

UNITED CHURCHES OF LANGLEY



ANNUAL REPORT 2021 *PRAYING, PIVOTING, AND PAYING IT FORWARD*

UNITED CHURCHES OF LANGLEY

Weaving a Faith that Matters

MISSION STATEMENT

We Are a
Thriving congregation
Vital to the community
Alive as followers of Jesus the Christ
Sustainable into the future

We are naming this booklet of our Annual Report: "*Praying, Pivoting and Paying it Forward*" to acknowledge what we all have experienced in 2021: A year filled with lots of Prayer for strength and hope, a year of continuously Pivoting and adjusting to the ever-changing restrictions and protocols to keep us all safe and well; and a year of leaning into a new way of engaging Social Justice and Outreach and Paying the blessings we have received forward out into the world.

Through the stories and reflections on ministry, we celebrate the good work we have done in yet another challenging year in the life of this congregation and the world. Enjoy these highlights, and add your own - in the margins of this booklet, in the conversations of the Annual Congregational Meeting on Zoom, and in the year to come as we continue our journey together - Weaving a Faith that Matters.

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UCoL TEAM 2021



Rev. Sophia Ducey

Co-Minister with focus on <50
year old Adults, Families, Children,
Youth, and Communications



Rev. Ryan Tristin Chapman

Co-Minister with focus
on >50 year old Adult Faith,
Pastoral Care and Outreach



Nigel Chuah

Social Justice and Outreach
Program Facilitator
(until November 2021)



Tim Bailey

Music Leader
(until July 2021)



Linda Szentes

Music Leader
(until October 2021)



Neerava S. Kroeger

Music Leader
(until February 2022)



Joanne Sommer

Pianist



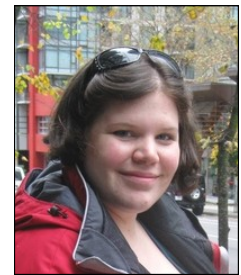
Carley Carder

Children & Families Facilitator



Deanna Feuer

Youth Facilitator



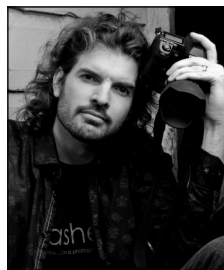
Sarah Veltman

Senior Youth Leader



William Ness

Livestream Tech



Brad Jarvis

Livestream Tech



Jovana Ivanovic

Office Administrator



Sherry Klassen

Finance Administrator



LETTER FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

Eilleen Anderson

Greetings Everyone,

Here we are in 2022,

Frustrated with the challenges of COVID - with
Determination to meet the challenges,

With Sadness for those struggling within the
pandemic - With **Compassion**, hearts and hands to
support others in their distress,

Weary with the long time we have endured
restrictions - With **Bravery** to muster stamina to
keep going.

With **Appreciation and Thankfulness** for the strong
Spirit and Faithfulness of those around us – our
Church family and leaders & workers everywhere.

With **Hopefulness and Vision** for the future and the
end of COVID.

Wow, that's a lot of emotion and action
surrounding us in these times.

In preparation for this report to you, I read last
year's letter from the Board Chair, Tom Louie.
Tom's eloquent words and message of pivoting
through COVID then, still strikingly apply to this
year.

In 2021, YOU, our Congregation, our Ministers, our
Church Leaders, and our Staff have been persistent,
loyal and steadfast in efforts to keep us connected
and fruitful. Such a very real blessing!

Our teams and programs are innovative in
operation and continue to support us and enrich us
– Sunday Worship, Livestream Team, *SHIFT!*,
Children & Youth Ministry, Music Committee, Bible
Study, Skeptics, Stephen Ministry, Pastoral Care,
Social Justice & Outreach, Affirm Team, UCW, Book

Club, Prayer Shawl, Food Bank Volunteers, Yoga
Class and Board Committees. **Amazing work!**

Thanks to All!

Blessings,
Eilleen Anderson

Sharing a Celtic style prayer with you – a prayer of
peace and calm...

THE FOREST DEER

*Lord of all Peace,
who calmed the storms of the seas,
bring calm to my soul,
engulf me in your peace,
which is beyond my understanding,
that I may feel safe from the wilds
of this world
and from those of the spirit realm.*

*Prince of Peace,
come reign in me
with the peace only you can bring,
the peace that draws me
to a state of inner bliss with myself,
with the world around me,
and with you.*

*Keep me from panic and irrational
fear;
keep me from anxiety and worry;
keep me from dwelling on
negativity.*

*Stay my soul with your steadfast
security.*

Keep me calm and at peace.

BOARD COMMITTEES

FINANCE

Kellie Warnock, Chair



We will once again be submitting a deficit budget to the congregation for the coming year. This is even after we have adjusted from our investments. The money to

cover this deficit will come out of our dwindling Bequest fund and investment returns on our Willoughby fund. Our committee has looked at the rate of accessing these funds and is very aware that we have a handful of years left before we will have to look at new and creative ways of covering this deficit, should we continue the same trend.

We strongly believe the discussion for financial sustainability must be continued in our congregation.

As I look back at the end of my first year as Finance chair, I am reminded of what a challenging year 2021 was in terms of our finances. The pandemic wreaked havoc on our abilities to fundraise, although, at the end of the year, we saw a wonderful example of creative fundraising by the UCW for their Holly Tea "No-Bake" Sale. We had some opportunities to generate revenue through rentals, but they were down in comparison to previous years. We all struggled through restrictions together, and our ministry staff and livestream team worked hard to continue services for the congregation.

In the course of the year, the Finance team focussed our attention on our investments, and we were fortunate to have healthy returns. We committed our support to our Stewardship team and the work they were participating in, and we

looked at some goals and objectives to explore the big picture of UCoL finances. Our main goal was to help find a way to turn downward trends and promote a positive, sustainable future.

Throughout the year, we attempted to reach out twice to the Community Business Project at the UBC Sauder School of Business to perhaps find some insight through consulting, but unfortunately, we were unsuccessful in our application bid. We will continue to pursue possibilities as much as possible to gain insight and knowledge. We have been looking to encourage donations in different ways; one example is through stock options for congregants, as well as what are some best practices to acknowledge those that are giving by providing explanations of where donations are going and what they are doing for the community.

Our ministry team took on the work during Sunday morning service to focus on Holy Currencies. We are grateful for the work they accomplished and had hoped it would generate conversation around finances for the congregation.

We approached the Board with a proposal to work on a Community of Faith Profile and financial assessment for our future sustainability. This involves conversations with the entire congregation to really discern our Vision, Mission, Identity and how we see ourselves in the future. Our greatest concern is that we continue to deplete our funds to cover deficits until we run out, and then we struggle to find a way to continue our ministry. We are hopeful as a congregation we can work together to find solutions that will see the ministry of United Churches of Langley continue for a long time.

TRUSTEES

Jim Jordan-Knox, Chair

Due to COVID-19 there have been no significant events for the Trustees to report in 2021.

The routine matters such as insurance renewal and

Permissive Tax Deduction applications were looked after and there have been no bequests received.



of our church. Shortly before our last meeting of the year, Jerry submitted his resignation from the Committee.

In July, the Board received the resignation of our Musician, Tim Bailey. He was thanked for his long and faithful service to our church community. And then in October, Linda Szentes also resigned with our thanks for her service. We were pleased to welcome Neerava Kroeger to our music staff in early November, with a contract to the end of February.

Our thanks also go to each of our staff members: Ministry Team of Rev. Ducey and Rev. Chapman, our Music Leader Neerava Kroeger, administrative staff of Jovana Ivanovic, Office Administrator and Finance Administrator Sherry Klassen, and our Children and Youth Facilitators Carley Carder, Deanna Feuer, and Sarah Veltman for their energy and commitment during this stressful time of Covid.

We are also thankful for the technical team, and some members of the congregation who have continued to work to produce our excellent online service.

