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Annual Report 1997

From the Desk of the Minister

Looking at my calendar for last year, January 1997 began as most years do, with Annual Reports to write, budgets to pass, plans for the year to be made, study programs to begin and an Annual Meeting to plan. It was in February that I had the privilege of meeting with 15 of our youth to begin a two month journey on Sundays after church that would come to a completion with a Confirmation Service on Easter Sunday, when we welcomed 13 young people into full membership in our church. (A list of the names of those confirmed can be found under "New Members".) As part of our program we spent a week-end on Galiano Island at the cabin of Shelley and Dave Smith who treated us with wonderful hospitality and an open door. Carlotta Liechti was instrumental in making sure we were well organized, fed and where we needed to be, when we needed to be there. Many thanks to both the Smiths and to Carlotta who made my job so very easy. The Confirmation Class struggled with Scriptures, (boy, did they have questions for me!), looked at their own faith, learned some Spiritual practices, worshipped at sunrise, prayed using clay and art as mediums, wrote their thoughts in journals, kept a prayer vigil during Holy Week, sang and played. My time with them, getting to know them and being able to pass on some of the practices that are so important to me was a joy to me and I am filled with gratitude for the experience.

In January and February, I offered a Meditation class that was well attended with 12-15 people per session. It is the greatest satisfaction I have to see people growing, becoming more fully who they are, trusting more in themselves and what they can accomplish and being able, as I sometimes am, to open doors for them to walk through. In September, having taken a break from this class (which had completed a full year in February) we began again, this time with more of a focus on prayer. We learned and experienced many forms of prayer and how to use them. We learned that the most powerful prayer of all is "Your will be done." And we grew as a community.

In the fall 20-25 people gathered for six weeks to take a look at the Scriptures, how they were constructed, who wrote them, what was historically happening at the time and who the Gospel writers believed Jesus to be. I think it safe to say that everyone went away from

this study with something new to ponder and some of us will never forget that Paul wrote 13 letters.

The members of our Board held regular bimonthly meetings and in alternate months met for Visioning Sessions. An outline of these sessions can be found in the report of our Board chair, Shelley Smith. The Board also took some risks and tried some new things. In September to welcome folks back after the summer we held an outdoor service under our friendly oak tree and then joined together in a corn boil. It was a fabulous day, even the weather was picture perfect. At the end of September we challenged each other to bring friends to the worship service and had a full house. Some of those folks have stayed with us and we are delighted to have them among us. Sharing what we have with our friends and the people we care about is an important part of a thriving, alive community. Let's keep challenging ourselves to do it on a regular basis. No need to wait for a Sunday set aside to bring your friends, bring them any Sunday at all!

A highlight of the fall for me was our Volunteer Appreciation Sunday. It was so much fun to celebrate the many, many people who give of their time and their talents to make this community work. It also feels good just to say "Thanks a bunch!" We really appreciate you. It was a surprise even to me to see just how many people contribute in significant ways to the life of our church.

So many people have been so very supportive of me over the past year, that I want to say in a very inadequate way, I am grateful. Please know that your support is very much valued and cherished. I look forward to our year ahead. I pray that God be among us all and that in all things, God's will is done.

Yours faithfully,
Claire Bowers

MINUTES FROM THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING 1997

The Annual Congregational Meeting of Squamish United Church was held in the church on February 2, 1997 with 31 members present. Dessert and coffee was served. Syd Pudney read Psalm 24 and offered as opening prayer. The hymn "In Loving Partnership" was sung. The Chairperson, June Halvorson, called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m.

M/S by Trevor Harris/Jill Gould that all present be given voting privileges. Carried.

M/S by Syd Pudney/Evelyn Dawson the the minutes of the 1996 Annual Congregational meeting be adopted. Carried.

1996 Committee and Group Reports:

The following Committee and Group Reports were named and opened in block for questions or discussion: B.C. Conference, Vancouver-Burrard Presbytery, Official Board, Worship & Music, Senior Choir, Congregational Life & Work, Caring Ministry, Youth Group, United Church Women, U.C.W. Financial, Toques, Canadian Mental Health, Community Christmas Care, Men's Breakfast, Property.

M/S by Irene Vickers/Bert Ionson that the above named reports be accepted. Carried.

Nominating Committee Report:

Shelley Smith presented the following slate of chairs, officers, and committee members for 1997:

Executive - Chair: Shelley Smith, Past-Chair: June Halvorson, Vice-Chair: vacant, Treasurer: Dave Doubek, Secretary: Retta Behrner.

Worship Committee - Chair: Syd Pudney. Members: Lynette Halvorson, Christine Tribe, Judi Jenkins, Joanna Schwarz, Sue Puchmayr, Patsy Riecker, Walter Huber.

Congregational Life & Work Committee - Chair: Peter Gordon. Members: Dave Elliot, Kathy MacKenzie, Shelley Smith, Retta Behrner.

Finance Committee - Chair: Dave Doubek. Members: Bert Ionson, Wilf Grolman, Shirley Halvorson, David Smith.

Ministry & Personnel Committee - Chair: Grace Halvorson, Members: Trevor Harris, Rainer Schwarz, Mary Larcombe.

Property Committee - Chair: Bill Rempel. Members: Don Behrner, Norm Halvorson, George Gilmour, Harry Whale, Jill Gould, Bert Minshall, Rob Pedersen.

