



ANNUAL REPORT 2025



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Situated on the traditional and unceded lands of the Squamish Nation (Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw) and Lil'wat (Lil'wat7úl) Nation.



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Introduction & Minister's Report



Beloved community of Squamish United Church, as I reflect on this past year, the word that rises most clearly in my heart is abundance. Not abundance as the world often measures it, but the deep, holy abundance that flows from faithful discipleship, generous hearts, and a community committed to loving God and neighbour.

Scripture reminds us, “Now to the one who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine...” (Ephesians 3:20). I see that power at work among you—again and again—in ways both visible and quietly faithful.

This has been a year marked by extraordinary volunteer energy. So many of you give your time, creativity, skills, and compassion week after week: setting up chairs, preparing food, offering music, welcoming newcomers, caring for one another, serving on committees, and showing up whenever help is needed. You are the living hands and feet of Christ in this place. To our committee chairs, board members, and all who serve in leadership: thank you for your steady guidance, prayerful discernment, and willingness to lead with care. To every volunteer named and unnamed, please know how deeply grateful I am for you.

I also want to celebrate the faithfulness of your financial stewardship. In a time of rising costs and uncertainty for many, you have responded with generosity. Increased offerings this year are not just numbers on a page; they are a sign of trust—trust in God’s provision and in the shared ministry we carry together. As Paul writes, “You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God.” (2 Corinthians 9:11)

I am profoundly thankful for the many ways you personally support me in my ministry among you; through encouragement, prayer, honest conversation, laughter, patience, and love. Ministry is never a solo calling. It is something we live into together, and I am deeply aware that I do not walk this path alone.

At the same time, we are increasingly aware of the growing needs in our local community. More people are struggling with food insecurity, housing instability, mental health challenges, and unexpected crises. As a church committed to compassion and justice, we are called not to turn away, but to lean in. I invite you to prayerfully consider supporting the Minister’s Benevolent Fund, which allows us to respond quickly and discreetly when

immediate needs arise. Your gifts make a real difference in real lives, often in ways unseen but deeply impactful. Donation envelopes can be found on the welcome table each Sunday.

I encourage you to take a few moments to read the full annual report and celebrate all that God has been doing in and through our community this past year. Please join us for our Annual General Meeting on Sunday, March 15, 2026, as we reflect, give thanks, and look ahead together with hope and purpose.

Blessings, Rev. Anita Spiller

Board Chair Report

The Board held regular meetings monthly throughout the year. We have continued to conduct our meetings on Zoom as at least two of our members are located a considerable distance from Squamish during the week. A recent informal review of our Zoom meetings elicited a positive response. While it serves our two distant members well, it also eliminates the need to drive to and from the church, particularly during dark winter evenings.

A much-appreciated component in our Board meetings are the written Committee reports that are collated by Board Member, Cindy Roy. Having the reports, action items and budget information in Board Members' hands well before the meetings contributes to the effectiveness of Board functions. Thank you, Cindy and Committee Chairs.

A major focus of the Board over the past two or three years has been with the Annual Budget. Within the past five years our Congregation has undergone major restructuring with the objective of working towards a balanced budget. And for the first time in over ten years, we as a Board and Congregation have achieved that goal. The details of this accomplishment will be contained in other sections of the Annual Report. There is much to celebrate and be thankful for this year. Many thanks to fellow Board Members: Cindy Roy, Kevin Haberl, Vicki Haberl, Glen Van Brummelen, and Rev Anita Spiller for their leadership role on the Board at Squamish United Church.

**Respectfully submitted,
Trevor Harris**



Trevor Harris, Kevin Haberl, Vicki Haberl, Cindy Roy,
Rev Anita Spiller, Glen Van Brummelen

Board of Trustees Report

The Board of Trustees had another quiet year in 2025 – this report is in fact a pretty true copy of last year’s report! And that is good...trustees like a stable, consistent environment. With excellent support from Cindy Roy on the banking side, the office and the Reverend Spiller dealt with most of ‘our’ work.

You may wonder what a trustee is anyhow? As a general rule, the trustees hold congregational property in trust for the congregation as part of The United Church of Canada, and every congregation must have trustees. Even if a congregation does not own land or a building, it may still own other kinds of congregational property, such as investments.

Squamish United Church does hold some funds in reserve for any unanticipated emergency use. These monies are in the form of three term deposits in order to garner some interest income. In 2025, we again “rolled over” our investments and ensuring the optimal terms and locations for these investments. In total, these investments are approximately \$100,000.00.

Trustees must give the same care and attention to congregational property as a reasonable person would give to their own property. Trustees must ensure adequate insurance is maintained to protect buildings and other congregational property and to minimize the exposure of congregational assets. The trustees should ensure the buildings and other congregational property are maintained and repaired. The trustees must ensure congregational funds are properly invested to obtain the best return possible, given the ongoing needs of the congregation to access cash and to preserve capital.

The congregation decides on the exact number of trustees, with a minimum of three and a maximum of 15. The board of trustees is made up of the minister, and people appointed by the congregation at an official congregational meeting. The majority of trustees must be United Church members. For Squamish United Church, your Board of Trustees is made up of Rev. Spiller and Kevin Haberl (co-chairs), Trevor Harris, Hugh Kerr, and Louise Martin. At this time, the trustees are not aware of any unanticipated upcoming significant expenses for our congregation related to our physical church space or related to Squamish United Church’s being part of the Centrepont Strata Corporation.

**Respectfully submitted,
Kevin Haberl & Rev. Anita Spiller, Co-Chairs**

Stewardship Committee

The Stewardship Committee has continued to emphasize the importance of regular weekly or monthly giving throughout the year. For many donors, it's through pre-authorized remittance (PAR), a program that ensures a steady income flow to the church.

This year we have experienced the loss of Bruce Larson, who has supported finance and stewardship during his years as a member of our church community. Bruce added colour and flair to our stewardship presentations with his bar graphs and circle charts. His energy and commitment to stewardship have been a major factor in our achieving a balanced budget in 2025. We are thankful for Bruce's contribution to this significant accomplishment.

