

Castlegar United Church

Leading, learning, and loving in the light of God

2017 Annual Report



We envision our church community as vibrant and bold, embodying the reconciling Way of Jesus.



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Passages

Baptisms	Pierson Youngblut
Marriages	None
Deaths	Eleanor Holdsworth
Transfer Out of Members	None
Transfer In/New Members	Joyce Munden

Membership Roll

Number of members as of 31 December 2017:	107
Resident Members:	71
Non-resident Members:	36



Photo Credit: Sarah Brownlee, Child Within Sunday, Ember & Eliana

Minutes from 2017 Annual Congregational Meeting

Castlegar United Church Annual Congregational Meeting January 29, 2017.

Introduction:

Gord Soukoreff, Board Chair, welcomed everyone and opened with a prayer "Holy Spirit".

The meeting was called to order at 11:15 am., following the regular Church service.

1. Determination of voting privileges of adherents:

A motion was made by Jean Merritt and was seconded by Carol Conkin to allow adherents to vote on financial or administrative matters. Motion was carried.

2. Agenda:

Larry Brown motioned to accept the Agenda as circulated and Rene Brown seconded. The motion was carried.

3. Adoption of 2016 ACM Minutes and CUC Annual Congregational Meeting reports:

Chris Foster motioned to accept and Cheryl Swedburg seconded. Motion was carried.

4. Reports:

Rosemary Manarin apologized for not having her report ready for print (due to being away) but thanked everyone, on behalf of the Outreach committee, for supporting the Refugee project.

Jane Lipa motioned to accept reports as written and Larry Brown seconded. Motion was carried.

5. Financial Statement for 2016.

Gordon Swedburg, Treasurer, presented and explained the financial statements from the CUC Annual Report and asked if there were any questions. No questions were asked. He pointed out that 2016 year end saw a deficit of \$3944.00. This is the first year ending with a deficit in his history as Treasurer. He gave a big "Thank You" to the Thrift Shop and all the volunteers, as the funding they provide makes a positive difference in the Church's overall numbers.

Gordon motioned that his report be accepted as presented with a minor correction in addition (stated \$25,521.60 but must add in Castlegar Hospice \$500.00 for an ACTUAL grand total of \$26,021.60).

Chris Foster seconded the motion and the motion was carried.

6. Proposed Budget for 2017:

The proposed budget is for a total operating budget of \$102,150.00. Achieving this would see an end of year deficit of \$3800.00.

Gordon motioned to adopt the Proposed Budget for 2017 as presented and Jane Lippa seconded. The motion was carried.

7. Capital Plan priorities for 2017:

The Front Doors continue to be a problem, but with ongoing fix it jobs, as needed, their priority has been put lower on the priorities list.

Kitchen upgrades to becoming a "Certified" kitchen are the only listed priority of the Capital Plan list for 2017. The Trustees will continue to work on this and hope to meet soon (delayed meeting due to Don Danroth having been ill). The need for a commercial dishwasher, ventilation system, food safe and other items will be needed for a fully certified kitchen. Sarah Brownlee asked to have her partner Mike, (a sous chef with understanding of these kitchen items) included, in the information gathering. Jean Merritt asked us all to "trust the Trustees".

8. Fundraising distribution for 2017:

Keith Merritt spoke on this topic. He explained the present fundraising distribution and opened the floor to discussion.

Presently, 15% of Thrift Store donated funds (CUC share) go directly to M&S. Along with the remaining 85% from the Thrift Store funds, and various fund raisers (pie day, Advent bake sale, Garden Fest, garage sale) 50 % of that total goes to CUC expenses and the remaining 50% is shared among listed local charities (Outreach). The Executive decides which of these charities and what percentage of that 50% they will receive.

After much discussion, Keith motioned to accept the ongoing practise. Liz Fleet seconded and a vote was taken. The motion was carried with noting three votes were against.

8.1 Fundraising Ideas:

The Pie day committee will be meeting in June and will discuss raising the price of pies.

A garage sale, is planned for April 29, 2017 with Swedburgs leading the charge, as long as the appropriate number of volunteers are available.

Rosemary will look into holding a silent auction in the spring.

Garden Fest bake sale.

Advent bake sale.

Carol Conkin will help coordinate a fund raising committee.

9. Secretary is the only position to be filled. Julia Langille offered to stay on for another year. No new nominations. JL was thanked.

10. Signing Officers: Presently the members of the Executive are signing officers and two signatures must be used on every document. These names are Gordon Soukoreff, Gordon Swedburg, Keith Merritt and Julia Langille. Keith Merritt motioned to keep these names as the Signing Officers for 2017 and Jean Merritt seconded. Motion was carried.

Bonnie Thompson appealed for volunteers for the Thrift Shop. The average age of the Volunteers is 70 and female. Males are welcome and needed too. It takes 24 people (3 hour shifts) to run the Thrift Shop Tuesday thru Thursday from 10am to 4 pm. and including Friday and Saturday mornings. More volunteers could mean more open hours and less shifts for each volunteer.

11. Adjournment: 12:45pm

12. Greg lead everyone in the singing of Grace and lunch followed.

Note: a) A quorum shall be twenty full members.
 b) The Rules of Order in the United Church of Canada shall serve as a standard of conduct.

Note: Forty-one signatures of people in attendance.

Chair: Gordon Soukoreff

Secretary: Julia Langille



Minister's Message

The book *Weird Church* by Beth-Ann Estock and Paul Nixon includes a series of vignettes of “weird” things churches are doing. These cover a range of activities, but each one has a core of getting together and celebrating God’s presence – whatever that resembles. I often think, “that would be cool to try!” And I appreciate that, with sufficient care and planning, new ideas often get a green light from our congregation to try. As we venture toward becoming “bold and vibrant, embodying the reconciling Way of Jesus” as our vision statement reads, we will need to muster creativity and courage and, ultimately, take some risk by venturing into the unknown. It will be important to stay true to our values and to the essence of Castlegar United Church’s identity – and it will be important to say “yes!” even if the path forward isn’t clear, and even if the ideas seem downright weird.

We ventured in 2017. We tested Un-Church, we wrapped up our affirming process and took on the commensurate designation, we proposed a new vision statement, and we launched a new website. This is a lot of work for a modestly sized congregation! And, from my view, it was all life-giving.

Un-Church welcomed upwards of 12 new families and some individuals into our midst. We kept supper central while we explored different themes, some of which related explicitly to Christianity while others were more implicitly related. This created a monthly touch-point where several families could enrich their experiences of community while also having some content for ensuing family discussions. Sarah Brownlee took on the duties of Un-Church Coordinator in addition to her duties as Administrative Assistant and did so with competence and confidence.