Caring Ministry - Co-Chairs: Maureen Gilmour, June Halvorson. Members: Lynette Halvorson, Olly Adams, Lou Rempel, Evelyn Dawson,

Irene Vickers, Christine Tribe, Diane Turley.

Members-at- Large - Wilf Grolman, Kevin Haberl, Gill Hotson.

Prebytery Representative - Patsy Riecker.

Sunday School Co-ordinator - Sue Ferguson.

United Church Women - June Halvorson.

Men's Breakfast Group - Dave Elliot

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

M/S by Shelly Smith/Grace Halvorson that the 1997 slate of officers be accepted with the power to add any additional members. Carried.

A vote of thanks was given to members of the Nominating Committee: Shelly Smith, Grace Halvorson, Dave Elliot, Donnaleen Miller and Rev. Claire Bowers.

Finance Report and Proposed 1997 Budget:

Bert Ionson highlighted the 1996 Financial reports and presented the 1997 Budget for approval.

M/S Bert Ionson/Wilf Grolman that the 1996 Financial reports be accepted. Carried.

M/S Bert Ionson/Dave Doubek that the Proposed 1997 Budget be accepted. Carried.

New Business:

Change to Constitution: It was suggested that the position of Board Chair may be better served as a two year term rather than a one year term as it is now. Discussion followed on both the advantages and disadvantages of the two year term.

M/S by Trevor Harris/Jill Gould that the constitution be amended to allow the Chair to serve two years in that position. The motion could not be voted on as it was pointed out an ammendment to the constitution must be advertised for two weeks prior to the congregational vote.

M/S by Trevor Harris/Cathie Bourgh that this meeting recommend that action be taken around this issue. Carried. A congregational meeting will be called for Sunday, February 23, 1997. Notice will be given in the bulletin on February 9 and February 16.

Nursery Co-ordinator: A request for a nursery co-ordinator was made to the meeting. Celia Huber the former co-ordinator has moved and a replacement is needed. The duties consist of interviewing and scheduling Sunday morning nursery staff. There was no response to

the request. It will be taken back to the Board to find a replacement.

Votes of Thanks:

Appreciation was expressed to Claire for her ministry to us.

Thanks was extended to David & Shelley Smith and Black Tusk Reality for printing the Annual Reports. Thanks also to Trevor Harris and Squamish Elementary School for the loan of the binding machine.

Rev. Bowers led us in a closing prayer. The meeting was adjourned 8:45 p.m. by Dave Elliot.

#####

SQUAMISH UNITED CHURCH OFFICIAL BOARD

The year of 1997 was a year of continual searching and growth for the Official Board, following the direction of the Squamish United Church Mission Statement. I would like to include the Mission Statement here as a reminder to all our members.

Mission Statement

As a congregation of the United Church of Canada in the growing and changing community of Squamish, we will witness to God's love revealed through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit:

by gathering in worship, study, fellowship and outreach, while honouring our diversity of gifts, needs and spiritual experiences, so that all may be nurtured to grow in faith, commitment and service to Jesus Christ.

And by reaching out to community, nation and world towards the healing, peace, and justice of God's whole creation, while seeking to be a faith community which is open, compassionate, inclusive, and celebrative of God's love for us and all people.

To give us direction in our mission, the Board decided to hold visioning meetings every two months alternating with a business meeting. Traditionally, the Board has held a once yearly retreat, but this year we felt that regular meetings would give us the time to more deeply discuss, discover, learn and internalize the church community's needs and direction.

I would like to share with you some of the questions we asked ourselves, under the direction and guidance of our minister, Claire Bowers.

- (1) In the past two years, what would be one or two things that have happened in our congregation you would name as highlights?
- (2) When have you felt uplifted or nurtured or inspired because of your involvement in this congregation in the past year?
- (3) Would you call yourself more of a leader or a follower in your church?
- (4) If you name yourself as a follower, would you like to be more of a leader?
- (5) What do you need from the congregation (or the wider church) to

- help you develop leadership skills?
- (6) What is this congregation good at? What are its strengths and weaknesses as a Christian community?
 - (7) In what ways do you believe the Spirit of God is calling us to grow?
 - (8) What is Spiritual nurture?
 - (9) How do we accomplish Spiritual nurturing as a board?
 - (10) How can our church community grow in numbers?
 - a) Is growth important to us?
 - b) Why do people come to this church?
 - c) What are people needing?
 - d) Are we fulfilling these needs?
 - e) Why do people leave this church?
 - f) Are we reaching out to the community?
 - (11) Does this new board structure, which is a Board of Directors vs. the Elders and Stewards, meet the needs of the church?

As you can see from these questions, the visioning meetings were not only a time for self-discovery as a church board, but were a time for self-discovery as individuals. We did recognize our strengths and weaknesses, both as individuals and as a church and we have been challenged to grow in the way we believed the Holy Spirit was asking us. This is an ongoing listening and learning process and I'm sure it will be continuing into 1998.

The heart of a church's life and ministry is the experience of Christian community. Our church community is where it all begins—that sense of Christian community should be an observable, palpable presence. This presence must be felt by all those we come in contact with. As a "doer" we can reach out into our local community and to the wider world around us, with openness, warmth and acceptance.

As Jesus says to the disciples in John 13:34,35

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

The board has worked hard along with Claire in fulfilling our mission statement. I would like to thank them for the willingness and enthusiasm they had in their positions on the Board. It was an exciting and interesting year of growth.

On behalf of the Board I would like to thank the congregation for their support and enthusiasm in all that we have to celebrate in our church.