At this time, there is a Search Committee in place to establish the needs of the Music programme and then to search and hire appropriate personnel.

The Board has also established a Search Committee to recruit a new employee for the position of Social Justice and Outreach Facilitator.

Much time was spent working with the Board to develop appropriate protocols for staff and the congregation to cope with the Covid crisis. After a brief return to in-person services in the fall, it was determined to return to online services in December. A protocol for the staff and congregation regarding entry into the building and working conditions was developed.

MINISTRY & PERSONNEL

Stacey Jordan-Knox, Chair

Once again, the members of the Ministry and Personnel Committee extend their thanks to the Congregation of United Churches of



Langley for the opportunity to serve you in this capacity this past year. As a Committee of the Board, our role is to "oversee the relationships within the pastoral charge ministry, particularly the roles and functions of paid leaders and employees." (*Ministry and Personnel Committee Guidelines of The United Church of Canada*)

The committee this past year consisted of Stacey Jordan-Knox, Chair, Bev Rodrigo, Janice McTaggart, Judy Chang and Jayne Slawson. Partway through the year, Janet Smith joined us, and then in December, we welcomed Jerry Stanger to the Committee. As Bev has served on this committee for many years, she has asked to be relieved. I have also served for 6 years on the Committee, and as the United Church manual says, the Chair of this committee can only serve two consecutive terms, which I have done. So, I will be leaving the Committee as well. Thank you to the Committee members for their faithful commitment to the work

At this time, I would like to thank the members of the Ministry and Personnel Committee for their faithful and dedicated service to United Churches of Langley, especially through this time of Covid and the challenges we faced. I was proud to be part of and to lead such a hard-working group. As of the annual meeting, Bev and I will be retiring from this Committee. We wish those who are remaining a successful and productive year.



STEWARDSHIP

Tom Louie, Chair

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to present this short Stewardship report for 2021 and cannot believe COVID-19 is still with us!

I want to take this opportunity to thank **Bill Pike, Matt Offer, Sandi Takasaki, Marjorie Stewart and our minister, Sophia Ducey**, for their faithful participation on the Stewardship Committee.

In 2021 some significant/large donors have passed and some church members have elected to leave UCoL for personal reasons. COVID-19 continues to impact our rental revenue and reduced offerings due to no in-person worships. 2021 has been a challenging year for your Stewardship Committee.

Our Ministers, musicians and audio-visual team were able to pivot to online worship to maintain connections to our church community, but this cannot replace in-person worship. The promotion of Stewardship is much more effective if done in person.

Your Stewardship Committee participated with other United Church congregations on Module 1 Stewardship training course and some of us will take Module 2 in the summer of 2022 in preparation for a Fall Stewardship Campaign.

The **Stewardship Committee** coordinated ministry highlights in worship and customized stewardship and pastoral connections with congregants about their participation and giving to the congregation.

Regardless of the pandemic, it is incumbent on us to prudently manage our resources (the Gifts) that God entrusts to us.

I am happy to report our three investment funds (Willoughby, Bequest and Outreach) are doing well. All have recovered from the initial impact of COVID -19. In my previous Stewardship report I mentioned that using our investment funds to offset our operating budget deficit is not sustainable and we must focus on increasing our offerings and/or reducing our church operating expenditures.

To that end your Stewardship Committee will work closely with our Finance Committee in 2022 to align revenues with expenditures. Your participation in our "Community of Faith" review will assist both Finance and Stewardship Committees to better align our expenditures.

Finance Committee's responsibility is to address church operating expenditures and Stewardship Committee's responsibility is look at ways to increase our offerings (i.e. revenue). It is truly about **what we do with what we have**.

For 2022, I am very excited and hopeful our Fall Campaign will allow us to grow and nurture our faith community and hopefully resume in-person worship soon. I simply ask each of us to **examine our hearts and give what God tells you**.

I pray that you and your loved ones remain safe as I know we all pray for the end to this pandemic.

PROPERTY

Tom Louie, Chair

I want to thank members of the Property Committee -Tim Jones and Jim Jordan-Knox; also

the late Tom McMath who helped out at Ft. Langley when asked.

Due to COVID-19, property maintenance was kept to the essentials. Many renters cancelled their bookings and there was little or no property damage.

Farmers' Market and the preschool at Ft. Langley continue to operate during COVID-19. In addition, St. Andrew's Chapel was rented out to a Korean congregation for their live streaming services. All our 12-Step groups continued their meetings at the Murrayville building throughout 2021 and yoga and tai chi classes were able to take place almost without interruption.

The team was kept busy undertaking a number of projects and building maintenance activities:

- Under the leadership of Tim Jones and assistance from Tom Louie the old hall TV at Ft. Langley was replaced with a new wall-mounted TV. This was done to facilitate live stream services viewing from Murrayville.
- Tim Jones took the opportunity to renovate the Céilidh sound equipment storage area located behind the new TV.
- Tom Louie coordinated the Murrayville rental house washroom renovations project.
- Tom Louie & Jim Jordan-Knox worked on consolidating the Fire Protection maintenance contract for both Ft. Langley and Murrayville
- Eric Sigalet, Tim Jones and Tom Louie have been working on improving the parking lot drainage at Ft. Langley. The plan is to undertake the work in the summer of 2022.
- Along with input from the Board, the Committee is looking into renting out the Lower Hall at Murrayville for a daycare operation. Hopefully this will happen in Spring/Summer of 2022.

- Ongoing discussion with the new neighbour to the south at Ft. Langley to share the cost a new fence between two properties. We are hoping to construct the new fence in April 2022.
- Repaired furnace exhaust pipes at Ft. Langley
- Sourced out new landscaping and snow removal contractors for both locations

AFFIRM COMMITTEE

Barrie Mills, Chair

This report summarizes 2021 Affirm Committee activities, with particular focus on the past nine months.

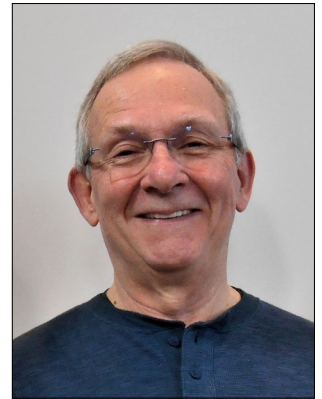
The UCoL Board formed the Affirm Committee to plan

and lead a process of study, discernment, and reflection towards our church's possible future consideration to become an Affirming Ministry. This is the committee's third report to the Board of its activities.

The first report introduced background content for weekly services to familiarize the congregation with relevant Queer issues. A new Queer section was added to the UCoL website for this and future material. A congregation survey of current thoughts and questions was announced. And possible future considerations to the church's welcoming approach were also raised.

The second report extensively reviewed Committee members' participation in the April 11 Double Rainbow service for Autism Acceptance Month and the positive feedback received from the congregation. Plans for the coming months were also outlined.

The May 30 Love Intersections service included a video and interview to highlight Queer and Asian



intersections with Asian History Month. Much of June responded to the discovery of children's graves at a former residential school. The very poignant June 20 Repairers of the Breach service marked National Indigenous Peoples Day. It was followed by the June 27 Hark service for Pride Month. The latter featured an informative interview and a variety of special music and writings.

June also provided post-service Chat Zoom sessions with members. A "Popsicle Poll" outside the church in Murrayville sampled member interest to consider becoming an Affirming Ministry. In summer, members were invited to Journey Together at a Love Intersections Zoom workshop, held on September 25. At the October 10 Giving Thanks service, Bex offered a special thank you to the congregation for how much their acceptance has meant to her.

