

2019

Annual Report



Castlegar United Church

Living, loving and leading in the Light of God

Vision

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

Affirming Statement

We affirm the inherent value of all life. We affirm that all people of any gender identity or sexual orientation have a place of worship, leadership, and discipleship in Castlegar United Church.

Values

We see these values as foundational to who we are:

- Acceptance and Diversity
- Belonging and Community
- Fairness and Advocacy
- Hospitality and Friendliness
- Care and Compassion

Photo credits throughout:

Carl Sayers
Sarah Brownlee
Greg Powell
Gord Soukoreff
Tim Affolter
Ray Lundquist

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	3
Passages	4
Minutes from 2019 Annual Congregational Meeting	5
Minister's Message	10
Executive Report	12
Board and Committee Structure	14
Trustees' Report	16
Ministry and Personnel Committee Report	17
Music Report	17
Welcoming Committee Report	19
Faith Exploration Report	20
Engaging Young Families Report	21
Outreach Committee Report	22
Affirming Committee Report	25
Camp Koolaree	26
St. David's and United Church Thrift Store Report	28
St. David's and United Church Thrift Store Financial Report	29
Financials - Balance Sheet	30
Financials - Operating Statement 2019	31
Financials - Outreach Donations Remitted	35
Financials - Proposed Budget for 2020	36

Passages

Baptisms	None
Marriages	None
Deaths	Marj Culley Don Danroth Les Godberson
Transfers Out	Tracey Wilson Bernice Pascoe
Transfers In	Sarah Brownlee
Removed by Board Action (deceased or presumed deceased)	Harold Ackney C.C. Bradford Helen Clay Dave Gairns Ab Hill E.N. Johnson Alex McKinnon Doug McKinnon



Membership Roll

Full members as at 31 December 2019	96
Resident full members	67
Non-resident full members	29
Members as at 31 December 2019 (children of full members, baptized or not)	4

Minutes from 2019 Annual Congregational Meeting

Castlegar United Church

Page one

Annual Congregational Meeting

February 3, 2019.

Introduction: Keith Merritt Chair of Board, welcomed everyone and reminded all to stay for a light luncheon after the meeting. He gave a short summary of 2018.

Meeting was called to order at 11:30am.

1. Determination of voting privileges: Sandra Foster motioned that all adherents be allowed to vote on financial or administrative matters. Don Ellis seconded.

Motion passed. Ten members needed for quorum. Numbers achieved.

2. Adoption of Agenda with spelling corrections.

3. Adoption of Minutes (amended) stated number of 2018 operating budget corrected from \$101,925 to \$110,125. Chris Foster motioned these changes be accepted. Donna Dunn seconded. Motion carried.

4. Reports: Liz Fleet motioned that reports be accepted with some spelling corrections. Sandra Foster seconded and the motion was carried.

5. Financial Statement: Gordon Swedburg (Treasurer) thanked everyone for their continued contributions and enthusiasm with fund raising. Our proposed 2018 budget called for a deficit of \$7300 and we ended the financial year with an actual deficit of \$4559. This was due in part to donations from the Thrift store totalling \$21,845 and fundraising \$9055. Our rental income was lower due to the loss of Community for Spiritual Living, but with the signing of a rental agreement (one year, ongoing) with the Daycare, this should change in 2019.

Jean Merritt motioned that the financials be accepted as presented and Don Ellis seconded. Motioned was carried. Jean thanked Gordon for his ongoing hard work.

Larry Brown also thanked Gord for all his years as Treasurer and the hours he spends on CUC financials. Larry also made it known that Len Lipka is thanked for his auditing of financial reports.

Liz Fleet motioned to accept and Don Ellis seconded.

Keith Merritt motioned to accept the report and all were in favour.

It was mentioned that those who attended the two day conference "Weird Church" enjoyed it and the "Outreach to your Community" and interest in supporting a community children's choir, saw CUC donate \$250 to this choir that meets at CUC weekly.

6. Proposed Budget for 2019:

Gordon Swedburg stated that our total operating costs for 2019 are proposed to be \$104,750.00 and total operating receipts are expected to be \$114,750.00.

This shows a proposed deficit of \$10,000.00 for 2019.

Motion to accept as proposed was made by Don Ellis and was seconded by Carol Conkin. All in favour. Motion carried.

7. Capital Plan Priorities for 2019.

The question once again arose regarding the Thrift Shop and the percentage of profits made to M&S every year. Bonnie Thompson said that many years ago the UCW were the volunteer workers at the Thrift Shop. The decision was made at that time to donate 15% of profits to the M&S. Since those days, the volunteer workers now include members of the community at large as well as from St David's Anglican Church. The volunteers (from the community at large) often ask where the funds are distributed and want to know they are helping locally in the community and not just to fund either CUC or St David's bottom line. This is why the volunteers feel strongly that the 15% stays. This amount does help CUC reach the overall proposed donation to M&S as stated in the Budget each year.

8. Fund raising: Ideas that were discussed regarding a projected deficit for this year, included individuals increasing their donations to CUC, increasing fund raising events and asking for volunteers to coordinate ideas such as a garage sale, step into spring, continuing with garden fest, pie day, and the Christmas bake sale.

Distribution of funds raised, remains to be 50/50 (after 15% from Thrift shop to M&S).

50% to CUC operating expenses and 50% divided between chosen organizations at the discretion of the Board/Executive.

"Hearing Loop" discussion has been put off until next year due to cost.

9. Nominations:

Chair: Keith Merritt working on 2nd year of two year term.

Vice Chair: Irene Furey working on 2nd year of two year term.

Treasurer: Gordon Swedburg annual appointment

Don Ellis motions to keep Gordon Swedburg in this position, Larry Brown seconds, all in favour.

Secretary: Julia Langille annual appointment

Chris Foster motions to keep Julia Langille in this position, Carol Conkin seconds, all in favour.

M&P: annual appointment of three congregational reps

Lynne Miskell stepping down, Chris Foster, Herman Manarin and Carol Krantz committee members. Gordon Swedburg motions to accept, Cheryl Swedburg seconds. All in favour.

Trustees: 2 reps needed for two 5 year terms

Don Danroth stepping down after serving his term.

Herman Manarin returning to serve another five year term.

Joyce Munden will let her name stand.

Larry Brown thanked Don Danroth for his service and motioned to accept Herman Manarin and Joyce Munden as reps for the Trustees. Don Ellis seconded and motion was carried.

Food and Catering: annual appointment

Gordon Soukoreff: Coordinator Dawn Waldie motioned to accept and Don Ellis seconded. Carried.

Church regional rep: (Formerly Presbytery) new position, one year term.

