund raising events	7,039.48
Observer	150.00
Insurance Payment	459.09
G.S.T. Rebate	580.95
Capital Gifts	6,500.25
Annex & Church honorariums	2,925.00
Bank deposit interest	31.67
Subtotal	91,646.96

B. MISSION AND SERVICE:

By envelope & P.A.R.	11,565.00
U.C.W. donations	500.00
World development donations	40.00
Credited M & S	12,105.00
 Special Appeals	
White Gift	528.00
Total for missions	12,633.00

C. TOTAL RECEIPTS AND DONATIONS: \$104,279.96

EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1996

SQUAMISH UNITED CHURCH --- GENERAL ACCOUNT

EXPENSE:

1. Salaries & related expenses.....	58,756.22
2. Workers compensation.....	115.00
3. Insurance.....	2,191.00
4. Municipal services.....	2,103.73
5. Heating Fuels.....	5,870.08
6. Telephone.....	1,805.86
7. Electricity.....	1,559.45
8. Maintenance.....	898.30
9. Capital additions.....	6,777.64
10. Sundries.....	29.00
11. Mission & Service (incl. World Development).....	12,105.00
12. Special Appeals (White Gift).....	528.00
13. Seminars & Session.....	532.31
14. Guest Speakers.....	375.00
15. Caring Ministry.....	330.14
16. Stationery & Church supplies.....	1,821.41
17. Duplicator Lease & Service.....	2,033.42
18. Music.....	457.86
19. Christian Education.....	535.74
20. Observer.....	270.00
21. Presbytery allocation.....	2,855.00
22. Vancouver School of Theology.....	100.00

TOTAL:

\$102,050.16

SQUAMISH UNITED CHURCH
YEAR END FINANCIAL STATEMENT (unaudited)
DECEMBER 31, 1996

A. General Operating Account: (Royal Bank)

Carry over from 1995	5,041.55
1996 Receipts	104,279.96
1996 Expenses	[102,050.16]
Carry over into 1997	<u>\$7,271.35</u>

B. Benevolent Fund Account:

1996 Receipts	581.49
1996 Expenses	[214.00]
Carry over into 1997	<u>\$367.49</u>

C. Hymn Book Fund Account:

1996 Receipts	2,789.00
1996 Expenses	[2,458.22]
Carry over into 1997	<u>\$330.78</u>

D. Building and Maintenance Fund: (Nova Scotia)

Carry over from 1995	19,507.93
Envelope & P.A.R. donations	6,061.00
Donation	3,000.00
Check off deposits	48.00
Interest	34.32
Choir tape sales	312.00
Donation for sanctuary sound	816.00
MacMillian Family Fund Grant	5,000.00
Bruce Manzer (modem for computer)	[359.08]
Arc Construction & Home Hardware (for Manse water tank)	[535.22]
David Dohms (Church roof)	[10,000.00]
A Shade Better (Manse blinds)	[508.44]
A Shade Better (Blinds for Minister's office)	[394.44]
Rob Pedersen (church paint)	[92.62]
Arc Construction (Sanctuary remodeling)	[6,523.79]
Speedy Auto Glass (Sanctuary windows)	[4,305.86]
Glacier Paint & Wall Covering (Deposit on Carpeting)	[1,500.00]
Mountain Building Centre (Sanctuary)	[224.68]
Hi Cee Recordings (additional choir tapes)	[110.61]
Service charges	[2.55]
Carry over into 1997	<hr/> \$10,221.96

COMPARISON OF 1996 BUDGET VERSUS ACTUAL EXPENDITURES
SQUAMISH UNITED CHURCH - GENERAL ACCOUNT

<u>Catagory:</u>	<u>Budgeted:</u>	<u>Actual:</u>
Salaries and related expenses	58,996.00	58,871.22
Insurance	2,400.00	2,191.00
Municipal Services	2,200.00	2,103.73
Heating Fuels	6,600.00	5,870.08
Electricity	1,600.00	1,559.45
Telephone	1,500.00	1,805.86
Maintenance	1,200.00	898.30
Capital Additions		6,777.64
Sundries	200.00	29.00
Mission and Service	10,700.00	12,105.00
Special Appeals		528.00
Presbytery	2,700.00	2,855.00
Observer	400.00	270.00
Seminars	500.00	532.31
Guest Speakers	800.00	375.00
Caring Ministry	300.00	330.00
Stationary and Church Supplies	2,200.00	1,821.41
Duplicator Lease and Service	2,500.00	2,033.42
Music	500.00	457.86
Christian Education	500.00	535.74
Vancouver School of Theology	100.00	100.00
Youth Group	100.00	
TOTAL:	95,996.00	102,050.16

MISSION AND SERVICE FUND

The budget for 1996 was \$10,700 for M & S.

United Church Women donation	500.00
U.C.W. Life Memberships	60.00
Congregational donation	11,565.00
World Development donation	40.00
TOTAL:	\$12,165.00

Lest we congratulate ourselves too quickly, I would like to inform you that 20% of our 1996 contribution was donated by one contributor. This would indicate that the rest of the congregation has not increased their level of givings.

