

# Como Lake United Church

We are Christ's caring community,  
connecting people with God and with one another,  
answering God's call and making a difference.

## **ANNUAL REPORTS**



January 1, 2019 - December 31, 2019

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**Our Purpose:**

We are Christ's caring community  
connecting people with God and with one another  
answering God's call and making a difference.

**Our Vision:**

We are joy-filled people  
connected to our purpose  
committed to one another  
growing in faith and discipleship.

**Our Core Values, rooted in Love:**

**Faith** – We live, grow and share faith in God as revealed in Jesus Christ:  
faith that feeds the heart and soul.

**Connecting** – We joyfully connect with God, one another and community in ways that nurture belonging, communion and a sense of purpose.

**Caring** – We lovingly care for one another and the community spiritually, physically, and relationally.

**Generosity** – We generously give energy, time, talent and treasure for the good of others out of gratitude for God's gifts.

**Respect** – We respect God, humanity and all creation in ways that embrace unity in diversity.

**Our Approach to Ministry:**

Within a spectrum of spiritual expression, we invite people to enter into and deepen their relationship with God as disciples of Jesus Christ in the context of a vibrant, healthy community of faith. We nurture individuals as they grow in their relationship with God and one another within a small group ministry and through the practices of regular prayer, worship, interacting with scripture, service, spiritual friendships, and giving. In this we embody the spectrum of the 5 marks of the church: worship, teaching and learning, sharing our faith, building loving relationships/community, and service.

### **Congregational Covenant**

As a member/adherent of the congregation of Christ's disciples known as Como Lake United Church, I covenant to keep God at the centre of all I say and do by.....

- seeking to create a positive and unifying atmosphere in the life of the congregation;
- providing a safe environment for worship, work and study for all;
- allowing for, and encouraging, full and equitable participation of all people in the congregation in accordance with the stated purpose, vision and philosophy of ministry;
- showing interest in the well being of others through genuine inquiry and acts of loving consideration and kindness;
- welcoming a respectful exchange of ideas, even those that seem to be in conflict;
- listening carefully, without interruption;
- listening with an open, non judgemental mind to the words and ideas of others;
- saying what I feel sincerely and gently;
- focusing on finding solutions rather than placing blame;
- speaking only for myself, and not on behalf of “nameless others”;
- speaking directly to one who has hurt or offended me, with the sincere hope of sharing the peace of Christ with them; (If I am unable to do so then I will seek the assistance of the Minister or Ministry and Personnel committee)
- encouraging others to speak directly to those they may have issue with; (see above)
- refraining from intimidating others with my words or body language;
- channelling my concerns to the appropriate committee or unit;
- honouring decisions made by the congregation and by the leadership of the Como Lake United Church Board, Westminster Presbytery, B.C. Conference, and the General Council of the United Church of Canada;
- acknowledging that any ministry of which I am a part of, is a part of the whole ministry of this congregation and that I am accountable for it to the Church Boards.

### **Covenant for Board, Trustee or Committee/Team Member**

If I accept responsibilities of leadership in this congregation – as a member of a committee, and/or the Board or as a Trustee I further covenant to:

- demonstrate my Christian leadership and commitment to Christ's church by my example;
- worship regularly with the congregation of Como Lake United Church;
- support the congregation's ministers and staff, so their efforts can be most productive;
- work and pray to discover what is best for our congregation as a whole, not what might be best for me, or for some small group in the church;
- support the final decision of the leadership group of which I am a part, whether it reflects my view or not, and make attending the meetings of the leadership group a high priority.

I commit to respectfully and lovingly hold myself and others in the congregation to keep this covenant with each other, with the wider church, and with God. (Basis of Union 5.10.1(2)).

**Como Lake United Church - Governance Structure 2019**     **Draft 2, October 2019** – Draft 1 with names and PMRC added

**Como Lake United Church Congregation – in Covenant with Pacific Mounatin Regional Council (PMRC)**  
 Gathers to explore faith, worship, and serve  
 Elects the governing body, M&P members and Trustees, approves the budget  
 Accountable to Christ and the discerned purpose, values, vision, and approach to ministry of CLUC, and PMRC

**Governing Body - VPC Vision and Planning Council (VPC)**  
 A total of 8-10 members  
 (Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer plus 5-7 members-at-large)  
 Meets monthly plus 1-2 discernment retreats per year.  
 Accountable to the Congregation and UCC

- Articulates the vision and mission of CLUC (Who do we want to be? What kind of good (ministry) do we want to do, for whom and at what cost? What will we measure?)
- Sets long term goals and priorities and holds the ministry accountable to the vision and mission (through policies)
- Holds fiduciary responsibility for the resources of CLUC
- Maintains and grounds itself in regular practices or prayer, discernment, and study in exercise of its responsibilities

*Sharie Ford, Patt Green, Linda Hof, Ralph Johnston, Susan Kennedy, Barb Mendt, Valerie Simpson, Rev. Jan*

**Representatives to Pacific Mounatin Regional Council**  
*Mindy Lane, Marilyn McCutcheon*

**Ministry & Personnel Committee**  
 3-4 members  
 Elected by Congregation  
 Meets 4 or more times per year  
 Accountable to the VPC  
 Oversees and supports the relationship between the Lead Minister and the VPC  
 See Manual B.7.8.5 for more info  
*John Cashore, George Elgstrand, Angie Neville, Verna Ranger*

**Board of Trustees**  
 3-5 members - elected by Congregation - Meets quarterly.  
 Accountable to the VPC and UCC  
 Holds all congregational property for the congregation as part of the UCC, acts on the direction of the VPC, complies with all decisions about congregational property that are made by the VPC and the Regional Council  
 See Manual G3 for more info  
*John Cashore, Sharie Ford, Mindy Lane, Peter Linton, Eric Ranger, Rev. Jan*