On October 31, in-person worship returned to the church. A UCoL 10th Anniversary Celebration followed the service, with Affirm Committee members providing most of the setup. An Affirm display was among these, featuring:

- A 50-Year Timeline of LGBTQIA+ and Two-Spirit Justice in The United Church of Canada
- What does Welcome mean to you: principles of a welcoming church
- PIE: Going beyond Welcome, to offer a Public, Intentional, and Explicit atmosphere
- Posters to outline the Affirm Process
- Affirm Pamphlet: *Becoming an Affirming Ministry*

The Omicron variant halted in-person worship after Christmas. The pandemic continues to affect church operations, including the committee's activities. We have been unable to meet with other church groups as planned. We continue to encourage questions and requests and are eager to

meet with any interested parties.

Participation in Zoom workshops has been limited. It can be a difficult medium for including the full cross-section of our church members. And few have had a chance to see the wealth of posted Affirm material prepared for the October 31 event.

There are 238 Affirming ministries in every part of Canada and over 100 additional ministries in the Affirming process. While 24 became Affirming during the pandemic, their church processes were likely well underway before 2020. These have been difficult and lonely days for many church members. Some have received mixed information on the United Church's position on the relevant issues and the open nature of the Affirming process. Ready and face-to-face answers from real people are hard to come by.

All members long to return to the warmth of the church they love. Until we all come home together, patience will be needed before the church can truly have "a process of study, discernment, and reflection." "Love is patient, Love is kind... Love never fails". They will be there, waiting for all of us, at the open door.

MINISTRY & PROGRAM TEAMS



**Rev. Ryan Tristan
Chapman**

**Minister of Adult Faith, Pastoral
Care and Outreach**

What an adventure this year has been! From learning livestream worship, to offering in-person and hybrid worship options, and back to livestream only for now, what a year of flexing new muscles, building skills and strengths to serve in new ways! I am grateful to have been welcomed into your lives,

struggles, and celebrations. I hope to continue to build more connections as I get to know each and every one of you, and go deeper in all our ministries together.

The pastoral care team has continued its vital role orienting me to our community. A big thank you to those of you involved in pastoral care, both formally and informally, who help this complex web of community remain interconnected in challenging times. Working closely with the Board, Pastoral Care Network, and Affirm Team, I have loved getting to know the Fort Langley community better. I am glad to have connected with the Skeptics and see what great services they lead! I met the prayer shawl knitters individually, the UCW groups and various book clubs, Bible study, choristers and musicians, new members, and many many more groups and individuals! I look forward to a time when in-person gatherings will allow me to get to know the groups I have not spent much time with in 2021.

The UCoL's anniversary celebration kept me busy preparing a display of our beautiful liturgical banners at both sites, with write-ups to explain and expand upon each season and celebration we have missed being together. While grateful for the ways we stay connected, it is important to recognize that time has passed and that we have experienced it differently since the pandemic began.

In the midst of what can be a paralyzing time, how wonderful to welcome new and returning members! I enjoyed facilitating a membership class for those able to attend, and am thrilled with all those who choose to join our community at this time. On Sunday, November 28, when we welcomed new members, we saw many familiar faces, as well as some folks who are new to us, proclaiming their faith and support for one another in the community. It is heartening to know that

even online, our community and services are reaching people and feeding souls. Our new members have jumped right in, eager to participate when we can gather. They decorated at our carolling night, lent a hand to the youth and young adults who "decked the halls," and served up refreshments. These new folks are already serving on committees, reading scripture and participating fully in the life of the church. What a gift to offer new perspectives and breathe new life into a community!

We continue to build our community's culture through the ever-expanding church library. I have ordered a number of new and used books to fill out our collection in response to the interests expressed by the congregation and community. If you would like to continue to learn about peacemakers, interfaith work, queer inclusivity, anti-racism, the power of introverts, prayerful practices, Indigenous experiences and spirituality or any other subject, we hope you can connect through our library. Nigel Chuah left a legacy of social justice-related books. Along with some keen volunteers, we plan to have our catalogue accessible online, so you can see what is available and arrange a pickup. That is one way to stay engaged and continue our lifelong learning!

It was hard to have another Christmas season pass without a Christmas Eve gathering, but I am grateful to the Livestream team and the Board for making difficult decisions to keep us all as safe as we can be. The Longest Night service was an opportunity to mark the sorrows that some face during the holidays, and the warm reception at our Fort Langley site offered comfort and compassion to those gathered.

Another opportunity to gather came through the Seniors Resource Services Centre (SRSC) when our very own, well-connected Janice McTaggart offered

a service to acknowledge all those who have passed on during the pandemic. I was invited to share a prayer with those gathered. UCoL is blessed with our members serving as volunteers, staff, and countless other connections at the SRSC through this and other celebrations and gatherings.

Thank you to the two ministerials (gatherings of ministers) in the area for welcoming me and sharing our joys, concerns, and resources with one another. These groups have proven invaluable in connecting in the area, with both United Church and Ecumenical friends in ministry around the Fraser Valley and beyond. Connections to the General Council Office and national gatherings grew when the anti-racist work we did last year caught the eye of national anti-racist organizers. These have been fruitful connections, with groups inspiring and learning from one another as we navigate the challenges and joys of intercultural work. The national conversations provide direction and resources for our local work.

In the next year, we have interfaith prayer practices paired with Compassionate Listening training offered by the wonderful Cathy Merchant of Interfaith Sanctuary. We look forward to more engagement from David Ng and Jen Sung from Love Intersections, as they prepare an interdisciplinary art festival supported by our Social Justice and Outreach Team.

Last year, I offered a book club in which we read our own choices of books by Indigenous authors. This was a time of creativity being celebrated. Jovana's advertising in the Pacific Mountain Regional newsletter paid off with connections across the region, and those doing reconciliation work from Langley to Kamloops and beyond eagerly shared their learnings from Indigenous authors and communities. This endeavour enriched our other efforts in Reconciliation, which Sophia

has done a wonderful job of initiating, while nurturing and growing Reconciling relationships.

As a further indicator of growth and connection in our community, I presided over my first two weddings last year. One of them was connected to congregants Betty and Dale Hewitt, as their daughter Emily was married! A handful of memorial services were also requested, and I both presided over a few of those and shared that honour with Sophia Ducey and Gabrielle Suedfeld. Many thanks to these two and Jayne Slawson for their leadership in Sunday services and beyond. We are blessed to have many leaders within UCoL who keep up with programming, communication and connections, nurturing a community far beyond what staff alone could achieve.

In 2022, I hope to offer more interfaith engagement and Indigenous speakers, continuing in creative leadership with all of you. I look forward to a covenanting service to formally celebrate our joining in ministry together. Here's to another adventurous year of collaboration and education, drawing from and following the one who inspires and calls us each by name.

Rev. Sophia Ducey

Minister of Children, Youth, Young Adults and Families (CYAF) and Communications



This year, our ministry story is a collective story of resilience. We have gone through 2

challenging years, and we look to 2022 with hope. It is only by the grace of God, and our commitment to "together we are better" and Dr. Bonnie's words of wisdom: "Be Kind, Be Calm, Be Compassionate, Be Safe," that we have been able to weather the storms of 2021.

Rather than rattling off stats of participation and activities, I thought I'd answer the questions we posed to ministry leaders as the framework for sharing the highlights of Children, Youth, Young Adult and Families (CYAF) Ministries. We are happy to share our 2021 monthly reports to the Board, which include more details, with those who want to hear and remember more.



Where have you/participants in Children, Youth, Young Adults and Family (CYAF) Ministries experienced nurturance or connection?

The CYAF ministries took every opportunity to create time to connect with and nurture each other and to provide spiritual nurturance of the children, youth, young adults and families of UCoL. The young people of our congregation continued to struggle with the pandemic's impact on their overall emotional, physical and spiritual well-being. What used to be times for youth and young adult fun became times of comfort and connection when needed.

How has the CYAF Ministries experienced/expressed resilience?

The families of UCoL continue to inspire me by their resilience. Families of all ages have had to weather these times of isolation, finding creative ways to stay connected to family members of all ages. Outdoor activities abounded, and "small

group" activities and intimate gatherings became the norm. Big family holidays were put on hold, but FaceTime and Zoom calls with local, national and international family enhanced relationships and connections. Children's awareness of care of others publicly became a beautiful thing to behold in our UCoL families and in the community.