Our Affirming Committee completed its work, which led to a unanimous vote in support of declaring our congregation affirming of all people, especially regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity. We celebrated this step along the journey on Pentecost Sunday. This is a process, not a product, and there is more “affirming” work to do—perhaps on another theme like race, class, or ability.



Every organization wrestles with the questions, “what are we?” and “where are we going?” Early in 2017, a group of us drafted a new vision statement as a way to delve into the latter of those two questions. We recognized that, regardless of what happens in the broader church in the future, we want to remain bold and vibrant; we also recognized the desire to embody the Way of Jesus and to seek reconciliation (in the sense of “coming back together”), which seems core to the teachings of Jesus. The term “reconciliation” has implications for Indigenous-settler relations, and this bore some influence during the visioning process.

Our board and executive regularly reflect on the state of our congregation, and we're holding the line. Our long-standing traditions like Pie Day are still going strong. We haven't taken big risks and there's no sense of urgency in doing so. However, every indication around us suggests that eventually that day will come. Frankly, most of our society already sees what we're doing as "weird" even though our activities are fairly common in church-land. But we may need to get even weirder in the future – and I look forward to that part of the journey.

Executive

We celebrate as our congregation unanimously became an Affirming Congregation. It certainly was a euphoric moment for the Affirming Committee realizing the hard work they put in had come to an important point in a chapter of this congregation's history.

We received a Canada Summer Jobs student grant which allowed Kootenay Presbytery to hire Michelle Matson as a “Communications Animator” to research the best and most effective communications practices. Her report gave some great insight and information

about what was presently happening in our church regarding communication and how might we do it better.

The Vision and Values committee completed its task of preparing our visioning statements for the approval of the board and the congregation.

We have a new website with a new proposed logo giving us a fresh online presence.

Throughout the year there has been some very successful fundraisers, including the garage sale, pie day and bake sale. Again, these all depend on the tireless efforts, labour and volunteer work of people within our congregation. We can't thank enough everyone involved for the fine leadership and planning that goes into these events.

As this concludes my two-year tenure as chair I'd like to thank our minister, members of the board, executive and above all the congregation for the wonderful support I've had during this time. Further, on behalf of the executive and myself, I would like to express our appreciation to all those who have generously contributed their time, talent and treasure to continue in the life of Castlegar-Kinnaird Pastoral Charge.

Respectfully submitted,
Gordon Soukoreff, Board Chair



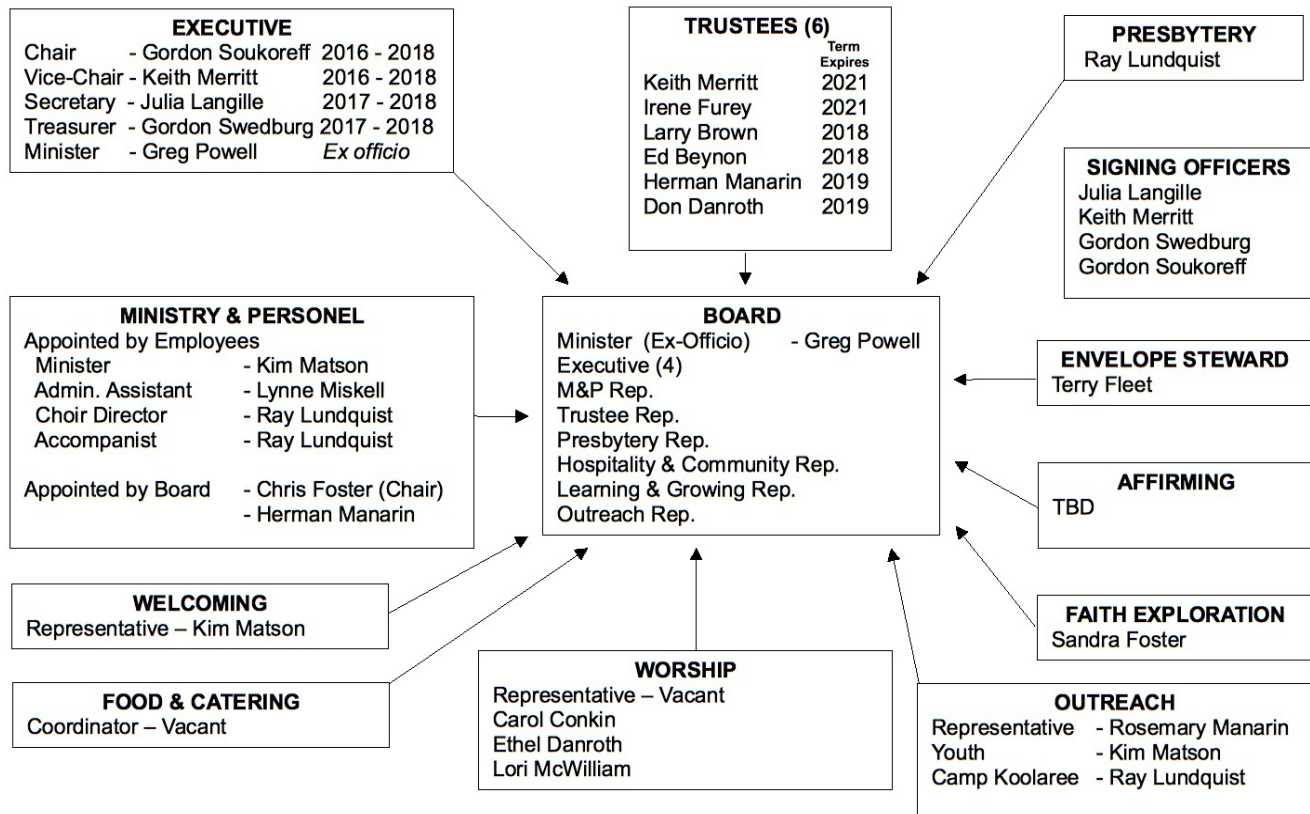
Board and Committee Structure

	2017	2018 Nominations	Term
Executive Committee			
Chair	Gordon Soukoreff	Keith Merritt	2018-2020
Vice Chair	Keith Merritt	Irene Furey	2018-2020
Secretary	Julia Langille	Julia Langille	2017-2018
Treasurer	Gordon Swedburg	Gordon Swedburg	2017-2018
Minister	Greg Powell	Greg Powell	<i>Ex officio</i>
Trustees Committee	(6 trustees, each for 5 year terms)		
Chair	Larry Brown	2013-2018	Renewed
	Ed Beynon	2013-2018	Renewed
	Don Danroth	2014-2019	
	Irene Furey	2016-2012	
	Herman Manarin	2014-2019	
	Keith Merritt	2016-2021	
Ministry and Personnel	(6 members, 3 elected, 3 appointed by staff)		
Chair	Chris Foster		No nominations
Welcoming	Kim Matson		
Food and Catering	<i>No coordinator designated at present</i>		
Worship	<i>No coordinator designated at present</i>		
Faith Exploration	<i>No coordinator designated at present</i>		
	Sandra Foster leads the Engaging Young Families team		
Outreach	Rosemary Manarin		

