Report 2019-2020

Pacific Spirit United Church
2195 W 45th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V6M 2J2
admin@PacificSpiritUC.com
www.pacificspirituc.com

Pacific Spirit United Church

Living Lives of Meaning

CONTENTS

Message from the Minister of Community Development	3
Our statement of Commitment	6
Committee Members 2019/2020	8
council chair	10
coordinating minister	11
arts	13
children, youth & family	14
cy&f continued	16
finance	18
inreach	19
outreach	20
ministry & personnel	21
property development	22
property oversight	23
spiritual nurture	24
trustees	26
worship & music	28
affirming ministry	29
rejuvenation	30
financial breakdown	32
Contact	34

Congregation
Pacific Spirit United Church

Address
2195 W 45 Avenue
Vancouver, BC | V6M 2J2

A Proud Affirming Ministry
partnering with Affirm United for the support of all gender identities and sexual orientations.

If you have questions regarding the content of this annual report please contact us at
admin@pacificspirituc.com

Affirm/S'affirmer
UNITED/ENSEMBLE

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

A message from the Minister of Community Development

To be the "Minister of Community Development" in a year where much of the time we have not been able to "commune" has been a daunting and challenging task. To work and worship without singing together, or joining hands in prayer has felt like a drought…a long walk in a dry land. And to offer pastoral care when we don't shake hands or embrace, or cook or eat together, or even get to be in the same room…I don't even know if there is a word for that. It's some kind of great chasm. But in that un-crossable void of space between us, I've seen some things:

- You have been a congregation who has been both creative and kind.
- You have been people who are quick with gratitude and supportive in trouble.
- You continue to serve and engage, and have been willing to do a new thing over and over again.
- And your eyes light up when you see each other…like the sight of water in a desert.

Just before we stopped worshipping together, we shared a "Survival Guide" of stories of resilience and strength through trouble. We've been writing another one ever since. Not on paper yet, but etched in our lives together. I am grateful to have the people of this congregation and its staff as travelling companions on this journey. We stand in strength and as Maya Angelou's grandmother used to say, we "step out on the Word of God."

Deborah Laing

A

What we do, who does it, and how we do it

What we've been getting up to

2019 and 2020

Walking the Walk

"Love, not in word or speech but in truth and action."

- 43rd General Council, August 2018

Our community of faith endorsed our Affirming vision statement (1 below) and our Statement of Commitment (right) at previous congregational meetings. We invite each congregant to regularly review, discuss, and recommit.

In light of events of 2020, below, additional statements are *informal* and *unapproved*, drafted with reference to statements made by the General Council of the United Church of Canada. Because this is not a time to be silent, the phrasing below is a placeholder as we formalize the wording that will best demonstrate our commitment to "seek justice and resist evil."

1 WE AFFIRM

We believe that our unique identities are a part of God's gracious abundance and that diversity in humanity is a gift.

As a member of the Affirm network of churches, we declare ourselves, our programs and all aspects of our church life as fully inclusive of people of all gender identities, gender expressions and sexual orientations.

2 WE PROTECT

Creation is a gift of God, and caring for Creation is a spiritual commitment. We cherish Creation's rich diversity and respect its inherent value and right to protection.

We are called to be part of a just transition to a renewable energy economy, to reduce overconsumption, and to engage in climate justice.

3 WE SUPPORT

In accepting that the United Church of Canada has participated in and benefited from systemic racism, we are committed to creating a healing path through the implemention of the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and by endorsing the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People.

"We affirm Black Lives Matter,"

- Executive of the General Council

4 WE HONOUR

Members of our congregation live, work, play, and worship on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish) and səl̓ilwətaʔɬ (Tsleil-Waututh) people.

As uninvited guests, we are deeply grateful to live in harmony with those who have enjoyed thousands of years in communion with this land, and open ourselves to learn from their example.

DRAFT

Our statement of Commitment

Living lives of meaning through faith, service, and God's love.

In God's ever re-creating world, we are formed anew, open to possibilities.

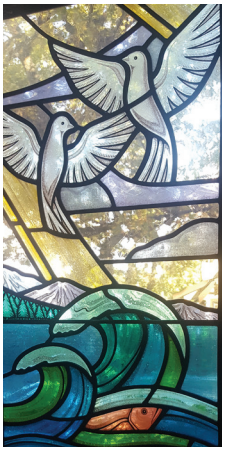
We trust God is leading us. A Christian community, welcoming seekers, questioners and believers; A Diverse, Affirming and Reconciling congregation.

We find expressions of Jesus' love in The wisdom of our children; The elders who hold a rich heritage; The grace of those in between; Action, compassion and caring; Attentiveness to Creation; Hearts open to the Divine.

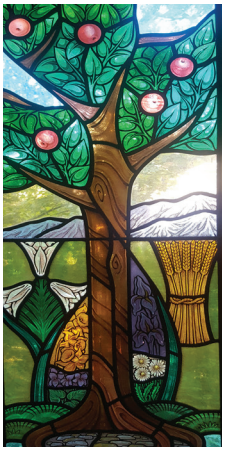
We draw closer to the Holy through Worship that transforms; Spiritual practices that deepen faith; Hands and hearts offered in justice, responding to the world; Scripture and study that lead us to radical wonder; Music that opens us to awe; The Arts as an expression of the Sacred.

Many ways to enter; many ways to engage; many ways to respond to the Spirit's call.