**Respectfully submitted,
Trevor Harris**

Centrepont Strata Report

Centrepont Strata consists of three owners: Sea to Sky Community Services (SSCS), BC Housing, and Squamish United Church. We occupy 7.93% of the total space. Hence, we pay 7.93% of the total maintenance and services costs. Last year our strata fees were \$19,568 or \$1630.67 per month.

Bruce Larson had been a very effective member of the strata, right up to his recent death. His input, expertise and enthusiasm will be greatly missed. Hugh Kerr, and now Peter Gordon are voting members of the Strata Council, and Rev. Anita Spiller is an ex officio member.

Some of the problems the Council deals with seem to be ongoing problems. The most obvious one for church members is parking during the Sunday service. Building occupants often do not vacate the spaces under the roof, or along the back wall, despite the introduction of parking passes and repeated notices. There seems to be some inconsistency between what SSCS tells new renters and what our expectations are. We continue to press on with this problem. Another problem has been access to the door settings for events. Despite requests for open doors during specific times, event organizers have sometimes been unable to modify incorrect settings. We are looking into having a new company responsible for the settings.

A couple of leaks in SSCS have been identified, and which should by now be repaired. Problems with plumbing pipes freezing in cold weather were identified. The pipes have now been insulated.

A new strata management company, “WRM”, has been contracted. It will be responsible for maintenance and strata tasks in future. As of February 2, the financial budget for 2026 has not been received but is expected soon. The budgeted strata costs for SUC might be as much as 5% greater than the 2025 costs: i.e., \$1712.20 per month. We will endeavor to make sure any charges are valid and fairly divided.

**Respectfully submitted,
Hugh Kerr
Strata Board Member**

Financial & Treasurer's Report

At the onset of 2025, we continued to be very optimistic about the upcoming year for Squamish United Church as the financial health of our church continues to improve. At the last AGM we passed a budget with a projected deficit of \$1,387 and we ended the year, before adjustments, in the black in the amount of \$12,400. The audited financial statements in our Annual Report show a deficit for the year of \$100,604. This figure includes Refugee income and expenses as well as Amortization expenses. To help understand our current financial position, this report is based on the exclusion of these numbers.

On the income side, congregational givings to the General Fund increased slightly over last year. Rental income was up significantly from the previous year with an increase of \$9,331. In July, our rental rates were increased by \$10/hour for Profit groups and \$5/hour for Non-Profit groups. This was the first increase in our rates for some time, and we will continue to review them on an ongoing basis. Our UCW once again made a very generous donation of hard-earned money in the amount of \$2,300, and as in the previous year, we had two wonderful music-based fundraisers that resulted in a net profit of \$2,300. We thank all who organized, participated, and attended the fundraisers for both groups.

On the expense side, we came very close to being on budget. This was the result of working to reduce costs wherever possible and we thank everyone for this effort.

Our proposed budget has an anticipated deficit of just over \$700. We ended the year with approximately \$33,000 in our General Account.

The concerns we've noted in the past are still valid. One is the fact that we have a relatively small congregation that is quite aged. The danger of losing income because of even a small number of seniors moving away or unfortunately passing would have a significant impact

on our budget. Another concern is the fragility of our audio-visual system. Although our board has been looking into options for improving or replacing the system, we need to be aware that we could have a significant unexpected expense for this at any time.

Despite these concerns, we should celebrate the successes we have had in bringing our budget into a sustainable, balanced, and sound condition. We continue to grow in so many ways with increased attendance and programs, and the warm, caring community that we cherish.

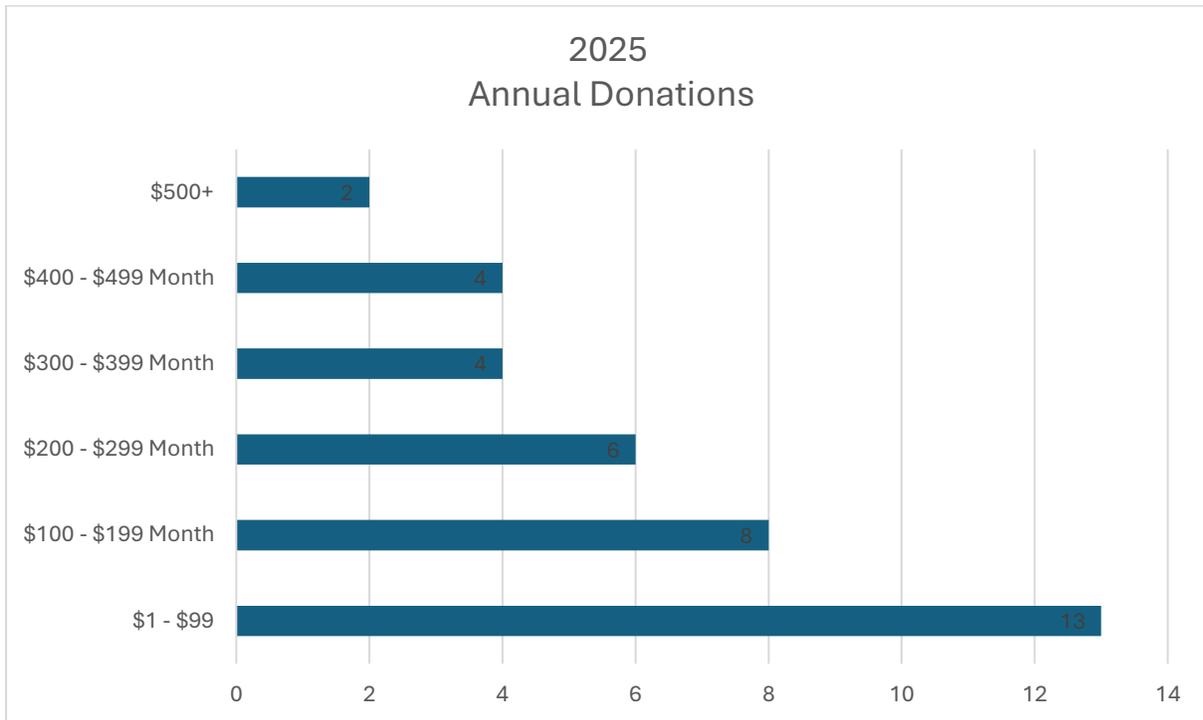
Thank you to the Board for their support. Thanks to Mary Larcombe for counting and the bank deposits, and to Erica Primeau for all that she does and especially for the relationship that she has developed with our renters.

**Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Roy, Treasurer**

ANNUAL DONATIONS

- We have 37 identifiable donors who gave a combined total of \$91,805
- Open (unidentifiable) donations totalled \$1,494
- Total of all donations* = \$93,299

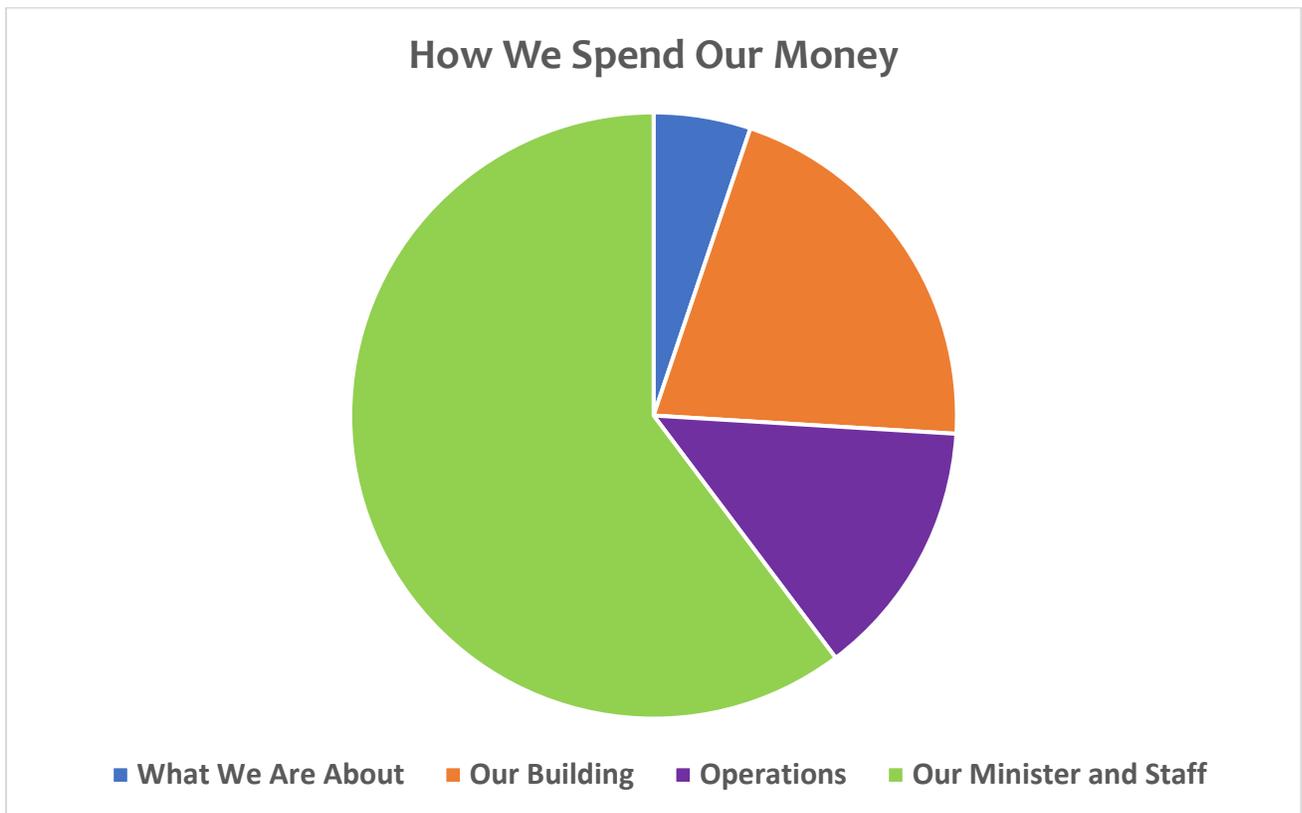
For the identifiable donors, number of individuals in each category:



*Amounts include donations to the General Account, M&S, and Benevolent Fund

How We Spend Our Money

	2026 Budget	2025 Budget	2025 Actual
What We Are About	\$6,580	\$4,720	\$4,278
Our Building	\$26,450	\$25,157	\$24,603
Operations	\$17,541	\$16,765	\$15,675
Our Minister and Staff	\$76,661	\$72,245	\$74,776
	\$127,232	\$118,887	\$119,332



Squamish United Church

Profit and Loss

January - December 2025

	TOTAL	
	JAN - DEC. 2025	JAN - DEC. 2024 (PY)
INCOME		
410 Cash Donation (Refugee Sponsor)	3,633.16	57,822.00
500 Donations		
501 General Donations	82,278.57	81,313.20
507 Benevolent Fund Donations	790.00	450.00
508 Donations - Targeted	560.49	
509 UCW Donations	2,300.00	1,600.00
Total 500 Donations	85,929.06	83,363.20
511 Fundraising	3,497.90	4,296.25
520 Interest Received	9,471.26	3,137.48
526 Facility Donations	33,256.25	23,925.00
Total Income	\$135,787.63	\$172,543.93
GROSS PROFIT	\$135,787.63	\$172,543.93
EXPENSES		
600 Operating Expenses		
611 Website Expenses	340.63	321.50
612 Software	1,782.74	645.82
625 Office Expense	294.97	57.49
626 Supplies	150.14	328.22
627 Office Cleaning	4,675.00	4,975.00
642 Facility Rental Expenses	475.00	1,815.00
648 Meeting Expenses		50.00
689 UCC Annual Assessment	4,407.00	4,627.00
730 Benevolent Fund withdrawals	700.00	200.00
Total 600 Operating Expenses	12,825.48	13,020.03
660 Building Expenses		
665 Utilities	3,020.21	2,886.06
667 Strata Fees	19,568.37	17,697.48
668 Communications	1,720.80	1,720.80
669 Repair and maintenance	293.51	1,944.94
Total 660 Building Expenses	24,602.89	24,249.28
670 Administrative Expenses		
671 Insurance	2,163.00	1,586.41
672 Legal & Accounting	696.96	872.58
673 Service Charges	599.38	524.40
Total 670 Administrative Expenses	3,459.34	2,983.39
690 Worship Expenses	667.91	100.61
691 Worship Software		8.31
692 Music Licenses	281.00	273.00
693 Worship Resources	363.87	438.84
694 Worship Labour Expense	325.00	150.00
695 Worship Decor	443.40	63.45
696 Piano repairs	175.20	