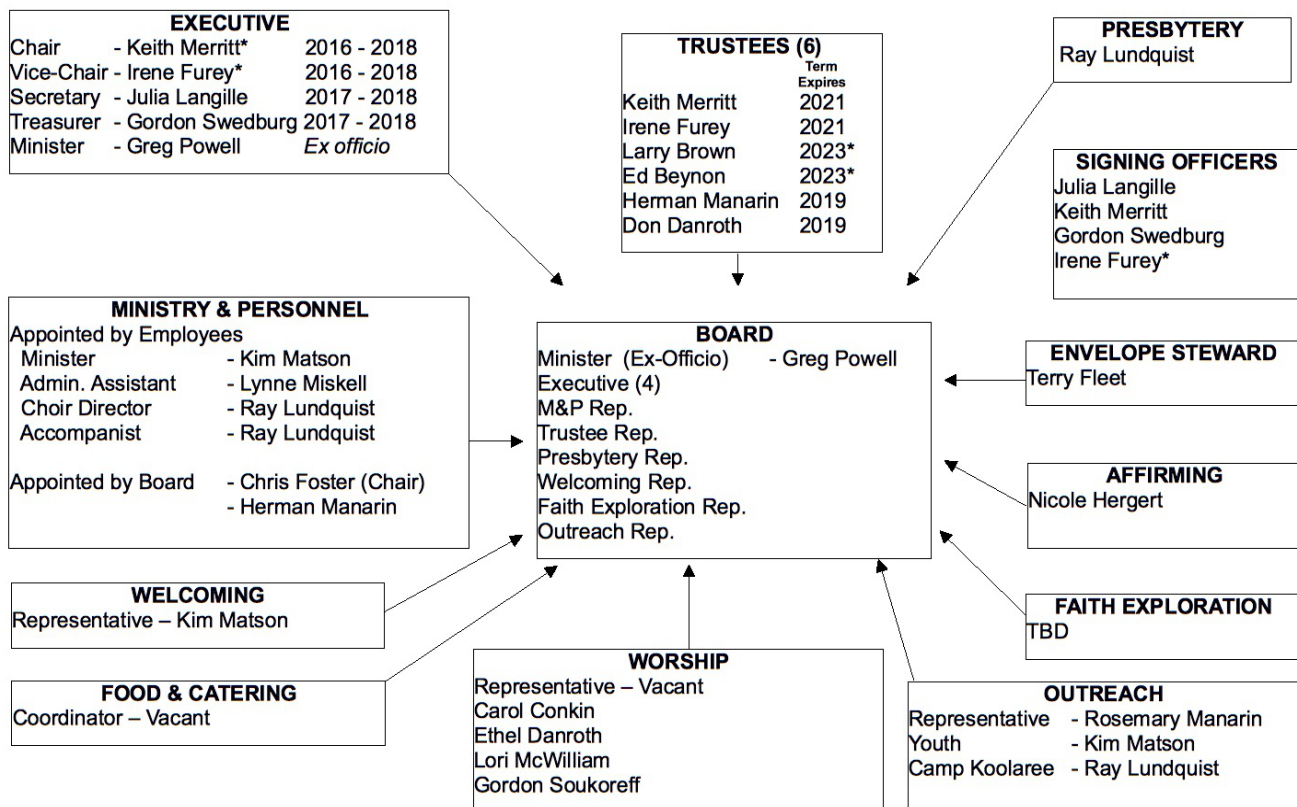
The Board is comprised of the Executive Committee; representatives from the Trustees Committee and the Ministry and Personnel (M&P) Committee; the Presbytery Rep position; and volunteer committee representatives for the Welcoming Committee, Food and Catering Committee, the Worship Committee, the Faith Formation Committee, and the Outreach Committee. The elected positions come to the Annual Congregational Meeting as nominations for a vote by the congregation as terms end.

The Trustees and M&P meet regularly over the year and have a chair that attends Board meetings or ensures a designate is present at Board meetings. The Presbytery Rep attends two Presbytery meetings in Kootenay communities annually and attends BC Conference meetings as scheduled. The Presbytery Rep reports to the congregation to keep us updated and also attends Board Meetings. We then have volunteer committee representatives and co-ordinators for the other committees, which report to the board. The Executive meets monthly September through June and the Board meets five times a year: January, April, June, September, and November. Our Annual Congregational Meeting is held before the end of February.

CASTLEGAR UNITED CHURCH ORGANIZATION CHART 2017



CASTLEGAR UNITED CHURCH ORGANIZATION CHART 2018 (Proposed)



* Pending election at 2018 Annual Congregational Meeting

Trustees

Over the past year, the following actions were taken:

- Medi-chair performed their semi-annual inspection of the Stair Lift System.
- Annual inspection of the Fire and Intruder Alarm System was performed by Selkirk Security.
- Annual inspection of the furnaces was performed.
- The deputy fire chief inspected the building and we passed inspection. He asked that we install room capacity and escape route signs. They are in the process of being installed.
- The church insurance was reviewed and renewed with a small increase in the premium
- The United Church of Canada continues to pay the premiums for the directors and officers insurance.
- We continued with the third-party liability insurance policy which covers all non-church users of the building that do not have their own insurance.

Church maintenance

There were no major projects done this year. An outlet box was installed in the floor just below the computer station in the sanctuary to allow the computer to be plugged in during periods of continual use, and four fluorescent ballasts were changed downstairs. Thanks Herman for all your work.

Respectfully submitted,
Larry Brown, Chair of Trustees

Name	Appointment Date	Appointment Expires
Ed Beynon	2013	2018*
Larry Brown	2013	2018*
Don Danroth	2014	2019
Irene Furey	2016	2021
Herman Manarin	2014	2019
Keith Merritt	2016	2021

* For renewal at the Annual Congregational Meeting



Ministry and Personnel

2017 has been a relatively quiet year for M&P. One high note is we have welcomed Mae Wallin onto the committee as the representative for Sarah Brownlee.

In the new year, Greg has requested a formal evaluation so that he will have concrete feedback to promote growth. As well, the committee will re-examine the issue of equitable remuneration in lieu of a manse. We are grateful to have such competent and flexible staff to work with!

The committee currently consists of consists of:

Chris Foster (chair)

Lynne Miskell (secretary, Board appt)

Mae Wallin (rep for Sarah B.)