01



02



03

01. Mark speaking at the last potluck dinner at 24th Avenue in January, 2020.
02. Detail from stained glass at 24th Avenue
03. Detail from stained glass at 24th Avenue
04. After the last worship service, January 2020, at 24th Avenue

04

Committee Members 2019/2020

The Council is made up of representatives from church committees, usually the chair. Below are the names of congregants who have served on committees through 2019 and 2020.

Staff

Rev Maggie Enwright
Coordinating Minister

Rev Deborah Laing
Community Development Minister

Cathy Cryder
Minster of Children, Youth and Families

Alicia Harder
Office Manager

Jordan Esau
Communications

Bryn Nixon
Music

Arts
HEATHER SWALLOW

Kathleen Barber
Susan Dickson
Jordan Esau
Maggie Enwright
Sabina Harpe
Kathie Orchard
Jane Shumka

Children, Youth, & Families
KATHRYN URQUHART

Heather Brunt
Anne Clark
Cathy Cryder
Janey Cole-Morgan
Irene Griffiths
Tanya Hansen
Linda Nelson

Finance
JULIE POZNANSKI

Chris Ball
Michael Epp
Fred Fawcett
Don Hitchen
Elinor Wilson, Treasurer

In-Reach
SALLY BALL

Shirley Hammond
Shirley Hobenshield
Ruth McLellan
Barbara McLeish
Dave Murdoch
Peggy Whiteway
Deborah Laing

Outreach
MAGGIE HOSGOOD

Patricia Alexis
Cathleen Gingrich
Sabina Harpe
Patti Hosgood
Betty McKDonald
Susan Burns
Jean McKTavish
Sylvia Meikle
Julie Poznanski
Janet Smith
Bian Thorpe
Ann Wang

Additional Council Members in 2019/2020

Chair: Mark Paetkau | Coordinating Minister: Maggie Enwright | Recording Secretary: Donna Lee Graham | Treasurer: Elinor Wilson | Members at Large: Gordon Esau, Dorothy Hamilton, John Smith

Ministry & Personnel

ARTHUR ROSS

Lynn Hitchen
Celia Huber
Jackie Kelly
Karen O'Brien
Ken Reeder
Ron Skolrood

Property Oversight

JANIS ESAU
MARK MIKULEC

Ken Ball
David Breen
Sandy Hwang
Bill McCutcheon
Denis Sjerve
Michael Vogel
Bill Farrar

Standing Committees

Many thanks to those leaders and members of standing committees who have undertaken special projects:

Affirming Ministry | p. 29

Facilities Use | Arthur Ross

Nominations | Mark Paetkau

Rejuvenation | p. 30

Spiritual Nurture

CHRIS EPTING

Ken Ball
Janet Cawley
Sandy Hwang
Susan Burns - Pastoral Care
Kathryn Mar - Library
Erin Peters
Doug Smart

Trustees

ROLLY MCLEOD

Maggie Enwright
Doug Smart
Emile Struyk
Mark Paetkau

Worship & Music

PAUL WESTWICK

Deb Anderson
Judith Ann Donaldson
Donna-Lee Graham
David Harvey
Heather Swallow
Barbara Johnson

council chair

The reports in this document summarize activities since June 2019. The review puts church life in perspective. Notwithstanding the weight of the pandemic on all of us Council members and other committee members have managed with good will and dedication to ensure a close to normal church life.

We are a resilient lot learning to do things differently. The challenge continues, however, to connect with those who are unable to take advantage of the opportunities afforded by technology. Our ministers are dedicated to seeing that all are in touch, and to remind all of us about the importance of community.

The list of nominees to be voted on represents a good balance between continuity and renewal. To council members who are not continuing we say thank you for your dedication and tireless efforts to encourage growth and community. To those who will join council we say welcome. We all benefit from change and we are ready and open to your contributions.

The effects of the pandemic could obscure the challenges and initiatives council dealt with so well during the past 18 months: the sale of West 24th, the repair of the sanctuary roof, and becoming an Affirming Congregation to name some. The challenges of the pandemic itself: the challenge to our finances and developing protocols for user groups and for the ultimate return to in-person worship and learning to use Zoom effectively for worship, meetings and youth groups.

Members of our congregation have more than maintained giving through this difficult time. You will see elsewhere in this report that we are ahead of budget overall. Our Finance Committee deserves kudos for managing our finances so well including responding quickly to the shut-down. Part of the reason we are doing well is because expenditures are significantly less than budget, but an improvement due only to the fact that we cannot meet in person is not really good news.

We have benefitted from the support of Pacific Mountain Region who responded quickly and with understanding to the various requests we made during the process of selling West 24th. And when we needed to finance the roof repair the Region advanced the funds pending our receiving the proceeds of sale of West 24th.

We have much to look forward to. Council committed to a facilitated visioning process which we expect to begin early in 2021. A key element of the process will be a fresh look at property development. This will also be an opportunity to consider the state of our amalgamation and how we continue to advance the original objective of being a vibrant congregation on the West Side of Vancouver. And we can do this with the support of the legacy fund from the sale of West 24th.

Blessings,
Mark Paetkau
Council Chair

coordinating minister

Often the writing of a ministerial submission to the Congregational Annual Report seems like somewhat of a perfunctory task. Not so this year. Most North American protestant mainline congregations know that every year in our modern, secular age brings its challenges. This year, however, has brought all new challenges and a need to take a hard look at how we "are called to be the church" in 2020 and beyond.

Our ministerial team and all our committees and volunteers have had to find new ways of doing things. Whoever thought that we would be called to be an "online community" in such a thorough way with most of our activities needing to move into the world of the virtual?

For the ways in which we have been able to make the shift, thanksgivings are in order.