Squamish United Church

Profit and Loss

January - December 2025

	TOTAL	
	JAN - DEC. 2025	JAN - DEC. 2024 (PY)
697 Supply Ministers	570.00	1,710.00
Total 690 Worship Expenses	2,826.38	2,744.21
711 Fundraising Expense	1,201.70	1,765.27
750 Refugee Expenses	56,272.21	
800 Ministerial Expenses		
801 Continued Education	748.56	820.00
802 Pastoral Care	28.25	
Total 800 Ministerial Expenses	776.81	820.00
850 Salaries & Benefits		
851 Salary Expense	60,966.11	54,164.80
852 Worksafe BC	93.74	95.10
853 Employer-paid	11,401.14	10,513.69
854 Phone Allowance	840.00	840.00
855 Service Charges	726.89	736.46
Total 850 Salaries & Benefits	74,027.88	66,350.05
Total Expenses	\$175,992.69	\$111,932.23
OTHER EXPENSES		
950 Amortization	60,369.03	63,732.01
991 Broadview Magazine Subscriptions	30.00	30.00
Total Other Expenses	\$60,399.03	\$63,762.01
PROFIT	\$ -100,604.09	\$ -3,150.31

Squamish United Church

Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2025

	TOTAL	
	AS OF DEC. 31, 2025	AS OF DEC. 31, 2024 (PY)
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalent		
110-1 Refugee - Circle of Hope	23,938.21	22,287.00
110-4 Refugee - Salem	0.00	54,310.69
110-5 Refugee - Howe Sound Helps	0.07	0.07
122 Trustees - 100078791394	1,682.65	3,682.65
123 Long Term Redeem 100079707811	105,922.49	94,451.23
Bank Master Account	36,812.40	32,721.23
12000 Undeposited Funds	0.00	419.20
Total Cash and Cash Equivalent	\$168,355.82	\$207,872.07
Accounts Receivable (A/R)	\$1,414.00	\$1,724.00
130 Furniture & Equipment	16,273.78	20,342.22
135 Centrepoint Building	1,351,214.14	1,407,514.73
Total Current Assets	\$1,537,257.74	\$1,637,453.02
Total Assets	\$1,537,257.74	\$1,637,453.02
Liabilities and Equity		
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable (A/P)		
200 Accounts Payable	3,180.00	2,863.20
Total Accounts Payable (A/P)	\$3,180.00	\$2,863.20
Credit Card		
205 Visa	11.73	26.33
Total Credit Card	\$11.73	\$26.33
215 Refundable Deposit	825.00	775.00
250 Accrued Liability	5,077.00	5,077.00
255 GST/HST Paid	-72.99	0.00
GST/HST Paid	0.00	-13.12
Total 255 GST/HST Paid	-72.99	-13.12
Receiver General Suspense	0.00	-116.48
Total Current Liabilities	\$9,020.74	\$8,611.93
Total Liabilities	\$9,020.74	\$8,611.93
Equity		
302 Fund - Facility Development Operating	56,291.83	54,233.36
310 Fund - Benevolent	-879.55	-1,129.55
331 Fund - Investment	94,451.23	94,000.00
335 Fund - Fixed Asset	1,427,856.95	1,491,588.96
336 Fund - Refugee Sponsorship	51,120.63	-6,701.37
Retained Earnings	0.00	0.00
Profit for the year	-100,604.09	-3,150.31
Total Equity	\$1,528,237.00	\$1,628,841.09
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$1,537,257.74	\$1,637,453.02

2026 PROPOSED BUDGET

	Budget 2025	Financial Position as of Dec 31/25	Budget 2026
INCOME			
Congregational Giving	\$83,000.00	\$82,278.57	\$85,000.00
Benevolent Fund	\$0.00	\$790.00	\$0.00
Targeted Donations	\$1,000.00	\$560.49	\$1,000.00
UCW donations	\$2,000.00	\$2,300.00	\$2,000.00
<i>What We Give</i>	<i>\$86,000.00</i>	<i>\$85,929.06</i>	<i>\$88,000.00</i>
Fund Raising events	\$3,000.00	\$3,158.58	\$3,000.00
Facility Rentals	\$28,500.00	\$33,256.25	\$35,500.00
<i>Other Income</i>	<i>\$31,500.00</i>	<i>\$36,414.83</i>	<i>\$38,500.00</i>
Total Operational Income	\$117,500.00	\$122,343.89	\$126,500.00
EXPENSES			
Worship	\$3,520.00	\$2,826.38	\$4,480.00
Pastoral Care Expenses	\$200.00	\$28.25	\$100.00
Targeted Expenses	\$1,000.00	\$560.49	\$1,000.00
Fundraising Expenses	\$862.38	\$862.38	\$1,000.00
<i>What we are about</i>	<i>\$4,720.00</i>	<i>\$4,277.50</i>	<i>\$6,580.00</i>
Strata fees at Centrepont	\$18,936.00	\$19,568.37	\$20,229.00
Utilities (fee to Squamish District, Hydro etc.)	\$3,500.00	\$3,020.21	\$3,500.00
Communications (IT, landline, etc.)	\$1,721.00	\$1,720.80	\$1,721.00
Maintenance and Repairs	\$1,000.00	\$293.51	\$1,000.00
<i>Our Building</i>	<i>\$25,157.00</i>	<i>\$24,602.89</i>	<i>\$26,450.00</i>
Supplies and expenses	\$400.00	\$445.11	\$550.00
Cleaning costs	\$5,200.00	\$4,675.00	\$5,200.00
Website	\$320.00	\$340.95	\$365.00
Software	\$675.00	\$1,222.25	\$1,000.00
Bank charges and fees	\$600.00	\$599.38	\$650.00
Insurance	\$2,163.00	\$2,163.00	\$2,163.00
Legal, accounting, review	\$1,000.00	\$696.96	\$1,000.00
Facility rental expenses (extra clean, etc.)	\$2,000.00	\$475.00	\$600.00
UCC Annual Assessment	\$4,407.00	\$4,407.00	\$6,013.00
Benevolent Fund Withdrawals	\$650.00	\$650.00	\$650.00
<i>Operations</i>	<i>\$16,765.00</i>	<i>\$15,674.65</i>	<i>\$17,541.00</i>
Minister Salary	\$36,848.00	\$36,848.00	\$37,806.00
Minister Benefits	\$9,975.00	\$9,975.00	\$10,384.00
Admin. Salaries	\$21,358.00	\$24,018.25	\$24,236.00
Admin. Benefits	\$1,418.00	\$1,526.00	\$1,638.00
Salaries and Benefits	<i>\$69,599.00</i>	<i>\$72,367.25</i>	<i>\$74,064.00</i>
Salary Service Charges	\$850.00	\$726.89	\$780.00
Educational Resources	\$845.00	\$748.56	\$867.00
WCB expense	\$111.00	\$93.74	\$110.00
Phone allowance	\$840.00	\$840.00	\$840.00
<i>Our Minister and Staff</i>	<i>\$72,245.00</i>	<i>\$74,776.44</i>	<i>\$76,661.00</i>
Total Operational Expenses	\$118,887.00	\$119,331.48	\$127,232.00
NET	-\$1,387.00	\$3,012.41	-\$732.00