I would also like to challenge all members of this church to consider these questions that we as a Board have been looking at this year; remembering that we are a church community who works as a team. We all need to take ownership for what happens in our congregation and need to continue to reach out to each other and to the greater world in which we live in celebration "of God's love for us and all people."

Respectfully submitted,

Shelley Smith

#####

WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE

While the Committee is charged with some responsibility for the spiritual matters of the church, including worship services, music and sacraments, I must admit that my part as Chairman has been an easy one, limited usually to making a few suggestions. The real work is mostly done by the members of the committee who quietly go about their duties without any prompting from anyone.

Sue Puchmayr still arranges the monthly Hilltop House hymn sing, and Christine Tribe usually contributes by leading in prayer. Patsy Riecker continues to look after getting people lined up to read the Scriptures. Joanna Schwarz has an important role with her input regarding the church music.

Our Minister, Claire Bowers is automatically a member, and indeed, just by the nature of our responsibilities, she is of necessity the real leader of the Committee. We continue to be impressed by her ability, and sincerity. How fortunate we are to have her here serving Squamish United Church and the community at large!

While the Committee has some responsibility for the choir's participation in the worship services, it usually has no direct contact with the Choir Director, except that most of us on the committee are also members of the choir. So when Marilyn Caldwell had to resign from the position which she filled with such dedication, and skill for a number of years, we were truly concerned both for Marilyn herself and the void she would be leaving behind. As it happens we needn't have worried. Marilyn's throat is getting better, and though we still miss her, we have been blessed by having Ian Brown step in to take over in a most professional manner.

At the Easter Sunday service thirteen young people were confirmed following a series of classes, and a retreat conducted by Claire.

We wish to thank all those, both individuals and groups, who conducted services during our minister's vacation and study time. Knowing that we have people willing to fill in when needed is

reassuring. It is particularly nice to have experienced, c.
and willing lay-preacher like Christine Tribe with us.

Our outdoor communion service this year was another very meaningful time of worship. At this service Claire offered the "oil of blessing" to those who wished it for the first time. It proved to be a very popular and spiritually moving feature which has become a regular part of our Communion services since then.

This year it was decided to have the 7:00 p.m. service only on Christmas Eve. A few members of the congregation expressed some disappointment in not having the late service as well as the 7 o'clock service. It does put an extra load on our minister however, and since it had not been the established practise in this church in years gone by, the committee felt it was not really warranted.

The Committee welcomes input from the congregation on matters relating to church services, service format, music, etc., which could enhance, and enrich our worship experience.

This past year as Chair of the Worship Committee has been a very rewarding time for me. I appreciate very much the privilege afforded me in working with our minister and the Committee, to play an important part in the life of our church.

Respectfully submitted,
Syd Pudney, Chair

#####

SQUAMISH UNITED CHURCH CHOIR

1997 saw the end of an era as Marilyn Caldwell, who has directed the choir through the past eight years, passed the baton to the new director. Marilyn provided expert leadership of this 'spirited, spiritual group' for as long as many members of the congregation and choir can remember. She has been responsible for the development of an excellent choral sound. She has built a rich library of music with a wide variety of genres, cultures and styles. She has led the choir through the production of two wonderful cassette recordings and has seen the acquisition of new choir gowns. Marilyn has led the group through many occasions which will provide memories and stories to last lifetimes. The choir expressed their appreciation in the presentation of a beautiful quilt, made of squares individually decorated by each member of the choir. Thanks to Sue Puchmayr and Arlene Smith for coordinating this project.

A few highlights of the year include contributing to the Sing the Faith Ecumenical Event in February, Carol and Wilf's wedding in June, performance at the Howe Sound Festival of Canadian Arts in November and at Carol's Carols at Christmas time. The Sunday worship service is our primary focus, of course, and the choir continues to take this responsibility seriously, preparing new anthems for most Sundays, leading the congregational hymns and singing introits to begin each worship service.

The choir continues to provide support and fellowship within, and the new director-for one- appreciates the support and guidance which he has received in this, his first such assignment. Enormous thanks go out to Arlene Smith, who continues to serve as our faithful accompanist, sight-reading hymns and anthems for rehearsals and accompanying the choir's anthems so expertly, each Sunday.

The choir looks forward to another rich year of music ministry at our church and thanks to the board, the congregation and Claire for their support.

Respectfully submitted,
Ian Brown, Choir Director

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE AND WORK COMMITTEE

The Congregational Life and Work Committee again had our work cut out for us this past year. With the able assistance of Kathy MacKenzie, we conducted a survey with the Sunday School teachers to assess the Whole People of God curriculum. I am happy to report that there was a high degree of satisfaction amongst the teachers. Susan Ferguson, the Sunday School coordinator has worked closely with our committee and has done an excellent job of organizing and supervising that department. Susan will be stepping back from that function this summer, so we will be actively looking for a replacement this spring. In the coming year we will be documenting all the congregational activities in order to ease the work load for organizing these events. We always have room for a few more committee members if anyone is interested in serving. Claire was voted the hostess with the mostest when it came to coffee and goodies at our meetings. That alone was worth the price of attendance.

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Gordon, Chair

#####

CARING MINISTRY

A few months ago someone in our congregation received a sympathy card from Caring Ministry and she wondered what CM was all about. Our Caring Ministry program began in 1985 with our main commitment being to those who were bereaved, the shut-ins, the elderly and those who were ill. There are joyous occasions for us too as when couples celebrate a special wedding anniversary or someone has a milestone birthday we like to honour them with a beautiful bouquet of flowers or a plant and perhaps a visit.