Thank you to each and every congregation member who has participated by watching online worship videos, dropped off cheques to the church, continued giving by PAR, "zoomed" in to some meeting or gathering, called another congregation member to check-in, delivered care packages, meals or cards.

Thank you to committee members who have taken seriously your call to continue with your work – whether it be creating drama presentations online, setting up virtual coffee groups, offering online spiritual practices, creating "faith-at-home" kits for our children and youth, stewarding our finances and buildings and grounds, carrying on with Outreach work to support First United and Springhouse, arranging a re-imagined Fall Fair, working diligently to enable the sale of our 24th Avenue property, and caring for our congregants near and far.

It seems almost unbelievable that it was less than a year ago we gathered at 24th Avenue in a wonderfully uplifting and poignant celebration to say goodbye to the buildings there, and to honour the history of the congregation in that space. It was only a few short months before that when we moved all our programs and services to the 45th Avenue location. A few months before that (and just after our last Annual General Meeting), we instituted significant adjustments to our staff configuration.

These changes have brought both loss AND hope for new possibilities. Faith in God and the strength found in community has sustained us through these many changes, is sustaining us in this "in-between" time of wondering what is next, and will sustain us into the future.

Respectfully and hopefully submitted,
Maggie Enwright, Coordinating Minister

2020 in Hindsight

MORE THAN
200

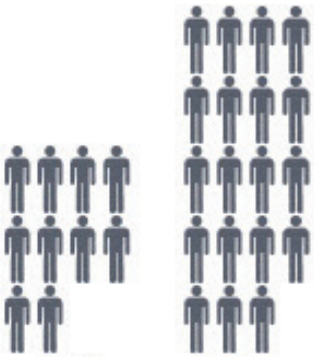
Welcome Parcels Delivered

0

Staff turnover in 2020

79

Members and adherents serving on council and committees



145 **200+**

Avg In Person vs **Online** attendance

Subscribers to our Youtube channel

86

MOST POPULAR VIDEOS

- Cantate Domino 369 Views (posted November 1)
- Quiet Curve of Evening 646 Views (posted March 28)
- Easter Service 300 Views

Five Offers Received for the purchase of West 24th Property since April

arts

The committee for **Ministries Through the Arts** *lives out Pacific Spirit United Church's commitment to: the Arts as an Expression of the Sacred; Music that opens us to awe; Many ways to enter; many ways to engage; many ways to respond to the Spirit's call.*

The Arts Committee integrates arts into worship, including drama, dance, poetry, and storytelling. We also create liturgical installations to enhance worship visually, and we assist with enhancement of other spaces in the church buildings when called upon by other committees, for example, assisting In Reach with the Church Directory and Rejuvenation with freshening up our spaces. In addition, we try to employ the arts to engage with the greater community, to support local artists, and to enhance discussion about the ways in which the arts "open us to awe." We have attended plays, concerts, galleries and museums. In all of our activities inside and outside the church, all are welcome to join.

Our committee has many ideas – some float and some don't. For two years, we have budgeted for a second Artist in Residence after the success of our first congregational art workshop. Our storyteller and our ASL "singer" have not happened yet but we are an optimistic bunch. Expect another arts workshop going forward.

In February, we hosted a Coffee House/Talent Show with music, dance, storytelling and a parlor game as well as displays of quilting, painting, spiritual collage, and more. This summer we engaged with the community at large with initiatives like "Surprised by Joy" where bouquets of flowers appeared on the streets of Kerrisdale.

With video-worship, we have learned to set up our liturgical installations to accommodate recording schedules, and we have moved some outside. We hope to reprise the success of our outdoor Thanksgiving installation with an equally engaging outdoor Advent installation.

Heather Swallow
Chair

children, youth

The role of the Children, Youth and Family Committee is to support Cathy Cryder as the Minister for Children, Youth and Families. We are responsible for strengthening and supporting this ministry through commitment to programming, activities and the resources necessary for the Christian formation of children and youth.

Our group provides feedback to and works closely with Cathy Cryder to evaluate programming and activities and to support each other in carrying out this valuable ministry. Like all ministries at Pacific Spirit, and the world in general, the past 8 months have pushed us to think outside the box, learn new skills and overcome obstacles. We have had to adapt and find ways to maintain existing connections with the children, youth and families in the congregation during this unique time. Personally, I am so proud of the work of this committee and the innovative ways that have emerged to maintain relationships with the congregation and God.

As we worked together over the past 18 months we continue to be aware of the importance of:

1. Supporting and encouraging the children and youth to take active, participatory and leadership roles in worship and congregational life
2. Allocating space to the Ministry with Children, Youth and Families in ways that foster accessibility and meaningful opportunities for engagement
3. Being consistently conscious of our commitment as a member of the Affirm network of churches, we ensure that all aspects of this ministry are fully inclusive of people of all gender identities, gender expressions and sexual orientations

& family

Summary from June 2019-March 2020

SUMMER:

Camp Spirit – ran in 14 different locations. 45th Ave site hosted one week which was well attended and supported by Pacific Spirit volunteers. St. Andrew's Wesley was provided space at West 24th for their week (due to renovations at St. Andrew's Wesley).

Pneumapalooza – One week in August and welcomed about 14 children and youth who created music and friendships and engaged in meaningful faith formation. This event was made possible by the generosity of Pacific Spirits' amazing volunteers.

FALL:

Halloween Event was downsized and targeted children 10 and under. While numbers of kids were small, everyone had a great time!