**Lead Minister** *Rev. Jan*  
 Accountable to the VPC and UCC Office Of Vocation  
 Works with the VPC and Congregation to help them see and articulate God's ongoing vision for CLUC  
 Guides congregation in intentionally living out its common purpose, values, vision, and approach to ministry  
 Ensures that programs and practices are in line with the common purpose, values, vision, approach to ministry

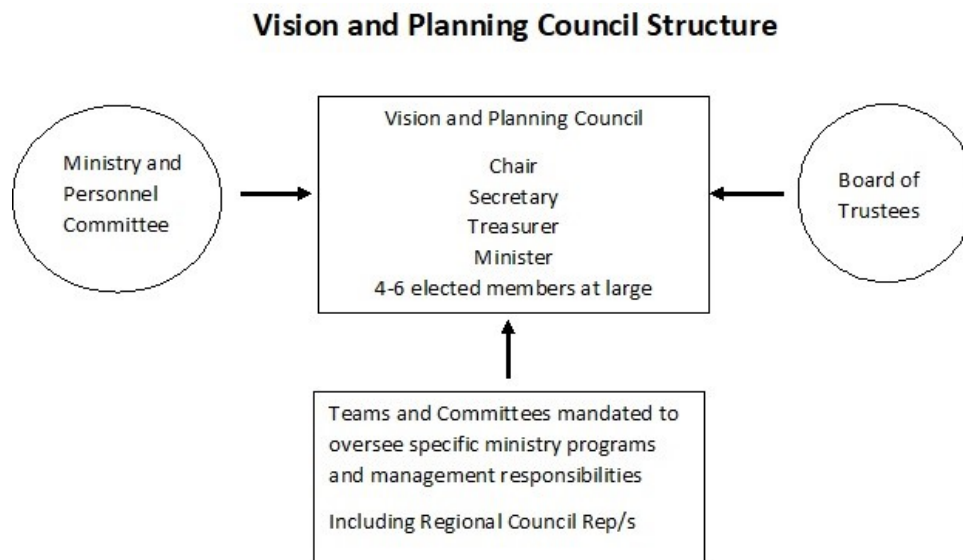
**Congregational Teams (Ministries/Groups) and Individuals**  
 Christ's caring community connecting people with God and with one another, answering God's call, and making a difference.  
 Accountable to the VPC through the Lead Minister and yearly conversations with VPC  
 Supports and lives out the articulated vision and mission of CLUC through teams.

## Proposed Governance Structure – for Presentation at the AGM February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019

Time frame: It is proposed that Como Lake United do a trial of a new governance model for 2 years, with regular review and adjustments as needed. The trial model will be presented at the 2019 Annual General Meeting in preparation for congregational approval in late February. At the end of two years, Council will bring a final version to the congregation for approval.

Name of Governing Body: Vision and Planning Council

Modeled on a “streamline board” as per the UCC models of board governance / manual



### Description:

The Vision and Planning Council (hereafter referred to as **VPC**) will be the Governing Body of Como Lake United Church and fulfill all of the responsibilities of a governing body as outlined in the Manual of the United Church (current edition), and be subject to the bylaws of the Manual of the United Church (See Manual 2019 B.7 0)

The Vision and Planning Council will be elected by the congregation at the Annual Congregational Meeting.

It will consist of a Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, the member of the order of ministry who has been called or appointed to the pastoral charge, and 4-6 members at large, for a total of 8-10 members. The Congregation will also elect an M&P committee (3-4 members) and a Board of Trustees (3-5 members).

The initial terms of Office will be 2 years, and, pending the outcome of this trial period, members may be re-elected for subsequent terms after the final version is approved.

All organizations and groups in the congregation or pastoral charge are accountable to the governing body. This includes all management and ministry teams/committees of Como Lake United Church. The VPC exercises this governing authority through the development of policy and mandates for the committees/teams.

### **Purpose of the Vision and Planning Council:**

The VPC has three primary functions:

- To articulate the vision and mission of Como Lake United Church
- To set long term goals and priorities and hold the ministry accountable to the vision and mission of Como Lake United Church
- To hold fiduciary responsibility for the resources of the Como Lake United Church, ensuring responsible stewardship and prudent risk-taking

The VPC will maintain regular practices of prayer, discernment and study in the exercise of its responsibilities

### **Role of Minister:**

Lead Minister has overall responsibility for providing spiritual leadership, equipping the congregation to define and live out its God-given ministry and its commonly-owned purpose, values, vision and approach to ministry.

- a) Working with the VPC and Congregation to help them see and articulate God's ongoing vision for Como Lake United Church
- b) Guiding the congregation in intentionally living out its common purpose, values vision and approach to ministry.
- c) Ensuring that programs and practices, new and existing, are in line with the common purpose, values, vision and approach to ministry

The Lead Minister will be supported by the M&P Committee in his/her work.

In collaboration and with support from the M&P Committee, the Lead Minister is responsible for the daily on-site supervision of paid staff. This includes directing staff in their duties, providing oversight and discipline of staff, reviewing and adjusting job descriptions. The Lead Minister will make recommendations to the VPC with regards to creation of new positions, salary increases and hiring and firing of employees. The Lead Minister will conduct staff reviews in consultation with the Ministry & Personnel Committee.

### **Role of M&P:**

The congregation will elect an M&P committee.

The M&P will be accountable to the VPC. They are responsible to oversee and support the relationship between the Lead Minister and the VPC.