Our cute care lambs made by CM members have also been given out and usually much appreciated.

There is always the possibility that someone needing care is missed. Be assured it is never intentional and please know how much we appreciate being informed when someone needs to be contacted.

Church members who are residents of Hilltop House each received a gift at Christmas time from Caring Ministry and on behalf of the congregation.

This past summer I (MG) was the recipient of much caring by my fellow CM members and also by members of the congregation and our minister. It meant much to me.

With God's blessing we trust we will be there for you when you need us this coming year.

Submitted by,
Maureen Gilmour and
June Halvorson
Co-ordinators

#####

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. We meet quarterly 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.

We did an extensive review this year of job descriptions. Revised job descriptions will now be included in our manual. We wish to note that we feel we have an excellent staff all of whom are dedicated to assisting our congregation to do God's work.

Members of the M & P Committee are Rainer Schwarz, Trevor Harris, Mary Larcombe and Grace 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 1997:

Each Sunday we gather together and sing a song while we receive the offering. Then we sing the doxology and the children go to classes. Our average attendance is 26 children.

September to December 1997:

Classes began September 14. Once again we are using the Whole people of God curriculum. The average attendance is 30 children. Interspersed with the curriculum were 2 video Sundays and 2 inter-generational Sundays. On December 14, fourteen children performed a play for the congregation called "What a Rotten Christmas." November 30 was a very special Sunday when Claire led all the children in a Christmas song - Act and Sing - Sunday.

During a regular Sunday we receive the offering and sing or hear a message relating to that Sunday's theme. The doxology is sung and then the children go to their classes.

A very special thank you to all the teachers and helpers who have donated many hours to let our children know they are special.

Submitted by,
Susan Ferguson
Coordinator

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SUNDAY SCHOOL FINANCIAL REPORT 1997

Bank balance as of January 1, 1997 620.42

Receipts:

Sunday School Offerings 499.20

Disbursements:

Sunday School Curriculum 494.63

Bank cheques and binder 58.21

Confirmation gifts 110.29

Other expenses 154.69

[817.82]

Bank balance as of December 31, 1997 \$301.80

Submitted by,

Patsy Riecker

Sunday School Treasurer

#####

YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group began 1997 with a number of members attending weekly confirmation classes with Reverend Bowers. A highlight of their learning included a retreat at the home of Dave and Shelley Smith on Galiano Island. The following weekend thirteen members of the Youth Group were confirmed on Easter Sunday. What a wonderful day that was. This event closed Youth Group for the summer although a number of members attended summer camps, were camp counsellors and attended summer presbytery events. Youth Group resumed in September with another retreat to Galiano Island. Reverend Bowers led them in their sessions and a brainstorming session for what the Youth Group wanted out of the next year was held. It was a beautiful weekend for reconnecting. That same weekend Marilyn attended a Youth group Leaders Workshop at Ladner United and we began our ministry with the Youth of our congregation.

The emphasis for the Youth Group has been a combination of fellowship with one another and service to our community. The group has taken on the task of bagging the dry goods for the Squamish Food Bank each month. This has been a great time for us to work together for a common goal of helping others in the community. Anyone wishing to join us is WELCOME. Other activities that we engaged in since September include:

- 1) A Bar-b-que and hike around the Four Lakes Trail.
- 2) Trick or Treating for the Squamish Food Bank.
- 3) Learning about mushrooms and mushroom picking.
- 4) Helping with the Congregational Dinner.
- 5) Helping at the Clay Event and attending Carol's Carols.
- 6) Food Bank packing followed by a hot tub or pizza bread.
- 7) Craft afternoon with Mae Stanton.
- 8) Participation in the Sunday School Christmas service.

Planned in the future include skiing at Blackcomb, skating with the Baptist Youth Group and attending the Ecumenical Night of Music and packing for the Food Bank.

This has been a new experience for both of us, but we have had

the blessing of great support from the kids, their parents, the minister and the congregation. Thank You! We embark on 1998 with a little more experience and lots of enthusiasm.

Faithfully submitted,

Gary and Marilyn Caldwell
Youth Group Leaders

#####

VANCOUVER BURRARD PRESBYTERY

Our church belongs along with 22 others, to the Vancouver Burrard Presbytery. Rev. Shelagh McKinnon of St. Andrew's Wesley United Church is the Presbytery Chair. I attended, as your lay representative, 6 out of 7 meetings this year.

There are various committees which meet in Vancouver at different times. Though, the Global Concerns, which I am a member of, is not active at present, except for the M & S component. Approximately 50 - 60 attend each meeting; ministers, lay delegates, staff and visitors, including Jen Cunnings of the Youth and Young Adults Ministry, who we share with South Vancouver Presbytery.

Some of the committees are:

Congregational Relations - they organize Pastoral Charge oversight visitations approximately every 3 years. West Howe Sound is to become 2 separate pastoral charges in July '98. It will become the Davis Bay Pastoral Charge and Gibsons Pastoral Charge.

Church in Canada - in January they gave a presentation about Fairhaven Homes, a United Church sponsored affordable housing project.

Faith and Spiritual Development - in March we heard about Camp Fircom and it's upcoming 75th anniversary. Fund raising for Camp Fircom. It's many worthwhile camp weeks and the differences they make to many young people. Also, many YAYA activities, twice monthly special Sunday Services, camps, outings and workshops.

Education and Students - oversees the candidates for ordained ministry and introduces them to us.