3 Pacific Spirit youth attended **Evolve Youth Conference** at Stillwood in Nov 2019

WINTER:

Advent Event with wreath making, decorating bags for Springhouse and other festive crafts and activities

Spaghetti dinner fundraising event – proceeds went to the Children and Youth Spiritual Development Fund to support children and youth from our congregation and Shaughnessy to attend events and camps

Pageant – enjoyed as always by participants and audience alike – we had a FULL house!

Several youth from Pacific Spirit attend the **Interfaith event** in Dec. Youth from Shi'a Ismaili Muslim community, United Church of Canada and Or Shalom Synagogue came together to prepare and distribute 150 care packages to the homeless

Two of our youth attended **FaithQuest** at Camp Stillwood – a weekend event for youth to wonder what it means to be Christian and explore their faith

We had numerous children and youth/ adults as leaders attend the **Imagine Children's Retreat** at Camp Stillwood in February

cy&f continued

Then came March 2020…And EVERYTHING changed.

Here are some examples of how the Ministry has adapted and some quotes from the children, youth and families:

Youth Group: has been a combination (depending on the PHO recommendations) of virtual and in person

> "I really like the fact that I get to socialize with people who I may not get to see very often."
>
> "I love seeing friends that I usually don't get to see, and I love doing the fun activities like making poppies out of felt."
>
> "I enjoy hanging out with the fun leaders and kids. I like doing the activities."

Camp Spirit: was held in fewer locations this year. 3 Pacific Spirit youth who participated as Youth Crew

> "It was rewarding to watch the little kids laugh and smile. Their glee was contagious!"
>
> "It was educational because it was my first time working with little kids and taking care of them"

Hot Chocolate Hour: offered after service at 11:15. Children and youth have appreciated the opportunity to connect with each other and Cathy

> "It's nice to talk to people and it makes church feel more normal"

Vespers: from conversations at Hot Chocolate Hour the idea of evening vespers emerged.

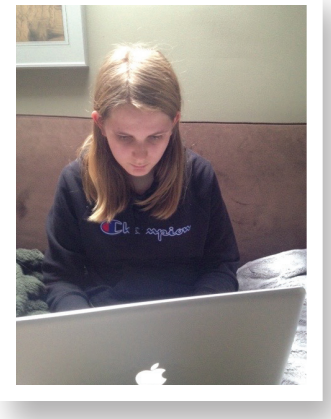
These are short services that provide an opportunity for story, check in, prayer and spiritual practice. They run at 2 separate times for different age groups and are currently happening Thursdays and Sundays.

> "It was really calming and I definitely slept better that night."
>
> "I felt calming and cleansing and helpful after a long week of school"

Faith at Home Kits: members of the committee have worked hard to create and deliver these to all families with children and youth.

> "The children most appreciated being thought of, despite our absence from church. It helped them feel like they are still seen and appreciated as part of the church community. Precious."
>
> "We most loved the modeling clay and mats."
>
> "We were drawn into the prayer ropes because they were simple but impactful."
>
> "Everything is so thoughtful and meaningful. It was really well curated and creative. I felt cared for."
>
> "We love playing with the kits, creating new things and learning about words from God."

Godly Play: Live Godly Play opportunities were attempted; however, attendance was poor. In conversations with other congregations this is a common experience.



Summary

Our committee has had another wonderful year. We are all passionate about this Ministry, and about the important place it creates for families, youth, and children of all ages to be present and active in our congregation. The following are changes to the committee for the upcoming term: Kathryn Urquhart will step down as chair and will remain on the committee, Anne Clark will step down from the committee – we thank Anne for her dedication to the committee, her valuable insight and composition abilities and her genuine love for the children. We are sad to see her leave the committee, however, we are thrilled she will continue to be a voice for children and youth on the Worship Committee.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathryn Urquhart

finance

Early in the Pandemic in April, when the reality of the virus situation was finally setting in, many of those in leadership roles in the church had significant financial concerns. Cash flow projections showed that there was likely going to be a funding crisis for the church by the end of the year and significant staffing cuts felt inevitable.

However, through a number of amazing circumstances including the hard work of all the church committees, government funding programs, consistent congregational givings, and support from the wider church, Pacific Spirit is in a much better financial situation than anyone could have expected at this point in the year. Here are some examples of great news stories from finance:

- The Federal Wage Subsidy Program (CEWS) has provided $150,000 in payroll support for the church in 2020. This funding cemented our ability to provide our outstanding ministry and staff team certainty for the entire year and avoided significant staffing cuts.
- The West 24th Property sale completed in early November at a final sale price of $9 million. This was an extremely hard and challenging decision for everyone, and we are all very thankful for those involved in the multi-year process to get this over the finish line.
- The wider church provided a short-term $450,000 loan to the congregation to fund the extensive roofing project of the sanctuary so it could take place in the summer season. The final cost of the roofing project was approximately $290,000 and a portion of the proceeds of the 24th sale have now repaid the wider church loan.
- The operations of the church as part of the amalgamation plan had an accumulated deficit of $780,000 (including interest) for the combined years of 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020. This money was primarily borrowed from the Endowment fund and has been repaid from the proceeds of the 24th sale.
- The sale of 24th has allowed for the church to exercise its option to purchase the house at the corner of 45th and Vine for approximately $2.3 million. This lot is required for the future development plan of the 45th site.
- After a few other internal transfers and accounting adjustments, there is just over $5 million left from the 24th sale that is being committed to the Pacific Spirit Legacy Fund. The Council, Trustees, and Finance Committee are working hard to establish the parameters of this fund so that it can help fund decades of future ministry of the congregation.
- The current congregational givings to the end of October are $396,000 which is about 95% of the budgeted amount (set prior to the pandemic). Given the circumstances of COVID-19, the Finance Committee is overjoyed with the continued financial support of the congregation.