Where has lament shown up in the CYAF Ministries?

The limited in-person engagement with children, youth and their families has been a lament of the entire children, youth and families ministry team. We continued throughout the year to explore new and different ways, only to have to reorient our plans as restrictions came and went and came again. There was a high degree of screen-fatigue on the part of the staff, as well as the children, youth and families. We lament the disconnect of the past 2 years, and long for more joy-full in-person connections as we are able to do so safely.



Ways CYAF ministries were flexible in responding to the changes due to the pandemic:

Our entire team has worked tirelessly together to find ways to stay connected to the families of UCoL. "Where's your flexi-pants?" became our regular opening check-in question! Carley Carder created a monthly online program for children and their families to engage in faith-full themes. Deanna and Sarah continued to host online gatherings with junior and senior youth, and when they were able

in November and December, gathered the youth together for fun reconnection time in person. Sarah increased/re-established our pastoral reach beyond Langley, and connected regularly with young adults who have left Langley, but remained connected to UCoL. Some of these young adults and older youth have joined Sarah and Deanna in-person and online for an Indigenous Studies program through SFU. Young adults have continued to engage when called upon — they helped with sandbagging at the flood sites, set up and hosted the "Holly Tea" coffee & treat time, and supported other ministry activities.

What are your hopes, dreams, and prayers for CYAF and for UCoL in 2022?

Since we are once again under gathering restrictions, we have re-initiated delivery of children, youth and families engagement kits on the themes of worship for January and February. We hope that Lent and Easter bring times of being able to connect in person, with possible Spring Break activities and Easter celebrations for all ages.

Our Youth and Young Adults have a commitment to making the world a better place for all, so we continue to explore ways to engage them in social justice and outreach in Langley and the world. Deanna is researching resources for youth support in Langley, as well as other outreach and support for the young people in our community. Sarah keeps an eye on the needs in the greater community where young people can rally and get involved. We are told that this feels like relevant faith – faith-in-action – to these young people who are questioning who and what is God, what is justice & love in the world, what is their place in our communities, and how can they make a difference.

We look forward to engaging with the congregation in sharing stories of *Faith Lived Out*,

and *Dreams for the future of UCoL* in the Community of Faith process. *SHIFT!* ministry is working with the youth and children's ministry on some video and audio projects to capture stories to present to the Board for their discernment on what is next for United Churches of Langley for the 2nd decade of the congregation.



Other 2021 Ministry Highlights:

- We offered 2 weeks of Camp Spirit this year and welcomed over 60 children and 15 youth and young adult leaders. Our out-trip was a day at the arboretum with Cecelia Reekie and a woman from Fraser Valley Aboriginal Society to engage with the children's memorial, the history of residential schools, and make a Dream Catcher for the church and smaller ones for the children to have in their homes to remember the children of the residential schools.



- A group of youth gathered together to listen to and then reflect on the words of famed Okanagan poet Shane Koyczan on journeying in this isolating pandemic time. (Last year, we took a group to see *Dear Evan Hansen* just before the pandemic hit...)
- We launched three **Shift** podcasts: Death, Faith and Authenticity; and began work on podcasts on Imagination, Belonging & Belief, Spiritual Misfits, Curiosity, Trauma and Resilience.



- *Shift!* folks gathered to watch and reflect on the wisdom from Gabor Mate and other experts on Trauma and the importance of being trauma-informed ministry leaders and congregants for worship, programming and pastoral care, as well as good "neighbours" during this challenging time. Themes of "titration" and "compassionate fatigue" were shared with the congregation during summer worship.
- *Shift!* Ministry folks came together through an online platform *Gathertown* and had front lawn picnics in front of Sharon Chapel
- *Shift!* continues to be a safe space to re-explore faith, deconstruct old beliefs, and begin to see that there may be a place for them in the church again. (*This gave birth to our podcast on Belonging and Belief that is still in the works.*)
- We engaged in conversation & music with Unfinished Band members on Anti-Racism and lifting up black lives and invited them into worship during Black History Month.

- The *Shift!* ministry team supported and filmed the residential school children's memorial and vigils at the arboretum. This has been rich and rewarding ministry to engage with this important part of Canadian History and the healing with which we all need to engage.
- We hosted 4 gatherings called *SHIFT ADVENTure* – providing a place of nourishment and reflection as well as a joy-full night of music & conversation with the Unfinished Band.
- Our **Contemplative Worship** and **Centering Prayer** group had moments of coming together in-person but primarily remained online supporting each other in spiritual practice and contemplative with resources provided by Sophia and the ministry leaders. Some of the contemplatives in our congregation have engaged with the *SHIFT* activities at the arboretum as well as the *SHIFT ADVENTure*.
- We were blessed to host a **wedding** on Valentine's Day at our FL site – with Pastor Lee's Livestream team streaming the service and providing AV and sound support. The wedding was rescheduled from its original time and location – March 2020 in Australia.



SOCIAL JUSTICE AND OUTREACH

Rev. Ryan Tristin Chapman,
Minister of Outreach

Hello from your UCoL Social Justice and Outreach Team (SJOT)!

We have been busy at work this past year extending a hand in our community and beyond. There is an extensive list of aid we've provided to various organizations and individuals in need. It's a blessing our congregation is able to provide this help to those in need.

We've also formed partnerships with some organizations and are excited to see where they take us and how we can continue to make a difference in our, what sometimes feels broken, world.

As a team, we have managed to meet safely online, in person and are back to online again. We greatly look forward to being physically all together as a congregation once again, so we can connect with one another and chat about our outreach in person with all of you.

We closed out the year with thanks to our former facilitator **Nigel Chuah** and our intrepid team. Since the New Year, we have been taking steps to hire a new facilitator. We are maintaining our connections as best we can, as well as making new partnerships and projects. Nigel has built a healthy following of 458 people on the Social Justice Langley Facebook page, and helped us produce other media, including blog, website, videos and more!

Our team consisting of **Janice McTaggart**, **Peggy Lenti** and **Ron Kinley**, were joined by two new UCoL members: **Stacey Kosturos**, who has deep roots at UCoL, and **Carol Sawyer**, who is passionate about Reconciliation and has experience being involved on the SJOT at Lynn Valley UC! It has been wonderful to witness growth in our team and programming. It is a strong team of dedicated individuals, each with a helpful variety of experience, all with a keen interest in connecting in the community and reaching people where they are at. Janice helps us network all over Langley. Her connections and resourcefulness are seemingly without end! Thank you, Janice, for all your work, and help us follow a righteous and just path. We look forward to welcoming and working with Deanna Feuer in the coming year.

One story that stands out this past year is the recent one regarding the emergency cold weather

shelter in Langley. When the weather got exceptionally cold, members of the community set up an emergency shelter. They put a call out to the community, and UCoL quickly offered help. We provided breakfast meals for the shelter users for the week it was open, and then continued to supply food the following week, when the shelter moved to a smaller facility. We also brought them items from our mitten trees, which we donned with cold-weather supplies during our in-person Advent season. Janice McTaggart and Carol Sawyer, members of the SJO Team, personally dropped off items to the shelter and were met with immense gratitude and appreciation for our contributions.

We continue to support the ongoing outreach ministries. We also built new partnerships. Additionally, Ron has recently picked up an interest in facilitating the purchasing of goods from Palestine via Zatoun. Many thanks to Masako for her dedication to this project over the years, and thank you to Ron for stepping forward to continue carrying the UCoL legacy of support for the Palestinian people.

We continue to support the Langley School District's students to have reliable food over the weekends through the **Starfish Pack Program**. There was a record number of self-declared in-need-of-food families. UCoL continued to supply just shy of 50 backpacks of food via gift cards for groceries due to COVID restrictions. SJOT supported Starfish Program in raising our commitment from \$25 to \$30/backpack due to the rising cost of food and living and supporting additional backpacks for families with multiple children.