Home Missions - give us historical sketches and today's work in our three missions 'Longhouse Ministry, First United and Bowen Island United Church'. They do extremely worthwhile work under difficult circumstances and I always wish there was more money available for them. We heard about them in October at the Longhouse

which in itself is a different experience.

Of course there is always Finance - I was interested to note that Squamish is exactly midway of the 23 churches in our Presbytery allocations. We are not as small as we sometimes think.

On November 25, Claire and I braved A.P.E.C. traffic and attended Presbytery at St. Andrew's Wesley to hear our Moderator, The Rt. Rev. Bill Phipps, speak on Economic Justice. I'm afraid I was not too impressed with his old style delivery and once again was thankful to have Claire Bowers as our minister.

This is just some of the topics that your Presbytery deals with on your behalf.

Respectfully submitted by

Patsy Riecker

Presbytery rep.

#####

B.C. CONFERENCE ANNUAL MEETING

The 72nd Annual Meeting was held May 8 - 11 at the Delta Pacific Conference Centre in Richmond, B.C. with 630 registered, including 46 youth (Heather Puchmayr was again attending), 36 children, ministers, lay presbytery reps, resource and conference staff and visitors. There was somehow a different atmosphere being in a hotel setting and I personally missed being able to take a little exercise and fresh air between long sessions. Also, there was a funeral on Saturday in our church for a child which our minister was preparing for and I also attended having been involved in her final care at home, so we were not able to attend all the time.

The theme was "Coming to the Well" and each presbytery made a presentation, ours appropriately being rain water with a few blossoms in it. The music was led by two diaconal ministers from Alberta (they were also going to be at General Council) and a Liturgical Dance Artist. There are certainly many ways of expressing spirituality and enlivening music.

A major change is that B.C. Conference will now meet the same year as General Council and not less than every two years. The next meeting will be in May '99 in Castlegar, B.C. Naramata Centre is celebrating it's 50th Anniversary, April 30 - May 3 '98 and they are encouraging everyone to attend.

I attended "Mending the World" at the 'focus time' discussion led by Rev. Bob Smith and Barry Cooke of the Inter-Church/Inter-Faith Relations Committee, but it was somewhat difficult to follow without previous reading of the document and then sharing around the table. This would later be presented at General Council.

Being a Council year there were many petitions, the major one being the Residential School Apology which generated many speakers and heated discussion with a small group having to work overnight on amended wording as there are so many legal liabilities to consider. This petition aroused media attention later on at Council.

Harlene Walker of Whistler was installed as Conference President at the Celebration of Ministry Service.

It is always encouraging to learn more about those who are the United Church in B.C., their problems and blessings, but also selfishly to realize how blessed we are in Squamish with leadership and the congregation.

Respectfully submitted by,
Patsy Riecker
1997 B.C. Conference delegate

#####

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

Once again the U.C.W. looks back on a year of wonderful fellowship and support from our members and a lot of work and financial success accomplished as well.

It was with regret we accepted the decision of our senior ladies to discontinue the Alpha unit. Although they no longer meet formally, they continue to be a wonderful presence in our congregation. We thank them for their years of service and the example of commitment they have given us.

A very special 35th anniversary service was held in April when we celebrated the uniting of the Women's Missionary Society and the Ladies Auxiliary. Two long time members, Maureen Gilmour and Evelyn Dawson received their life membership pins honouring their years of service to our church.

Each unit continues to serve in its own unique way. The Bethany unit sponsors the chicken sales and hosted the most enjoyable 'Wing Ding' in April. The Harmony unit organizes the rummage sales and hosts the birthday parties bi-monthly at Hilltop. With sadness we hosted the tea after the funeral service of our member Jean Morey. The MacKenzie unit organized the Spring plant and garage sale for Board this year and have offered to continue with the project. Patsy Riecker continues to do a super job of ordering Regal and the unit also sold bulbs this fall.

Jointly the U.C.W. —

- hosted a friendship tea for the senior ladies of our church in February.
 - catered the Jamie Marchant funeral tea.
 - catered the wedding reception of Carol and Wilf Grolman in June held specially for the congregation.
 - provided pies and servers for the Harvest Tea at Hilltop in October.
 - sewed bed rolls for First United Church in Vancouver.
- Thanks to Arlene Smith for heading up this project.

The units take turns serving coffee after church services usually two times a month.

There are a few dedicated knitters who continue to work for First United and we would like to thank them for the amazing number of toques produced each year.

The executive met in January, May and October with one short financial meeting in December.

Bethany Unit meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

Harmony Unit meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month.

MacKenzie Unit meets on the 1st Monday of each month.

Each unit welcomes women in the congregation to join with them in one of these groups. It will expand the dimensions of your faith and be a blessing to you.

Thanks to all for your support in '97.

Submitted by,

June Halvorson

President, U.C.W. Executive

#####

U.C.W. FINANCIAL REPORT 1997

Opening balance

609.05

Income:

Calendars	280.00
Coupon books	579.00
Love offerings	136.57
Coffee hours	138.53
Rummage Sales	2,150.44
Chicken Sales	19,636.92
Wing Ding Dinner	812.96
Plant/Garage Sale	1,341.22
Funeral	500.00
Regal	1,016.16
Bulb Sale	1,095.00
Bed roll project	25.00

27,711.90

27,711.90

Expenses:

Kitchen petty cash	150.00
Chicken	16,859.38
35 anniversary cake	32.00
Camp Fircom Society	285.00
Bulbs	569.78
Coupon books	319.60
Calendars	97.85
U.C.W. Project Fund	800.00
Mission & Service	500.00
Squamish United General	8,550.00

28,163.61

[28,163.61]

December 31, 1997 Closing balance

\$ 152.24

Submitted by

Arlene Smith

U.C.W. Treasurer

TOQUES

184 toques were turned in in 1997 — the same number as in 1996. Ten were knit by a visitor from Norway, Frances did 108 and Trevor's mother made three. How many does that leave for the rest of us? I know a couple of people who set a goal of one toque per month. Could you do that? Or maybe contribute some yarn for those who knit but find it difficult to buy the yarn.