They are responsible for regularly reviewing the working conditions, responsibilities, and compensation of the lead minister and making any recommendations needed as a result of these reviews to the governing body; conducting annual mission-based performance reviews of the lead minister; and be available for consultation and support to the Lead Minister for matters involving all pastoral charge staff. (see Manual B.7.8.5 for more)

## **Board of Trustees**

The congregation will appoint the Board of Trustees at the annual meeting.

The Lead Minister is the Chair of the Board of Trustees, unless they appoint a deputy chair. The trustees are responsible for holding all congregational property for the congregation as part of the United Church.

The trustees act on the direction of the VPC and must comply with all decisions about congregational property that are made by the VPC and the regional council. The trustees must give the same care and attention to congregational property as a reasonable person would give to their own property.

See Manual G3 for more information of the responsibilities of the Board of Trustees.

### **Accountability:**

#### **Relationship between committees and Vision and Planning Council:**

All committees/teams/groups are accountable to the VPC. The VPC will develop a mandate for each committee/team which will outline the authority delegated to the committee/team to exercise its task, including a budget for the work.

The committees/teams will make regular reports to the VPC. These reports will be received in advance for pre-reading by the VPC. The VPC will establish a regular rotation of reports from committees/teams in order to invite a focused conversation for support and evaluation as it pertains to the overall vision and mission of Como Lake United Church.

For decisions and motions outside of a committee/team's mandate, the committee/team will present recommendations to the VPC for consideration as part of their regular reporting.

#### **Relationship between VPC and congregation**

The VPC will consult regularly with the congregation on questions of mission, strategy and priorities. The VPC will report regularly to the congregation through minutes and/or posted reports. Congregation members are welcome to attend the VPC meetings as guests.

#### **Relationship between VPC and minister**

The Lead minister is accountable to the VPC for the ministries and programs under their direction and in ensuring that their ministry is in line with the vision and mission of Como Lake United Church. The Lead minister is accountable to the Office of Vocation of the United Church of Canada for oversight and discipline.



**Annual Report for Governance and Ministry 2019  
Session (Board of Elders) (January to June 2019)**

The role of the Session is for the spiritual leadership and oversight of the spiritual interests of the congregation. Decisions are grounded in faith and discerned through prayer. Session discerns vision and direction and grows the purpose of the church, provides clarity statements and policies, and develops/empowers discipleship. Session oversees worship and sacraments, faith formation/growing disciples/leadership training, pastoral care, membership, conduct of members, outreach, evangelism, proposals and licensing.

Session members were:

Angie Neville – chairperson, Ralph Johnston, Patt Green (elected by the congregation) and Rev. Jan Bihl (Ministry Personnel). We held three regular meetings plus a retreat in the interim period from January to June during which time the new governance model, the Vision and Planning council, was established.

Some of the accomplishments of this Board are:

- We discussed and approved an upcoming Biblical Storytelling event and training. We will host this event in October 2020.
- After discussion and discernment a new governance model was proposed, a Vision and Planning Council, this model was taken to the congregation and asked to be voted on.
- We initiated a retreat with Tim Scorer, which included the previous Discernment Group plus additional interested people. The theme was observations on the pilgrimage.
- We moved from a Music Director Position mode to a Music Supply mode in June. This was to create an opportunity to have a variety of music experiences while we explore and discern our vision.

Names on the Historic Roll lists, December 2018 and April 2019, were reviewed and updated.

As we continued in our temporary home at St. Laurence Anglican Church we planned worship and made some changes that would continue to be needed to make our time here as seamless as possible for our congregants.

As we moved to a new governance model, the members of Session disbanded with gratitude for our time together in discerning the Spirit and will of God in this place.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Angie Neville  
Chair of Session**

## **Official Board (January to June)**

In 2019 the Official Board's main focus was to review the current Governance Model and look at alternatives that would better serve our congregation which is in transition as well as cover all aspects of regular Official Board business.

We held four Official Board meetings; January 17<sup>th</sup>, January 28<sup>th</sup>, May 16<sup>th</sup>, June 17<sup>th</sup>.

Of those meetings January 17 was a workshop facilitated by Kathy Davies, our Region Minister for the Lower Mainland. She presented the three most common governance forms used in the United Church and facilitated discussion. It was attended by all but one board member and three invited congregants, Verna Ranger, Barb Mendt and Linda Hof. Kathy provided a framework for a sub group to draft a proposal to be discussed at the next OB meeting. Conversation and questions were productive.

The Jan 28<sup>th</sup> meeting's focus was preparing for the February 3 Annual General Meeting where the 2018 Ministry Reports, the 2019 Budget and the Proposed New Governance Model were to be presented and voted on. All the Board members were present plus guests; Jacquie Johnston, Barb Mendt and Linda Hof.

In May the Discernment Group (comprised mainly of the Official Board plus other church members at large, gathered for a half day workshop Lead by Tim Scorer. Tim had facilitated a number of discernment sessions since 2014 and we chose to revisit some of the spirit-led decisions that had lead us into repurposing, our pilgrimage and a new governance model. How had we changed and who were we now?

May 16 meeting focused mainly on the process and timing to form the new Vision and Planning Council including workshops to help familiarize the congregation with the work of the Council, the current updated draft of the Proposed Governance Structure and the duties and responsibilities of a Council member. All but three members were present.

In May we Celebrated Susan Beer's retirement with friends and family in attendance and in conjunction with our Sunday Service. She held a number of titles during her 27 years of working "with and for" CLUC.....church secretary, manager and office administrator to name a few. We also wished Lena Kovalik, our Music Director all the best as she stepped out of her church roll and into new endeavours.