Together with you, we supported the **Langley Pride** parade and partnered to support the Affirm team and ongoing anti-racist training in our congregation. The congregants attended a series of workshops with Emily Ann Garcia and Christina



[Photo Credit: Dan Ferguson - Langley Advance Times]

Kinch, and an educational workshop in which Love Intersections shared their short films and some of the ways they see community committed to finding ways forward together in resilience and diverse experiences. One consequence of meeting by distance has been the ability to connect with people far and wide! Ryan ended up involved in the General Council anti-racist training planning group as a result of our anti-racist work catching the eye of the General Council Office.

We, unfortunately, had to end our part in distributing coupons to the farmers' markets due to a lack of core volunteers. This program provided many across the Fraser Valley, access to fresh goods from local farmers. It is with a heavy heart that we lay down that service.

We look forward to offering Naloxone/Narcan training for anyone interested in carrying a kit to administer in case of a suspected overdose. Peggy Lenti is passionate about helping equip us to sustain life, in a kind of physical resurrection, in ways that are safe to administer to anyone.

Your SJO Team looks forward to forming new partnerships and continuing to strengthen current ones in 2022.

With gratitude,
Ryan Tristin Chapman, on behalf of the SJOT:
Ron Kinley, Stacey Kosturos, Peggy Lenti, Janice McTaggart and Carol Sawyer

NICOMEKL BREAKFAST PROGRAM 2021

Sue Saunders – Coordinator

Well, to say it has been a crazy year for the Breakfast Club is putting it lightly.

In January, we continued sharing in the preparation of 70 meals each day at Douglas Park school, the Nicomekl volunteers working twice a week. We have a smaller school population than Douglas Park Elementary, and since we were not allowed contact with the kids, our share of the breakfasts was then delivered to Nicomekl for the teachers to distribute. Three of our regular volunteers were part of this team, with a fourth volunteer joining in towards the end of the school year.

When school re-opened in September, we were allowed back at Nicomekl and were able to serve the kids. But, yet another change after Christmas! While we are still allowed to prepare the meals at Nicomekl, the teachers now take the meals from the kitchen and deliver them to the classrooms.

All of us who volunteer love being part of this program. It really does make a difference to the kids, who can focus on their work instead of their tummies. Since we need two people each day, we need ten people to make this wonderful program work. At the moment we could use some help, as we really need someone for Tuesday mornings. Please call the church office if you are interested. It is a commitment of an hour and a half once a week, so if this program is calling your name, please come join us.

We, as volunteers, want to THANK YOU for your support and remind you that you are making a difference.



REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP

Jovana Ivanovic, member of the Refugee Sponsorship Team

In 2021, the Social Justice and Outreach Team decided to engage in Refugee Sponsorship, with the plan to use the Social Justice Legacy Fund to provide for a family's first year of life in Canada. We have formed a Refugee Sponsorship Team (RST) of volunteers that presently consists of Sharon Christmas, Stephanie Shu, Andrea Hammond and Jovana and Nenad Ivanovic. Nigel Chuah is currently leading the RST in a volunteer capacity.

The sponsorship paperwork was finalized and submitted to the government at the end of the year. We will be welcoming a Syrian family of six living in a refugee camp in Egypt for several years. We are anxiously expecting to hear the date of their arrival in Vancouver, as we are getting ready to welcome them. As that day gets nearer, we are and looking for volunteers interested in helping in small ways when the refugee family arrives. We are also hoping to add one or two more members to the Refugee Sponsorship Team. If you are interested in joining the RST or would like to be part of the contacts we reach out to when donations or help are needed, please phone the church office at 604-530-2929.

STARFISH PACK PROGRAM

Bev Rodrigo, on behalf of the Starfish Backpack Committee

We continued the Starfish Packs program for the schools during COVID by supplying gift cards each week to all our families. The Langley School District Foundation also provided an additional sum of money to cover all other Food for Thought programs that could not continue due to Covid. Parents were able to receive the gift cards each week after providing a letter from the School

District Foundation, along with their ID. We continued this program right up to December 2021.

We often communicated with the Foundation over the past two years to ensure we were meeting our goals of providing food for the weekends to students in need. During our meetings over 2021, we learned that some families did not find the food available at Save On Foods stores, or what we packed in our backpacks was the food they ate and were accustomed to. After discussions with the Foundation, we have chosen to allow the parents a wider choice of stores, including stores closest to their children's schools. Due to higher food costs, we also felt that we needed to increase the weekly amount to \$30 and added an extra \$10 per week for each family of two or more students.

We will continue to consult with the schools and the Foundation to ensure we can help students receive the necessary nutrition on weekends, so they can come to school with the best chance of success. Thank you to all members of our congregation for your continued support of the Starfish Pack Program.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Maureen Burgess, Music Committee

The UCoL Music Team in 2021 were Tim Bailey, Linda Szentes, Neerava Kroeger and Joanne Sommer.



As with all groups in our church, everything was affected by Covid. 2021 continued with no choir practices and no choir singing during worship. We do miss singing as a choir. However, no less than 12 voices came forward, recording lovely music which was included in the on-line services; and on two occasions the Song Circle recorded hymns, singing their parts separately, and Linda's husband Garth put it all together for inclusion in two

different worship services. *Oh, a Song Must Rise*, and *Praise God for this Holy Ground* were appreciated by all. We also thank those choristers who acted as song leaders during the time in November and part of December when we DID have some in-person services. The bells were also rung on a couple of Sundays. And throughout the year we have enjoyed Joanne Sommer and William Ness on the piano, Marjorie Stewart on the clarinet, Brad Jarvis on the saxophone, and Carley Carder on her ukulele. Garnet Wolchok offered his musical gifts on clarinet for Good Friday and Easter. Good Friday included readings and Taize-style chants reflecting on the last seven words of Christ.

Throughout the first half of the year, Linda coordinated a monthly Zoom get-together, so choir members could 'meet' and have a chat. Unfortunately, in September, an 'in-person' gathering for choir members and others who have offered their talents through this difficult time had to be cancelled at the last moment. Linda also organized a Jazz Vespers online service in April with trumpet great Gabriel Mark Hasselbach; and another in September, featuring Campbell Ryga (saxophone) and Chris Sigerson (piano). It was not possible to have any live Jazz Vespers in 2021.

Sadly, we lost one of our long-time choir members in February with the passing of our good friend Tom McMath. Even though we weren't singing as a choir, Tom always had interesting things to pass on to us via e-mail; lovely recordings he had heard that he thought we would like to listen to, and often stories or jokes which made us laugh. He is missed.

We also had changes in our music staff. Our choir director, Tim, resigned at the beginning of July to spend more time with his boys. Linda continued to work with choir members, arranging for music to be presented for worship. But then, at the end of

September, she also resigned and is now the musician at Northwood United Church. Neerava, who had been assisting with music, worked on a temporary contract and helped greatly through the Advent and Christmas periods.

The Board approved the formation of a music committee to look at music at UCoL and come up with some recommendations as to what we are looking for in the way of musician(s) and music programming. The report from that six-member committee, including a summary of the survey that was sent out to all congregants, will be presented at the February 2022 Board meeting.

Thank you to all those who have provided such lovely music throughout 2021. As the pandemic situation improves, we look forward to singing together again, and invite anyone who loves to sing to join us. Watch for announcements.

Make a joyful noise!

OUR CARE MINISTRIES

Rev. Gabrielle Suedfeld

PASTORAL CARE NETWORK TEAM

As we entered into our second year of "coping with Covid," we began to find a rhythm in setting up Zoom meetings and adjusting with calm and competence to every situation as it emerged. We found humour in the glitches, forgave people who missed meetings because they forgot or took a nap, rejoiced when we could gather in person, and became strong supports to one another in the face of loss, loneliness, shortages and delays. From January to June, the team met on Zoom, and from August to December, we were able to connect in person to share our ministry.



