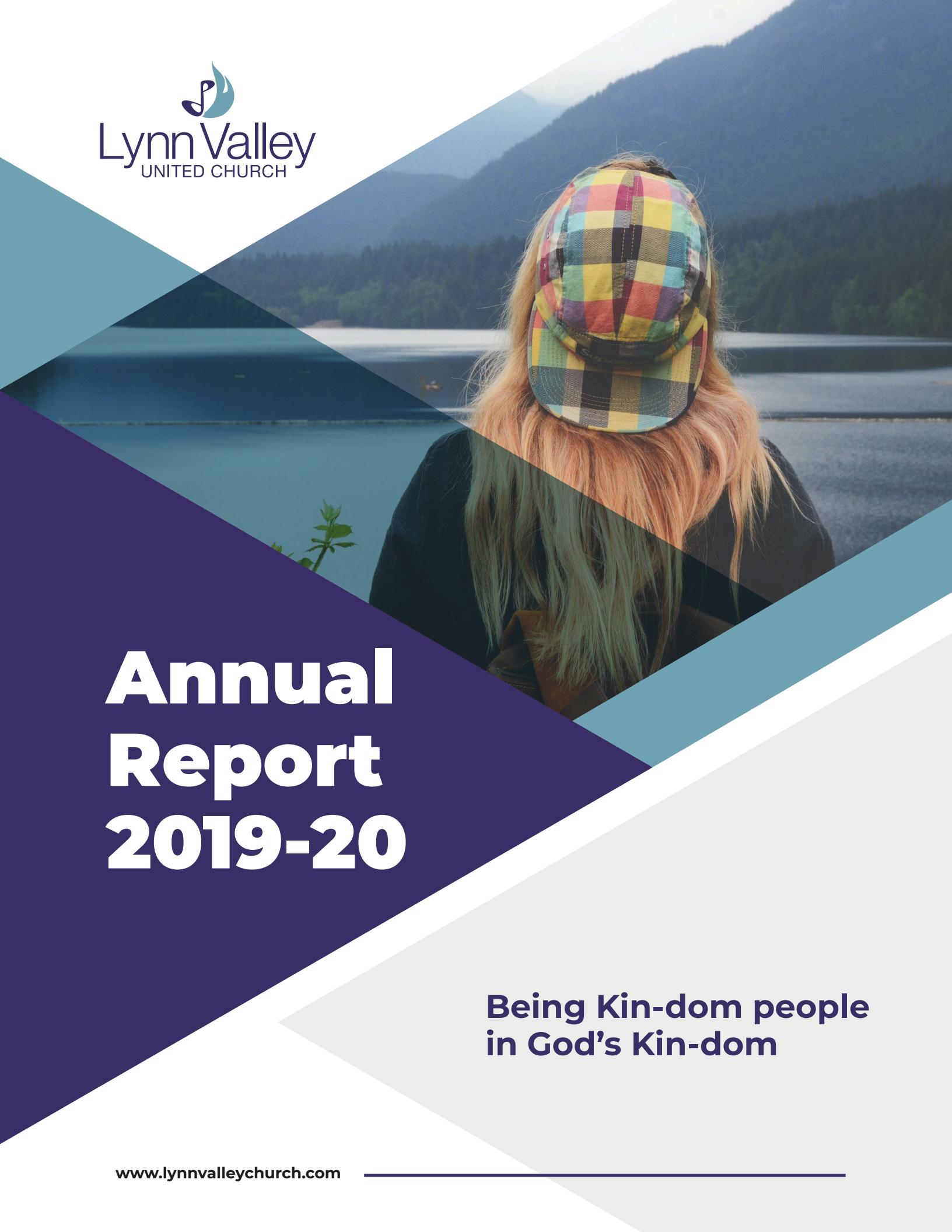




Annual Report 2019-20

A photograph of a person from behind, wearing a colorful plaid baseball cap and a dark jacket. They have long, light-colored hair. The background shows a large body of water and forested mountains under a cloudy sky.

**Being Kin-dom people
in God's Kin-dom**

**We sing of a church
Seeking to continue the
story of Jesus by embodying
Christ's presence in the
world.¹**

”



Called to be the United Church of Canada presence in the community of Lynn Valley in North Vancouver, the mission of Lynn Valley United Church is:

**To engage people to
be followers of Christ
to make a difference
in God's world.**

1. A Song of Faith, adopted in 2006, seeks to provide a verbal picture of what The United Church of Canada understands its faith to be in the historical, political, social, and theological context of the early 21st century. It is also a means of ongoing reflection and an invitation for the church to live out its convictions in relation to the world in which we live.



