Squamish United Church Board Minutes
September 21, 2022 at 7:30 p.m.

Present: Bruce Larson, Grace Halverson, Cindy Roy, Trevor Harris, Glen Van Brummelen, non-Board member to take minutes, Julie Larson.

Absent: Karen Millard

1. **Opening Prayer/Reflection**
   We who are meeting in person are happy to meet on the traditional unceded territory of theSkwxwu7mesh people.

2. **Additions to Agenda-**suggest that we hear from Kevin, followed by Carlotta.

3. **Kevin Haberl-** speaking in his role as trustee chair, the trustees consider cashing a GIC a trigger.

   In addition, there has been more conversation about another Syrian refugee family in addition to the family that the Haberls mentioned in June. Is Squamish United willing to be the administrator of a refugee family. Hugh has described the roles in a recent e-mail. Workload for the Church- money is held by the church in a separate account with draws on the account every month. The requirement is that the sponsorship committee raise the required funds. Kevin doesn't see a financial risk to the Church. A committee would be formed (Kevin, Louise…).

   We need clarification about tax receipts- Do any donors get a tax receipt from the church?

   Cindy feels the heavy load of the church's work is at the beginning and someone needs to handle that paperwork.

   In speaking about why Syrian refugees not families from other places- Kevin talked about the likelihood of success being high because we have other Syrian families in the community.

   The sponsorship is a 12 month commitment. In Squamish, most support (non-financial) has continued beyond a year.

   Next steps if the Church says, "yes."
   - Who is going to do the work?
   - Clarifying the workload
   - Making sure the United Church of Canada has spots for refugee families.
   - Look at the forms that the Church Board needs to sign

   The Board will get back to Kevin who leaves town on Oct. 1, 2022.

4. **Comments by Carlotta** – Carlotta speaking about not having a minister every Sunday. We need to look at what's working and what's not working. Carlotta would like the Board to find a way to have the minister present every Sunday. She mentioned that others had spoken to her about the same concern. This may mean redistributing some of the minister's other responsibilities. Carlotta expressed that not having a minister present has a negative impact on the Church. People may need more information about the responsibilities of the minister.

   During Carlotta's conversation, Board members engaged in the conversation including pondering how to have the minister present every Sunday while perhaps only giving a sermon two or three times a month.

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5. **Review of Notes from August, 2022** -no comments or corrections were stated

6. **Reports** (all) (20 min)

   a. Treasurer

   b. Finance – no report

   c. Worship - no report

   d. Pastoral Care – no report

   e. M&P – no report

   f. Stewardship – no report

   g. Administrator's Report – no report

   h. Minister's Report – no report

7. **New Business**
   a. Centrepoint Strata- the Strata wants to raise dues 10% and make it retroactive 3 months by special levy. The increase in Aug. brought us up to $190 per month. Bruce told the strata council that SUC would need a Board discussion prior to approving an increase. Capital items would require trustee input, maintenance costs are the responsibility of the Board. Message #1- we need to understand how budget numbers are arrived at, Message #2- accepting the inevitable (dues will go up).

8. **Planning October 23rd Congregational meeting and Board discussion about the conversation**

- Be upfront about what we are hearing-
- Before the meeting the Board should know what options Karen will or won't accept. She should be well prepared to respond to the request to be present every Sunday.
- Goal of the meeting is to be a listening meeting, not to make decisions at the meeting
- Time to review the minister's job description, it was created during covid and we've learned a lot in a year and half and some expectations were not clear.
- We offer serious and meaningful worship that is inclusive and focuses on justice-celebrate who we are and what we do well.
- Not going to change the perception that Church is for Sunday mornings.
- **After the above discussion the Board came to the conclusion that they need to meet with Karen prior to a congregational meeting and that possibly no new information would come out during a congregational meeting. Therefore the Congregational Meeting for Oct. 16th has been canceled and the Board will find a time to meet with Karen. Oct. 4th was suggested as a possible meeting time.**

9. Calendar of Events

10. Next Meeting Date – the next regular Board meeting is Oct. 19th at 7:00 p.m.

11. Adjournment

12. Closing Prayer

Minutes approved October 19, 2022

Signed:

Bruce Larson, Chair *Grace Halvorson, Secretary*