Info will be shared in Church Chimes for any interested people thinking about taking on this position. Travel allowances and assistance with accommodations will be included. Board will deal with this issue.

A huge thank you to Ray Lundquist and both Cheryl Swedburg and Gordon Swedburg for their many years of attending presbytery meetings and reporting back to the congregation of CUC.

10. Signing Officers for 2019;

The names will remain the same for 2019 as were in 2018

Keith Merritt, Irene Furey, Gordon Swedburg and Julia Langille. Any two (at a time) of these four names are authorized to sign.

Motion to re affirm these people for signing made by Sandra Foster and seconded by Chris Foster.

11. New Business:

Don Ellis spoke to the congregation of his love and appreciation for all music.

Don would like to have more Christmas music/carols sung during the advent season. The Executive and Board heard this request last year and a trial for adding a carol each Sunday of advent was used. Don suggested that since there are 44 Christmas carols/songs available in the hymn books, that CUC sing even more carols during Advent. He stated that "My heart is speaking to CUC".

Liz Fleet explained that the United Church of Canada implemented the change from singing carols during Advent, years ago, to make people recognize the importance of the events leading up to Christmas during Advent.

Carol Conkin spoke to say that the Worship committee will discuss this and look into making "something old, new again".

Thank you to Don Ellis for speaking up and bringing this issue so important to him, to the attention of the congregation of CUC.

12. Adjournment:

Jean Merritt motioned to move for adjournment. Meeting was adjourned at 12:40pm.

13. Greg gave the Benediction and said Grace before all were invited to enjoy the luncheon.

30 names signed Castlegar United Church Annual Congregational meeting sheet.

Sunday February 3, 2019. 24 members, 4 adherents, 2 others

Respectfully submitted:

Julia Langille

Board Secretary

Minister's Message

As I write this, January rain is washing away some freshly fallen snow. The winter lover in me is feeling heart broken: none of us likes to lose the things we cherish! I know it is just a pathetic fallacy, but it's also reminiscent of baptism that symbolically allows (or forces) us to let go of something of ourselves we might have once valued greatly. Some of the symbolism of baptism was lost when it became seen as an insurance policy rather than an opportunity for re-birth. But even Jesus had to let something go; even Jesus needed to be restored by the cool waters at baptism. One wonders what needs to be washed away so the new life can begin.

I've recently learned about the 'epidemic' of complaining. Maybe I need to allow my complaining to be washed away.

I've also been reading about being careful to choose the things one cares about: we have only so much capacity, so why waste it on things that don't improve our life? Maybe I need to allow worry to be washed away.

I've also come to see the ways I've damaged relationships by attempting to control outcomes. Maybe I need to allow control to be washed away.

This isn't intended to simply be a personal confession, but if each of us let go of complaint, worry, and control, I believe we would all be living closer to the Way of Jesus. To be sure, we should be wise and discerning in how we exercise power as individuals and as a community of faith. We need to ask ourselves hard questions (even though avoiding conflict seems easier); we need to hold each other accountable (even though that feels uncomfortable); and we need to articulate what we are willing to lose for the sake of new life (even though none of us likes to lose the things we cherish). The life and work of a community of faith is more than offering comfort on a Sunday morning: we are to create opportunities for personal and collective transformation. This is what Jesus did.

Our Friday morning Bible study morphed into an Interfaith Inquiry for much of the autumn and, now, into the winter. We have learned a tremendous amount from our siblings of other faith traditions.



Our board has identified some challenges in our structure and has proposed a new structure intended to allow greater flexibility.

Our church building continues to be used more frequently by community partners, and for a growing range of purposes.

Our hearing loop further increases the accessibility of our building, which fulfills both functional and symbolic importance. We thank Angela Jakobs of Hear and Beyond, The United Church of Canada Foundation and the Watkins Fund for Innovative Ministries with Senior Adults, Columbia Basin Trust through its community initiatives program, and Heritage Credit Union.



Our Advent series engaging the arts more deeply sought to open us in different ways to the actions of the Spirit.

In many ways, we are living into a new way of being a community of faith. Still, there are challenges and while we are quite adept at finding and implementing technical solutions to our challenges, adaptive solutions are more elusive. These require flexibility, tolerance for ambiguity, trust, hope, ever deepening relationships, and more. Adaptive solutions require knowing ourselves, both our deepest desires and our deepest fears, and understanding what this community truly needs.

New life persists constantly. Sometimes it lingers just under the surface, waiting for the dust to be washed away.

May we remember our own baptisms, and may we, as a church community, embrace a baptism of sorts that washes away that which we need to let go. New life depends on it.

Submitted with peace and love,

Rev. Greg Powell



Executive Report

This has been another year of ongoing change leading to the ongoing evolution of our Castlegar United Church.

Greg has continued to lead our congregation in a progressive way. We remain thankful that he and his family continue to make a significant contribution both to our church community but also to Castlegar as well. Fyi Nicole has put her hat into the ring for being a school board trustee.



Our church building use continues to grow and is a real demonstration of our increasing interaction with the Castlegar community. The day care has been operating 5 days a week for over a year now. Despite some initial concerns, we have been able to operate our other activities in the building seamlessly as well. Other users include: AA, Al-Anon, Un-Church, girl guides, ukulele group, children's choir, plus individual rental events. Soon to start will be the special olympics group.

The following are examples of trying to accommodate change. The hearing loop was investigated and installed funded primarily with outside grants thanks primarily to Greg's due diligence. Experimenting with live streaming of worship from Prince George. The membership list has been thoroughly reviewed and updated. We have reviewed the board structure and have made a proposal to update the way the executive/board functions in an effort to better suit the times we live in. We have done a congregational survey which is currently being reviewed to assess how we are doing and what perhaps could be improved. There is a future of the church group that has been formed which has obtained a grant to start the process of looking to what the future of this physical site could be.

We continue to be financially stable. We have unfortunately lost a few members. Others have given a little more. We have managed to maintain other income streams. The thrift store along with our various fundraisers including: Garage Sale, Garden Fest, Pie days and the Christmas Bake Sale all have been continued to be successful. These activities not only help us financially but also help build our congregational morale and our visibility in the community.

Other ways of being present in the community are the continued operation of the stone soup kitchen, choir presentations, services at the long term care sites and our involvement in the Winterfest parade.



The local presbytery system has been replaced by the provincial regional governing body. Sarah was our representation at the first meeting at the end of June.

I would like to thank all the members of the congregation that have helped out in so many ways over this past year. We have a lot to be grateful for.