Respectfully submitted by

Lou Rempel
M & S Secretary

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ENVELOPE SECRETARY'S REPORT

	<u>1994</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1996</u>
Envelope and P.A.R. contributors	80	94	93
Bank Check off users	1	1	1
Contributors by yearly donation	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>
TOTAL CONTRIBUTORS:	87	100	100
Contributors to M & S Fund	50	51	51
Special Fund Contributors	35	41	55
Sunday School Envelope Contributors	11	17	10

Are you interested in where you stand in the financial picture of the church? The following figures are from the total identifiable contributions and include local support, M & S donations and special appeal donations.

	<u>Number of givers in:</u>		
	<u>1994</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1996</u>
\$1.00 - \$100.00.....	9	20	15
\$101.00 - \$200.00.....	8	9	11
\$201.00 - \$300.00.....	11	9	10
\$301.00 - \$400.00.....	5	7	8
\$401.00 - \$500.00.....	7	5	6
\$501.00 - \$600.00.....	7	5	5
\$601.00 - \$700.00.....	8	4	5
\$701.00 - \$800.00.....	4	5	6
\$801.00 - \$900.00.....	5	2	5
\$901.00 - \$1000.00.....	3	2	3
\$1001.00 - \$1100.00.....	1	1	4
\$1101.00 - \$1200.00.....	2	8	1
\$1201.00 - \$1300.00.....	4	3	3
\$1301.00 - \$1400.00.....	1	2	2
\$1401.00 - \$1500.00.....	2	3	5
\$1501.00 - \$1600.00.....	-	2	-
\$1601.00 - \$1700.00.....	1	2	-
\$1701.00 - \$1800.00.....	2	1	1
\$1801.00 - \$1900.00.....	1	-	2

\$1901.00 - \$2000.00.....	-	1	-
\$2001.00 - \$2100.00.....	1	-	-
\$2101.00 - \$2200.00.....	-	1	-
\$2401.00 - \$2500.00.....	-	2	-
\$2501.00 - \$2600.00.....	1	1	2
\$2901.00 - \$3000.00.....	1	1	1
\$3001.00 - \$3100.00.....	1	-	-
\$3301.00 - \$3400.00.....	1	-	1
\$3401.00 - \$3500.00.....	-	-	1
\$3501.00 - \$3600.00.....	-	1	-
\$3701.00 - \$3800.00.....	-	1	-
\$4201.00 - \$4300.00.....	-	2	-
\$4901.00 - \$5000.00.....	-	-	1
\$5201.00 - \$5300.00.....	-	-	1
\$9501.00 - \$9600.00.....	-	-	1
	87	100	100

Respectfully submitted by
Retta Behrner

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SQUAMISH UNITED CHURCH
PROPOSED 1997 BUDGET

REMUNERATION

Minister's Salary	36,200
Pension, Insurance, Medical	4,200
W.C.B.	130
C.P.P. and E.I.	2,900
Book Allowance	400
Study Allowance	400
Travel Allowance	3,000
Secretarial	8,100
Janitorial	2,600
Organist	1,620
Nursery	1,000
Subtotal	60,550

SECULAR EXPENSES

Insurance	2,400
Municipal Services	2,300
Heating Fuel	6,600
Electricity	1,700
Telephone	1,900
Duplicator Lease and Service	2,500
Maintenance	1,300
Sundries	300
Capital Acquisitions (Printer)	500
Subtotal	19,500

OUTREACH

Mission and Service	10,900
Presbytery	3,000
Observer	400
Seminars	500
Guest Speakers	800
Caring Ministry	300
Stationary and Church Supplies	2,200
V.S.T.	100
Music	500
Christian Education	500
Youth Group	100
Confirmation Classes	300
Subtotal	19,600

TOTAL GENERAL FUND: \$99,650

FROM OUR CHURCH REGISTERS 1996

IN MEMORIAM: (19)

Ellen Aileen Harley - January 2
Mary May Granger - January 16
Bert Ernest Gorder - January 28
Liselotte Gertrude Mader - February 6
Thomas James Pullen - February 19
Stephen Antony McLain - February 24
Wellington Harris "Duke" Decoursey - April 12
Robert Bruce Thain - April 14
Peter Slobodian - April 27
Angus Archibald McRae - May 2
Adrian Richard Swatfield - May 11
Burdiak Konstantin - June 1
James Harold Golden - June 22
Ingolf Arne Eliasson - June 22
George Alexander Martin - September 6
Margaret Winnifred Doray - October 3
Frances Clara Shaw - October 25
Karl Christiansen - December 24

MARRIAGES: (4)

Cameron Franklen Purdy and Carol Anne Tamburri - May 11
John Christopher French and Heidrun Elke "Heidi" Moenke - May 18
Derrick Jenkins and Teresa Maria Wilson - July 12
Mark Sheldon Gigliotti and Heather Suzanne Jenkins - September 1

REAFFIRMATION OF MARRIAGE VOWS: (2)

Graeme Taylor and Sheila Sovereign - May 31
Andrew Podvezko and Monica (Huber) Podvezko - September 7

BAPTISMS: child (6)

Tiana Grace, daughter of Susan Ferguson - May 12
Shawn Ray, son of Susan Ferguson - May 12
Kelvin Denbhart, son of Romeo and Juanita Tayag - May 12
Allison Victoria, daughter of Edward and Kelly Smit - May 12
Randi Dawn, daughter of Jeffrey and Natalie Findlay - November 24
Jonah Jeffrey, son of Feffrey and Natalie Findlay - November 24

BAPTISMS: adult (1)

Susan Ferguson - May 12