At the June 17 meeting we reviewed the Governance Structure document that had been accepted by the congregation in February and the proposed slate of people who had indicated a willingness to serve on the Vision and Planning Council (VPC) in preparation for the June 23 Congregation meeting.

Our meetings commenced with check in, refecton and prayer lead by Rev Jan and usually ended with the Serenity prayer. God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can and the wisdom to know the difference.

Official Board members were: Cheryl Blake, Rev Jan Bihl, Patt Green, Ralph Johnston, Mindy Lane, Marilyn McCutcheon, Dave McCutcheon, Angie Neville, Paul Nelson, Wendy Pavidonis and Valerie Simpson.

**Respectfully submitted by Valerie Simpson**  
**Information gathered from board Minutes**

## **Vision and Planning Council (VPC) (July to December)**

The VPC has three primary functions:

- To articulate the vision and mission of Como Lake United Church
- To set long term goals and priorities and hold the ministry accountable to the vision and mission of CLUC
- To hold fiduciary responsibility for the resources of CLUC, ensuring responsible stewardship and prudent risk-taking

The VPC will maintain regular practices of prayer, discernment and study in the exercise of its responsibilities. (sourced from VPC Structure document).

Elected in late June the VPC used the summer months as Discovery time, laying the foundation for a team approach to governance and settled into meeting mode in September. Twice a month meetings, some of which were Retreat Days (5 hour time slot) became an intricate part of our meeting structure.

These retreat days facilitated our goal to maintain regular practices of discernment and study and opened up sufficient time for discussion, as writing a CLUC Policy Manual is a necessary part of this governance model. The Spiritual Gifts mini-workshop facilitated by Rev Jan is one example used to meet the “regular practices” goal.

VPC goals are in transition as we are an actual “work in progress” adopting and learning to work within this new governance model.

Reviewing vision, mission and strategic planning as well as writing policies which will become the foundation for all core committees and teams is ongoing.

“Why” is an ever present question in any decision making process?

***Envision an environment where participants are more actively engaging  
“life in community” as they grow in discipleship.***

We have:

- Visited and worshiped at other churches who use this new model of governance.
- Worked through a suggested reading list.
- Met with Rev. Blair Odney of Lynn Valley United who explained how the model works in their church and expanded our knowledge of it.
- Covenanted with Como Lake United Church
- Established monthly meetings where Spiritual Growth is important and encourage, a Policy Manual is being written and Council work accomplished.
- Decided that in Council work we would use the discussion, proposal, conversation, consensus, vote model used by the Pacific Mountain Region.
- Investigated processes for listening to our congregation and broader community regarding what ministry we are being called to, for whom and at what cost?
- Investigated our fiscal responsibilities as laid out in United Church Manual.
- Set up a sub group to gather vision, mission and values components in order to facilitate future discussions.
- Have discovered we are getting more and more familiar with our work which in itself is a ministry of service and leadership. We are not alone, as we live and work in God’s world.

The members of Council are: Barb Mendt, Rev Jan Bihl, Linda Hof, Patt Green, Ralph Johnston, Susan Kennedy, Sharie Ford, and Valerie Simpson.

**Information compiled by Valerie Simpson**

**Annual Ministry Report 2019**  
**Ministry and Personnel Committee**

This report is for the period June to December 2019, the members of the committee are Verna Ranger, John Cashore and Angie Neville.

Our purpose is to provide support and guidance for the ways that the minister can live out God's mission in the world through her practice of ministry.

The responsibilities of the M&P committee are:

- to be available for consultation and support involving the pastoral charge staff (minister);
- overseeing the relationship of the minister to people in the congregation;
- review working conditions, responsibilities and compensation of the minister;
- making any recommendations needed as a result of these reviews to the governing body (Vision and Planning council);
- revising position descriptions of the minister as needed;
- conducting an annual mission-based review;
- ensure the minister make use of opportunities for continuing education that have been given; and
- maintaining close contact with the regional council Pastoral Relations Committee.

The committee members met with Kathy Davies, Regional Minister, Pastoral Relations & Community of Faith Support – United Church of Canada, to have an overview of the role this ministry has at Como Lake United Church. Kathy explained that the role of M&P is about support for the minister and support for the relationship the minister has with the congregation at Como Lake.

**Respectfully submitted,**  
**Angie Neville**

## **Como Repurposing Team (CRT)**

This congregation discerned that “Our property is an Expression of our Vision and Purpose and it is a home base for this faith community in their ministry of healing, caring, advocacy and hospitality in this area of Coquitlam”. At the beginning of this project there were many ‘purposes’ that needed to be reflected in the design and we have been working towards that end goal for a few years now.

2019 was a Hurry Up and Wait kind of year for your CRT, with periods of intense activity and decision making interspersed with what seemed like long periods of wait and watch. Colliers, VIA, JBR Construction, and Terry Harrison were fully engaged in the flurry of activity with all the teams working in oversight, management and the actual construction of this large project. A Five Story building on a good sized piece of land is an involved undertaking.

January brought project budgets, borrowing resolutions, pre-development funding and City of Coquitlam permit requirements for excavation and foundation. We are grateful that the Development Team handled all bureaucratic issues and the CRT concentrated on keeping up with the ongoing site changes and keeping our membership informed as well as signage and advertising in the community so they would know where we are worshiping and what we are building on the corner of Marmont and King Albert.

Reliable Rumours and Social gatherings were an important component of 2019.

February/March saw heavy equipment continuously moving earth as excavation of our now empty site progressed and shoring up of the earth walls was visible as the foundation hole got deeper.