Kim Matson (Greg's rep)

Herman Manarin (Board appt)

Ray Lundquist (rep for Lori and Alicia)

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Foster



Worship Committee

We continue to focus primarily on Sunday morning worship, with other services in line with the church season. For well over a year, we have directed worship on the 4th Sunday of the month toward the “Child Within” each of us, and that seems to resonate with many— young and old alike.

We began 2017 with the Christening of Sebastian Colm Hergert Powell.

Brief synopsis of themes during the year

Lent's theme considered the five modes of the early church, as described in the Book of Acts: *liturgia* (liturgy or worship), *didache* (teaching and study), *diakonia* (service and social justice), *koinonia* (pastoral care and fellowship), and *kerygma* (proclamation). The Lenten Faith Exploration followed up on each of the themes. We held special services during Holy Week, both on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Pentecost Sunday was a celebration of our Affirming status. We appreciated leadership from lay folks and Robin Murray while Rev. Greg was on parental leave in June and July. We marked Creation Time leading up the Thanksgiving.



In the fall leading up to Advent, the themes of worship followed what Vancouver School of Theology professor Janet Gear calls the “theological buffet”. This consisted of 5 modes of spirituality: evangelical (proclaiming salvation in Jesus' name), ecclesial (with focus on the gathered community), missional (with a focus on service and charity), ecumenical (with a focus on social justice and structural transformation), and contemplative (with a focus on spiritual practices).

During Advent we explored the traditional themes: hope, peace, love, and joy. We also held two Taize-style services during Advent.

This year the Trans Day of Remembrance service was organized by others and held outside City Hall.

Communion continues on the first Sunday of each month.



Music and the choir are a cornerstone of our worship and we appreciate the new look of the choir.

We have also been in contact with folks whom we haven't seen for some time to generally seek feedback and, possibly, work to make worship even more meaningful.

We welcome new ideas and creativity, while generally seeking to honour various traditions of the Church.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of
Ethel Danroth, Lori McWilliam, Carol Conkin and Rev. Greg Powell

Music

Our choir currently has about a dozen members. Alicia Affolter continues to be our amazing accompanist. We are very fortunate for Alicia's support on the piano, in her suggestions, and occasionally as a singer in our group. Practices continue to be held on Wednesdays at 7:00 until 8:30. I am very fortunate to lead such a wonderful ensemble and always look forward to whatever transpires on our Wednesday night sessions. We perform about twice a month and usually polish about 6 new pieces per year in addition to reviewing and performing favourites that we have sung in the past. Our break during July and August helped us to recharge before starting in again in September. At the Annual Carol Sing on December 17th we debuted our new stoles to the public. We also performed at the Christmas Eve service in our own church. I am looking forward to another great year with the Castlegar United Church Choir.



Respectfully submitted,
Lori McWilliam, Music Director

Welcoming Committee

In 2017 Castlegar United Church hosted the Young Adult Pilgrimage to Rendezvous in Montreal. Our Church was their first stop on their way through on August 10th, and we did an excellent job of providing accommodation, dinner and breakfast for 23 adults and youth.

Our hope is to see potlucks become a regular monthly event on the fourth Sunday of the month.

We have welcome packages available if new people are curious about our congregation.

Respectfully submitted,
Kim Matson

Presbytery Representative

The 2017 Spring Presbytery meeting was held at Trail United Church (Communities in Faith Pastoral Charge) from March 31 to April 2, 2017. The theme of Presbytery was “Discerning God’s Mission” which was facilitated by Rev. Doug Goodwin, BC Conference Executive Secretary, who presented an overview of the work of Conference and led the Presbyters in discussions on Remit 1 – The Three Council Model; Remit 3 – Office of Vocation; and Remit 4 – Funding a New Model, which have subsequently been approved by a majority of the 84 voting presbyteries and 2,136 voting charges of the United Church.

The 85th meeting of BC Conference was held at UBC from May 24-29, 2017. The theme of Conference pondered the question “How BIG is our Tent?” Rev. Janet Gear of the Vancouver School of Theology shared her life’s work with us “Under the Tent” by identifying five main streams of theological understanding found within the United Church denomination....Evangelical, Ecclesial, Missional, Ecumenical and Spiritual. (Of note Rev. Greg Powell presented a series of interesting sermons this fall on these identified streams to our Castlegar United Church congregation.)



The 2017 Fall Presbytery meeting was held at Kimberley United Church from October 13-15, 2017 with Presbytery continuing the theme of “Discerning God’s Mission”. Treena Duncan, BC Conference Personnel Minister and Rev. Steven Chambers, Vancouver School of Theology Research Associate led the Presbyters in discussions on the cycle of discernment and Remit 6 – One Order of Ministry respectively. Most the functions of the Pastoral Relations Education & Students Team have now been moved to BC Conference under the Effective Leadership initiative and as a result, Ray Lundquist has been transferred to the Administration, Finance and Stewardship team.

Ray Lundquist attended the Banff Men’s Conference on the same weekend as the Fall Presbytery and noted that after 63 years, the Banff Men’s Conference is folding due to dwindling attendance. In the early years around 700 United Church men from Western Canada would attend. This year there were only 38 and so the decision was made to wind up the society. As planning for a 2018 Conference was well advanced, there will be an event held in Regina next fall.



Respectfully submitted,

Ray Lundquist, Presbytery Representative

Cheryl Swedburg, Kootenay Presbytery Rep. to BC Conference

Faith Exploration

The focus of faith formation in 2017 was ensuring the successful launch of the Un-Church pilot project, as part of the Engaging Young Families initiative (see the following report).

We also oversaw a Lenten Faith Exploration series during March and April. This series considered the five modes of the early church, as described in the Book of Acts. These include *liturgia* (liturgy or worship), *didache* (teaching and study), *diakonia* (service and social justice), *koinonia* (pastoral care and fellowship), and *kerygma* (proclamation). Attendance was low, but we had an opportunity to dig into these concepts which each complemented the previous Sunday's worship theme.



The Bible study group continues to meet on Friday mornings.

Engaging Young Families

We supported a new initiative to reach out to and to engage young families over 2017. The pilot project was entitled Un-Church and was held between 5:00-7:00 PM on the fourth Wednesday of the months of January, February, March, April, May, September, October and November. The format included circle time to gather, singing, a meal together, an activity related to the monthly theme, and then a circle closure with more singing and a message for the families as they left. Funding for the program was provided by a grant from BC Conference and the monies supported a coordinator, food and supplies for each session. Sarah Brownlee was hired as the coordinator and took up duties in March 2017.

Every session had new families attending, with the September session having the largest attendance of 15 children, 14 adults, plus volunteers. The program relied on volunteers to greet the families and to help with food service and clean up.