Worship Report

Imagine that someone you meet in town asks, “How would you describe worship at Squamish United Church in three highlights?” The worship committee’s response is a welcoming and creative **PASTOR, MUSIC, and COMMUNITY.**



Advent Choir 2025

Our **PASTOR**, Rev. Anita, creates and supports amazing and diverse worship experiences each and every week. Even when she isn’t present, her leadership still guides the worship experience. One of the ways that Rev. Anita accomplishes this is through a worship series. In 2025, there were four series of worship that stood out. At Lent/Easter and Advent/Christmas, she created powerful worship experiences using materials from Sanctified Arts. These materials focused on understanding God and scripture using the arts – visual art, poetry, and music. These often-modern interpretations of scripture readings provided perspective and opportunities to personalize familiar holy day scriptures. During the summer, she offered a series about Rehab, a less well-known woman in the Bible. Rev. Anita presented this series as a mini-Bible study with time for discussion and reflection. She often had us worship in a circle or in the courtyard garden to enhance and vary the worship experience.

Under Rev. Anita’s leadership we celebrated the 100th Anniversary of the United Church of Canada for a month. She collected and displayed historical photographs and artifacts of Squamish United Church history. People lingered over these displays and long-time members were able to share some of our history with newer members. In May, the United Church Women had a reunion service and luncheon, including the awarding of Lifetime Membership pins and on June 8, we had a service focused on the 100th Anniversary of the United Church. Finding just the right adjectives to describe Rev. Anita and her leadership is nearly impossible but when asked people share that they appreciate her inclusivity, radical welcome, humour, thoughtfulness, ability to recognize talents and support members in actively participating in worship, her understanding of the Bible, her ability to support spiritual growth, and the sense of joy she brings to worship.

MUSIC, we are so fortunate to have so many talented and willing musicians regularly participate in worship. This was the first year that Arlene Robinson’s official role became that of Music Director. Her ability to gather, inspire, and support musicians and music during worship is notable. The practice of “Music For Reflection” between scripture readings continued. This time for reflection is important to the worship experience. The

Worship Committee wants to thank all of those who played during this time in the service. Arlene organized and supported two choirs during the year: one for Lent and Easter and another for Advent and Christmas. The number of people participating in choir has increased and it has quickly become something people



Palm Sunday 2025 music ministry

look forward to. We thank Carol Grolman who helped direct these choirs. We are grateful for the musicians who regularly support worship – Louise Martin and Pete Spiller. Throughout the year, we have enjoyed members who have filled in for Arlene at the piano when needed. Thank you to Julie Murakami, Arlene Ingraham, Carol Grolman, and Trevor Harris. Music during worship often helps us better understand or react to the message of the day.

COMMUNITY, an important part of worshipping God and growing in faith is serving. Worship at Squamish United Church is supported by so many wonderful lay leaders, each with special talents to help us be a community of faith. It starts with the people who greet us at the door each week. Many people serve as lay readers bringing life to the weekly scripture readings. Our monthly Communion services could not take place without people to prepare, set up, serve, and clean up. This year our communion leaders have been



Squamish Helping Hands sock donations 2025

Carlotta Liechti, Mary Larcombe, and Judi Rhodes. Thank you for this service. Each week, too many people to name, take care of setting up and putting away chairs for worship – thank you for the heavy lifting. An important part of community is time to get to know each other supported by coffee and treats provided by United Church Women and sandwiches provided by the sandwich ministry team. Part of our mission is to be a community serving God’s world. This year we collected food for Under One Roof, hats and other winter items

for PearlSpace, and toys for Community Christmas Care. In addition, as a team we raised money for Under One Roof on the Coldest Night of the Year event in February.

These are just some of the highlights of the work of the Worship Committee: Julie Larson, Carol Grolman, Arlene Ingraham, Elizabeth Kerr, Louise Martin, Arlene Robinson, and Rev. Anita Spiller.

Respectfully submitted
Julie Larson, Chair

Ministry and Personnel Report

The Ministry and Personnel Committee (M&P) is responsible for supporting staff of the church. This year's M&P committee consists of Julie Larson and Glen Van Brummelen.

Sarena Jonah, our church administrator, who had been with us since November 2023, stepped down from her position to spend more time with her family. We were deeply sorry to see her go and wished her well as she began this new chapter in her life.

The M&P Committee undertook a search process this summer, and we are happy to report that we hired a new administrator, Erica Primeau. Erica has been working with us since June. With the support of Cindy Roy, M&P conducted a performance review with Erica in November. We are delighted to have Erica working with us; she is highly organized, familiar with church settings, and provides a positive, welcoming presence to all who pass through our doors.

Arlene Robinson, in addition to her role as keyboardist, assumed the additional duties of Music Director this year. She plays piano during the services, organizes the choir, and works closely with Rev. Anita in selecting music for worship. In recognition of the growing role and great success of the choir, her hours were increased. We continue to be uplifted and spiritually enriched by her leadership in music.