April saw a tall crane erected on site and foundation footings start to appear. We marked Year One of our pilgrimage on April 7<sup>th</sup> with a potluck supper, photo display and a colourful celebration cake. We shared our accomplishments to date and our gratitude for St. Laurence sharing their space and for all the individuals who are working on our behalf.

May/June saw rebar everywhere, new columns, reinforcing and a stairwell appear. The CRT continued to meet monthly to keep up with the field work reports as well as plans for improved communication with the congregation and the developer.

By the end of summer we had an on grade slab roof on the underground garage.

September saw framing panels stacked on site and the beginnings of an apartment on the east end of the property as well as lots of mechanical and electrical work happening.

The CRT traveled to Colliers office in September for construction schedule updates from Terry Harrison who is in charge of more than our church repurposing and Dea Knight, our new Colliers project manager. Projected completion of our building was announced as mid summer 2020 and we again had a glimpse of the tremendous amount of managing, for a project this size, which goes on behind the scene, unbeknownst to those who watch and wait.

We heard how cooperative and supportive BC Housing has been around financing and negotiating terms that will impact the housing operation. We heard how the United Church’s Pacific Mountain Region has created a not for profit Three Point Housing Society (with accountability to the PMR) that will contract out the management of the building and are investigating different models of management.. And we were introduced to the possibility of working with an interior design firm who would source the furniture that is not included in our overall building budget.

From October to December, some CRT team members visited different United Churches for insight into their sound system, lights, furniture etc. and how it worked for them. Audio Visual conversations became a prime focus. On our Coquitlam site we saw an actual wood frame apartment building, complete with windows, rise up on the east end of the slab and concrete walls for our main floor church appear on the west end. The parade of concrete trucks during 2019 and the piles of rebar are un-measurable.

In November we attended two furniture workshops at 34F Design's downtown office and are still struggling with the numerous choices in the FFE (furniture, fixtures and equipment) world and the costs associated with those choices.

The CRT continued to meet and trouble shoot on your behalf, always aware of the Purpose of Our Property statement highlighted at the beginning of this article.

**Valerie Simpson, from 2019 Team Notes**

**CRT members are: Dave McCutcheon, Eric Ranger, Jan Bihl, Jacquie Johnston, Linda Hof and Valerie Simpson**

## **Board of Trustees**

The Board of Trustees is comprised of The Rev. Jan Bihl, John Cashore, Mindy Lane, Sharie Ford, Peter Linton and Eric Ranger.

The Board held four meetings during the year.

The Church insurance covering property of every description, located at various locations, and liability insurance has been purchased covering the period of March 1, 2019 to February 29, 2020.

At the April 11, 2019 meeting Eric Ranger reported he had delivered 110 File Folders, 15 Books and 2 Bundles of Blue Prints to the United Church Regional Archives on April 9, 2019. Blair Galston, Archivist, requested formal approval from the Como Lake United Church Board of Trustees approving the shipment which they did and directed that a copy of these minutes be forwarded to Blair Galson and Valerie Simpson, Chair of the Office Board.

At the September 5, 2019 Mindy Lane was welcomed to her first Trustee Meeting and thanked for accepting the position.

The board reviewed Financial Balance Sheet, Investment Report and Specified Donation balances at our meetings.

It was reported that the Finance Committee has changed the name of the Building Capital Reserve Fund to the Capital Reserve Fund due to the fact we presently have no building. Also, since we will shortly be moving into a brand new building they did not anticipate having any major building repairs in the foreseeable future.

Terms of Office expiry dates were reviewed with Peter Linton's expiring on December 31, 2019. He informed the members he would not be allowing his name to be nominated for another 5 year term as a Trustee. The members thanked him for his many years of service as a Trustee.

**Respectfully submitted,  
Eric Ranger, Secretary  
Rev. Jan Bihl, Chairperson**

## **Presbytery Report 2019**

The major changes in the United Church Organizational structure saw the elimination of the Presbytery level in 2019. Westminster Presbytery met several times mostly in wind up and information sessions as the presbytery functions were being moved to the new Regional level. We now have a connection to the Region through a Regional Minister, Kathy Davies who has been very helpful.

Como Lake United Presbytery representatives were Marilyn McCutcheon and Ralph Johnston, both of whom represented our church at the first meeting of Pacific Mountain Council at the Langley Event Centre in May.

Submitted by Ralph Johnston

## **Pacific Mountain Regional Council (PMRC)**

Under the re-organization of the United Church, the Pacific Mountain Region is one of 16 Regional Councils of The United Church of Canada spread across the country. It serves over 200 congregations and communities of faith, and numerous other ministries including camps, social service agencies, youth and young adult work, leadership development, new ministry initiatives, property development, affordable housing and care facilities, chaplaincies and educational centres.

The PMRC supports the congregations and ministries of United Church in BC , Whitehorse, and Banff.

Pacific Mountain Region also supports the work of General Council.

The mission of the Pacific Mountain Region Executive is:

- healthy communities of faith and ministries;
- effective leadership;
- faithful public witness.

The vision for each of these can be found on the PMRC as can be all their policies.

The PMRC had their first meeting in Langley BC May 31st to June 2nd. The theme was *For Such a Time as This* (Esther 4:14). It was an inspiring and engaging inaugural meeting.

Each congregation sends delegate/s to the general meeting of the PMRC. Delegates from Como Lake congregation were Ralph Johnston and Marilyn McCutcheon.