Four years ago it seemed like a major commitment to become the Vice and then the Chair of the board. In hindsight the time has passed very quickly and my job has been made a lot easier by having such a good executive and innovative minister to work with. Thank you the executive and all the additional board members for their work and support. I wish the new board all the best with continuing to lead the way in this challenging journey.

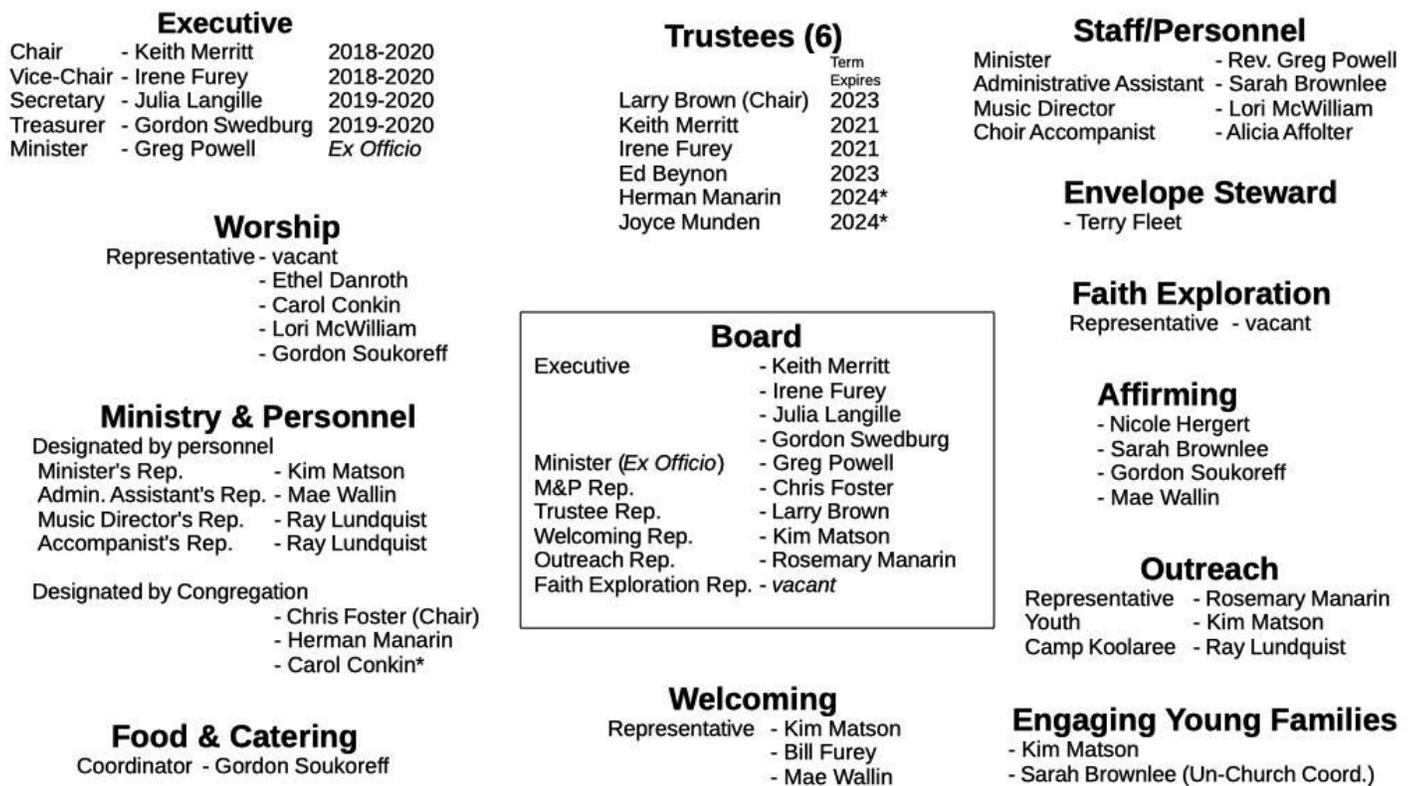
Respectfully Keith Merritt



Board and Committee Structure

In 2019 our structure was generally the same as it has been for several years. The chart below reflects who held which roles.

Castlegar United Church Organizational Chart 2019



At the annual meeting in January 2020, the congregation will decide on some changes to the board structure. Increasing flexibility, reducing workload, avoid redundancy, and generally streamlining administrative processes were the motivation for the proposed changes.

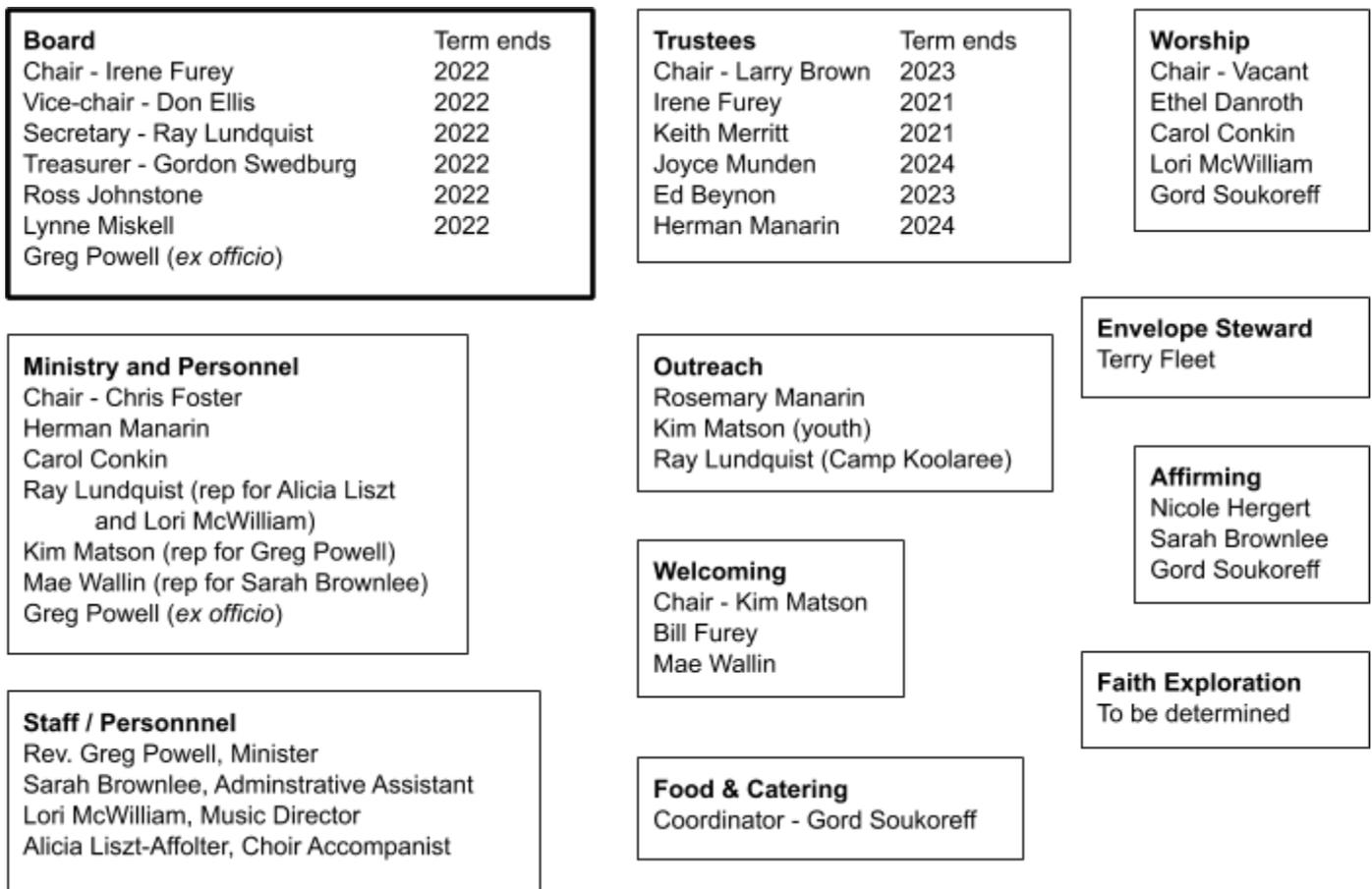
In short, the changes include the following:

- Change eligibility for board membership such that chairing a committee is no longer required
- Reducing the size of the board and eliminating the executive

- Inviting 'guests' to board meetings regularly to enhance communication
- Holding multiple congregational meetings (on an as-needed basis) to better include the whole community of faith
- Revising the terms of office to encourage both continuity and innovation

The board chair (Keith) and the minister (Greg) presented these changes to the congregation on December 8, 2019. Those in attendance posed questions and offered suggestions, but nobody voiced publicly any strong objection to the proposal.

The proposed organizational chart for 2020 follows.



This chart is subject to the congregation's decisions about the proposed changes and the elections of board members.

Trustees' Report

The Trustees are: Ed Beynon, Irene Furey, Herman Manarin (Secretary), Keith Merritt, Joyce Munden and Larry Brown (Chair).

- 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 church insurance was reviewed and renewed with a large 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.
- Daycare now using the building and providing extra funds
- The gutters have been repaired. Leaf guards have been installed on some of the gutters. They also worked on the North side where the icicle was forming. They put in a diverter which hopefully will solve the problem.
- Replacing some of the sinks in the church bathrooms.
- Installed a hearing loop so that those with hearing aids can better hear the sermon without background noise.



Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Trustees,

Larry Brown, Chair of the Trustees

Ministry and Personnel Committee Report

The M&P committee has been working on several issues this past year. The first item was to update the compensation model for our staff. The second item was the formal church survey that was recently concluded. The results have been tabulated and a meeting with Greg to discuss the results will take place in the next few weeks. The last item is a restructuring of the M&P committee to reduce the number of members. It has been a constructive year and we are looking forward to the new year.

The committee currently consists of:

Chris Foster (chair, board appt)
Mae Wallin (rep for Sarah B.)
Herman Manarin (Board appt)

Carol Krantz (Board appt)
Kim Matson (Greg's rep)
Ray Lundquist (rep for Lori and Alicia)

Respectfully submitted

Chris Foster

Music Report

Johann Heinrich Zedler's Monumental Encyclopedia of Knowledge reveals a definition of music from a 1739 perspective: "Everything that creates harmony, that is, order. And in this sense it is used by those who assert that the whole universe is music." J. S. Bach, probably the most famous church musician who ever lived was alive during the

Baroque time period when this definition of music was asserted. According to Christoph Wolff, who is acclaimed for writing the most comprehensive biography of J.S. Bach, "For Bach, theological and musical scholarship were two sides of the same coin." (from *Johann Sebastian Bach: The Learned Musician*). Bach once stated in a letter that his

ultimate goal was to make "well-regulated church music to the Glory of God and in conformance with the parishioners' wishes." Now, 300 years later, our little church choir in Castlegar, BC continues to deliver our harmonies to its congregation, and at the



same time, share in serving and glorifying God. Music is made up of an orderly set of complex rules, but it also, in its complexity, allows freedom for composers and performers to deviate from them, bend them, and create a work of art, unique and beautiful. The universe is compared to music, its rules, complexity, balance, and constant evolution, perhaps the masterpiece of an extremely creative and elusive entity. Is this the reason that human beings relate to music? The human brain loves patterns, and music is full of them. It is so interesting that music, in all its complexity, is accessible to all, from babies to musical intellectuals. We carry music with us in our hearts, our pulses beat time constantly and for some, falling into a deep meditative state where we are truly present, we become hyper-aware of the heart beating time persistently. Music is important to humankind, breaking down barriers and drawing people together. I hope that our church music inspires you and makes you more present!

This year the choir sang about two anthems per month. We learned six new pieces and resurrected a few favourites from the past. Our weekly one-and-one-half hour rehearsals on Wednesdays starting at 7:00 allow us to prepare. The choir sang at church services, a funeral, and at the Community Carol Sing at Christmas time. Alicia and Lori also performed on the piano several times during various parts of the Sunday services.

Sadly, we lost members, but we also happily welcomed a new alto, Gail Hamilton. We are always looking for fresh voices. Please join us—all abilities are welcome!! Also, if anybody plays instruments and would like to play a part in our music-making, please let us know. There are often musical bits that we leave out of our performances because we couldn't find an instrumentalist. We want to include lots of people and variety into our group.

I love the orderliness of music but I also embrace the messiness and complexity. For me it is healing and rejuvenating. The expression of this universe can be reflected in music and I hope that our church music brings you some joy and satisfaction, as it does to the musicians that bring it to you.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori McWilliam



Welcoming Committee Report

The welcoming committees has considered 4 goals this year, consistent with best practices from <https://growchurch.net/how-to-make-church-visitors-feel-welcome>:

1. Support children's programming - ensure that there is a list of people signed up to lead a lesson and activity for children of the church. Six people have expressed an interest in supporting this program.
2. Set up "Get Connected Cards," like a bookmark that could also serve as a PAR cards.
3. Intentional Follow Up - Telephone visitors to follow-up and invite to Rev. Greg's coffee shop office hours (Wed 11:30-1:30 at Common Grounds) Other opportunities to connect will be a potluck once per month on the Child Within Sundays. As this will not happen in Dec, July, or August, this will amount to only 9 times per year.
4. Website Improvements - As 9/10 people go to church websites prior to entering the door of a church building, we considered what one sees when they access the Castlegar United website and suggestions for improvement.