Submitted by,

Lou Rempel

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COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CARE

In December 1997, two hundred and sixty four hampers were prepared. Members of the congregation were heavily involved both in the organizational work and the volunteer effort. Thank you to all who helped both with their monetary gifts and the gifts of time and effort.

Submitted by,

Lou Rempel

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MEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP

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

During 1997, the attendance remained solid. On average 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 backgrounds, 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 those who co-ordinate and lead these meetings, the cooks who came in early to prepare the meal, and the other people who participated during discussion time.

Respectfully submitted,
Rainer Schwarz

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PROPERTY COMMITTEE

The Property Committee continues to work quietly in the background; ensuring that the church building are maintained and ready for use by the congregation and other community service groups.

The biggest capital project in 1997 was the installation of two new natural gas furnaces in the church. The larger unit heats the main sanctuary area, while a smaller furnace serves the offices, bathrooms, kitchen and entrance hall. These energy efficient units replaced the 34 year old high maintenance, oil furnaces. Programmable thermostats were also installed on both furnaces, as well as the one in the Annex, to further conserve energy and preheat the buildings just prior to their use.

Two additional double-paned windows were installed at the Manse to minimize heat loss. A ceramic electric heater was purchased for the basement area. We are indebted to Tom Bowers for effectively dealing with minor problems at the manse as they arise.

In an effort to catch up with today's technology we installed two used IBM 486 computers in the church offices. We also purchased a new Laser jet printer.

A wireless lapel microphone was purchased to allow freedom of movement during the minister's popular children's story time. A new bulletin board was installed on the rear wall.

In addition to the above the committee carried out routine minor maintenance and grounds upkeep. This included repainting the parking lot lines.

The church Annex is increasingly being used by various community groups. In addition to the Sunday School, six different groups are scheduled to use the facility in the New Year. This includes a twice weekly Soup Kitchen which serves up to 30 meals to less fortunate members of our community.

I would like to thank the property committee members for their continued support as well as others who showed up for "work bees" or cut the lawn.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Rempel, Chair

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The budget for Squamish United Church in 1997 for the first time exceeded \$100,000 and for a church of our size this was an ambitious undertaking. We went into the year with a relatively healthy General Account balance of over \$7,000, however by the time that we came into the summer season this surplus had been depleted and \$2,000 had to be borrowed from the Building Fund which has only just been reimbursed late in the year. Thanks to a late season increase in givings we finished the year with a surplus of \$4,407.26.

Despite coming in under budget by over \$5,000 our expenses exceeded our receipts by \$2,863.89. There were two major reasons for coming in under our budget forecast. The first is that the cost of our insurance, municipal service costs, photocopier, fuel, and utilities came under budget by about \$3,000. The second, more concerning reason, is that we had a \$2,000 shortfall in our Mission and Service Fund receipts. Our M & S Fund target for 1997 was \$11,573 and our final tally of givings amounted to \$9,533.

The Building Fund account began 1997 with a balance of just over \$10,000 and will start 1998 with a balance of \$7,059.58. The Building Fund account, besides being used as a cushion for the General Account was well utilized, the most important capital acquisition being a new natural gas heating system for the main church building. The new system will provide us with a cleaner heat source and hopefully also lower our future heating bills.

The Finance Committee would like to thankfully acknowledge the contributions of individual church members and adherents. With ever increasing budget pressures this level of support is what sustains our ongoing work and allows us to reach for new goals. Special thanks also to our ever active U.C.W. units whose fund raising efforts are truly amazing at times.

The Finance Committee is proposing for 1998 a budget increase over our actual expenditures for 1997. Please continue to assess

your level of support. I am sure that 1998 can see us grow in our own Squamish United Church and in our support for our very special community of Squamish.

Respectfully submitted by,
Dave Doubek, Chair

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187.00	Conveyer
5,020.00	Annex & Church House
130.00	Capital Gains
17.00	Bank deposit interest
100.00	Youth Service
140.00	Church Office & Misc
100.00	Donation for Choir
<hr/>	
61,487.00	Subtotal

9,033.30	BY envelope & P.A.M.
500.00	B.O.W. donations
<hr/>	
9,533.30	Grand Total

1,140.00	Special Appeal
710.00	James Family Relief
<hr/>	
11,243.30	Total for 1998

61,487.00	C. TOTAL RECEIPTS AND DONATIONS
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RECEIPTS AND DONATIONS FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1997
SQUAMISH UNITED CHURCH - GENERAL ACCOUNT

A. LOCAL RECEIPTS AND DONATIONS:

By envelope & P.A.R.	58,656.40
Open offering	4,519.89
Gifts & donations	4,846.99
U.C.W. donations	8,550.00
G.S.T. Rebate	1,681.92
Observer	185.00
Annex & Church honorariums	3,020.00
Capital Gifts	139.50
Bank deposit interest	17.58
Youth Retreat receipts	350.00
Choir Shirt & Mug receipts	340.00
Donation for Choir	150.00
Subtotal	82,457.28