Our team experienced several changes this year. Ryan became active as the ministerial presence, Sheryl McKenzie stepped down with regrets, and Sherry Robles and Amanda Vanags joined the group. Jackie Peebles continued as chair, partnering with Deb Koroll in that position. Gabrielle Suedfeld continued as secretary, and Sherry Robles offered to organize meals for shut-ins and families with temporary needs. Deb also kept track of the cards to be sent out, and Elaine Pokorny was the main contact for everyone in the Fort Langley church.

We have begun to gather information about community services that might help to enrich our pastoral care activities and provide contacts for times when our team cannot meet the needs of a specific person or family.

Cards ~ We have tried to contact everyone over 90 on their birthday with a card. Deb sent get-well cards to those who were ill, sympathy cards for families who had a death, and "thinking of you" cards on the year anniversary of a death. This year the team mailed or delivered 25 Christmas and Easter cards to people from our church who live in Harrison Pointe, Sunridge Gardens, Jackman Manor, Renaissance, Langley Lodge, Langley Gardens, Harrison Landing, Magnolia Gardens, Avalon Gardens, Evergreen Timbers and Langley Seniors Village, as well as 23 cards to people at home. Before Christmas, we were able to deliver cookies to fourteen of those seniors and families living at home. We continue to keep our lists up to date and to evaluate what we can do to bring greetings to those in need.

Communication "Vine" ~ Many people have made phone calls on a regular basis to others in the congregation. The "Vine" members have specific people or families that they contact and then report if there are pastoral issues that need to be

addressed by Ryan or the committee. At present, the callers are Sherry Robles, Arlene Pike, Elaine Pokorny, Norma Carruthers, Gabrielle Suedfeld, Pat Thebaud, Jackie Peebles, Deb Koroll, Joanne Rathgeber, Lynda Christensen, Andrea Hammond, Darlene Poitras and Shirley McGonigal. Almost every entry in our directory, with the exception of families with small children (contacted by Sophia and her team), board members and leaders of committees, has been called several times this year to check in about their concerns and joys, to be given information about special activities and to share and laugh and make new friendships. We give thanks to everyone who has reached out and given their time with support and kindness to our church family. This was supposed to be a very temporary activity, that turned out to be a long-term expression of faithful commitment. It is truly a labour of love that has touched lives and taken care of souls.



PRAYER SHAWL GROUP

The prayer shawl group continued to work from home for most of the year. In October, we finally came together in the large yellow classroom downstairs to play "show and tell" with all the shawls we had produced! There are about 25 new shawls, and more keep coming in. There was a blessing of 15 shawls on April 25, when the prayer shawl group was highlighted in the prerecorded worship service. 18 shawls were given out in 2021. At our last in-person meeting in December, we had

a social time and said goodbye to Dot Mufford, who has moved to Salmon Arm.

Members of the group are Betty Nelson, Dorothy Wolfe, Gloria Kinley, Janet Smith, Judy Chang, Pam Mihic, Stacey Jordan-Knox, Wendie Switzer, Sandy Campbell, and Gabrielle Suedfeld. When we are unable to meet in person, we try to set up a space at home, with a candle and our yarn, to knit, crochet and offer prayers for one another and those on the prayer list. This is a ministry that is a blessing both ways – in giving to others, and in doing the handwork that brings beauty, calm and purpose to our lives.

BEAR MINISTRY

Our soft, cuddly, pastoral visitors have taken a time off this year. Many are staying with Marjorie Stewart, and a few can be found around the church, just waiting to be called into action again. We're hoping to gather them together in their own custom-built house, and perhaps a house warming will take place in the next few months. Any excuse for a party!



STEPHEN MINISTRY

Kellie Warnock

Stephen Ministry has continued its pastoral care throughout the 2021 year with continued challenges. Our number of Stephen Ministers and Leaders

has been reduced due to people taking well-needed breaks, and the number of people we are able to provide care to is smaller than we would have hoped. We are down to one leader, Kellie Warnock, and our hopes to provide a training class for new Stephen Ministers did not come to fruition.

This program provides one-on-one pastoral care by lay members in our congregation who have been through a 50-hour Stephen ministry training

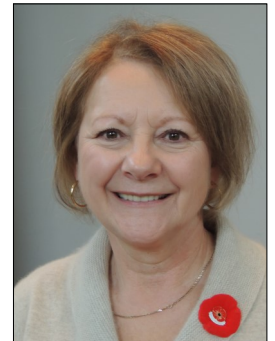
course. This program exists through the support of our congregation. Many have benefited from the care they have received, and it would be a benefit to the congregation and the ministry team if we were to keep the program going. Those of us who are involved find it to be a life-giving venture, and skills learned will continue to benefit us all. If you have any questions or would like to become a Stephen Minister or leader, please contact Kellie Warnock.

WORSHIP IN SENIORS' HOMES

Andrea Hammond

The United Churches of Langley had been providing monthly worship services, to several Senior's facilities for many years.

Unfortunately, due to Covid, our team was not able to provide these services last year. Hopefully, we will be able to revisit this important ministry in the near future.



2021 MEMBERSHIP ROLL

Removed:	4
by transfer	0
by death	4
by request	0
by board review	0

Received **6**

Total on United Churches of Langley Membership Roll on December 31, 2021: **362**

Active Member and Adherent households (indicated by inclusion into the Congregational Directory): **240**

Households on the mailing list (estimated): **290**

Households on email list: **268**

2021 Child Baptisms **1**

2021 Weddings **2**

We remember the following people who died in 2021 and early in 2022:



Elfreda Anderson

Agnes Bierwirth

Charles Cuthbert

Jean Davis

Mary Marquette

Allan McLeod

Tom McMath

Donna McTaggart

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

Shirley McGonigal, President

We have three UCW units at UCOL: Trinity, Friendship and Friendship Circle, with 45 members. In 2021 the pandemic curtailed us from meeting in any significant way.

On March 16, 2021, Fraser UCW held Spring Rally/ AGM by a Zoom Gathering. It was titled *A Time for Hope*, and hosted by Trinity Memorial United Church in Abbotsford. 92 ladies participated.

On April 24, 2021, Pacific Mountain UCW held AGM *Meeting Changes and Challenges* by Zoom.

In Fall 2021, UCoL UCW was able to meet together in person for a short period. During that time, we organized *Meeting Our Minister*, which gave us an opportunity to meet with Ryan Tristan Chapman.

During the season of Advent, we organized a *No-Bake Christmas Sale* with a craft table by Trinity unit. The congregation joined us in collecting funds.

In 2020-2021 we lost Jo Baker, Wilma Chadney, Mary Fehr, Jean Gregson, Hazel Harrower, Marjorie McGaw and Donna McTaggart.



Our National Project for the 60th Anniversary of UCW, *Woman for Change – Zambia*, is under way. The celebratory Anniversary event will take place in Sydney, NS, July 11-15, 2022.

Pacific Mountain Regional UCW AGM is scheduled for April 29-30th in Cordova Bay United Church, Victoria.

God's Blessings, and May we continue to support each other.

ADULT SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

BIBLE STUDY

Kellie Warnock



Our bible study is held on Wednesday mornings at 10:30 am. We meet to discuss the scripture that will be used on the following Sunday Service. The

group is open to anyone in the congregation that would like to participate in a respectful, caring conversation that hopefully provides insight into the language and Word of the Bible. For the safety of those in the group, we continue to meet by Zoom, and it has been a wonderful way to connect with those in our congregation who have been participating. If you have any questions or would like to engage with us, please contact Kellie Warnock.

YOGA IN THE CHAPEL

Submitted by

Denise Hay, Certified Yoga Teacher

Yoga means union of mind, body and soul. It is a way of arriving in the present moment and remembering our true nature, which is joyful and peaceful.