LVUC Staff



Rev. S. Blair Odney
Lead Minister



Rev. Eric Hamlyn
Minister of Faith and Families



Frank Chu
Music Minister

Moana Hartigan
Manager of Office Operations

Anna BP
Bookkeeper

Matt Grinke
Musician

Jorden Liteplo
Children's Programs

Niki Karmali
Caretaker

James Dekker
Musician

Bruce Curtiss
Building/Volunteer Coordinator
(July 1 – November 30)

Kelly Jenner
Office Administrator
(July 1 – November 30)

Derek Maroney
Musician

People of LVUC

LVUC Board of Governance

Elected by the Congregation

Chair

Shauna Grinke

Recording Secretary

Judith Clark

Members:

Neil Fancourt, Len Grinke, Wendy Harris,
Leslie Hemmings, Marion Kirk

LVUC Nominating Committee 2020

Board of Trustees/ Board of Governance Committees

Elected by the Congregation

Appointed by the Board

Trustees

Judith Clark, Roger Eastwood, Walter Wright,
Jill Sacre

Ministry and Personnel

Shari Gardiner, Jennifer Eastwood, Sheila Fee

Policy Committee

Judith Clark, Wendy Harris

Affirming Ministry Committee

Kane Schutz, Neil Fancourt, Jennifer Eastwood,
Myrna Pearce, Blair Odney

Regional Council Representatives

Jennifer Eastwood, Judith Clark

Team Leaders

Comprising the Leadership Circle

Accountable to the Lead Minister

Worship Team/Visuals

Blair Odney, Myrna Pearce

Pastoral Care Team

Wendy Watson

Music Team

Frank Chu

Social Justice & Outreach Team

Carol Sawyer

Building Operations Team

Wendy Watson

Finance Team

Roger Eastwood, Stan Strilchuk

Promotion/Communication Team

Shauna Grinke

Spiritual Practices Team

Eric Hamlyn

Children, Youth and Families Team

Marilyn Mann

Hospitality Team

Niki Karmali

Friday Night Live Team

Len Grinke

Seekers Women's Group

Shared

Engaging people to be followers, to be kin-dom people



2019-2020

"Once, on being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, '*The coming of the kingdom of God is not something that can be observed, nor will people say, 'Here it is,' or 'There it is,' because the kingdom of God is in your midst.*' Luke 17:20, 21 CEB

This text from Luke's gospel reminds us that the kin-dom of God is already in our midst. In the disciples' prayer we call out for God's kin-dom to come, even as Jesus declares it to be here already, within the body that gathers in his name. And as the apostle Paul asserts in the letter to the church in Rome, the kin-dom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Engaging people to be followers of Christ, then is engaging them to be in the holy adventure of being God's kin-dom people which is about righteousness, peace and joy, empowered by God's Spirit.

That adventure begins in Sunday worship; the week by week experience where

followers of the living Christ gathering to give God thanks and praise. At Lynn Valley United, worship is where we encounter a choice between love and fear, where we sing, tell the story, break the bread and find joy in the liturgies and sacraments that knit us together. And when Passing of Christ's peace takes longer than the opening songs of praise, there is a buoyant sense of unity in spite of our differences.

Kin-dom people meet others where they are. Weary, grieving, anxious, joy-filled, jubilant. Whoever you are, wherever you're at on your journey, kin-dom people have extended the commissioning of Sunday morning into the remainder of the week. NEXT, Centering Prayer, Yoga, Children's Drumming, Soul Spa, Choir, Friday Night Live, Waves scripture study, Membership programs, and Social Justice programs of reconciliation and healing. Each of these programs has been offered faithfully and with joy throughout the past year – encouraging people to deepen the

practices of their Christian faith. This invitation is finding particular expression in our commitment to Reconciliation and Right Relationship with our First Nations brothers and sisters, as well as to the LGBTQ2s community as we explore the call to becoming an Affirming ministry of the United Church of Canada.

When engaging people to be followers of Christ to make a difference in God's is our mission, we measure our movement forward by a number of factors: increases in volunteer involvement, leadership growth and development, cross-portal engagement, deepening of discipleship practices. When we are intentional about these measures, we believe we will be able to count annual growth in membership and in donations in revenue; not for the sake of growth but for the sake of the peace and joy that comes with more and more people

being empowered by the Spirit. The evidence for these measurements to be effective is seen in the results of this year; despite a COVID19 pandemic. Ten people have joined by baptism or re-affirmation of faith, and tithes and offerings are substantially higher than budget.