At the end of the eight pilot sessions, the working group met to evaluate the program. A notable strength of the initiative was the new connections with families who are not linked to the church; also to the connections formed within the group and with the volunteers. Another highlight was the shared meal which the families all appreciated. A weakness that proved challenging was that most of the

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Community

United Church launches new Un-Church initiative

CHELSEA NOVAK
Castlegar News

A local church is inviting Castlegar residents to explore their spirituality at a family-friendly, multigenerational gathering.

The Castlegar United Church will hold its new monthly program, Un-Church, on the fourth Wednesday of the month from 5 to 7 p.m., with the first one scheduled for Jan. 25.

"We're encouraging people to think differently from normal church, and so that's why we're calling it Un-Church," says Rev. Greg Powell, minister at Castlegar United.

The evening will include supper, crafts, games and a celebration. "Sing some songs together, tell some stories, that kind of thing," explains Powell.

The gathering will also attempt to create an atmosphere where people feel comfortable to question faith claims and the role of faith.

"It's kind of the ethos of the United Church is inviting questioning and inviting discussion, and so we take the stories of the Bible seriously, and we also don't take them as literally as some strains of Christianity do," says Powell. "So when we're looking at Un-Church, we'll be telling the stories that we might find in the Bible, and we'll tell them in a way that invites questioning and dialogue and discussion, and invite people to discuss why this might be significant in our own lives."

Castlegar United will run Un-Church as a one-year pilot program, with gatherings scheduled January to May, and September to November, but not during the summer months or December. Funding for the initiative

is being provided through a B.C. Conference of the United Church of Canada grant.

The idea was inspired by the Church of England's Messy Church initiative, "which is very similar to what we're doing," says Powell. "So they have lots of materials, and we've taken what they've done and we've kind of adapted it to our own context and our own setting, and doing things our own way."

Asked why Castlegar United decided to start the Un-Church initiative, Powell said, "Sunday morning church doesn't work for a lot of different reasons. But people are still looking for a way to either do their spiritual practice or ask questions of a deeper nature than we normally get into in conversations, and often that's with families, and so families are looking for a way to have conversations either in their own families or with other families. So we wanted something that was family-friendly, invites that discussion and dialogue, but was at a time that is not on Sunday mornings."

Castlegar United tested the idea for Un-Church with a focus group of people who were not members of the church that included 11 adults and eight children. "We just talked about things from 'How do you define God?' all the way down to the nitty-gritty of 'Does this particular time of day work for your family?'" explains Powell. "We have some intentions about how it will unfold, but the intention is to be adaptable with it. So if we find after the first gathering that it's a format that needs some tweaking, then we'll certainly tweak it."

For more information about the Castlegar United Church, visit castlegarunited.ca.

“We’re encouraging people to think differently from normal church, and so that’s why we’re calling it Un-Church.”

children were between 0-3 years; so, it was a challenge to engage parents in a meaningful discussion when the children were actively moving about. Originally, we had anticipated school age children, but feedback was that this age group is already busy with scheduled activities. An opportunity noted is that early contact with families may support ongoing contact over the years. However, there is some concern that focus on this age range may be at the neglect of other initiatives. Discussion looked at ways to tweak the Un-Church program and to find ways to enhance the child within services and to provide other needed support to parents, such as nursery care at some services.

Funding for Un-Church has again been supported by Pro Vision Funds through BC Conference in the amount of \$3,250 for

2018. There is also the possibility of accessing dormant youth funds and an anticipated donation to support engaging young families. The working group has recommended that the format of Un-Church be changed to six sessions, to be scheduled for February, March, April, September, October and November. The format will focus on



strengths noted from the pilot and on ways to strengthen problem areas. A trial will be initiated to schedule the meeting time from 5:00-6:45 PM, starting with the meal and then having the children participate in an activity/play time, while the parents meet with Greg to explore the topic of the month. Then all will reconvene together upstairs for circle time, singing and leaving with a message.

Stay tuned to volunteer in the initiatives to engage and support young families. Working Group members: Sarah Brownlee; Sandra Foster; Kim Matson; Jean Merritt; Rev. Greg Powell.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandra Foster

Outreach Committee

The St. David Thrift Shop, which Castlegar United runs in partnership with the Anglicans, saw another banner year for profits. Therefore Castlegar United was able to augment our Mission and Service Fund to \$15,612.50 this year, just short of our goal. The volunteer-run thrift shop, which serves our community year-round, has such a good reputation that not only locals use it but also people from afar. Thanks to all of you who volunteer there.



Into our 21st year, the Sharing Dinner Pot's United Church cooking team ended 2017 with a crowning achievement! Our team's Tuesday turn was Boxing Day and they served over 30 people a fine turkey dinner with all the trimmings! The dinner was much enjoyed by all. Rotating cooking teams ensure that the hot and nutritious dinners are served for the needy every Tuesday. Lynne Miskell leads our United Church cooking team once monthly while the Anglican's, Doukhobors and Catholic's take their turn faithfully.



The Sunrise Rotary team cook on the irregular 5th Tuesdays. It is a true community partnership and we thank all of our financial supporters.

Our food donations for the Harvest Food Bank continues—thanks to John Thompson for transporting the food regularly. Our donations help to supplying hampers for the community.

Our church once again held its 100 Mile Lunch Event this fall to send the message that our shopping choices affect both the environment and the world food crisis. Increasing poverty in the “south” is occurring in part because small farmers are being taken over by large corporations and their cash crops. Thanks to all of you who support local businesses and eat locally grown food which comprised our lunch menu.

Thanks to Carol Conkin for overseeing our Minute for Mission each Sunday. This keeps us informed about the work of our Mission and Service Fund in Canada and around the world.

Stamp Collection: Bonnie Thompson continues to collect stamps which are prepared by Eastern Star ladies for sale to a dealer. Much funds are raised in this way across BC for dressings needed by cancer patients and for cancer research. For Operation Eyesight, Cheryl Swedburg has overseen the eyeglass collection and was able to send many pairs to the head office for use abroad in places like India and Africa. We no longer collect Campbell Soup labels.

Ray Lundquist and Don Ellis with help from the Men's Breakfast group continue to help maintain Camp Koolaree and ready the facilities young summer campers. For many children attending this camp it is a rare opportunity to enjoy the outdoors in a pristine setting.

Thank you to all of you who contributed monetarily and/or in other ways to support the Castlegar Refugee Project. Both families are now independent of our sponsorship. The Burmese are doing well in Regina where they moved to stay with a cousin. Now they are both working, live in their own rental home and are involved in the Burmese Christian church there. The Syrians moved to Nelson because Omar has a job there and they

attained a BC Housing unit where the other Syrian family live. Omar hopes his job will be full time soon.