I have been holding gentle Yoga classes in the beautiful Sharon Chapel since 2014. I teach with a

focus on mindfulness, breathing and alignment, offering modifications to accommodate each student's unique needs and state of wellness.

Our classes open with guiding participants to become relaxed and settled, followed by breathing practice (pranayama) and gentle movement.

Practice slowly builds, inviting a variety of postures (asanas) to help increase flexibility, strength and balance. I will guide your deep relaxation and meditation, closing with a prayer or moment of gratitude honouring your practice shared.

Class size is only 10 participants with yoga mats safely spaced 7 feet apart and Covid-prevention measures in place, creating a safe and welcoming environment for practitioners.

Several members of the UCoL congregation attend Yoga in the Chapel; however, classes are open to the wider community.

Current Schedule:

Tuesday:

10:15am-11:30 and 6:15pm-7:30 Gentle Yoga

Thursday:

10:15am-11:30 Gentle Yoga

12:15pm-1:30 Restorative Yoga



COMMUNITY BUILDING



ART BREAK

Sharon McMath

Art Break is a group that gathers at the Fort Langley site on Friday mornings. The focus of the morning is to create/explore art. Our coffee time has resulted in developing great friendships.

For the past two years, because of the pandemic, our group has not met consistently for safety concerns. In spring, when weather became warm enough, the group resumed regularly meetings by gathering outdoors in the backyard gardens of our members. In this setting we could be safely spaced apart in fresh air and continue encouraging art and lifting spirits.

In the fall, cold weather forced us indoors again. Tables were limited and spaced out, coffee time was suspended and safe distancing was maintained. COVID-19 masking and cleaning rules were followed. A contact list was kept. Although we had a few people inquiring about joining the group, we didn't feel we could accommodate new members given the restrictions.

Later in the fall, when COVID-19 rules continued to relax, we, as a group, visited the Vincent Van Gogh Art Exhibit at the Vancouver Events Centre. It was an incredible exhibition.

We ended the 2021 year with a safe social lunch in a local restaurant.

At the time of writing this report, we are following Church guidelines regarding indoor gatherings. When the weather warms, we can return to our option of Art in our Gardens. When the situation permits, we can again explore ways to expand our group to meet the needs of artistic people seeking connections and friendship.



BOOK CLUB

Kellie Warnock

The United Churches of Langley Book Club has continued to meet for over ten years. We meet monthly on the second Monday of the month by Zoom and enjoy

great fellowship over books. This is a very relaxed group that enjoys talking about books that we are reading and connecting with people in our congregation, as well as those out in the community that have joined us. We try and introduce different types of genres and styles to challenge and excite our reading. If you are interested in joining or finding out more, please contact Kellie Warnock.

CÉILIDH

Jack & Margaret Williamson - Ceilidh & Biscuit Coordinators

The Ceilidh remains on the COVID back-burner and will unfortunately remain there until the pandemic situation greatly improves. We dare not



take a chance restarting the Ceilidh given the nature of the Ceilidh and age of those who attend it. The good news is that we do have a willing Ceilidh volunteer team ready to go. We could restart the Céilidh in a week or two after booking a line up of performers after getting an all clear.

The Ceilidh has been an important and successful outreach program that has brought in a small but steady cash flow. Unfortunately COVID has cut that off. Once the Ceilidh resumes we will be able to contribute and help the finance situation of the church, as well as provide that important community outreach.

APPENDIX 1

**Minutes of Annual Congregational Meeting
United Churches of Langley
February 28, 2021 by Zoom following the 10:30 a.m. on-line worship service.**

Welcome and Zoom logistics

Tom Louie welcomed everyone and then he, along with Rev. Sophia, William Ness and Elisabeth Browning gave an outline and some guidance for those needing it, about the way this Zoom ACM would be conducted. Tom let everyone know that this meeting will be recorded, simply for our own record keeping. It will definitely not be made public. He asked if anyone has a concern about that to let him know.

Call to Order

Tom Louie, Board Chair, then called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. and acknowledged that we are on the unceded territory of the Kwantlen, the Matsqui, the Katzie and the Semiahmoo peoples.

Quorum

According to the UCC Manual, for a congregation of 100 or more members, at least 20 full members must be present to convene a congregational meeting. Since there were 50 full members present a quorum was declared. There were also 6 adherents present plus our two ministers, for a total of 58 people in attendance.

It was M/S Kellie Warnock/Maureen Burgess to include Adherents as Eligible Voters

The Poll for the Vote of Affirmation was put up on the screen. ***CARRIED WITH ALL IN FAVOUR***

Opening Prayer

Rev. Ryan then opened the meeting with a short reflection, noting that he had only been with us for two months in 2020. He is thankful for the caring that takes place in our congregation and is looking forward to getting to know more of the congregation in the coming year. He then led us in prayer.

In Memoriam

Rev. Sophia thanked Shirley McGonigal for her help in putting together the list and pictures of those who had died in 2020 and early 2021. Sophia then read aloud their names. A beautiful virtual vase of roses was displayed on the screen along with some photos of those who had died and we remembered them and gave thanks for their lives.

In 2020: Heather Alden, Jo Baker, Wilma Chadney, Mary Fehr, Jean Gregson, Hazel Harrower, Lori Lewis, George Mackenzie, Marjorie Magaw, June Newburg, Audrey Smith, Art Thomas

In 2021: Tom McMath, Charles Cuthbert

Short Reflection on the Year

Board Chair, Tom Louie gave a short reflection on the differences in our church year in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Despite this, we thrived by employing new methods of communication via Zoom, YouTube, Facebook, Podcast, WhatsApp and reinventing our website. We were able to quickly transition from worshipping in a sanctuary filled with people to live-streaming over YouTube. Tom expressed his gratitude and thanks to our faithful leadership team and staff and many others who carried us through 2020. Tom is confident that as we go forward into 2021, we will continue to do our best to keep our community connected and we will do it together as a Faith Family.

It was M/S Maureen Burgess/William Ness to approve the minutes of the Annual Meeting which was held March 8, 2020.

The Poll for the Vote of Affirmation was put up on the screen. ***CARRIED WITH ALL IN FAVOUR***

It was M/S Sylvia Mountain/William Ness to receive and accept the 2020 Annual Report.

The Poll for the Vote of Affirmation was put up on the screen. ***CARRIED WITH ALL IN FAVOUR***

Nominations Committee Report – Sylvia Mountain and Eilleen Anderson

Eilleen and Sylvia then presented the Nomination Slate on behalf of the Board. The slate is in four parts for easy reading and was presented one part at a time.

1. Eilleen began by acknowledging those who have served in positions on the Board this past year and offered her sincere gratitude and respect for their willingness and faithful service.

The following people have either completed their terms or are stepping down:

Tom Louie (Board Chair); Sylvia Mountain (Past Chair); William Ness (Treasurer);
Lynda Christensen (Member-at-large); Kellie Warnock (Member-at-large);
Doug Perkins (Pacific Mountain Region rep.)

On behalf of the congregation, thank you for your commitment and dedicated service.

Eilleen then expressed her gratitude for Tom's leadership and support to the Board and the congregation over the past two years, and noted that his problem-solving skills have worked well in these challenging times. Thank you, Tom, for your valuable contribution to UCoL.

2. Sylvia then reported the following:

Board Chair: Eilleen Anderson has served two years as Vice Chair, and is now taking over as Board Chair. Sylvia gave special thanks to Eilleen for agreeing to chair the Board during this difficult time.

Past Chair: Tom Louie served two years as Vice-Chair, two years as Chair, and will now be serving as Past Chair.

UCW Representative: Lynda Christensen, as designated by the UCW, will continue to be their representative on the Board.

Sylvia then advised that the following Board members are now in the second year of their two-year terms.

Secretary	Maureen Burgess	<i>(This is Maureen's second 2-year term.)</i>
Chair of M&P	Stacey Jordan-Knox	<i>(This is Stacey's second 2-year term.)</i>
PMR Rep.	Chandra Carlson	
PMR Rep.	Marianne Clarke	

Page 3 of 5

The following nominations were presented by Eileen, as these people have agreed to let their names stand to serve on the Board. A request for further nominations from the floor was announced three times for each of these positions.