All of this comes as we say good bye to the Rev. S. Blair Odney, our Lead Minister who has faithfully served this congregation for nearly 11 years. When called, we asked Blair to lead us into a new relationship with the community of Lynn Valley. Eleven years of change, growth and development have led us to new and exciting opportunities to be kin-dom people in Lynn Valley and throughout the North Shore.

For all of this thanks be to God.

**Kin-dom people meet others where they are.
Weary, grieving, anxious, joy-filled, jubilant.
Whoever you are, wherever you're at on your
journey, kin-dom people have extended the
commissioning of Sunday morning into the
remainder of the week.**

‘ ’

Message from the LVUC Board of Governance



To thrive in times of uncertainty requires us to have a strong foundation in that which is not changing.

”

Shauna Grinke Board Chair

What an incredible year of learning and change. As I reflect on the past 12 months, I continue to be inspired by how we are continuously progressing towards the future we've imagined, how this community shows love and compassion, embraces a new way of being church, and pulls together to support each other. For me, being Kin-dom people means continuously developing the practice of living into the prayer, '*Your kingdom come. Your will be done. On earth as it is in heaven*' (Matthew 6:10)... and applying this wisdom in our daily lives and in our way of being as a community of faith.

To thrive in times of uncertainty requires us to have a strong foundation in that which is not changing – the unshakable knowledge of who we are and whose we are, our commitment to our shared purpose, our values of being in right relationship with one another, and being allies to those who find themselves as "others".

Additionally, these times of change call for creativity and courage. As Julian of Norwich has taught us, 'all shall be well ... for there is a force of love moving through the universe that holds us fast and will never let us go.' For the past three months, we have adapted to gathering in a different way, staying connected with creativity, courage and compassion. And we are called to continue to dig deep and stay faithful as the change continues. As we imagine the future of our community of faith, we don't expect a 'new normal' to 'arrive'; we expect a 'next normal', which will inevitably shift again.

But, 'we got this'! This is a community of faith, that 11 years ago, invited a new minister in to lead us into a time of transition. That minister, Blair Odney, inspired us to consider 'what would be different'. A faithful group had already formed a Property Redevelopment Committee, and then, a scarce few years ago, we bulldozed our 1959 version of a church building, and embarked on a 2-year adventure, where we set up and dismantled our worship gathering space in a community centre every week. Over that two years, we had small gatherings in homes. We hosted choir practice at multiple locations. We couldn't have imagined that we would have survived and thrived through that uncertainty. But we did. And we became closer as a community. We thrived. We grew our faith. And now, people within the Lynn Valley community are noticing the energy and spirit in this place. We did become different. And, we continue to evolve **to engage people to be followers of Christ to make a difference in God's world.**

As we have changed and grown the capacity to invite others into this community, we know we can thrive in the changes that are now in front of us. Although the leaving of **Rev. Blair Odney** is sad for us, we are delighted that **Rev. Debra Bowman** will be walking with us as we embark on the journey to find the new Minister who will support us in the next phase of our evolution as a community.

It has truly been a remarkable year of growth and learning. I'm grateful for my fellow Board members: Judith Clark, Marion Kirk, Wendy Harris, Neil Fancourt, Leslie Hemmings, and Len Grinke 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 on all of the various teams. And, on behalf of the Board and this Community of Faith, I want to offer my deep appreciation for all Blair has done to help us see ourselves as who we are: Kin-dom people. The beloved children of God. Infinitely gifted with the capacity to truly make a difference in God's world.

I'm honoured to have had the opportunity to serve in leadership at this time, with these people.

Many blessings,
Shauna Grinke, Chair Board of Governance



*On behalf of the Board and this
Community of Faith, I want to offer
my deep appreciation for all Blair has
done to help us see ourselves as who
we are: Kin-dom people.*

Message from the Ministers

Lead Minister – Rev. S. Blair Odney

Dearest friends,

The time has come to offer my final report to you, at the end of nearly 11 years in ministry together. I am overwhelmed at the task. How does more than a decade of imagining, storytelling, singing, praying, arguing, sharing, loving be summed up in words that will have any coherence or relevance? The past is a construct, something we think happened, filled with inaccuracies and inconsistencies. The future is another construct, an imaginary picture that may or may not happen depending on a myriad of factors. The present, this very moment, as I write and you read, is where we connect to what is. The beingness of now is really all that exists for sure.

For me what exists in this moment, is a relationship of love that has grown from the moment Myrna Pearce called to say “we want you to be our minister.” What exists is a relationship of grace that has moved through tumult, excitement, fear, and unfolding, like the petals of a lotus flower opening, and opening and opening. What exists is a relationship of hope that takes us from this moment, to all other future moments when we hear God’s words “you are my beloved, with whom I’m well pleased.” When this is true now, it will be true in whatever future we imagine. For the one who is most faithful is God.