Since November 2024 we have had a new contractor, Alisha Matthews, to clean the sanctuary and offices. She cleans prior to Sunday worship and as needed after rentals. On weeks when Alisha is unable to come, Jeanette Nitsche does the cleaning. We are very grateful to both for their service.

M&P also works closely with Rev. Anita Spiller. We approve her study leave, vacation, and PMRC-related time away, and support her as needed in other ways. We plan to complete her annual review this spring, prior to the annual meeting.

We remain incredibly blessed by the service of all four of our staff. It is a joy to work with them, and we are all deeply grateful for how they enhance our worship-life and the life of the church.

**Respectfully submitted,
Julie Larson
Glen Van Brummelen**



Lay Led Service 2025

Pastoral Care Team

The pastoral care team strives to offer spiritual, emotional and social support in concert with our minister. We strive to promote a sense of belonging and connectedness, and



Multi-Faith Gathering at Totem Hall 2026

worship guides us and brings us together!

and we are always appreciative of being “kept in the loop”. Feel free to contact anyone of us!

Our team intentionally fosters a culture rooted in care and compassion. Thank you to Hugh and Elizabeth Kerr, Valerie Stainton, Reverend Anita and Grace Halvorson for serving on this team! Thanks also to our many congregants who quietly go about providing many acts of kindness. The team is not always aware of specific details,

We have happy times (births, weddings, birthdays) and sad times (illnesses, surgeries, deaths) and we want to be supportive. We send cards, make phone calls and visits, and organize meals. If you would like to join our team, please contact Reverend Anita.

We are grateful to those on sandwich ministry and those who organize Sunday coffee! Touching base and fellowship are so much easier with a cup of coffee and a sandwich in hand.

Again, thank you to our team and our amazing congregation! Together we do make a difference!

**Blessings,
Grace Halvorson , Pastoral Care Team**

Mission & Service Report

Mission and Service (M&S) funds are for projects outside of our local church. Our M&S funds are sent to the United Church headquarters, from where support is given to projects in Canada and many other countries, often in collaboration with other organizations. Generosity is at the heart of compassion for others. The general goals of M&S can be summarized as: helping to transform lives, inspire meaning and purpose, and to build a better world.

From serving a hot meal at a local community kitchen (such as First United in Vancouver), to organizing local groups for lonely seniors, to supporting summer camps and theological colleges, to financially supporting those in need in our local communities and around the world, the people of the United Church are committed to turning compassion into action. In 2024 M&S givings for all of Canada were over \$25 million. **In 2025 our local givings to M&S totaled \$9911.16, including \$241.16 from recycling. This is about \$2000 greater than M&S givings in 2024 and almost reached \$10,000! We CELEBRATE this generosity.**

Besides direct donations, we get support from recycling. There are **two ways to recycle** at the local bottle return shop. You can **sort the bottles and cans, as usual, and tell them to credit Account 205. Or you can take your bottles and cans in a plastic bag, unsorted. Then use their equipment to get tags for the bags, dialing 236 518 1274, and confirm “Barbara Stover”.** They will sort the bottles, and credit us!

Thank you to those who contributed in 2025. Your support is greatly appreciated. Of course, we hope that our M&S givings can be increased in 2026. If you give by PAR, you can arrange that a specific amount be given each month to both the local church and M&S. Or you can give individual donations, online by e-transfer or in an envelope – just indicate it is for M&S.

**Thanks again,
Barb Stover and Hugh Kerr**

PS. We are always looking for new members of our committee!

Refugee Sponsorship Program Committee

Squamish United Church has been involved in Canada’s Private Sponsorship Program since 2016 and has assisted several Syrian families to settle in Squamish. Working with the United Church of Canada as the *Sponsorship Agreement Holder*, Squamish United Church provides oversight to the *Constituent Groups* (people in our community) that work directly with the families, raise the funds, and support them in their integration to daily life in Canada.

Over the past eight years we have supported 34 individuals to embrace their new lives in Canada. They are all living independently and finding their way, working in decent jobs, creating new businesses, raising happy, healthy children. This ministry of Squamish United Church has been a success.

The formal sponsorship program lasts for one year, during which the Constituent Groups are responsible for providing all the necessary funds for the family to re-settle, such as housing, food, clothing, transportation, etc. Just as important as the funding is the support

and assistance with learning everything from how to shop for groceries to navigating government systems.

Learning English is often one of the greatest challenges and is an essential priority for successful integration. One of the conditions for Canadian citizenship is Canadian Language Benchmark (CLB) level 4 or higher. On February 13, 2026, Kevin and Vicki attended the Citizenship Ceremony of Joudi Safo, the father of a family that arrived in 2022. Joudi is so proud to be part of the Canadian family, and he continues to be one of the most popular barbers in downtown Squamish! His wife, Sheren, is working hard to achieve CLB 4 and will soon be seeking employment opportunities.



Joudi Safo at his Canadian Citizenship ceremony 2026

In July 2023, Squamish United submitted additional sponsorship applications for 3 families (6 adults and 7 children), all related to previously sponsored families. These applications reached a significant milestone in December 2024, when the Government of Canada tentatively approved these families, subject to security and medical screening. Some screening has since occurred, and our understanding is that the final steps of the approval process (issuing visas and travel documents) are imminent. We pray that “imminent” means that they will all arrive “soon”!

Another significant change in 2025 for two of these applications is that the families will settle in Calgary rather than Squamish, to be supported by the Majid family who moved to Calgary in 2024. In 2025, the SUC Refugee Sponsorship Committee completed the process of transferring these two applications and the funds raised to Hillhurst United Church in Calgary. That congregation is now preparing for their arrival.

The United Nations reports that there are over 40 million refugees worldwide. It is difficult not to despair, and to wonder what difference it makes to help 40 people relocate to Canada – until you consider what any of those individuals might answer about the opportunity to begin a new life in safety, with choices for their future. As a community of faith that seeks justice, it is important for us to remind our political leaders that Canada has a responsibility to support those who need our help, in ways that we can. The Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program is one way that Squamish United Church continues to make a difference in the world.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Vicki Haberl, Refugee Sponsorship Committee**

Church School

This past year has been very consistent in Church School. We were very fortunate to have a Danish family worshipping with us each week. We enjoyed many Sundays acting out simple skits, discussing crucial topics and generally growing in our faith. Unfortunately, the Danish family returned to Denmark which affected our weekly attendance for a short time. We now have a small, active number attending each week.