Prepared by Chris Ball
Julie Poznanski, Chair

inreach

The Continuing Goals of the Pacific Spirit In-Reach Committee include: offering hospitality and welcome to all; providing opportunities for developing community, including newcomers, and contributing to providing welcoming spaces and events.

Fall 2019 Committee activities included Thursday Luncheons, Directory and Photo Directory distribution, Third Place gatherings. One new initiative was the Advent Posada: sharing the Nativity family figures passed member to member over a visit and a cup of tea. This was well received by those who participated.

2020 Thursday Luncheons started in February with leadership by Deborah Laing in sharing stories of congregants' school experiences. At one of the last indoor (in-person) gatherings for the year, Deb Anderson led us in a musical program in March.

The Third Place Tuesday morning Drop-In gathering met regularly outdoors when possible, after the lock-down, with up to 18 in attendance. They moved to Zoom as the weather cooled and protocols changed.

Proposed initiatives suggested at our meetings early in the year, not to be lost but to be acted on in the future, include:

- Speakers at future Thursday (possibly lunch) programs to include community policing and travelogues, sharing stories and music.
- A new church-goer event to introduce newcomers to church members
- Greeter training, reception volunteer recruitment

The committee helped prepare and deliver the Welcome Care Kits for members of the congregation in October. While socially distanced, the committee met via Zoom in November to brainstorm how In-Reach can reach out to the congregation to fulfill its goals. From this session a plan was devised to write and mail Christmas greeting cards to the congregation.

Thanks to the committee members for their enthusiasm and patience. Also many thanks to the willing volunteer greeters, receptionists and coffee servers.

Sally Ball
Chair

outreach

Outreach has many fingers, each in a social justice pie! We have been working on the climate crisis, Refugee Sponsorship, Reconciliation with our First Nations, support for the Springhouse Women's Shelter in Vancouver, and quilt-making for Covenant House, Springhouse and First United.

Jean McTavish and Sabina Harpe helped to lead a Drawdown Getting Into Action course this Fall. It was attended by folk from our congregation as well as other local churches and even some participants from the US. As part of the Partnership with First United we chose to work on support for Indigenous Women's Projects as recommended in Red Women Rising, a report on Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women. In spite of COVID-19 we managed to continue our support for Springhouse with donations for Mothers' Day, Back to School and now, Christmas. Unfortunately we have not been able to gather to make quilts this year. Outreach also is part of our church's AFFIRM committee. Outreach continues to work with our Guatemalan partners to supply Cafe Justicia coffee for our church and congregation. Jean McTavish takes the orders for coffee. This year we have also decided to donate $500 to the Ministers' Fund to meet the shortfall for the gift cards we offer to those in our community who ask for food help.

Our refugee sponsorship is active: In January this year we welcomed Hassan and Minilas. We have planned a baby shower on Zoom to help them prepare for their first child. We also have in process the sponsorship of Loyae Tayem and wife Rania. He is uncle of both the Mohamads sponsored in 2011 as part of our Palestinian support: one brought here by Legacy Ryerson and the other by Legacy Dunbar. Sadly, our application to sponsor an LGBT+ woman from Africa has not moved forward as we have lost contact with her. She needs our prayers! As part of the church coalition for sponsorship on the West Side we are awaiting a Syrian Kurdish family from Iraq, a Syrian family from Lebanon and a Turkish family from Tanzania.

We would welcome more members for our committee! Your participation in all our work or in specific areas of interest is eagerly awaited!

Maggie Hosgood

ministry & personnel

The Ministry and Personnel Committee ("M&P") oversees the relationship of the pastoral charge staff to each other and to people in the congregation. It works to ensure a supportive working environment for all ministry personnel and non-ministerial staff in the interests of the congregation. We are directed by the Strategic Ministry Plan of this congregation and by The Manual of the United Church of Canada.

Towards the end of 2019, M&P conducted the required annual reviews of our two ordained ministers and helped them to set ministry goals for the following 18 months. Of course, the pandemic has since upended any sense of normalcy in ministry for them. M&P is currently engaged in reviews of all other paid staff but again, the pandemic has caused a needed reassessment as to what constitutes a fair review of our staff.

In past annual reports, the chair of M&P has been asked to report on the basis of one or two numbers that indicate work the committee has undertaken. I am pleased to report on the number "zero". Zero represents the number of staff changes since the last report of M&P to the congregation. Zero staff changes is a huge change from the last M&P report to the congregation. In pandemic times, it reflects three things - the dedication of our staff in challenging times, the support of the congregation, and certainly the wage subsidy program of the federal government when the pandemic hit. For all of these things, plus the dedication of the other members of the M&P committee, your outgoing chair is extremely grateful.

Arthur Ross
Chair

property development

By way of background, the Congregation obtained, in the fall of 2017, unanimous approval of the Vancouver City Council to the rezoning of the Church properties on West 45th. This included a home on West 45th at Yew (the "Optioned Lot") for which the Church holds an option to purchase.

In 2018 our development partner, Wall Financial Corporation (which owns the Optioned Lot), withdrew from the project based on changes in the underlying real estate market and increased costs of construction of the buildings approved by the rezoning and the restoration of the Stone Church.

A number of important major maintenance projects were deferred during the rezoning process as they would be included in the Community Amenity Contributions and funded by the redevelopment contemplated by the re-zoning. One of those was the replacement of the roof for the Stone Church. It was concluded that the roof had to be replaced in 2020 and three members of PDC and two members of the Property Oversight Committee were constituted as a working committee to see this process through. It was undertaken in 2020 and completed on time and under budget.