We also considered hosting events that might reach those not already part of our church community. The idea of hosting music events, as has been done in the past, was mentioned, and the group agreed to keep thinking about ideas for this one and to bring it forward to other committees to see if ideas could be generated.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Matson



Faith Exploration Report

Our Bible Study group has continued to meet on Friday mornings. We started the year by considering the “Documentary hypothesis,” which theorizes multiple authors spanning hundreds of years contributing to the Torah (Hebrew Bible or Old Testament). We could see interesting differences in how various authors portrayed the same events like the story of Abraham and Sarah.

In the fall, Friday mornings morphed into a time of interfaith inquiry. We have studied Hinduism, Sikhism, Islam, and Buddhism and have more on our radar. We have been fortunate to host guests from each of these traditions--Castlegar’s diversity has been a treat--and we have learned and experienced a lot.

The book club read Barbara Kingsolver’s *Flight Behaviour* and Graeme Simsion’s *The Rosie Project*.



Un-Church continues to be an important initiative. On occasion we have a children’s program downstairs and an adult program upstairs; other times we remain all together for the duration.

Sunday morning children’s programming is run by parent volunteers. We have established a rhythm that seems to be working, and includes

the children returning to the sanctuary to ‘offer’ the congregation the fruits of their labour. This seems to be a meaningful contribution.

Men’s breakfast continues on the first and third Tuesdays. This isn’t necessarily faith exploration, but it is a very faithful effort to get together and accompany each other.

Submitted with hope,

Rev. Greg Powell

Engaging Young Families Report

Un-Church

This year we seem to have a pretty great ongoing group that comes every month. We've done some activities in the winter that separated adults and children. Greg did more adult-related themes with parents while I did more children-related activities and themes with children. We brought both groups together in September and October. November was open to TDoR which brought roughly 40 folks children, parents, members of LGBTQ2 and city council. Big highlight was camping at Koolaree for 3 nights, 4 days. There were 5 families and more families are interested in joining next year due to all the positive feedback. Winter session this year will be Jan-April, camp in summer and 2-3 sessions in the autumn.

Respectfully submitted by

Sarah Brownlee



Other Initiatives

Our other initiatives include drafting a Children's Covenant, adjusting our order of worship to better meet the needs of children, and organizing parent volunteers to offer children's programming during worship. The committee made good progress on the Children's Covenant, but we haven't reached consensus on a version to present to the congregation for review and feedback. We thought it would be simpler than it is. The changes to the order of service seem to be working well. Parent volunteers are doing well to offer meaningful engagement with the children outside of the sanctuary.

Outreach Committee Report

Outreach has always been within our church's mandate from its beginning in the 1920's. This means work for social justice and service to others! We may be few and the percentage of people sporting white hair is high but we are still striving with strength to fulfill our mandate.

Due to all of our efforts, our Spring Garage Sale raised \$1,587, The Garden Fest Bake Sale, \$672, Christmas Bake Sale \$1,207 and our apple pies \$5,018. **Funds** from these events went **to Camp Koolaree, Chrissy's Place, Castlegar's Special Olympics, the Children's Choir, the new Children's Band** and the new **Warming Place** in the Anglican church basement. Thank you to everyone for your help.

Our partnership in the running of our local **St. David's Thrift Shop** which serves low income people in Castlegar as well as people from around the region, **is** obvious outreach. Our thrift shop is very well used, and its profits help our M & S Fund, our church operation and local outreach services such as the Harvest Food Bank. Thank you to our many United Church volunteers.

Thanks to John Thompson who transports our food donations regularly to the **Harvest Food Bank**.

Our **Mission and Service Fund** total this year reached \$16,286. Even though we are getting older, our chequebooks are not failing. This total for M & S is, as mentioned above, in part due to the wonderful amounts received from the Thrift Shop. Our Lenten Lunch helped with \$330. Thank you to Carol Conkin and all the Minute for Mission readers who help promote our M & S work. Our Mission and Service Fund helps the poor and disadvantaged in Canada but in far flung countries as well. One example of this outreach is our contribution to help partners run medical clinics in the ravaged Gaza Strip. I hope that our M & S goal for 2020 will be \$16, 500. I believe we can continue to support this important outreach.

Through Lynne Miskell's initiative, several bottles of **Zatoun olive oil** and packages of **Zatoun Za'atar herb mix** have been sold with proceeds going to help the Palestinians.

The Sharing Dinner Pot, a United Church project, ran from September until June's end as usual and began its 23rd year of serving hot dinners to low income people this fall. The Doukhor team's meal is the most popular and they can serve 50 people on their turn. Usually there are about 40 people enjoying our dinners every Tuesday. Thanks to

Lynne Miskell who heads our United Church cooking team once a month. The Anglicans' team has folded as of the end of 2019 but the Lions Club has stepped up for next year. The Sunrise Rotary ladies are a great help to fill in when there are 5 Tuesdays in a month. It is a true community partnership. Castlegar United Church is the prime sponsor as well as the USCC. We are also thankful to St.Rita's Catholic Church, Celgar by Mercer and especially to St. David's Anglican Church who have been strong supporters since the first year.

I wish to share with you *The Story of the Stonesoup* which is the basis of our Sharing Dinner Pot success.

"There once was a man who was travelling long ago and he stopped at a village to ask for food, even a bowl of soup. Everyone he asked said they did not have enough food to share. They were poor. He said, "Gather round, I will show you how to make stonesoup." First he asked for a big pot of water to be put over a fire in the village square. He threw a



stone into the pot of boiling water. Next, he asked each person to go home to see if he or she could find something to put in the soup. The villagers went home and returned, each with something in their hands to contribute. Soon, a potato, a carrot, an onion, some beans, a handful of herbs, and a portion of barley were added to the soup. Many other odd edible things were added. Not long after, much their surprise, they all enjoyed a delicious and hearty bowl of soup."

Pastoral Care: The responsibility of Pastoral Care for members, adherents and friends of Castlegar United has been operating on an adhoc basis for a number of years. Our Sunday morning prayers for issues facing persons and families within our Church community and the wider community and world demonstrate the significant care and concern each one of our church community undertakes to support those facing many of life's challenges.