We continue studying important Biblical stories from the Old and New Testament. In addition, we are discussing important life issues such as jealousy, gossip, and lying. We share thoughts on how we can best handle these difficult issues. In the future, we hope to spend some time singing together.

Our group continues to have great camaraderie, and we feel strongly supported by the adult members of the congregation. We are always eager to welcome any newcomers.



Children's skit for Easter

**Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Kerr**

Men's Breakfast

Men's breakfasts are held about once a month. Besides preparing and eating a healthy breakfast, a lively discussion takes place on a topic of general interest. Some of the topics are factual, such as the state and problems of forestry in BC. Others are more spiritual, such as "values", or political, such as what the priorities should be for the district, or how the world tensions could be resolved. The attendees come from a variety of backgrounds: from Squamish United, St John's Anglican and others with no particular faith affiliation. New members are welcome. If you are interested, let me know and we will welcome you.

**Respectfully submitted,
Hugh Kerr
(hwkerr99@gmail.com)**

Deaths

Passed away in 2025, we remember

Donna Pederson

September 7, 2025

Bruce Larson

December 9, 2025

Maureen Gilmour

December 25, 2025



United Church Women's Report

Faith gives direction to the behaviour and purpose of United Church Women (UCW) activities. Our Macbeth unit strives to develop a relationship within the group, the church and our community.

Relationship with the group: In January we shared our favourite book readings for the year and in February we said goodbye to one of our members with a church luncheon. The Yendall family was sent off with well wishes in their future endeavors!

Within our group we have two potlucks per year. The first is in June, just before we break for summer. We gather at a member's home and enjoy each other's food and company. Judi graciously hosted this year. The second is in December when we have a Christmas potluck and share gifts anonymously. Vicki was the hostess for this fun event!



United Church Women gathering for Christmas 2025

Church and Community: Weekly coffee is provided after church encouraging conversation among the congregation, and the chance to get to know one another better. Although organized by UCW, we would like to say "Thank you!" to all the various church members that assist each week.

UCW also assisted with two church BBQs this past year. The first was on June 8th to support the United Church Centennial celebration and then there was a welcome back BBQ at the end of summer. UCW provided salads and fixings for the hamburgers and hot dogs.

Throughout the year, we conduct fundraisers to help in some small way with the church's needs. These events also help us to connect with the community.

Highlights for the year include: We supported the “Coldest Night of the Year” again in February and participated in the World Day of Prayer at St. John the Divine in March.

The UCW supported a “Refugee event” organized by Vicki on April 7th. Since the theme was “Peace by Chocolate”, the UCW provided a variety of chocolate treats for intermission.

In May, plans were made to help support our minister’s organization of a coffee house on May 17th, by helping with set up and clean up. Judi headed up a successful Silent Auction to coincide with this event. At a UCW reunion and luncheon on May 25th, Lifetime membership awards were presented to seven new people recognizing their contributions to the United Church, both here and throughout the world.

We held a chicken sale on June 4th, again with the support of “Under One Roof” who provided their refrigerated van for pick-up and delivery to Grace’s place, where there is a cold storage area to keep the chicken frozen until it is picked up.

UCW also held a luncheon to raise funds for the purchase of nice white tablecloths (11) for use at church events.

In October, we had a rather impromptu vegetable sale. It is great to be able to promote Pemberton vegetables supporting farmers in a 100-mile range and making delicious vegetables available for the community to purchase.

As always, November was a busy month. The minister organized another coffee house with “Cowgirl Lovebrands grooves and special guest Elliott Nicholson”. Set up and clean up were supported by the UCW.

November also included the annual Let’s Talk Turkey luncheon, designed to raise money for First United Church to provide turkeys to their less fortunate clientele. Patsy also arranged for the sale of beautiful church calendars.

Our group of 18 women, including 4 new members (Julie Murakami, Arlene Robinson, Janette Nitschke & Jen Dmytrus) work hard providing generously of their time and talents. I feel proud to consider myself a member of this group and look forward to another fruitful year supporting our church and community. Please speak with any of the current members if you would like to join our group. Our UCW Macbeth unit meets the second Wednesday of each month (except summer) at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome!

**Respectfully submitted,
Valerie Stainton, UCW President**

UCW Financial Report

December 31, 2024 Opening Balance \$ 532.09

INCOME:

Chicken Sale	4,377.48	
Turkey Luncheon	310.00	
Vege Sale	2,075.00	
Calendars	85.00	
Tablecloths	450.00	
Silent Auction	1,456.00	
Donations	130.00	
Total:	\$8,883.48	\$9,415.57

EXPENSES:

Hallmark (Chicken)	3,838.34	
Hellevang Farms (Veges)	1,315.00	
UCW of Canada (Life Membership Pins)	420.00	
Coffee Urn	102.02	
UCW Plaque	145.54	
First United Church (Donation)	310.00	
Tablecloths (and storage containers)	392.65	
Squamish United Church (Donation)	2,300.00	
Service Charges	6.30	
Total:	\$8,829.85	\$8,829.85

Closing Balance as of December 31, 2025 \$ 585.72

**Respectfully submitted,
Mary Larcombe, Treasurer U.C.W.**

Administrator's Report

From an Office Administrator standpoint, 2025 was a great year at Squamish United Church. I began my role here in June 2025, with Sarena generously passing the baton to me. My first two weeks were spent training alongside her, as she graciously walked me through the many responsibilities of the role, including weekly e-news, worship service materials, bookkeeping, rentals, and the variety of tasks that arise week to week.

I was grateful to begin during the slower summer season, which provided a valuable grace period to understand the full scope of the role. During this time, I familiarized myself with the building, organized the office, and began working on the church website. I reviewed years of photos to add to the site and worked toward creating a more modern look and improved flow on the main page. If you've noticed Rev. Anita with a camera more often on Sundays or at events, you can thank me as we've been intentionally trying to highlight the people of Squamish United Church who truly give life to the building itself.

As summer transitioned into fall and the Christmas season, the pace picked up. I enjoyed taking part in the weekly Advent series while continuing my office work, adding warmth and community to my Wednesday mornings. It was a pleasure to put faces to names as I connected with folks through Zoom during the Advent series facilitated by Rev. Anita Spiller and Rev. Susan Cole.