I feel gratitude and hope in remembering the many ways we have continued to reach out to help others.

Respectfully submitted,
Rosemary Manarin

Affirming Committee

The big news to report this year is our new designation as an "Affirming Congregation"! Our vote on May 7 passed unanimously, thus concluding the work of the affirming committee. On Pentecost Sunday we celebrated this tremendous achievement. Our commitments to Affirm United include a plan for ongoing affirming work to guide the next steps and to remind us that this is an ongoing process (a journey rather than a destination).



Prior to the vote, we held several conversations. We invited a community facilitator to be with us and help us to understand the notions of cis-normativity and hetero-normativity. While homophobia and transphobia are less overt in our church community, the subtle expectation of straightness or of cis-gender can create discomfort among LGBTQ2 folks. Cis- and hetero-normativity will be interesting challenges to take on.



Respectfully submitted on behalf of
Mae Wallin, Sarah Brownlee, Gord Soukoreff, Don Danroth, Don Ellis, and Nicole Hergert

News

Castlegar United Church votes unanimously to affirm all people

SUBMITTED
Black Press

The local United Church voted unanimously on Sunday to designate itself an affirming congregation.

While the United Church has long considered itself welcoming of all people, it now publicly, intentionally, and explicitly affirms and celebrates gender and sexual diversity. Sunday's vote was the culmination of 18 months of community engagement within the congregation.

Board chair and member of the Affirming Committee, Gordon Soukoreff, said, "Mainstream Canadian society has been on board with ideas like marriage equality for a long time. Now we're seeing gender neutral washrooms, for example, becoming more

commonplace as general recognition and validation of queerness grows. In some senses, our church is playing catch-up, but in other senses we are playing a leadership role in our community."

Regarding Castlegar United's process itself Soukoreff said, "Over the past 18 months we've heard a lot of questions and had some great discussion. The homophobia of the '90s has shifted into what's referred to as heteronormativity, where exclusion is more subtle. Our process sought to address the subtle exclusion that often goes unnoticed by straight or cisgender folks. We hope that anyone who identifies as lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, two-spirit, intersex, pansexual, and so on will feel safe and affirmed here."

The Rev. Greg Powell, minister at Castlegar United Church, says, "The Bible is often used as a weapon to hurt people and

stifle the diversity that makes humanity beautiful. Many of the harmful passages used to justify exclusion are taken out of context or overemphasized for no good reason. Conversely, we believe Jesus practiced a radical inclusion, teaching that all people are worthy of God's love. That's the Jesus we follow. The table where Jesus ate was big enough for tax collectors, sex workers, the racially marginalized, people living in poverty, the rich, the devoted, and the doubtful. That's the proverbial table we seek to open to all people."

There are a few administrative steps before Castlegar United Church's designation is made official by Affirm United, an arm's-length group of the United Church of Canada.

A special service of celebration will take place on June 4, 2017, Pentecost Sunday, at 10 a.m. at 809 Merry Creek Rd. in Castlegar.

St David's and the United Church Thrift Store

St. David's Thrift Store continues to provide good quality clothing and household items at reasonable prices to our customers from all over the West Kootenays and as a result we are able to split the revenue equally between both the Anglican and United Churches, helping them meet their financial obligations. Donations can sometimes be overwhelming and since we only sell items of the best quality, we are able to provide an area in the store for items which are given away for free. Many of our customers appreciate this and are very grateful for the opportunity to get needed household items at no cost. We also send towels and blankets that are not suitable for sale to the SPCA to be used as pet bedding. Building supplies, furniture and larger appliances such as microwaves are redirected to the Habitat for Humanity ReStore in the industrial park. All clothing unfit for sale is sent to Positive Apparel in Nelson who collect it from us every two weeks. 100% cotton items unfit for sale are cut into rags and sold to garages and other businesses.

Our volunteer numbers remain steady. A few have retired this past year due to health issues and family concerns. Some have become 'spares' working only when needed and we have managed to recruit some new faces. Although there is still a desire by our customers to remain open on Friday afternoons at this time there is very limited enthusiasm from the volunteers to pursue this idea.

This past October, prior to our winter 'change over', we had the carpets professionally cleaned. We extend thanks to the men from both churches who came out to assist in moving the racks and other furnishings to another area of the building to make it easier for the cleaners and then came back two days later to move it all back again.

At the spring semi-annual meeting we elected two new members to the executive to replace Sally Williams who resigned and Dianne Merriman who took a leave of absence. Christine Jelly and Janette Descant were elected. Bonnie Thompson agreed to act as interim president for six months to cover Dianne's leave. At the December meeting, Dianne tendered resignation and Bonnie was elected president.

I believe that 2018 will continue to be a profitable year for the Thrift Shop. Our reputation for high standard merchandise, the lowest prices in the area, the friendly, helpful staff and clean, well organized environment makes shopping a pleasure.

Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie Thompson



**2017 TREASURER'S REPORT
ST. DAVID'S THRIFT SHOP**

Balance forward 696.22

Income

Sales	60,578.63
Petty cash	587.59
Interest	2.26
GST rebate	179.78
Luncheon refund	482.95

Total Income 62,527.43

Expenditures

Rent	6,300.00
Petty cash	587.59
Supplies	396.81
Gas	100.00
Gifts	90.78
Insurance	1,575.00
Telephone	211.40
Luncheon	482.95
Carpet runner	44.55
Carpet Dr.	341.85
Shelving,racks,supplies	344.13
Castlegar United Church	25,800.00
St.David's Anglican Church	25,800.00

Total Expenditures 61,487.47

Total Income 62,527.43

Total Expenditures 61,487.47

Balance 1,039.96

KSCU statement

Dec.31,2017 1,039.96

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Lippa, Treasurer

Jane Lippa, Treasurer

Camp Koolaree

The annual general meeting took place here at 1:00 o'clock on Saturday November 25th *. It was preceded by a board meeting at 10 and a pot luck lunch at noon. By all reports it was a successful summer and we had 126 campers – up around 50% over last year. Unfortunately approximately 25% of the kids had to be sponsored.

As usual, there were problems to deal with. We installed 3 new retention tanks in the water treatment building. We also bought two used propane refrigerators. We had a minor problem with our bleach injector which was easily fixed, but in case of future problems we bought a replacement Chemilizer unit. The gas valve of the hot water tank in the washroom went *kaput* and could not be fixed before season's end. On the last day of camp, a connecting rod broke and went through the side of the Mercury 125 engine block, so The Red Starcraft is now out of commission. Repairs were quoted at over \$6,800 so it's probably not worth repairing the motor for that vessel. The Aroliner developed a crack in the hull and was leaking badly. Don Ellis and I took it to J. Lloyd Crowe Secondary School in Trail where Thomas Plett, metalwork student and junior camp groundsman, riveted on a patch which we hope will allow the boat to be used next summer. We towed the boat back and put it in storage on November 6.