This year our Christmas Card project was slightly expanded, with members of the congregation signing Christmas cards, Lynne Miskell delivering the cards and Christmas newsletters along with bake sale items to individuals who are unable to attend our church services. Cheryl Swedburg also forwarded cards to individuals who due to age have moved elsewhere and are unable to attend church. Several families who still live in Castlegar but are not attending our church, received our Christmas greetings and newsletter as well. Thankyou to all for your pastoral care on behalf of Castlegar United Church.

We also continue to support **Camp Koolaree** in many ways, primarily financial and labor-intensive work. This past summer welcomed over 100 young campers in 5 different camps. Many heartfelt thanks to our volunteers for the many manhours spent in readying the camp and on several renovations.

Stamp Collection: Bonnie Thompson continues to collect our donations of stamps which are prepared by Eastern Star ladies for sale to a dealer. The funds raised go to helping with Cancer projects in BC.



Eyeglasses: Dr. Allen's optometry office is making sure our used eyeglasses are sent abroad to help people in underdeveloped countries.

In serving our respect for our environment, our creation, we held a **100 Mile Lunch** once again in September. The message is that our

shopping choices affect both the environment and the world food crisis. It was so pleasing to see so many of the congregation enjoying a menu comprised entirely of locally grown food.

A more subtle outreach: Our church community has been trying to connect with others in our town. Therefore the usage of our church has continued to broaden and a few new people have joined in on our worship services. The church is being used by a Day Care, Girl Guides, the Sikhs, COINS, our local indigenous group, the Children's Choir, some months by the Ukelele Club as well as 12-step groups.

May we continue to live in gratitude and go forward in helping our world be a better place.

Rosemary Manarin

Affirming Committee Report

The affirming committee was mostly dormant in 2019. We investigated the idea of bringing in a guest speaker from the Lower Mainland, but the timing wasn't quite right. We also considered hosting a series on race and racism, but the level of interest among the congregation suggested, again, that the timing wasn't right. Race, racism, white supremacy, and white privilege continue to be important issues which with our denomination is presently grappling, so it would be pertinent for our community of faith to consider them also.

We were happy that our building could be used to offer a warm space for the Trans Day of Remembrance, which a third-party community group organized. We regret that some in our community still do not consider our church building (or any church building) to be a safe space, and this created some conflict among some organizers and participants. Still, it was important to remember the lives cut short violently because of intolerance and fear of gender.

We are also pleased that our hearing loop affirms the participation of people with hearing loss, and expands the possibility of children remaining in the sanctuary for the duration of worship.

To genuinely affirm the full participation of all people, our community of faith would do well to consider how racism, classism, ableism, sexism, ageism, and others manifest in the day-to-day happenings. These are part of the 'sea' of society, even though we are not necessarily aware of them, and it is difficult for those of us on the "inside" to know how we unintentionally express them.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Hergert, Sarah Brownlee, and Gordon Soukoreff



Camp Koolaree

On reviewing my notes from last season, I checked a spreadsheet where I've been keeping tabs on mileage and hours that I spent in various ways to support the camp this past year. Trips included supply runs for propane, gasoline, work parties, board meetings, and so forth. The total came to 4,607 km. Supply trips, work parties, meetings, report writing, and correspondence totaled 389 hours. I think I put in my fair share as did numerous other people who supported the camp in one way or the other. It takes a lot to keep this camping ministry going; it takes many people, many hours, and plenty of money. After years of use without funds to replace aging equipment and structures, we were given a large donation from the congregation of Beaver Valley United Church when they could no longer effectively function and ended up closing. What a wonderful gift.

We decided that the most pressing issue was the replacement of the camp's washroom, and ultimately that will cost a lot of money and effort. In order to do the project we have hired a contractor to deal with a myriad of red tape before a building permit can be obtained and construction

begun. One of the first steps was to have the camp's boundaries surveyed. Fortunately, the cost of the survey has been born by funding from the Pacific Mountain Regional Council. We were surprised to discover that some of the camp's buildings are partly on the CPR right of way!



Because the camp is on an alluvial fan, we have had to have a geotechnical survey done to evaluate the risk of flooding or landslides. We are still awaiting official word on that and are optimistic the project can be approved and construction can begin this coming spring.

Through the efforts of Bill Furey, we have been able to make major repairs to the ancient Brick Shed. Bill has organized the work parties and has even secured funding to cover the cost of materials. In addition, he has managed to have a nice solar system funded and installed in that building.

Our fleet of boats shrunk last summer when we sold two unserviceable vessels and took a third one to the dump to be crushed. Another boat suffered a catastrophic failure of the engine's lower unit. The cost of repairs could not be justified and we likely will

have to spend more than the boat is worth to replace the engine. That leaves us with just two elderly boats to service the camp and they are spending the winter in shelters behind the church.

Are all the time, money and effort spent worth it? I still think it is. Camp Koolaree has been a positive influence to the lives of thousands of former campers, leaders, paid staff, and to the 120 children who came in 2019. The fees we charge are out of reach for over 37% of those kids and are at least partially covered by campership donations.

Camp Koolaree survives in no small part because of the generous support from Castlegar United Church. Part of the congregation's fundraising has gone to fund the camp. Many have helped out without even realizing how important their time at the Thrift Shop, pie making, garage sale, or other efforts has been to the camp.

Thank-you all so much.

The Camp Koolaree annual report for 2019 is on the home page of the camp's website: <https://campkoolaree.ca> . Just scroll down a bit. The report has much more information than I have the space or time to cover. Check out the photos section while you're there.

Respectfully submitted, Ray Lundquist, Director
Camp Koolaree Society



St. David's and United Church Thrift Store Report

St. David's Thrift Store had another successful year and in spite of being closed for two weeks due to flooding caused by a burst water pipe in another part of the building, we were still able to give each Church \$23,000.

We gained some new volunteers this year, but again they are not affiliated with either church. This appears to be an ongoing situation as the congregations of both churches are declining and those that do attend are either still working full time or are unable to assist in the store due to age or have medical issues. The new volunteers seem to be enjoying their time in the store and are even becoming involved on the executive.

There were no large expenditures this year; all damage done by the flooding was covered by the landlord's insurance. Two volunteers painted the bathroom with plans to paint the floor and wall in the sorting area at a later date.

We continue to offer only items in near new condition for sale and redirect items we can't sell to Restore, Pozitive Apparel, The SPCA or to the recycling depot.

I look forward to 2020 with the hope that we will continue to being able to support the churches in a significant way.

