

# Lynn Valley United Church Annual Report



Stories Telling the Church's Mission

June 2019



3201 Mountain Highway, North Vancouver

[www.lynnvalleychurch.com](http://www.lynnvalleychurch.com)

# MISSION: IS POSSIBLE

Mission Statement  
for Lynn Valley United Church,  
adopted June 2018

...to engage people  
to become followers  
of Christ to make  
a difference in  
God's world.

## LVUC Staff

Ministers: Eric,  
Blair & Frank



|                              |                |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| Lead Minister                | Blair Odney    |
| Minister of Faith & Families | Eric Hamlyn    |
| Music Minister               | Frank Chu      |
| Building Manager             | Bruce Curtiss  |
| Children's Programs          | Jorden Liteplo |
| Office Administrator         | Kelly Jenner   |
| Musicians                    | Matt Grinke    |
|                              | Derek Maroney  |
| Bookkeeper                   | Anna B P       |
| Janitorial Maintenance       | Niki Karmali   |

## LVUC Board

Chair (Board Elected)  
Recording Secretary  
Members at Large:

Shauna Grinke \*  
Judith Clark  
Leslie Hemmings  
Len Grinke  
Rob Fee (*resigned*) \*  
Marion Kirk  
Walter Wright \*  
Blair Odney

'Ex Officio' Member



The 'Board'

## Trustees & Officers

|                       |                   |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Trustees              | Judith Clark*     |
|                       | Roger Eastwood    |
|                       | Jill Sacre        |
|                       | Walter Wright     |
| 'Ex Officio' Member   | Blair Odney       |
| Treasurer             | Stan Strilchuk    |
| Ministry & Personnel  | Sheila Fee        |
|                       | Shari Gardiner    |
|                       | Jennifer Eastwood |
| Regional Council Reps | Jennifer Eastwood |
|                       | Judith Clark      |
| Volunteer Coordinator | Bruce Curtiss     |

## Team Leaders

|                                   |                   |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Worship Team                      | Blair Odney       |
| Pastoral Care Team                | Wendy Watson      |
| Music Team                        | Frank Chu         |
| Social Justice & Outreach         | Carol Sawyer      |
| Building Operations Team          | Bruce Curtiss     |
| Finance Team                      | Roger Eastwood    |
| LV Center for Spiritual Practices | Eric Hamlyn       |
| Promotion & Communication Team    | Shauna Grinke     |
| Children & Families Team          | Marilyn Mann      |
| Friday Night Live                 | Len Grinke        |
|                                   | & Shauna Grinke   |
| Affirming Ministry Committee      | TBA               |
| Hospitality Team                  | Marion Kirk       |
| Seekers Women's Group             | Shared Leadership |
| Worship Visuals/ Banners          | Myrna Pearce      |

\* this symbol represents people who are completing their terms, with elections filling the position.

# Selected Statistical Information for Lynn Valley United



The database: now holds 688 names (22% ↑)

Facebook: 150 followers, average reach of 500/ week  
(5% ↑ of followers & 35% ↑ in reach)

eNews: 273 subscribers (11% ↑)

Website Data: 33K page views this year  
10K new users  
3.1K returning users  
(all numbers very similar to last year)

I have to say that your community programming is above and beyond what I have seen at any church.

Madeline Miskie, Choral Workshop Facilitator



## The Congregation welcomed a new member (UCC) to LVUC

Nov 25 -Leslie Hemmings

## & promised support through Baptism....



Oct 7 - Mila Audrey VanNes



## People got Married....

Aug 1-Jeong Su & Neil

Aug 29-Alicia & Samuel

Oct 14-Craig & Stephen

Jan 20-Tristan & Jacob

## & LVUC hosted Memorial Services...



Oct 22 -Louise Porter

Jan 12 -Richard Evans

April 6 -Dianne St Pierre

## Children Youth & Families Number to Celebrate!

41 Children Attending Church 'Regularly' (25% ↑)

27 Families (39 kids, 26 parents, 30 volunteers & 10 adult participants)  
served through Eat, Pray Love! (45% ↑)

25 Attended Kids Drumming Program for at least 4 sessions (+ some that only tried it once!)

34 Attending Young Adult Worship Night (with leadership from young adults of LVUC!)



## 💰 Statistics That People Count On 💰

| Categories                         | 2016      | 2017                 | 2018      |
|------------------------------------|-----------|----------------------|-----------|
| Identified Givers                  | 59        | 63                   | 65        |
| Envelope Giving                    | \$32,060  | \$15,462             | \$17,842  |
| Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR)    | \$73,650  | \$88,904             | \$92,240  |
| Loose Offering & Other Donations   | \$3,600   | \$28,451             | \$55,404  |
| Donations Given to Other Charities | \$8,372   | \$17,500             | \$121,098 |
| Donations to Mission & Service     | \$5,975   | \$6,233 (correction) | \$6,747   |
| Funds from Capital/ Redevelopment  | \$207,500 | \$170,000            | \$224,338 |

\* The proposed budget for 2019/2020 is currently under review and awaiting Board of Governance approval. Digital versions of this Annual Report will be updated to include this financial details, with a printed copy available from the church office Thursday, June 13 and from the Info Hub on Sunday, June 16. The budget will be voted on at the AGM.