The sale proceeds derived from the completion of the sale of the West 24th site on November 13, 2020 repaid the loan from Pacific Mountain Region which funded the replacement of the roof on the Stone Church and repaid loans from endowment funds that were used to finance operating deficits from the time of amalgamation in 2017 to date. Part of the remainder will be used to acquire the Optioned Lot, approval for which was granted by the Pacific Mountain Region. This will mean that the Church will own the full block on West 45th that includes the Stone Church, which will keep all development alternatives open for consideration, many of which would see a new activity center constructed west of the Stone Church to replace the existing Memorial Center. In addition to the strategic advantage of owing the full block, the home on the Optioned Lot will provide rental income and long term capital appreciation potential.

The PDC has continued to discuss development alternatives for the West 45th site with the City, potential development partners and others.

The combination of the liquidity provided by the sale of West 24th, the replacement of the roof on the Stone Church and the acquisition of the Optioned Lot means that the Church can take its time to assess the best use of our real estate assets within a secure long term ministry of Pacific Spirit United Church.

Gordon Esau
Chair

property oversight

The members of the POC at the beginning of the period were Janis Esau, Mark Mikulec (co-chairs), Ken Ball, Denis Sjerve, David Breen, Michael Vogel, Sandy Hwang, and Bill McCutcheon. Sandy Hwang and Michael Vogel have recently left the committee, and Dawne Milligan has joined the committee. Janis Esau has stepped down as co-chair after many years of service. Alicia Harder, our Administrator, attends every meeting and provides us with key information relating to maintenance.

The committee's responsibilities include maintenance of both the 45th Ave. site and the 24th Ave. facilities. At the 45th Ave. site, these are the Sanctuary, the Memorial Centre, the Gymnasium, the lawns, and overseeing the management by Vancouver Management Ltd. (VML) of rented houses. At the 24th Ave. site, oversight includes the Sanctuary, and all associated rooms in the church building, and the lawns.

1. When the 24th site was put up for sale, the POC spent a lot of time cleaning out the 24th site and moving everything that we thought to be useful back to the 45th site. The 24th property site has been sold, and the deal has just been closed. The POC has now finished its work there.

2. With the redevelopment of the 45th site put on pause for the foreseeable future, many temporary fixes and renovations are being made, led by a rejuvenation committee. POC members are contributing to many of the projects such as fixes to crumbling plaster around the windows in the Sanctuary, patching holes to the outside foundation of the Chapel, fixing crumbling window sills on the south side of the Memorial Centre, replacing ceiling tiles in the Lounge, to name a few. With the re-roofing of the Sanctuary, and the Memorial Centre, the POC doesn't have to attend to leaks anymore.

3. The POC and the Rejuvenation committee are working together to ensure consistency in our approach to the maintenance of the three buildings.

Prepared by Bill McCutcheon

Janis Esau
Chair

spiritual

Spiritual Nurture is embedded into the fabric of Pacific Spirit United Church and has continued to flourish despite the challenges presented to us by the Covid-19 Corona Virus.

Although plans had to be changed people have found way to connect with each other and with the sacred. Spiritual Nurture is a large umbrella that includes a wide variety of groups that meet regularly.

Maintaining connections with each other has been a prime focus of all facets of the Spiritual Nurture Umbrella as we are no longer meeting in person. This has involved moving to virtual meetings, holding meetings in outside and find ways other ways to maintain connections which each other and with God.

Many of the groups that fall under the umbrella of the Spiritual Nurture Committee have provided an update on their activities and these have been included in this report.

HEALING PATHWAY BY DISTANCE.

Healing prayer can bridge six feet of separation. In fact, distance healing prayer can bridge all spatial separation. Many members of Pacific Spirit United Church have already experienced distance healing offered by the Healing Ministries. It is reported that they can feel the energy and that the effects after a session is real and helpful. This ministry is open to all and complies with the Covid protocols. It is a way to augment your health and deepen your spirit.

The Healing Ministry practitioners have continued to meet over the summer and into the fall on a regular basis. The regular offerings to the congregation are the 3rd Thursday evening of the month and 4th Wednesday afternoon of the month as noted in the church bulletin. Practitioners are also available at any time there is a need such as pre- and post-surgery or an illness or injury. You are welcome to contact the team through our administrator for a distance healing session.

The ministry is led by Jan Miko and Lorraine Struyk on Wednesday afternoons and Judith Ann Donaldson, Sabina Harpe and Jean McTavish on Thursday evenings.

CONTEMPLATIVE MEDIATION GROUP

The Contemplative Meditation Group meets virtually on Monday evening from 7:00 to 8:30pm.

We follow the Centering Prayer practices developed by Father Thomas Keating and others to reclaim the ancient Christian practice of listening from the heart, so that we might be present to God who dwells within. Our time together consists of a check-in time, a 20 minute time of Centering Prayer, followed by contemplative reading of a book chosen by the group. The readings take place aloud and are followed by thoughtful discussion. This group includes members of several faith traditions and welcomes new members. Facilitators are Janey Cole-Morgan, Sabina Harpe and John Brozak

CENTRING PRAYER GROUP

The Centring Prayer Group meets virtually on Wednesday. Their time together consists of a check in time, centring prayer, reading of a book chosen by the group and closed with a Celtic blessing. The last book read was written by Richard Roar. This group is coordinated by Jan Miko and Doug Smart has been the Zoom host while group is meeting virtually.