B. MISSION AND SERVICE:

By envelope & P.A.R.	9,033.39
U.C.W. donations	500.00
Credited M & S	9,533.39
Special Appeals	
Korean Famine Relief	1,140.20
White Gift	710.00
Total for missions	11,383.59

C. TOTAL RECEIPTS AND DONATIONS:

93,840.87

EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1997

SQUAMISH UNITED CHURCH - GENERAL ACCOUNT

EXPENSE:

1. Salaries & related expenses	55,878.86
2. Worker's compensation	124.00
3. Service contracts (organist, janitorial, nursery)	4,155.00
4. Insurance	2,074.00
5. Municipal services	2,102.79
6. Heating fuels	6,354.37
7. Electricity	1,487.64
8. Telephone	1,598.63
9. Maintenance	826.11
10. Capital additions	366.22
11. Sundries	105.77
12. Mission & Service	9,533.39
13. Presbytery allocation	2,960.00
14. Observer	270.00
15. Seminars & Session	270.00
16. Guest speakers	678.50
17. Caring Ministry	198.98
18. Church & Office Supplies	1,951.99
19. Duplicator lease & service	1,595.93
20. Music	496.21
21. Christian Education	408.49
22. Confirmation Class	422.46
23. Youth Group	64.34
24. Youth Fall Retreat expenses	417.75
25. Choir shirts & mugs	341.74
26. Chief newspaper advertisement	71.39
27. Korean Famine appeal	1,140.20
28. White Gift	710.00
29. Vancouver School of Theology	100.00
TOTAL:	96,704.76

SQUAMISH UNITED CHURCH
YEAR END FINANCIAL STATEMENT (unaudited)
DECEMBER 31, 1997

A. General Operating Account: (Royal Bank)

Carry over from 1996	7271.35
1997 Receipts	93840.87
1997 Expenses	[96704.76]
Carry over into 1998	4407.46

B. Benevolent Fund Account:

Carry over from 1996	367.49
1997 Receipts	644.60
1997 Expenses	[520.00]
Carry over into 1998	492.09

C. Hymn Book Fund Account:

Carry over from 1996	330.78
1997 Receipts	429.00
1997 Expenses	[368.95]
Carry over into 1998	390.83

SQUAMISH UNITED CHURCH
YEAR END FINANCIAL STATEMENT (Unaudited)
DECEMBER 31, 1997

D. Building & Maintenance Fund; (Nova Scotia)

Carry over from 1996	10,221.96
Envelope & P.A.R. donations	5,138.50
Donations	340.00
Check off deposits	48.00
Interest	14.78
Choir Tape Sales	388.00
Squamish Gas Co. Rebate	1,000.00
Arc Construction (remainder for sanctuary)	[641.60]
Glacier Paint & Floor Coverings	[1,569.27]
Peter Gordon (chairs)	[319.08]
Harry Whale (wireless mike)	[463.93]
Jill Gould (Garibaldi Plants & Nurseryland)	[82.06]
Squamish Heating & Sheet Metal	[4,265.02]
Home Hardware (church watertank)	[359.45]
Squamish Heating & Sheet Metal	[88.92]
Bill Rempel (printer)	[638.34]
Speedy Auto & Window Glass (manse windows)	[1,120.21]
Computer (church office)	[543.78]

Carry over into 1998

7,059.58

COMPARISON OF 1997 BUDGET VERSUS ACTUAL EXPENDITURES
SQUAMISH UNITED CHURCH - GENERAL ACCOUNT

<u>Catagory:</u>	<u>Budgeted:</u>	<u>Actual:</u>
Remuneration	60,550.00	60,157.86
Insurance	2,400.00	2,074.00
Municipal Services	2,300.00	2,102.79
Heating Fuels	6,600.00	6,354.37
Electricity	1,700.00	1,487.64
Telephone	1,900.00	1,598.63
Maintenance	1,300.00	826.11
Capital Additions	500.00	366.22
Sundries	300.00	105.77
Mission & Service	10,900.00	9,533.39
Special Appeals		1,850.20
Presbytery Allocation	3,000.00	2,960.00
Observer	400.00	270.00
Seminars & Session	500.00	270.00
Guest Speakers	800.00	678.50
Caring Ministry	300.00	198.98
Church & Office Supplies	2,200.00	1,951.99
Duplicator Lease & Service	2,500.00	1,595.93
Music	500.00	496.21
Christian Education	500.00	408.49
Confirmation Class	300.00	422.46
Youth Group	100.00	64.34
Youth Fall Retreat Expenses		417.75
Vancouver School of Theology	100.00	100.00
Choir Shirts & Mugs		341.74
Chief Newspaper Advertisement		71.39
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$99,650.00	\$96,704.76

MISSION AND SERVICE FUND

M & S donations for 1997:

U.C.W. contribution	500.00
Church contribution	9,033.39
Total	<u>\$9,533.39</u>

(approximately 82% of \$11,573.00 allocation
set by presbytery)

In addition money was sent to the M & S office in Toronto for the Korean appeal - \$1,140.20. This does not count as part of our allocation just as any money or goods sent to First United are not part of our allocation.

Our M & S goal, set by presbytery, was not met by quite a large amount. As mentioned in the 1996 report, 20% was donated by one contributor that year. That person chose to cut their donation by half and another person who contributed largely to the M & S fund no longer does so. This total seems to enforce the belief that it is not good to depend on a very few people to supply the budget. It would be better if a lot of people gave something.