Breakfast with Santa by Beaver/Scouts in December 2025

Rentals remained steady through 2025. A rental fee increase effective July 1, 2025, was well received by our regular renters. We maintained consistent weekday evening bookings with StepOut and Enliven, as well as weekend bookings with the Seventh-day Adventists and Jesus Is Lord, bringing life to our sanctuary. Wilderness Trainings

also used our space on a semi-regular basis during weekdays. We welcomed repeat renters including BITTS Testing Services, Squamish Newcomers, Whistler Multicultural Society, Beavers/Scouts, Shamanic Yoga, and a Fusion Dance Group. Sea to Sky Community Services booked the sanctuary multiple times for trainings, meetings, and celebrations. The Dandelions and Dragonflies preschool programs hosted both Halloween and Christmas parties, bringing families together in joyful celebration.

Throughout 2025, I enjoyed getting creative with designing event flyers, e-news, and a new church pamphlet. It has been fun to incorporate photos of our community into regular communications and to showcase all that Squamish United Church offers. I also added natural landscape photography, my own as well as Rev. Anita's, to the weekly Sunday Service PowerPoints. If you have photos you'd like to see featured, you're always welcome to email them; I love including everyone's contributions.

I have truly enjoyed getting to know the congregation of Squamish United Church, both through attending Christmas Eve service and through visits from folks stopping by the office. I value the opportunity to hear people's stories and learn about the history of Squamish. I've also appreciated connecting with the wider community, supporting individuals who may need additional assistance, and helping connect them with appropriate local organizations. Drawing on my previous experience, I created a community resource list to further support individuals facing barriers related to income, housing, and food security. It has been beautiful to witness how Squamish United Church answers the call to care for and support our community.



Christmas Eve candlelight service 2025

My favourite part of this role is arriving each morning, entering the sanctuary, and ensuring the space is tidy while still feeling the joy left behind by the many events that bring life to what might otherwise be an empty space. It is a privilege to be a caretaker of this building and a welcoming face of the Squamish United Church office.

**Respectfully submitted,
Erica Primeau**



Squamish United Church
AT CENTREPOINT

Squamish United Church Annual General Meeting Minutes March 30, 2025 at 11:05 a.m.

Present: Trevor Harris (Chair), Cindy Roy (Acting Treasurer/Secretary), Rev. Anita Spiller, Bruce Larson, Julie Larson, Carlotta Liechti, Arlene Ingraham, Valerie Stainton, Kurt Stainton, Elizabeth Kerr, Hugh Kerr, Susan MacDonald, James MacDonald, Arlene Robinson, Carol Grolman, Barbara Stover, Judi Rhodes, Mary Larcombe, Jeff Larcombe, Lou Rempel, Patsy Riecker, Glen Van Brummelen, Marlene Drover, Erika Schultheiss, Gordon Pilling, Eric Guevbilsky, Mike Jansen, Grace Halvorson, Vicki Haberl, Kevin Haberl, Peter Spiller (via Telephone)

1. Opening Prayer – Rev. Anita Spiller
2. Land Acknowledgement – Trevor Harris
3. Motion for Voting Privileges
 - Moved by Carlotta Liechti, seconded by Val Stainton that voting privileges be given to all members and adherents in attendance. Carried
4. Opening Comments
 1. Trevor noted that 2024 was a busy year and the various reports in the annual report reflect that. The review of the reports will be in two stages: the first will be a review of the regular committee reports and the second part will review the financial reports, statements and budget.
5. Review and adoption of past minutes
 - Moved by Arlene Ingraham, seconded by Judi Rhodes that the minutes of the March 17, 2024 Annual General Meeting and the April 21, 2024 Special Congregational Meeting be accepted. Carried.
6. Review and Acceptance of 2024 committee reports
 1. Trevor highlighted that Squamish United Church has an amazing board and committees with very dedicated and hard-working individuals. A question arose as to how often strata meets. Bruce responded that it meets approximately every three months but that there is ongoing communication by email when needed. Our relations are good with the strata board.
 - Moved by Elizabeth Kerr, seconded by Kevin that the Committee Reports be received and accepted. Carried.

7. Acceptance of 2024 Reviewed Financials

- Cindy highlighted the significant increase in congregational givings and thanked the congregation for their generosity. She thanked the UCW for their ongoing support, and also highlighted the monies raised from our fundraising efforts. On the expense side, she explained the UCC Annual Assessment, highlighted the strata fees and explained that the insurance premium shown is for seven months for the 2024 year.

All in all, we ended the year on a very positive note with our lowest deficit in a long time.

- Moved by Bruce Larson and seconded by Grace Halvorson to accept the 2024 financial statements as reviewed by Birch Accounting. Carried.

8. Budget 2025

- Bruce introduced and reviewed highlights of the proposed budget. He noted that the board had just passed an increase to our rental rates which had not been increased since Centrepont opened.
- In response to a question around tax implications, he noted that the Stewardship Committee would be looking at this.
- Bruce reiterated that this is a good news budget and we need to be aspirational as we move forward.
- Moved by Vicki Haberl, seconded by Carlotta Liechti that the 2025 Budget as presented be approved. Carried.

9. Nominations Team Report

1. Grace reviewed the names of those individuals who have agreed to participate on our various committees, and also the proposed names of those who have agreed to sit on our board.
 2. Grace asked if there were any nominations from the floor, and hearing none, proceeded to put forth the proposed slate of names for Treasurer and Board.
- Moved by Grace Halvorson, seconded by Susan MacDonald that the presented slate of Treasurer and Board Members be elected. Carried.

Board Members elected:

Cindy Roy (Treasurer)
Kevin Haberl
Vicki Haberl
Trevor Harris
Glen Van Brummelen

10. Other Business: Trevor noted that the board had implemented a policy for *Closing the Church for Weather or Other Events* and that particularly in the case of bad weather, congregants should pay attention to their Sunday morning ENews.
11. Next meeting date - March 2026
12. Closing prayer- Rev. Anita Spiller
13. Adjournment
 - Moved by James MacDonald, seconded by Hugh Kerr that the 2025 Annual General Meeting be adjourned at 11:58 a.m. Carried.