THE THIRD PLACE

The Third Place meets every Tuesday on the lawn of the Memorial Centre and have had as many as nineteen people gather together. When asked why so many come they all said,

nurture

"We need each other". We have lots of laughs, interesting conversation, and we never go home without having learned something new.

PASTORAL CARE

Throughout the Covid restrictions Pastoral Care has been constantly considering and revising the most effective ways to stay in touch and provide support when we can't be there in person. Furthermore, the Casserole Brigade continues to provide meal support where and when needed.

Over the summer we planned the September Remembering Service so that families from the congregation who had lost a loved one could share memories with us. This event was not meant to replace their own family remembering service but it did fill a need for those involved and was well received.

A subcommittee from PC have been planning events to highlight the need of the congregation to learn about ways to be more welcoming and inclusive with people living with Dementia. There has been a great deal of help from the Building Capacity research being done at UBC and a University in Toronto. The first of our presentations is due to take place on Sunday November 22nd at 1.30pm. The committee is named, Beacon shining a light on Dementia.

THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Dawne Miligan and Alison Richardson have been working away at organizing the library over the past few months. The Library Committee is working on a protocol for borrowing books during this time of pandemic.

This report is respectfully submitted on behalf of the Spiritual Nurture Committee by
Chris Epting
Chair

Committee Initiatives

CONGREGATIONAL SURVEY

A year ago we surveyed the congregation to gather information as to what type of programming we might offer. Bible studies, Interfaith studies and Theological discussion groups were identified as strong areas of interest. Bible studies and discussion groups, such as on Isaiah and Paul, have continued to be offered virtually. Unfortunately, we have put on hold Interfaith studies until the we can safely meet in person once again.

QUESTIONING FAITH GROUP

The Questioning Faith Group was formed in and meet regularly to discuss Marcus Borg's book The Heart of Christianity. The group moved to virtual meetings in Spring of 2020 and maintained contact throughout the summer. The Questioning Faith group is excited to renew meeting this fall. This group is facilitated by Erin Peters and Janet Cawley.

VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR

Led by Doug Smart the Spiritual Nurture Committee started to hold virtual coffee hours after the online Sunday Services. In the Spring, many people volunteered to host Zoom meetings and directly invited people from our congregation to participate. Virtual Coffee hours have continued this fall and the Spiritual Nurture Committee has committed to host invitation based Coffee Hours once a month.

SPIRITUAL PRACTICES

Once a week during Eastertide a variety of spiritual practices such as mindful walking and body prayers were highlighted in our newsletters and on our website. The goal was to provide a sample of spiritual practices to try and might be incorporated into people's lives.

trustees

For convenience this report is grouped into the major categories of things we dealt with in 2020, not in order of importance or in chronological order.

INSURANCE ON BUILDINGS

All the real property of Pacific Spirit United Church is held in the name of the Trustees. One of the responsibilities of the Trustees is to ensure that the buildings on the Church's properties are adequately insured. This year we had a very significant increase in the insurance premium coupled with an increase in the basic deductible. The Trustees considered the situation and eventually determined to increase the deductible from $2500 to $5000 in order to reduce the annual premium by $6922.

SALE OF THE WEST 24TH AND COLLINGWOOD PROPERTIES

The Trustees had a number of meetings this year with respect to the sale of the West 24th and Collingwood properties. The process mandated by United Church policy for selling church property is as follows:

1. The Council must first decide to sell a Property (usually after the Trustees have received an offer for the Property) and the Council then directs the Trustees
   a) to accept the offer (ensuring that a condition in favour of the Trustees is that the transaction is conditional upon receiving the consent of the Regional Council) and
   b) to seek the approval of the Regional Council.
2. The Trustees then
   a) accepts the offer (ensuring there a condition in favour of the Trustees that the transaction is conditional upon receiving the consent of the Regional Council) and
   b) applies to the Regional Council for consent to the sale.
3. Upon receiving the consent of the Regional Council, the Trustees advise the buyer that the condition is satisfied.

During 2020 we had two offers for the West 24th and Collingwood properties and went through the foregoing process twice. The first prospective purchaser had a condition in the offer that the purchaser had to be satisfied with certain enquiries about the properties. That prospective purchaser was unable get satisfied with his enquiries and decided not to proceed. We then went through the same process with the purchaser who eventually did purchase the properties but it also took a number of extensions of the subject removal date before we had a binding unconditional agreement and were able to close the transaction on November 13th.

REVIEW OF SECURITIES BROKERAGE AND ADVISORY SERVICES

The Trustees, at the suggestion of the Finance Committee, is in the midst of a review of the securities brokerage and advisory services it receives. The Trustees developed a Request for Proposal document which it sent to a select number of brokerage firms, including our present firm, RBC Dominion Securities Inc. Proposals have been received and will be evaluated over the next couple of weeks. Based upon those evaluations, interviews via Zoom may be arranged and a decision made by early December.

EMPTY HOMES TAX (VANCOUVER) AND VACANCY AND SPECULATION TAX (BC)

As all four of our residential rental properties had been rented for at least 6 full months in 2019 we qualified for exemption under both the Empty Homes Tax (Vancouver) and Vacancy and Speculation Tax (BC). The Declaration for the Vancouver Empty Homes Tax was filed very easily. The Declaration of the Provincial Vacancy and Speculation Tax took months to file because the form designed by the Property Taxation Branch did not accommodate our manner of holding title to our properties. The form was only designed to be filed by a trustee on behalf of a beneficial owner who is an individual. The Trustees hold title for the Congregation. We raised the issue with the Property Taxation Branch at the end of February but it took until mid-September after numerous emails and telephone calls to resolve the matter and get the declarations for the 4 properties filed. We are assured that this will not be a problem next year.