**Submitted by Rev. Jan Bihl**



**Statistics**

<u>Baptisms:</u>		
	Adult	0
	Infant	1
<u>Marriages:</u>		0
<u>Funerals/Memorials:</u>		2

**Membership Statistics**

<u>Membership at January 1, 2019</u>		255
<u>Received by:</u>	Baptism	0
	Confirmation	0
	Profession of Faith	2
	Transfer	0
	Reaffirmation of Faith	0
	Adherents	0
	Total	2
<u>Removed by:</u>	Death	3
	Transfer	1
	Total	4
<u>Membership at December 31, 2018</u>		253

**Rev. Jan Bihl - Lead Minister – Word, Sacrament, Soul Care**

**Annual Ministry Report to Dec. 31, 2019**

It is with much gratitude that I remember this past year. As I sit back and think about it, I am again amazed at the fortitude and faithfulness of so many folks who prayerfully put one foot in front of the other through the year, walking the pilgrim way in this in-between time in our temporary digs in the St. Laurence church building. The people at St. Laurence have been most generous and supportive of us and of our repurposing project. Our changed Sunday Worship time at 4 pm has proven perhaps more difficult than had been expected but there is a core of committed people who are staying the course. I trust that all those who call Como Lake “home” are holding this redevelopment venture in prayer. I am blessed to be walking with faith-filled people on this journey.

**My purpose and responsibilities**

- to June 2019:
  - to provide leadership, education, and soul care for the ongoing discipleship, discernment, and goals of Como Lake and to be a spiritual companion and coach to the operational system and those leading within it
  - to continue to cultivate a community of spiritual practice
  - to explore the possibilities of new/emerging ministries
  
- July to December 2019  
Council has been working through the policies for this.

**Areas of Responsibility:**

**Worship/Preaching/Sacraments Highlights**

- Again this past year much of my focus has been to connect worship with repurposing opportunities for spiritual growth and connection in the in-between time. The metaphor of Pilgrimage continued to provide a spiritual touch-point for the transition time. The Seasons of the Church Year continued to help give time some shape, texture, and movement through the year from Epiphany to Lent to Easter to Pentecost – to the Season after Pentecost, including Creation, to Advent to Christmas – full circle in our life of discipleship.
  - Epiphany Season was based on the theme of *Seeker, Scientist, and Sage*, a look at practical ways to explore our faith.
  - Lent through Easter Sunday explored scripture with the poetry of Mary Oliver and themes of Simplicity, Repentance, Salvation, Courage, Grace, Mindfulness, Praise, Love.
  - The Sundays of Easter focused on Encounter, Spiritual Practices, an introduction to Cynefin, recognizing God-moments and WayMarks for people of the Way
  - Pentecost Sunday and the Sundays following looked at how the Holy Spirit is working today in new expressions of church, in experiencing the dynamics of the Trinity, in different forms of community, building on solid rock, and the power of blessing...
  - In Creation time, the theme was Imagine, reflecting on scripture and the songs of the Beatles
  - Advent included short dramas, Advent Candles, and the theme of saying yes to the seed God has planted in us and making room for the Christ Child.

- We presented the Pageant on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent. This year, the usual Pageant crowd was mostly absent, but our regular worship participants – and the Pageant cast - took part with enthusiasm!
- Christmas Eve we hosted a large multi-generational gathering with readings, carols, communion and candlelight.
- I presided at memorial and baptism services.
  
- **Spiritual Growth/Leadership Training/Pastoral and Spiritual Care**
  - Drama Group – meeting, writing and preparing drama for Sunday worship on various Sundays through the year and all Sundays in Advent
  - Lenten Study co-led with Rev. Eric Mason of St. Laurence – Foundations of Our Faith
  - Maundy Thursday Potluck Supper and Worship with Saint Laurence
  - Stroll for Your Soul – a daily walking meditation hosted by the Prayer Bench
  - Study Group – *What is the Bible* – Mondays and Thursdays
  - Advent Worship and Potluck Supper – with Linnea Good
  - Advent Light - contemplative gathering
  - Learning time for Council meetings
  - **Pastoral/Spiritual Care** – crisis and transition spiritual care – informal and formal spiritual care as needed – regular check-in with Tuesday Pastoral Care Connection team and ongoing review of skills with the Pastoral Care Visiting Team
  
- **Leadership/Vision/Direction**
  - **Discernment and leadership** with Vision/Planning Council/Session, Exec, CRT, Conversation Cafes
  - **Networking** with other leaders who are experiencing this kind of repurposing transition
  
- **Administration/Organization**
  - **Repurposing Project** – much admin and organization time spent in meetings with CRT and other areas of the project
  - **Meetings** – Vision/Planning Council, Session, OB, Exec, CRT, PRT/VIA, Trustees, Admin, Worship Enhancement, Congregational meeting, and others as necessary
  - **Communication** – overseeing website updates, newsletters, bulletin communication
  - **Miscellaneous** – calls, emails, conversations
  
- **Wider Church/Presbytery/BC Conference**
  - Pacific Mountain Regional Council meeting
  - Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Ecumenical Prayer Service – planned jointly with ministers in this area

**Respectfully Submitted,**  
**Rev. Jan Bihl**

## **Ministry of Worship Enhancement**

The Worship Enhancement Team ensures that our congregation and visitors experience a warm welcome, a smooth-flowing worship service and an opportunity for fellowship after the service.

The team has four members: Wendy Pavilonis, Christine Tolton, Angie Neville and Rev. Jan Bihl (ex-officio). We meet as required.