Respectfully submitted by

Lou Rempel

M & S Secretary

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ENVELOPE SECRETARY'S REPORT

	<u>1995</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>
Envelope and P.A.R. contributors	94	93	89
Bank Check off users	1	1	1
Contributors by yearly donation	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>
TOTAL CONTRIBUTORS:	100	100	96

Contributors to M & S Fund	51	51	56
Special Fund Contributors	41	55	47
Sunday School Envelope Contributors	17	10	9

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>1995</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>
\$1.00 - \$100.00.....	20	15	15
\$101.00 - \$200.00.....	9	11	9
\$201.00 - \$300.00.....	9	10	10
\$301.00 - \$400.00.....	7	8	3
\$401.00 - \$500.00.....	5	6	7
\$501.00 - \$600.00.....	5	5	9
\$601.00 - \$700.00.....	4	5	8
\$701.00 - \$800.00.....	5	6	5
\$801.00 - \$900.00.....	2	5	2
\$901.00 - \$1000.00.....	2	3	2
\$1001.00 - \$1100.00.....	1	4	3
\$1101.00 - \$1200.00.....	8	1	4
\$1201.00 - \$1300.00.....	3	3	2
\$1301.00 - \$1400.00.....	2	2	4
\$1401.00 - \$1500.00.....	3	5	1
\$1501.00 - \$1600.00.....	2	-	1
\$1601.00 - \$1700.00.....	2	-	3
\$1701.00 - \$1800.00.....	1	1	1
\$1801.00 - \$1900.00.....	-	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	2	-
\$2701.00 - \$2800.00.....	-	-	1
\$2901.00 - \$3000.00.....	1	1	1
\$3101.00 - \$3200.00.....	-	-	1
\$3301.00 - \$3400.00.....	-	1	-
\$3401.00 - \$3500.00.....	-	1	-
\$3501.00 - \$3600.00.....	1	-	-
\$3701.00 - \$3800.00.....	1	-	-
\$3901.00 - \$4000.00.....	-	-	1
\$4201.00 - \$4300.00.....	2	-	-
\$4901.00 - \$5000.00.....	-	1	-
\$5101.00 - \$5200.00.....	-	-	1
\$5201.00 - \$5300.00.....	-	1	-
\$5701.00 - \$5800.00.....	-	-	1
\$9501.00 - \$9600.00.....	-	1	-
	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>96</u>

Respectfully submitted by,
 Retta Behrner
 Envelope Secretary

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SQUAMISH UNITED CHURCH PROPOSED 1998 BUDGET

	1998 Budget	
<u>Remuneration</u>		
Ministers Salary	36900	
Pension, Insurance, Medical	4800	50130
WCB	130	
CPP & EI	3400	
Book Allowance	400	
Study Allowance	1500	
Travel Allowance	3000	
Secretarial	8600	
Janitorial	2600	
Organist	1764	
Nursery	200	
Subtotal	63294	
<u>Secular Expenses</u>		
Insurance	2200	
Municipal Services	2200	
Heating Fuel	6000	
Electricity	1600	
Telephone	1700	
Duplicator Lease / Service	1600	
Maintenance	1000	
Sundries	300	
Capital Acquisitions	500	
Subtotal	17100	
<u>Outreach</u>		
Mission & Service	12165	
Presbytery	3198	
Observer	300	
Seminars	0	
Guest Speakers	800	
Caring Ministry	300	
Stationary / Supplies	2200	
V. S. T.	100	
Music	600	
Christian Education	500	
Youth Group	100	
Confirmation Classes	0	
Subtotal	20263	
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	100657	

FROM OUR CHURCH REGISTERS 1997

IN MEMORIAM: (10)

Ross Ransy Teichman - January 25
Magnchild Kristianson - February 8
Thelma Croy - March 2
Abram Kassen - March 17
Dorothy Jean Matilda Morey - March 30
Jamie-Lyn Victoria Marchant - May 7
Patricia Evelyn Ramsay - May 22
Roger Joseph Blank - June 6
Sadie Esther Isabella Doubek - September 21
May Thompson Ross Gadsby - October 6

MARRIAGES: (6)

Arthur Brendle and Mary Louise Cavanagh - May 3
Wilfred Ronald Grolman and Carol Anne Finnie - June 21
Brad Victor Curley and Tracy Etta Starling - July 5
Christopher Runnals and Jane Margaret Kamachi - September 6
Anton Cepeliauskas and Melissa Friend - November 8
Richard Hugh Cudmore and Lois Ann Philips - November 29

BAPTISMS: child (3)

Duncan Robert Neville, son of Glen and Laura Gene Pardoe - March 16
Karissa Raelene, daughter of Roy and Marissa Bliss - December 7
Emma Louise, daughter of Robert and Barbara Wotherspoon - December 7

BAPTISMS: adult (2)

Gillian Meredith Bullen - March 16
Heather Mary Ray - March 16

NEW MEMBERS: (13)

Gillian Bullen - March 30
Cheryl Caldwell - March 30
Crystal Caldwell - March 30
Laura DeCook - March 30
Heather Gordon - March 30
Cari Ionson - March 30
Dana Ionson - March 30
Christopher Kent - March 30
Erika Liechti - March 30
Heather Ray - March 30
Tara Richardson - March 30
Jennifer Smith - March 30
Tara Smith - March 30