ACQUIRING THE LOT AT THE CORNER OF WEST 45TH AND VINE STREET

The Trustees have an Option to acquire beneficial ownership of the Lot at the Corner of West 45th and Vine Street and all the shares of the company which owns that Lot. This Option was arranged in 2013 by the Property Development Committee to give the Church much more flexibility in the redevelopment of its lands.

Council at its last meeting instructed the Trustees to seek the consent of the Regional Council to the exercise of that Option. A request went from the Trustees to the Regional Council and the Regional Council has consented. The Trustees will now exercise the Option.

I am not standing for re-election as a Trustee at the Congregational Meeting so this will be my final report to the Congregation on behalf of the Trustees. I would like to thank the other Trustees for their careful consideration and insight into the issues which came before us this year. It was a pleasure to work with all of them.

Respectfully submitted,

Rolly McLeod
Chair of the Trustees

worship & music

Worship's aim is to deepen our relationship with God, our neighbours and ourselves: engaging, comforting, provocative. Children take active roles in worship. Music is an important component of all worship. Responsibilities include: Sunday worship; Mid-week worship; Weekly sung service - a meditative, music-focused service and in all cases accessibility for those with visual, auditory and mobility issues.

Fulfilling that role in the time of Covid has been challenging, but we have supported our ministry team in pivoting to online services, and looking for creative ways to engage with and comfort the congregation. While we all miss the direct personal interaction, our online worship presence has opened our message to a wider audience. We have made, and will continue to refine, plans for how in-person worship might be able to work, once it is safe and legal to gather again. We anticipate that this will be a gradual re-entry, and not a direct return to how we operated before. In the mean time, we want to do what we can to keep everyone safe.

Plans for a congregational workshop on music in ministry, as part of looking forward into what we want from the music under the new staffing model, are on hold but not forgotten. Once it is safe to do so, we want to gather people together for brainstorming, exploration and visioning.

Paul Westwick
Chair

affirming ministry

Affirming ministry falls under the purview of the Spiritual Nurture Committee.

Pacific Spirit United Church became an official Affirming Ministry on Sept. 22nd 2019. Since then the Affirming Ministry Committee has been engaged in the following activities:

- Rainbow Steps – obtaining Council approval of Barry Morgan's (excellent) idea to paint the south steps of the Memorial Centre in rainbow colours and liaising with Barry on the details and execution of the project
- Arranging the hanging of Rainbow Flags outside the Church and the Memorial Centre
- Arranging the hanging of Rainbow Flags in the Sanctuary
- Ensuring our Affirming Vision Statement is prominently displayed on website
- Arranging to have the Affirming Vision Statement translated into Chinese and displaying the translation
- Placing the Affirm logo on our doors, website, newsletters etc.
- Liaising with Stich and Chatter about a future Affirm themed quilt
- Sending a letter to parliament in support of the proposed conversion therapy ban
- Ensuring gender neutral signage is placed on all washrooms
- Arranging for the observance of the Transgender Day of Remembrance in Nov 2019 and Nov 2020
- Arranging for the celebration of PIE Day (Public Intentional and Explicit) in March 2020 including bringing in guest preacher Beth Carlson Malena to preach about allyship with the LGBTQ community
- Keeping our membership in Affirm United in good standing including arranging for the Affirm Membership fee to be paid
- Planning and preparing a video celebrating our one-year anniversary of becoming an Affirming Ministry
- Purchasing rainbow cross pins to be worn by Sunday greeters and for sale to the congregation and arranging the sale and delivery of pins
- Arranging for some members of the committee and from the congregation to be interviewed for a news article about affirming churches in the lower mainland (not yet published)

Submitted by Sandra Campbell
Chair of the Affirming Ministry Committee

rejuvenation

Under the theme of "Bloom Where We Are Planted," the Rejuvenation Committee came together in June, 2020 with a mandate to beautify and enhance the worship and gathering space at Pacific Spirit United Church.

Having acknowledged the pause in the Church's larger redevelopment project, Council felt it was time for the existing worship and gathering space to be rejuvenated. Most of the funds for this project are provided by the **Chris McGregor Fund**. Chris and his extended family were and are long-time members and intimately involved with Ryerson legacy life.

Our Committee members represent new and experienced, young and old, passionate and patient. We are:

Sally Ball	Maggie Enwright
Jordan Esau	Dorothy Hamilton
Mark Mikulec	Erin Peters
Julie Poznanski	Michael Vogel

OUR PROJECTS

Our projects are wide-ranging. In the Sanctuary, we are replastering the walls, refinishing the fir floors, and repainting. In the Memorial Centre, we are creating new staff workspace in the old nursery, refreshing the East/West and Fireside/Dogwood rooms, and updating various spaces in our kitchens and storage areas. In the gardens, we are working with the Gardening Sub-Committee to landscape, and we are providing benches to invite congregants and guests to linger. We are working with the Arts Committee and the Beacon Initiative to envision new signs for both outside and inside our spaces. This and much more.

WATCH FOR:

Announcements and photos in December, 2020 with updates on our work and ways that you can participate in our projects. Like in our Church, you are welcome here.

Erin Peters

CONTACT

Address

2195 W 45 Avenue
Vancouver, BC | V6M 2J2

Telephone

T. 604.266.5377

Online

Rev. Maggie Enwright, Coordinating Minister: coordinator@pacificspirituc.com
Rev. Deborah Laing, Minister of Community Development: development@pacificspirituc.com

www.pacificspirituc.com

PACIFIC SPIRIT UNITED CHURCH