The annual report is available and is full of the details. <http://campkoolaree.ca/societys-documents/>

Respectfully submitted,
Ray Lundquist



Capital Plan

There was one item pending consideration from 2016 and under investigation for 2017.

1.) Commercial Dishwasher. Since the scope had changed to "making the church kitchen commercially certified", it was determined by the Trustees that the associated costs were prohibitive at this time.

CASLEIGH UNITED CHURCH
Balance Sheet
As At December 31

		<u>2017</u>		<u>2016</u>	
Assets					
Current Assets					
Cash in Bank	Note 2	\$ 12,831		\$ 8,735	
Investments	Note 3	118,659		125,520	
A/R BC Conference		937		-	
GST/HST Receivable		<u>145</u>	\$ 132,572	<u>171</u>	\$ 134,426
Capital Assets					
	Note 4		<u>665,900</u>		<u>665,900</u>
Total Assets			<u>\$ 798,472</u>		<u>\$ 800,326</u>
LIABILITIES					
Current Liabilities					
Insurance		\$ 5,165		\$ 4,155	
Payroll Taxes		<u>561</u>	\$ 5,726	<u>261</u>	\$ 4,416
Deferred Revenue					
Justice Project	Note 5	\$ 534		\$ 1,585	
Un-Church Project		<u>-</u>	534	<u>2,577</u>	4,162
Building Fund					
			665,900		665,900
Legacy Fund					
	Note 6		55,413		55,413
Operating Fund Balances					
Opening Balance		\$ 70,435		\$ 74,379	
Current Year (Deficit) Surplus		<u>464</u>	<u>70,899</u>	<u>(3,944)</u>	<u>70,435</u>
Total Liabilities and Equity			<u>\$ 798,472</u>		<u>\$ 800,326</u>

Prepared by:

G. B. Swedburg
Treasurer

Reviewed by:

L. Linares

**CASTLEGAR UNITED CHURCH
OPERATING FUND STATEMENT
For The Year Ended December 31**

		<u>2017 Actual</u>		<u>2016 Actual</u>		<u>2017 Budget</u>
Donations and Receipts						
Identified Giving's		\$ 65,852		\$ 68,168		\$ 66,000
Loose Contribution		1,348		1,531		1,250
Interest		1,946		2,199		2,000
Observer Subscriptions		430		458		450
Weddings and Funerals		439		100		100
Catering		-		-		300
Rent		6,679		3,861		3,750
Thrift Store	Note 7	21,930		22,355		21,500
Fundraising	Note 8	8,030		5,069		6,000
Designated Receipts						
M&S	Note 7	\$ 15,612		\$ 16,520		\$ 16,500
Stone Soup		1,320		1,300		300
Camp Koolaree		1,625		750		
Harvest Food Bank		965		650		600
Castlegar Refugee Fund		-		1,900		
Haiti Appeal		-		25		
Fort McMurray Appeal		60		40		
Justice Project		-		2,000		
Un-Church Project		-		2,812		
Rohinga Appeal		200		-		
KAIROS		25		-		
Legacy		-	19,807	864	26,861	17,400
Miscellaneous	Note 9		235		-	-
Total Receipts and Income		126,696		130,602		118,750
Less Fundraising Allocation	Note 10		4,015		2,534	3,000
Less Designated Funds			19,808		26,861	17,400
Total Operating Receipts		102,873		101,207		98,350
Education						
M&P		\$ 325		\$ 325		\$ 375
Observer		976		742		700
Presbytery		4,233	5,534	3,852	4,919	4,250
Building						
City Services		735		1,737		625
Cleaning		2,100		2,200		2,200
Insurance		5,477		5,336		5,500
Light/Power		1,301		1,123		1,200
Natural Gas		3,200		2,649		3,000
Maintenance		1,966		2,286		3,000
Snow Removal		852	15,631	895	16,226	1,100
Operating						
Bank Charges		786		594		700
Communications		1,334		2,106		1,350
Music - Supply		549		1,133		500
Music - Salary		7,044		7,076		6,800
Pastoral Supply		1,370		270		1,000
Secretary		5,008		3,981		4,600
Spectrum		-		274		400
Copier		477		321		350
Supplies		4,650		4,526		3,800
Summer Student		-	21,218	-	20,281	1,000
Ministry						
Education		1,238		1,062		1,374
Salary		49,488		52,158		47,826
Benefits		9,300	60,026	10,505	63,725	10,500
Total Operating Expenses		102,409		105,151		102,150
Surplus (Deficit) for the Period		\$ 464		\$ (3,944)		\$ (3,800)

CASTLEGAR UNITED CHURCH
Notes to the 2017 Financial Statements

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Investments

- Are held with the Bank of Montreal Investorline.
- Interest income is recorded on receipt.

Capital Assets

- Are stated at the value as was assessed by the Provincial Assessor in July, 2003
- The corresponding amount is recorded as the building Fund. No amortization expense is taken against the capital assets.

Donated Services

- The Church and its members benefit from donated services in the form of volunteered time and goods for various projects. The value of donated services is not recognized in the financial statements.

2. Cash in Bank

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
BMO - Chequing	\$ (6,631)	\$ (5,920)
BMO - Savings	19,462	14,660
Total	<u>\$ 12,831</u>	<u>\$ 8,740</u>

3. Investments

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
GIC's with BMO - Investorline	<u>\$ 118,659</u>	<u>\$ 125,520</u>

2017 total of \$125,520 consists of:

Cash	\$ 165
Savings Account	8,494
GIC due Aug 31, 2018 at 1.91%	25,000
GIC due Oct 26, 2018 at 1.90%	40,000
GIC due Nov 29, 2018 at 0.85%	20,000
GIC due Nov 29, 2019 at 2.21%	25,000
Total	<u>\$ 118,659</u>

2016 total of \$125,520 consists of:

Cash	\$ 1,100
Savings Account	14,410
GIC due Nov 20, 2017 at 2.06%	20,000
GIC due Nov 27, 2017 at .85%	25,000
GIC due Aug 31, 2018 at 1.91%	25,000
GIC due Oct 26, 2018 at 1.90%	40,000
Total	<u>\$ 125,520</u>

4. Capital Assets

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Building	\$ 381,000	\$ 381,000
Land	86,900	86,900
Subtotal	467,900	467,900
Equipment	198,000	198,000
Total	<u>\$ 665,900</u>	<u>\$ 665,900</u>
Assessment Values		
Building	\$ 582,000	\$ 505,000
Land	158,600	158,600
Total	<u>\$ 740,600</u>	<u>\$ 663,600</u>
Insured Values	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 2,804,500</u>

5. Deferred Revenue

The account balances reflect funds received from BC Conference less current project expenses incurred in the year. Both projects will be completed in 2017

The Centre for Contemplation and Justice is a pilot project to determine the viability of an ongoing initiative to combine social justice work with contemplative practices.