# Message from LVUC's Board of Governance

Hello, Lynn Valley United Community of Faith –

***Our Mission: to engage people to become followers of Christ to make a difference in God's world.***

This has been our second full year of operations in our beautiful building, and it has been a year of growth and continued learning. The Board is grateful for the work of the previous Boards – who completed the challenging work of drafting the Mission Strategy and approving the recommendations for our staffing model. Both of these important pieces of work have been instrumental in the achievements we can reflect on and celebrate this now.

The Mission Strategy identified the following measures by which we would assess the success of our mission: we would see cross-portal engagement, leadership and discipleship development, hospitality, and volunteer development.

Successes in these areas would result in annual congregational growth and revenue increases – and transformed lives that make a difference in God's word.

I think what you are doing here is changing the world!  
- Olivia, CP participant

We had a goal of retiring the diminishing structural funding deficit within 10 years, and we are on a clear trajectory for that to happen. This is what we've noticed in the past year:

- We saw leadership and volunteer development throughout the teams and programs. One example of this is the completed construction of a school in Guatemala that was still just a drawing and a dream a year ago. A lunch program funded LVUC donors is now fully funded by the local government. The work this congregation inspired in Guatemala has truly made a difference in God's world – and travelling to the community of Chwitziribal has transformed lives of people of this community of faith
- We have formed a committed team of volunteers who are embarking on the work of this congregation becoming an affirming ministry, making LVUC the first United Church on the North Shore to engage in this work, and one of 20 in the province.
- Volunteers have sought out consultants, and are now working with staff to create a report addressing a new phase of the building evolution, addressing improvements needed in some areas.
- People shared their stories of personal transformation in Waves, NEXT, worship, at FNL, book studies, and across other portals.
- The number of people connected to experiences at Lynn Valley United has increased this year by 3% - children in children's church, youth in Young Adults Worship Night, FNL raising funds for Social Justice initiatives, the growth and excitement around Eat, Play, Love, powerful Reconciliation experiences through the Blanket exercise, book study, and movie nights.
- We have welcomed 68 new people into our community of faith, with 20 of these now attending regularly. This is an 11% increase in the worshipping community. While other congregations are reporting declining numbers – statistic show that this community of faith is growing.
- Without including donations to the Guatemala School Project, there has been a 19% increase in contributions received. This important measurement is a clear indication that people value their experience here.

It has truly been a remarkable year of growth and learning. I'm grateful for my fellow Board members: Judith Clark, Marion Kirk, Rob Fee, Leslie Hemmings, Len Grinke, and Walter Wright as we explored possibilities and decisions together. I'm grateful for the staff who dedicate their gifts to this beautiful community of faith. We're blessed with dedicated volunteers in all of our portals. I'm honored to have had the opportunity to serve in leadership in this phase of our growth.

Many blessings, Shauna Grinke, Chair Board of Governance

# Our Stories Connect Us

Stories distill unique human experiences into a shared, common understanding. For those on the Christian path, bible stories and scripture continue to offer relevance and wisdom illustrated in lives enriched through gratitude, compassion, contemplation, inclusion, service, justice and belief. In the same way, sharing the stories of the ministry of Lynn Valley United through the past year illustrates a community striving to create an inclusive space for people to deepen their understanding of a life modeled on Christ's teaching.

"The unexamined life is not worth living, but the un-lived life is not worth examining."

— Andrew Klavan, From 'The Great Good Thing: A Secular Jew Comes to Faith in Christ'

It is believed that wherever people are on their faith journey, lives transformed by an encounter with Christ make a difference in the world because they have examined their lives through the lens of gratitude, compassion, contemplation, inclusion, service, justice and belief. Integrating the new mission statement this year, all teams and groups explored what it meant in their work, study and programming to apply those simple, bold words. The stories of Lynn Valley United story for this year reflect the many approaches to the mission – with the common goal of making a difference in the world.

One of the first initiatives enacted this year was to reach out to "seekers" - people interested in learning about faith in a world where faith is often portrayed as 'irrelevant'. Offering ongoing, short sermon series opened up a new and continuous opportunity to invite others to join in asking life's big questions, and add their curiosity and wisdom. Every group and team, from Worship to Waves, was encouraged to invite participants to their next thing (meeting, event, program, service, etc...), creating an organization-wide "culture of invitation."

Speaking of next thing, a regular welcome event for newcomers at LVUC was introduced to let folks know more about what's what at LVUC. "NEXT" built on the 'culture of invitation' strategy, and rather than merely being an "info-mercial" for the church, NEXT has evolved into an opportunity to gather people in conversations that let them share the stories of transformation in their lives and how that makes a difference in the world.