### **The areas of responsibility are:**

- Communion
- Ushers
- Pew Tidiers
- Lectors
- Service Co-ordinators
- Coffee Servers
- Sanctuary décor
- Worship Supplies

Some of the accomplishments this year have been:

- We had our first discussion regarding Sacred Service Teams, which are teams of four people who take on the supportive tasks associated with worship and fellowship. The Worship team discussed and discerned the purpose of these teams and then drafted a document with Overview, Purpose and Service requirements. We then introduced the idea to the congregation and invited them to take part. Once we had names of congregants, we finalized our teams and details of service duties. We created six teams with four people in each team.
- Como Lake congregants were invited to join St. Laurence church congregation for Maundy Thursday service and supper; and we were invited to attend Trinity United Church in Port Coquitlam for the Good Friday service.
- In November for first Advent, we invited guest musicians Linnea Good and David Jonsson join us for the worship service. After the service we hosted “A Bridge to Advent” pot-luck dinner and story-time with Linnea and David.
- We discussed, discerned and planned the Christmas pageant and the Christmas Eve service.

Our goal for 2020 is to continue developing the Sacred Service teams, to enhance the worship experience, and build on the service and fellowship that has been established.

**Respectfully submitted,  
Angie Neville**

## **Spiritual Growth**

- Drama Group – meeting, writing and preparing drama for Sunday worship on various Sundays through the year and all Sundays in Advent
- Lenten Study co-led with Rev. Eric Mason of St. Laurence – Foundations of Our Faith
- Stroll for Your Soul – a daily walking meditation hosted by the Prayer Bench
- Study Group – *What is the Bible* – Mondays and Thursdays
- Advent Worship and Potluck Supper followed by a mini-intro to Biblical Storytelling - with Linnea Good
- Advent Light - contemplative gathering of readings, prayers, and music.

**Respectfully submitted,  
Rev. Jan Bihl**

### **Pastoral Care Visiting Team**

The Visiting Team met monthly in homes on a rotation basis from 12:30 pm to 1:45 pm. We reviewed skills in pastoral care from our manual, had devotions and closing prayer. Members offered Pastoral Care visits in person where possible to shut-ins and those in hospital or care facilities.

Each Sunday a team member was available following the service to hear concerns from members of the congregation who wished to share.

Team members were: Cheryl Blake, Leigh Krischuk, Marilyn McCutcheon, Elsie Wrightman, and Rev. Jan Bihl.

A workshop at the Tapestry Church at Mundy Park was attended by three members from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm November 30/2019. "End of Life Conversations" - Advance Care Planning, Wills and Estates, Life Stories and Memoirs, and Grief and Soul Care were the topics by different leaders.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marilyn McCutcheon

### **Pastoral Care Connection Team**

Our Tuesday morning meetings were held at 10 am to 11:30 am at the home of Vicki Stacey. Members were Cheryl Blake, Marilyn McCutcheon and Vicki Stacey. Our minister, Jan Bihl, attended monthly. We compiled a report weekly to keep her abreast of people's concerns.

We updated the bulletin notices weekly and requested bulletins to be mailed to shut-ins.

Our work consisted of phone calls, cards, sent: Get Well, Thinking of You, Birthday of over 70s and cards of Remembrance of the first anniversary of the death of family members. The church budget pays for cards and stamps to enable this work.

In the summer we met every two weeks. We rely on family members to keep in touch when changes happen like hospitalization.

We continue meeting and keeping parishioners aware of changes/concerns which we can share.

**Respectfully submitted,**  
**Marilyn McCutcheon**

## **Small Group Ministries**

### **Prayer Chain**

Contact Persons: Cheryl Blake

Cheryl Blake, Church Administrator Susan Beer, Rev. Jan Bihl and selected members of the congregation receive copies of the Weekly Prayer Requests via email. The persons named in the weekly requests and those names passed on to the Church Administrator, Susan Beer by the Pastoral Care Team were published in the weekly bulletins for the entire Congregation's consideration. Requests remain active for three weeks

I continue to pray weekly for "Prayer Requests" received each Sunday and any special requests I receive. I would like to recommend that all members of Como Lake United Church be encouraged to actively seek to make Prayer a part of their daily life.

**Respectfully Submitted**

**Cheryl Blake**

### **Fellowship by the Lakeshore**

Many months ago, George Elgstrand and Lynne Dennis sent out an invitation to a fellowship walk, which garnered enthusiastic response from the congregation. Folks met together on Tuesday evenings, began with prayer and then walked around the lake in partners, conversing on a theme, reading, or question of the day. This was followed by conversation over a beverage in a local coffee shop. Some stalwart walkers even continued through the winter months!

Sadly, George died in December of 2019. In tribute to him, and in memory of his deep faith and generous spirit, we remember here, the invitation he put in the bulletin:

#### **AN INVITATION TO FELLOWSHIP BY THE LAKESHORE**

What a blessing it is to exist in a community – a family – of fellow travelers on His path! We gather in church on Sundays to worship, to join voices in song and to greet one another with loving, open hearts and listening ears. During this sacred time, life's pressures are set aside and we find peace in Christ. What a magnificent gift - friends worshipping together and growing closer by joining in Christian fellowship where each of us is truly loved and respected.

Joyously, this gift of Christian fellowship is transportable. We can live it outside by the beautiful lakeshores so close at hand - Como Lake and Lafarge Lake. Here, where God's handiwork is on display in all its majesty, we can share in safe conversation with someone we'd like to get to know better. If you're like us, you know more faces than names. You know where people usually sit but not why. Like us, you may wonder if they have family, what stirs their soul and ignites their spirit. Are they OK or is their heart heavy? Would a non-judgmental ear help? Things that most families would know but somehow we often don't, even though we are a family in Christ.