Un-Church is a mid-week, family friendly, multigenerational, pilot project that offers 'church' a little differently than our Sunday morning service.

	<u>Opening</u>	<u>2017</u> <u>Expenses</u>	<u>Net</u>	<u>2016</u> <u>Net</u>
Justice Project	\$ 1,585	\$ 1,051	\$ 534	\$ 1,58
Un-Church Project	2,577	3,676	(1,099)	2,57
Total	<u>\$ 4,162</u>	<u>\$ 4,727</u>	<u>\$ (565)</u>	<u>\$ 4,16</u>

The Un-Church over expenditure has been accounted for as :

A cost to Castlegar United Church	\$ 162
Accounts receivables from BC Conference	\$ 937

5. Legacy Fund

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Balance at January 1	\$ 55,413	\$ 66,512
Donations		
- Projection System	-	500
- Garden Projects	-	364
- Subtotal Donations	<u>-</u>	<u>864</u>
Expenditures		
- Projection System	-	11,599
- Garden Projects	-	364
- Ordination Gift	-	-
- Subtotal Expenditures	<u>-</u>	<u>11,963</u>
Balance at December 31	<u>\$ 55,413</u>	<u>\$ 55,413</u>

7. Thrift Store

Per motion from our Annual Congregational Meeting , funds received are split as follows:

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Operating Accounts - 85%	\$ 21,930	\$ 22,355
Mission and Service - 15%	3,870	3,945
Total received from Thrift Store	<u>\$ 25,800</u>	<u>\$ 26,300</u>

3. Fundraising

	<u>Sales</u>	<u>2016</u> <u>Expenses</u>	<u>Net</u>	<u>2016</u> <u>Net</u>
Garden Fest	\$ 449	\$ -	\$ 449	\$ 39
Garage Sale	2,135	63	2,072	
Pie Sale	5,607	1,135	4,472	4,00
Advent Baking	1,036	-	1,037	67
Total	<u>\$ 9,227</u>	<u>\$ 1,198</u>	<u>\$ 8,030</u>	<u>\$ 5,06</u>

9. Miscellaneous Income

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2016</u>
CRA Business Refund	\$ 235	\$ -
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>\$ 235</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

10. Fundraising Allocations

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2016</u>
	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>
Camp Koolaree	43.8 \$ 3,515	25.0 \$ 1,26
Stone Soup Kitchen	6.2 500	25.0 1,26
Castlegar Refugee Fund	0.0 -	0.0 -
Subtotal	50.0 4,015	50.0 2,53
Operating	50.0 4,015	50.0 2,53
Total	100.0 \$ 8,030	100.0 \$ 5,06

**CASTLEGAR UNITED CHURCH
OUTREACH DONATIONS REMITTED**

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
UCC - M & S	\$ 15,572.50	\$ 16,520.07
Camp Koolaree	5,139.85	2,017.36
Stone Soup Kitchen	1,820.00	2,567.35
Harvest Food Bank	965.00	650.00
Castlegar Refugee Fund	-	1,900.00
UCC - Fort McMurray Appeal	60.00	40.00
UCC - Haiti	-	25.00
Christian Children Fund	40.00	-
KAIROS	25.00	-
Rohingya Appeal	200.00	-
	<u>\$ 23,822.35</u>	<u>\$ 23,719.78</u>

CASTLEGAR UNITED CHURCH
PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2018

		2016		2017		2018
		<u>Actual</u>		<u>Actual</u>		<u>Budget</u>
Donations and Receipts						
Identified Giving's		\$ 68,168		\$ 65,852		\$ 66,000
Loose Contribution		1,531		1,348		1,250
Interest		2,199		1,946		2,000
Observer Subscriptions		458		430		450
Weddings and Funerals		100		439		100
Catering		-		-		-
Rent		3,861		6,679		6,800
Thrift Store	Note 7	22,355		21,930		22,000
Fundraising	Note 8	5,069		8,030		6,000
Designated Receipts						
M&S	Note 7	\$ 16,520		\$ 15,612		\$ 16,000
Stone Soup		1,300		1,320		1,300
Camp Koolaree		750		1,625		
Harvest Food Bank		650		965		600
Castlegar Refugee Fund		1,900		-		
Haiti Appeal		25		-		
Fort McMurray Appeal		40		60		
Justice Project	Note 5	2,000		-		
Family Project	Note 5	2,812		-		
KAIROS		-		25		
Rohingya Appeal		-		200		
Legacy		864	26,861	-	19,807	17,900
Miscellaneous	Note 9	-		235		225
Total Receipts and Income		<u>130,602</u>		<u>126,696</u>		<u>122,725</u>
Less Fundraising Allocation	Note 10	2,534		4,015		3,000
Less Designated Funds		<u>26,861</u>		<u>19,808</u>		<u>17,900</u>
Total Operating Receipts		<u>101,207</u>		<u>102,873</u>		<u>101,825</u>
Education						
M&P		\$ 325		\$ 325		\$ 325
Observer		742		976		850
Presbytery		<u>3,852</u>	4,919	<u>4,233</u>	5,534	<u>4,450</u>
Building						
City Services		1,737		735		725
Cleaning		2,200		2,100		2,150
Insurance		5,336		5,477		5,600
Light/Power		1,123		1,301		1,200
Natural Gas		2,649		3,200		3,000
Maintenance		2,286		1,966		3,300
Snow Removal		<u>895</u>	16,226	<u>852</u>	15,631	<u>1,100</u>
Operating						
Bank Charges		594		786		750
Communications		2,106		1,334		1,350
Music - Supply		1,133		549		500
Music - Salary		7,076		7,044		7,000
Pastoral Supply		270		1,370		500
Secretary		3,981		5,008		4,600
Spectrum		274		-		-
Copier		321		477		425
Supplies		4,526		4,650		4,000
Summer Student		-	20,281	-	21,218	-
Ministry						
Education		1,062		1,238		1,393
Salary		52,158		49,488		53,807
Benefits		<u>10,505</u>	<u>63,725</u>	<u>9,300</u>	<u>60,026</u>	<u>11,100</u>
Total Operating Expenses		<u>105,151</u>		<u>102,409</u>		<u>108,125</u>
Surplus (Deficit) for the Period		<u>\$ (3,944)</u>		<u>\$ 464</u>		<u>\$ (6,300)</u>