Another systemic change this year to integrate the new mission was to ask all teams and groups to look at how their groups, events and programs support the mission statement. This way the organization, as a whole, is pulling towards the same objective- to make a difference in God's world.

All of this is happening while the United Church of Canada also undertakes a major organizational shift by eliminating the Presbytery level of governance and redrawing boundaries for newly formed Regional Councils. As our minister, Blair Odney is President Elect for the Pacific Mountain Regional Council, we get to observe these changes unfold up-close.

Lynn Valley United continues to strive for sustainability in all areas of ministry - paying attention to measuring the health of the organization and watching for a trajectory of growth. To be ready for that growth, this year saw the addition of Eric Hamlyn as Minister for Faith and Families and Bruce Curtiss as Volunteer Coordinator and Building Manager, achieving a staffing goal 2 years in the making. The current staff complement responds to the congregation's desired extraordinary resources and ongoing priority to children, youth and families as well as to fostering and building on the community relationships that allow us to truly make a difference in God's world.

*True faith in growing your community is when elders plant trees in whose shade they know they shall never sit.*  
~ Anonymous Greek Proverb

# Message from the Ministers

## Dear Friends of Lynn Valley United

In the very first chapter of the gospel of John, as Jesus calls his disciples, we get to see the call to create an “invitational culture” in action. John the Baptist says to two of his followers, there is the “Lamb of God.” And they follow Jesus to where he is staying. One of those is Andrew, the brother of Peter – the sons of Zebedee. After Andrew meets Jesus, he tells Peter. When Peter meets Jesus, he tells Philip who was from the same town as Andrew and Peter. The story unfolds:

*“The next day Jesus wanted to go into Galilee, and he found Philip. Jesus said to him, “Follow me.” Philip was from Bethsaida, the hometown of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law and the Prophets: Jesus, Joseph’s son, from Nazareth.” Nathanael responded, “Can anything from Nazareth be good?” Philip said, “Come and see.” Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said about him, “Here is a genuine Israelite in whom there is no deceit.” Nathanael asked him, “How do you know me?” Jesus answered, “Before Philip called you, I saw you under the fig tree.” Nathanael replied, “Rabbi, you are God’s Son. You are the king of Israel.” John 1:43-49*

Look at what happens. Ordinary people have an experience of Jesus, who invites them to follow. They follow and immediately invite others to join the journey. And what I notice, is that the time between hearing about Jesus, and meeting him and being invited to join the journey seems to be very short. There is something so compelling about their Jesus experience, so life-changing, that they can’t help but join the journey and invite others to come along.

This is the narrative that has begun to take shape at Lynn Valley United this past year. We have discovered how we have been shaped and changed and healed by the living Christ. We have discovered that the light of Christ, symbolized for us every Sunday as our children light the candle in worship, is so engaging, so gracious, so loving, that we find a place here, just as we are. We are discovering what it means when we hear Christ say “I came that they might have life and have it abundantly.” And we are called to invite people onto this life-changing path. This call has become so insistent that we have adopted a brand new mission: “The mission of Lynn Valley United Church is to engage people to become followers of Christ to make a difference in God’s World.”

This Annual Report tells the story of how we are living into this mission. It tells a story of the abundance that Christ promises. I’m grateful that I get to serve in this noble mission with my colleagues who have also joined the journey – Eric, Frank, Kelly, Bruce, Jorden, Matt, Niki. I’m grateful to the Board of Governance for their wise stewarding of this mission and for the congregation who will go from this place inviting others.

May God continue to richly bless Lynn Valley United Church.  
S. Blair Odney, Lead Minister



*Thank you for what was one of the most moving Good Friday services I have attended.*

- Sally McShane

## Hello Faithful Ones!

I am so grateful that you and God agreed to call me to minister among you as your Minister of Faith & Families. It feels so right to be here and so fully engaged in this ministry together. I have learned so much from you already and am appreciative of your grace as I continue to learn and grow among you. Your confidence in who you are, and what you offer, as a truly welcoming Community of Faith is a beautiful thing to behold, and to be part of. The faithful work you have done, and the deep conversations we have had together, around living into Lynn Valley United’s Mission has been truly inspiring and I’m honored and excited to be part of this.

My Sunday morning “Blanket Time” with the children has been such a fun time of learning for me and hopefully also for them. Thanks again amazing quilters for this beautiful gift which has added so much to the way we meet and interact with God’s message for us.

I’m grateful for the times we create and worship together, for Centering Prayer in the Sacred Space, for Labyrinth walks, for times to Eat & Play & Love, for the community that gathers for Kid’s Drum Circle, for YAWN (Young Adult Worship Night) and for both the CYFM (Children, Youth & Families Ministry) Team and the Spiritual Practices Team who supports so much of the ministry I get to be involved in! You are good people and I give God thanks for you, for your commitment and your gifts!

Appreciatively, Eric Hamlyn, Minister of Faith & Families