I leave you with the words from Paul in his first letter to the church in Corinth:
“For now, we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. 13 And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.”

You have been my greatest teachers. You have been my greatest supporters. You have been my greatest mentors and I leave having come through a refining fire. I want to acknowledge members of the staff past and present who have shaped and guided my journey - Mary Yan, Steve Munshaw, Amy Stephen, Kelly Jenner, Lori Chang-Shivji, Christine Davis, Christina



Kinch, Sophia Ducey, Rhian Walker, Kimiko Karpoff and especially Matt Grinke, Jorden Liteplo, Moana Hartigan, Frank Chu and Eric Hamlyn. You have made this the richest work experience of my life and I'm deeply grateful.

To the members of the Board of Governance, Board of Trustees, committees and teams who have responded to the call to lead God's people into kin-dom being, I express my humble thanks. Together we have been on a remarkable journey of re-discovery. I am thrilled with what we have done together. I am enthralled by what we have become.

With much love

Blair

Minister for Faith and Families – Rev. Eric Hamlyn

Hello Beautiful People of God!

I'm inspired today, especially during the weight of this global pandemic and the recent unjust happenings in the world, by one of my favourite passages from Micah 6:8. I love, and am inspired by, the wording of this passage as translated in The Message (The Bible in contemporary language):

*"Do what is fair and just to your neighbour,
be compassionate and loyal in your love,
and don't take yourself too seriously
- take God seriously."*

Best advice EVER! This is how God wants us to live. This is what God wants us to do. Only this. It's quite simple actually. I explored this passage this morning with about 30 colleagues from across the country in an online course I'm doing called "The Spirituality of Play!"



Message from the Ministers continued

The good news is that even though the honeymoon is over, I'm still thrilled, energized and grateful to be among you in ministry. I still count my blessings each day that you and God called me to ministry here at Lynn Valley United. You truly are a welcoming Community of Faith and I love seeing that lived out in this place of worship.

I'm grateful for the teams I get to work with, for the creative ministry we get to do together, and for my colleagues Blair, Frank, Jorden, Moana & Niki.

Thank you Blair for bringing me to this place and I wish you many blessings on this next part of your faith journey. You have done some beautiful, inspiring, effective ministry here, and this community will miss you. We send you on your way with gratitude and love.

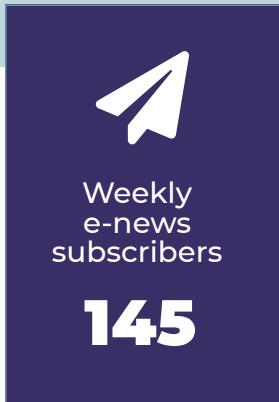
And I'll close with the same final line from my last year's report because it's still true: "You are good people and I give God thanks for you, for your commitment and your gifts!"

Appreciatively,

Eric



Highlights by the numbers



Reach is the total number of impressions of a LVUC social post. It does not represent actual views of Sunday services.

The year at a glance



July 2019

Neil & Kane were married at LVUC July 20

November 2019

Welcomed Ulrich William Zuidema

March 2020

The Covid19 Pandemic prevented LVUC from celebrating Helen Bloom's Memorial. To be re-scheduled when safe to do so.

April 2020

Welcomed Briar Eleanor Liteplo

May 2020

The Congregation Welcomed Ten New Members:

Mauricio Araujo, Joseph Catlin, Neil Fancourt, Victoria Fawkes, Sam Frederick, Wendy Harris, Krista Kivisild, Kane Schutz, Atena Afagh Razmpoush, Veronica Winchester-Catlin. Baptisms and laying on of hands to follow

June 2020

Celebrating the wedding of Frank Chu and Geoffrey Dice on June 20

Weekly average video views of Sunday services

350

Since March

Tithes & Offerings

Category	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020
1 Identified Givers	63	65	75
2 Canada Helps Contributions	0	\$5,800	\$12,500
3 Envelope Giving	\$15,462	\$17,842	\$19,500
4 Pre-Authorized Remittance PAR	\$88,904	\$92,240	\$102,675
5 Loose Offering/Other	\$28,451	\$55,404*	\$14,303
6 Funds from the Legacy Fund	\$170,000	\$224,338	\$227,100

*Loose Offering and other donations last year include the extraordinary funds donated to the Guatemala School project.



**...I came that they
may have life, and
have it abundantly.**

”



*To engage people to be followers of Christ
to make a difference in God's world.*



3201 Mountain Highway,
North Vancouver, BC

www.lynnvalleychurch.com