There being no further nominations, the Poll for the Vote of Affirmation was put up on the screen. The result was announced – all those who had agreed to fill these positions were unanimously declared elected. They will now begin serving the first year of a two-year term.

Vice-Chair of the Board	William Ness
Chair of Property & Maintenance	Tom Louie
Chair of Finance	Kellie Warnock
Member-at-Large	Joanne Rathgeber
Member-at-Large	Sandi Takasaki
PMR Rep	Sylvia Mountain

The Nominations Committee has been unable at this point to recruit anyone to fill the position of Treasurer, so nominations were called three times from the floor.

Kellie Warnock nominated Barb Nelson, seconded by Bill Pike. However, Barb declined at this time. William Ness nominated Dougal Shewan, seconded by Jim Jordan-Knox. Dougal also declined. Bill Pike nominated Jamie Nelson, seconded by William Ness. Jamie said he was unprepared to consider filling this position at the present time.

Work will continue to find someone willing to take on the role of Treasurer.

Sylvia then reported on the **Trustees**:

Kellie Warnock has completed the second year of her three-year term and is willing to remain a Trustee for another year.

The following have completed three years of their three-year terms and have all offered to commit to another three-year term:

Jim Jordan-Knox, Alan Gregson, Sharon McMath
Jackie Peebles, Dougal Shewan

A request for further nominations from the floor was announced three times.

There being no further nominations, the Poll for the Vote of Affirmation was put up on the screen. The result was announced – all those who had agreed to serve as trustees were unanimously declared elected. They will now begin serving the first year of a three-year term.

Sylvia stated that Jim Jordan-Knox has been filling the position of Chair of the Trustees. She noted that it is the Trustees who choose their chair from among those serving.

Many thanks to everyone who will be serving UCoL for 2021-2022.

*Page 4 of 5***2020 Financials and 2021 Budget**

William summarized our 2020 financials using slides on our Zoom screens. He appreciated how all the various ministries had worked hard to limit their spending during the year. We had been fortunate in being able to access the Government's Wage Subsidy Program, and all in all, with great support from the congregation with their offerings, we had done better than expected in this strange year. Rentals (mainly weddings and the film industry) had seen the most reduction in revenue.

He then proceeded to work through the budget for 2021, saying again that he appreciated the help from all the ministries in trying to bring down their expenses, while still planning positive programming and ministry and having room to grow the church. William answered questions from the floor.

Rev. Sophia and Rev. Ryan made short presentations on all ministry areas, and then everyone present went into small Breakout Groups for a short time, to discuss what we would like to see happen at UCoL in 2021.

It was M/S William Ness/Kellie Warnock to receive the 2020 Financials (unaudited).

The Poll for the Vote of Affirmation was put up on the screen. ***CARRIED WITH ALL IN FAVOUR***

It was M/S William Ness/Kellie Warnock to receive and approve the 2021 Operational Budget as presented with adjustments.

The Poll for the Vote of Affirmation was put up on the screen. ***CARRIED WITH ALL IN FAVOUR***

Review of 2020 records

Agatha Cluff is an independent accountant, who has been reviewing our records for many years.

It was M/S William Ness/Kellie Warnock to approve a contract to hire Agatha Cluff to review the 2020 United Churches of Langley financial records.

The Poll for the Vote of Affirmation was put up on the screen. ***CARRIED WITH ALL IN FAVOUR***

William thanked everyone for all their work and help in the preparation of these Financial reports.

Sophia then thanked William, mentioning that he has put a great deal of work into the organization and structure of the budgeting process, so whoever steps in as Treasurer will have a great base to work from.

Social Justice & Outreach Ministries

Nigel Chuah, our Social Justice Program Facilitator, gave an outline of this work during 2020, followed by a video of all that has been accomplished since he was hired to this position in October, 2020.

After the video Nigel highlighted the various programs and different projects that UCoL is supporting, and mentioned the plans for new partnerships in the community. He encourages everyone to follow Social Justice and Outreach on our website.

Affirm Process

Bex Ouwehand then explained many things about the Affirming process and around becoming an Affirming Congregation. The first step is to educate the church/congregation, and Bex mentioned that there is a link on the UCoL website with much more information, and she encourages everyone to take the time to read that. Over the next year there will be further educational opportunities. This process began with the Board approving that UCoL begin an educational/discerning process as to whether or not we wish to become an Affirming Ministry. (*October and December 2019*) The decision will be made by a Congregational vote in the future.

Tom thanked everyone for staying on-line for this ACM – being on Zoom, it was long, but we did it.

Rev. Sophia then led a closing worship.

It was M/S Janice McTaggart/William Ness that the meeting be adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

CARRIED

 Tom Louie

 Chair

 Maureen Burgess

 Recording Secretary

APPENDIX 2

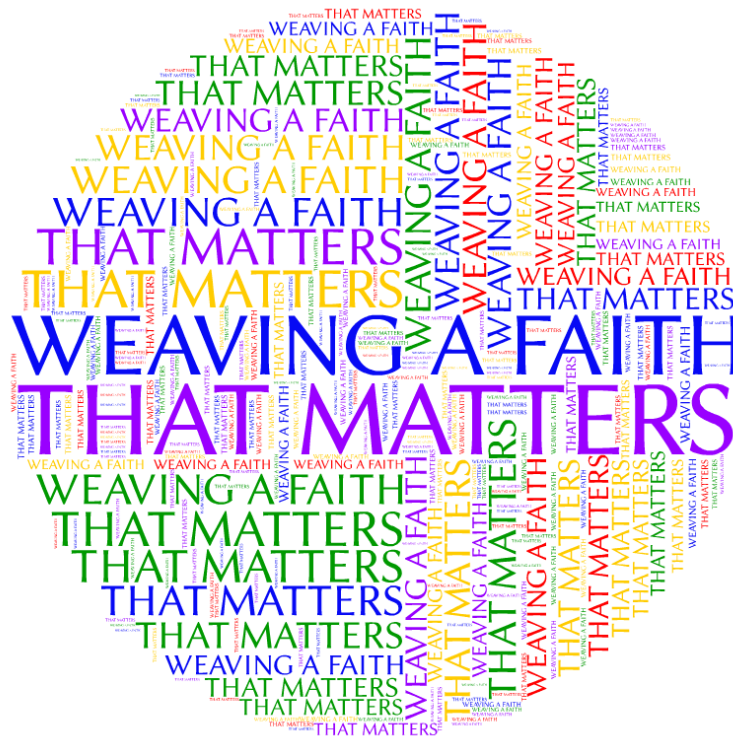
United Churches of Langley Women Financial Report 2021

Submitted by Lynda Christensen, Treasurer

Shares	\$30.56			
Balance from 2020	\$1,016.88			
Income			Expenses	
Interest	\$0.73		National UCW	\$45.00
Trinity UCW	\$13.00		Pacific Mountain UCW	\$200.00
Friendship Unit Murrayville	\$20.00		Donation UCoL	\$2,224.25
Friendship Unit Fort Langley	\$20.00			
Fort Langley Friendship Unit	\$300.00			
Craft Fair December	\$299.00			
No-Bake Sale - December	\$1,925.25		Total Expenses	\$2,469.25
Lois Dickson	\$6.29			
Total Income	\$3,601.15			
			Balance	\$1,131.90

Let's explore what the Spirit is calling us
to Be and Do, together,
as We Weave a Faith that Matters in 2022!

Together, although we are apart.
Connected, remembering, We Are Not Alone.



www.UnitedChurcesOfLangley.ca

SocialJusticeLangley.ca

YouTube Channels: United Churches of Langley
and Social Justice Langley

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ShiftPodcast.ca on web, Twitter and Instagram