Respectfully submitted, Bonnie Thompson

St. David's and United Church Thrift Store Financial Report

2019 TREASURER'S REPORT.....ST. DAVID'S THRIFT SHOP

Balance Forward	8,818.70		
INCOME		EXPENDITURES	
Sales	59,846.63	O/C	8,400.00
Interest	3.18	O/C	37.49
GST rebate	197.25	Rent	6,900.00
Luncheon refund	190.20	Luncheon	190.20
Petty Cash	631.09	Petty Cash	631.09
TOTAL INCOME	69,687.05	Gas	120.00
		Gifts	60.73
		Landfill	5.00
		Supplies	445.36
		Insurance	1,650.00
TOTAL INCOME	69,687.05	Telephone	462.21
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	64,564.87	KSCU membership	50.00
Balance	5,122.18	Garment Rack	243.88
KSCU statement Dec. 31,2019		St. David's Anglican	23,000.00
		Castlegar United	23,000.00
Respectfully submitted,		TOTAL EXPENDITURE	64,564.87

Valerie Townsend

Valerie Townsend, Treasurer

Financials - Balance Sheet

CASTLEGAR UNITED CHURCH
Balance Sheet
As At December 31

		2019		2018	
Assets					
Current Assets					
Cash in Bank	Note 2	\$ 2,347		\$ 7,012	
Investments	Note 3	127,873		120,793	
GST/HST Receivable		<u>182</u>	\$ 130,402	<u>147</u>	\$ 127,952
Capital Assets	Note 4		<u>665,900</u>		<u>665,900</u>
Total Assets			<u>\$ 796,302</u>		<u>\$ 793,852</u>
 LIABILITIES					
Current Liabilities					
Insurance		\$ 6,710		\$ 5,462	
Payroll Taxes		<u>503</u>	\$ 7,213	<u>334</u>	\$ 5,796
Deferred Revenue	Note 5				
Family Project		\$ 514		\$ (108)	
Camp Event		-	514	<u>511</u>	403
Building Fund	Note 4		665,900		665,900
Legacy Fund			55,413		55,413
Operating Fund Balances					
Opening Balance		\$ 66,340		\$ 70,899	
Current Year (Deficit) Surplus		<u>922</u>	<u>67,262</u>	<u>(4,559)</u>	<u>66,340</u>
Total Liabilities and Equity			<u>\$ 796,302</u>		<u>\$ 793,852</u>

Prepared by:

G. B. Swedburg
Treasurer

Reviewed by:

L Lippa

Financials - Operating Statement 2019

For The Year Ended December 31

	2019 Actual		2018 Actual		2019 Budget
Donations and Receipts					
Identified Giving's	\$ 76,740		\$ 65,065		\$ 64,000
Loose Contribution	1,589		2,038		1,500
Interest	3,111		2,107		2,200
Observer Subscriptions	258		417		400
Weddings and Funerals	-		150		300
Catering	1,108		1,083		750
Rent	11,868		5,995		10,000
Thrift Store	19,550	Note 6	21,845		21,500
Fundraising	8,814	Note 7	9,055		8,000
Designated Receipts					
M&S	\$ 16,171		\$ 15,703		\$ 15,750
Stone Soup	1,800		1,320		1,300
Camp Koolaree	755		2,515		-
Harvest Food Bank	1,060		1,455		750
Family Project	2,741		2,437		2,000
Camp Event	2,663		2,400		-
Hearing Loop	2,729		-		-
Christian Children	20	27,939	15	25,845	-
Miscellaneous	-	Note 8	980		100
Total Receipts and Income	150,977		134,580		128,550
Less Fundraising Allocation	4,572	Note 9	4,528		4,000
Less Designated Funds	<u>27,938</u>		<u>25,845</u>		<u>19,800</u>
Total Operating Receipts	<u>118,467</u>		<u>104,207</u>		<u>104,750</u>
Education					
M&P	\$ 325		\$ 325		\$ 325
Observer	854		830		900
Presbytery	<u>5,505</u>	6,684	<u>4,444</u>	5,599	<u>5,100</u>
Building					
City Services	881		796		750
Cleaning	2,376		2,250		2,200
Insurance	7,096		5,793		5,900
Light/Power	1,387		1,245		1,250
Natural Gas	3,460		3,062		3,100
Maintenance	3,407		2,651		2,500
Snow Removal	<u>1,069</u>	19,676	<u>1,326</u>	17,123	<u>1,100</u>
Operating					
Bank & AP Fees	1,178		735		750
Communications	1,120		1,125		1,350
Music - Supply	297		646		500
Music - Salary	6,899		6,171		6,800
Pastoral Supply	252		956		500
Secretary	4,645		5,195		4,600
Benevolent Funding	302		309		500
Copier	412		387		425
Supplies	3,906		3,443		4,000
Summer Student	-	19,011	-	18,967	-
Ministry					
Education	1,340		1,000		1,415
Salary	58,440		54,673		58,440
Benefits	<u>12,394</u>	<u>72,174</u>	<u>11,404</u>	<u>67,077</u>	<u>12,345</u>
	12,393				
Total Operating Expenses	<u>117,545</u>		<u>108,766</u>		<u>114,750</u>
Surplus (Deficit) for the Period	<u>\$ 922</u>		<u>\$ (4,559)</u>		<u>\$ (10,000)</u>

Notes to the 2019 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 it's 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>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
BMO - Chequing	\$ (5,202)	\$ (7,159)
BMO - Savings	7,549	14,171
Total	<u>\$ 2,347</u>	<u>\$ 7,012</u>

3. Investments

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
GIC's with BMO - Investorline	<u>\$ 127,873</u>	<u>\$ 120,793</u>

2019 total of \$127,873 consists of:

Cash	\$ 9,140
Savings Account	8,733
GIC due Dec 14,2020 at 1.63%	45,000
GIC due Sept 21,2020 at 2.81%	25,000
GIC due Nov 15,2021 at 3.21%	40,000
Total	<u>\$ 127,873</u>

2018 total of \$120,793 consists of:

Cash	\$ 2,198
Savings Account	8,595
GIC due Nov 29,2019 at 2.21%	25,000
GIC due Dec 6,2019 at 1.65%	20,000
GIC due Sept 21,2020 at 2.81%	25,000
GIC due Nov 15,2021 at 3.21%	40,000
Total	<u>\$ 120,793</u>

4. Capital Assets

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</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	\$ 575,000	\$ 582,000
Land	162,100	158,600
Total	<u>\$ 737,100</u>	<u>\$ 740,600</u>

Insured Values

	<u>\$ 3,035,000</u>	<u>\$ 2,946,000</u>
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5. Deferred Revenue

The account balances reflect funds received from Pacific Mountain Region less current project expenses .