Perhaps you'd be interested in strolling or sitting by the lakeshore, sharing safe conversation with a fellow traveler you'd like to get to know better. Sharing in some real fellowship rather than just saying "Hi, how are you?" or worse, nothing at all because you are ashamed to admit that their names fail you. Hopefully your answer is, "Yes, I'd like to stroll or sit with someone I really don't know well for a half hour or so then gather together with others of like mind over a 'cuppa'". If so, we'd like to help make that happen by getting something going.

**Your friends in Christ,  
Lynne and George**

### **Administration Report**

Administration was handled by various individuals on a talent basis while we were reorganizing for the new governance model. i.e, staffing, equipment care and supplies, room bookings, etc.

**Respectfully submitted**  
**Valerie Simpson**

### **Audio Visual Ministry**

Members of the Ministry are Cheryl Blake (Leader), Rom Pavilonis, John Alandi, Tamryn Kennedy. Audio/Visual needs for Sunday Worship services are primarily filled by Tamryn.

The AV tech has adjusted to using the new St. Laurence Anglican Church's AV equipment. We said good bye to Tyler Cristiano, as he continues his studies at Capilano College.

We strive to maintain and improve the audio/visual experience to enhance the worship experience of our congregation.

**Respectfully submitted**  
**Cheryl Blake**



## **Finance Committee**

The Finance Committee started 2019 with 4 members - Tom Cox (Secretary), Paul Thompson, Paul Nelson (Treasurer and Chair) and Jacquie Johnston. Paul Nelson stepped down from his responsibilities during the year and his expertise and insight has been missed. Fortunately Susan Kennedy and Barb Mendt joined the team in September and have proven to be great assets. Rev. Jan attended our meetings in an ex-officio capacity during the fall also. Debbie Hall continues on as Envelope Secretary.

The Finance Committee tries to meet regularly to review the Financial Statements. Recommendations and concerns are passed along to the Council and Trustees as necessary. We also assist in the preparation of the annual operating budget, handle the building and liability insurance for the Trustees, oversee the Sunday collection counting teams, insure that our bills are paid in a timely manner, oversee the payroll management, and make recommendations to the council and Trustees re internal and the external review of our annual financial statements.

After the retirement in May of our Church Administrator, Susan Beer, the work load and expectations of the members of Finance Committee increased greatly. The Administrator, whose position was not replaced, did many tasks for us on a regular basis and unfortunately, the volunteers were left to pick up the slack. I, for one, found the situation too stressful and announced that I would be stepping down from all my responsibilities as soon as the 2019 financials were completed.

The Finance Committee also recognizes the need for a new strong Stewardship Committee. A committee that focuses on all aspects of stewardship, not just finances. With all the changes that have happened and the opportunities that will be available as we anticipate the rebirth of our new building, we need a committee to help plan and inspire the people in our congregation to identify their gifts and strengths and to invite them to come forward in new and rewarding ways to keep Como Lake the warm and welcoming community it has always been.

**Faithfully submitted by,  
Jacquie Johnston**

***The Council extends our heartfelt thanks to Jacquie for her many many years of service in the area of finance. Her diligence and broad knowledge have been a gift and a blessing.***

## **Leadership and Enrichment Unit**

The objectives of the Leadership and Enrichment Operating Fund are:

1. To provide financial assistance to interested people of the congregation who wish to partake in an opportunity to acquire knowledge and skills to further their own leadership development and growth so that they can contribute within the church community.
2. To support the desire for continued Christian growth and learning.
3. To enable groups and ministries with the church to bring qualified leaders to conduct workshops or seminars.
4. Contributions may be received to augment this fund.

Our unit members were Jacquie Johnston, Betty Inglis and Marilyn McCutcheon.

In May, a Discernment workshop was held with an expanded Discernment Group of 20 people attending. It was led by Tim Scorer.

Education for learning and skill development for congregants is a primary function of this fund. This past year one person applied for a grant towards the “Discover Your Sacred Gifts” online workshop.

No young person applied to attend the Camp Spirit Program in the summer from Como Lake. Tamryn Kennedy joined the staff as a counsellor for one of the four age groups as her summer job.

The Church treasurer supplied the committee with a year-end financial statement.

**Respectfully submitted**  
**Marilyn McCutcheon**

## **United Church Women**

### **Mission Statement**

Our mission is to love God; to foster Christian faithfulness, spirituality, commitment, and devotion, and to promote love and respect by living generously and giving joyfully to all God's people; and to affirm and strengthen ourselves creatively.

Co-chairs – Mindy Lane and Wendy Pavilonis

Secretary – Janice Warneboldt

Treasurer – Janet Blair

There are 6 Units in our UCW: Arbutus, Cypress, Daisy, Magnolia, Maple, & Willow

Each Unit has managed to meet at regular intervals either in homes or at St. Laurence Anglican Church (our temporary home).

There were 6 Executive Meetings held at the Church or in homes.

1 General Meeting, Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>, held before the Church Service to mainly discuss our finances, budgeting, and to select a new UCW Chair.

### **Our involvement:**

- The Daisy Unit put together baby layettes and distributed them to the Royal Columbian Hospital Maternity ward, CAFE, and the Food Bank.
- Our Spring fundraiser, "Discover Your Sacred Gifts" with Monique MacDonald on June 8<sup>th</sup> was well received.
- Both John B Pub nights were a success. The Daisy Unit made up wonderful baskets and a good time was enjoyed by all who attended.
- Quality Fair involvement included evergreen baskets, a few crafts, and preserves.
- We continue to greet at all Worship Services.
- Our new President, Cheryl Blake, was elected for a 2 year term at the Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> General Meeting.
- Mindy Lane agreed to be the past Chair.

### **Goals for 2020:**

Continue to plan social events and fundraising events.

Put our efforts into being involved with the Church move.

**Submitted by Mindy Lane, past chair.**