Family Project is a mid-week, family friendly, multigenerational, pilot project that offers 'church' a little differently than our Sunday morning service. Project funding has been approved for 2020 and 2021. The Camp Event was a weekend at Camp Koolaree in August. A decision on a camp for 2020 is under study

	<u>2019</u>					<u>2018</u>
	<u>Opening</u>	<u>Funding</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Returned</u>	<u>Net</u>	<u>Net</u>
Family Project	\$ (108)	\$ 2,741	\$ 2,119	\$ -	\$ 514	\$ -
Camp Event	511	3,012	2,467	1,056	-	511
Total	\$ 403	\$ 5,753	\$ 4,586	\$ 1,056	\$ 514	\$ 511

6. Thrift Store

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

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
Operating Accounts - 85%	\$ 19,550	\$ 21,845
Mission and Service - 15%	3,450	3,855
Total received from Thrift Store	<u>\$ 23,000</u>	<u>\$ 25,700</u>

7. Fundraising

	<u>2019</u>			<u>2018</u>
	<u>Sales</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Net</u>	<u>Net</u>
Lenten Lunch	\$ 330	\$ -	\$ 330	\$ 220
Spring into Spring	-	-	-	2,271
Garden Fest	672	-	672	432
Garage Sale	1,656	69	1,587	-
Pie Sale	6,310	1,292	5,018	5,034
Advent Baking	1221	-	1,221	1293
Signage Purchased	-	14	(14)	(195)
Total	\$ 10,189	\$ 1,375	\$ 8,814	\$ 9,055

2019 Lenten Lunch funds were allocated to M&S

All other fundraising funds allocated per Note 9.

8. Miscellaneous Income

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
Canada Helps	\$ -	\$ 480
Kootenay Presbytery	-	500
	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 980</u>

9. Fundraising Allocations

	<u>2019</u>		<u>2018</u>	
	<u>%</u>		<u>%</u>	
Camp Koolaree	29.5	\$ 2,500	30.6	\$ 2,768
Children's Choir	1.2	100	2.7	250
Anglican Church Warming Place	6.4	542		-
Castlegar Community Services	5.9	500		-
Castlegar Youth Band	2.9	250		-
Special Olympics	4.1	350		-
Stone Soup Kitchen	-	-	<u>16.7</u>	<u>1,510</u>
Subtotal	50.0	4,242	50.0	4,528
Operating	<u>50.0</u>	<u>4,242</u>	<u>50.0</u>	<u>4,527</u>
Total	<u>100.0</u>	<u>\$ 8,484</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>\$ 9,055</u>

10. Hearing Loop

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
Balance at January 1	\$ -	\$ -
Donations		
Heritage Credit Union	500	-
Central Kootenay Regional	979	-
UCC Foundation	<u>1,250</u>	=
- Subtotal Donations	<u>2,729</u>	=
Expenditures		
Equipment	<u>2,924</u>	=
- Subtotal Expenditures	<u>2,924</u>	=
Transfer to Operating Costs	<u>195</u>	=
Balance at December 31	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

Financials - Outreach Donations Remitted

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
UCC - M & S	\$ 16,171.10	\$ 15,703.00
Camp Koolaree	3,255.00	5,282.72
Stone Soup Kitchen	1,800.00	2,830.00
Harvest Food Bank	1,060.00	1,455.00
Castlegar Children's Choir	100.00	250.00
Christian Children Fund	20.00	15.00
Castlegar County Services	500.00	-
Special Olympics	350.00	-
Castlegar Youth Band	250.00	-
Anglican Church Warming Place	541.79	-
	<u>\$ 24,047.89</u>	<u>\$ 25,535.72</u>

Note - Totals include donations received plus fundraising allocations.

Financials - Proposed Budget for 2020

	2018 <u>Actual</u>	2019 <u>Actual</u>	2020 <u>Budget</u>
Donations and Receipts			
Identified Giving's	\$ 65,065	\$ 76,740	\$ 70,000
Loose Contribution	2,038	1,589	1,625
Interest	2,107	3,111	2,800
Observer Subscriptions	417	258	300
Weddings and Funerals	150	-	300
Catering	1,083	1,108	1,200
Rent	5,995	11,868	11,750
Thrift Store Note 7	21,845	19,550	21,000
Fundraising Note 8	9,055	8,814	8,000
Designated Receipts			
M&S Note 7	\$ 15,703	\$ 16,171	\$ 16,300
Stone Soup	1,320	1,800	1,800
Camp Koolaree	2,515	755	500
Harvest Food Bank	1,455	1,060	1,000
Family Project Note 5	2,437	2,741	2,200
Camp Event Note 5	2,400	2,663	-
Hearing Loop	-	2,729	-
Christian Children	<u>15</u> 25,845	<u>20</u> 27,939	- 21,800
Miscellaneous Note 9	<u>980</u>	-	-
Total Receipts and Income	<u>134,580</u>	<u>150,977</u>	<u>138,775</u>
Less Fundraising Allocation Note 10	4,528	4,572	4,000
Less Designated Funds	<u>25,845</u>	<u>27,938</u>	<u>21,800</u>
Total Operating Receipts	<u>104,207</u>	<u>118,467</u>	<u>112,975</u>
Education			
M&P	\$ 325	\$ 325	\$ 325
Observer	830	854	800
Presbytery	<u>4,444</u> 5,599	<u>5,505</u> 6,684	<u>6,000</u> 7,125
Building			
City Services	796	881	900
Cleaning	2,250	2,376	2,300
Insurance	5,793	7,096	7,800
Light/Power	1,245	1,387	1,350
Natural Gas	3,062	3,460	3,400
Maintenance	2,651	3,407	2,850
Snow Removal	<u>1,326</u> 17,123	<u>1,069</u> 19,676	<u>1,100</u> 19,700
Operating			
Bank & AP Fees	735	1,178	1,000
Communications	1,125	1,120	1,150
Music - Salary	6,171	6,899	8,200
- Supply	646	297	500
Secretary	5,195	4,645	4,800
Pastoral Supply	956	252	500
Benevolent Funding	309	302	500
Copier	387	412	400
Supplies	<u>3,443</u> 18,967	<u>3,906</u> 19,011	<u>4,000</u> 21,050
Ministry			
Education	1,000	1,340	1,442
Salary	54,673	58,440	59,506
Benefits	<u>11,404</u> <u>67,077</u>	<u>12,394</u> <u>72,174</u>	<u>12,652</u> <u>73,600</u>
Total Operating Expenses	<u>108,766</u>	<u>117,545</u>	<u>121,475</u>
Surplus (Deficit) for the Period	<u>\$ (4,559)</u>	<u>\$ 922</u>	<u>\$ (8,500)</u>