

University Hill Congregation

Report of the Stewards

For the year ended June 30, 2015

Delivered at the Meeting
of the Congregation

Sunday, November 15, 2015

Introduction

The Stewards are responsible for the financial and business affairs of the congregation. At present, we consist of Michael Butler, John Culter, Eric Hall, Dan Sneep, Tessa Marks, Michael Moll and Eric Stephanson.

In addition, the Stewards serve as Trustees of the congregation, and are responsible for our physical assets and investments. We meet quarterly throughout the year, and more often if necessary.

During the year, we said goodbye to Shelley Jones, our Treasurer for many years. Shelley has moved to Chilliwack, and hence is no longer available, and we thank her for her long time as our financial recorder and guide. As well, Tessa Marks has advised that she intends to return to the US in January. We will miss her sharp attention to detail. And while this was long expected, Ed Searcy, our minister and valuable member of our committee, left us as planned in June, leaving a big gap in our

To round out the changes, I will leave my role as chair of the Stewards and the Trustees after our congregational meeting on November 15, 2015. We have appointed Eric Hall as our chair, to assume responsibility for our work going forward. I have certainly enjoyed serving as chair of the Stewards and Trustees, but these appointments are not intended to be for life, and it's time to engage some fresh energy as we move forward into what looks like a challenging environment.

Overall review

From a financial perspective, we have had a pretty difficult year. Envelope givings for congregational activities were well below our projection, and the net revenues from the Christian Seasons Calendar were not up to our estimates as well. And not unexpectedly, our investment portfolio failed to return as much as we had hoped.

Generally, expenses were consistent with our budget. Our costs are mostly salaries and infrastructure, and these can be predicted with some surety.

Over the past year, we have moved out of our offices at VST to Carey Theological College, having squeezed three people into two offices there, and now back to VST in their new office space. Much disruption, somewhat added to by the retirement of Rev. Dr. Ed Searcy in June. It would be wrong to imagine that the final year of a highly successful twenty-year ministry would be normal, and so it was not. Happily, things seem to have settled down somewhat, and we are pleased to welcome Rev. Eric Stephanson as our minister for the year, and as our valued member and leader in this work.

Administration and accounting

Once again we are grateful to our church secretary, Marjorie Morrison-Ross, for her excellent effort to maintain some stability in our operations as we moved around the neighbourhood. Marjorie has taken charge of the back-office aspects of our Christian Seasons Calendar delivery system, and looks after a significant part of our general accounting. We rely on her to keep us together from Sunday to Sunday, and we greatly appreciate her willingness to assume responsibility for pretty much everything that goes on in the congregation.

Envelopes

Dan Sneep continues to look after our weekly envelope recording, and Eric Hall manages to find people to count the offering each week after worship. Both these jobs are necessary but not very glamorous. We are grateful for their continuing faithfulness.

Going forward

As noted, the crystal ball is pretty cloudy as we look into the next couple of years. It's hard to know where we're going to end up in our ministry search, and it's not obvious that the congregation has enough resources to get back into a sustained and stable financial position.

We have consistently underestimated our envelope contributions in recent years. In 2011 we took in \$136,300; in 2012 we received \$143,500. The number for the year just ended was \$115,100. There are two obvious factors: we lost several major and consistent donors through death, and we believe there has been some uncertainty around our ministry after Ed Searcy's retirement. And it should be noted that when the invitation went out to subscribe to a parting gift to Ed, the fund eventually amounted to \$7,715, truly a handsome present to a much loved friend and colleague. It remains, however, to consider whether we are able to climb back up to previous levels.

Ministry salary has become a point of focus over the summer. The United Church of Canada has changed its remuneration policy, from a salary plus housing allowance model to a single salary schedule. Because we live in a very expensive part of Canada, we are in the top bracket. No surprise there, but it represents quite a bit of added cost.

Our present congregational minister has agreed to work on a three-quarter time basis, which represents a big saving in the current year. On the other hand, we moved our UBC Campus Minister, Karen Hollis, to full time in July, taking into account her internship with us in preparation for ordination next spring. This ended up being a larger commitment than we had expected. The support for her position comes from BC Conference, and seems to be fixed at present. The combination of the new salary policy and our somewhat reduced circumstances means that we will have some challenges when we call our new minister in July 2016.

In any case, it is a great pleasure to be part of this company of Christian adventurers, wondering how to be faithful in the journey toward the cross of Jesus Christ. The many examples of devotion and stewardship in the congregation are a wonder, and we can only be encouraged and blessed as we continue.

In God's grace, many blessings.

John Culter

**University Hill Congregation
Envelope Givings
For the calendar year 2014**

	Donor families	Amount
Less than \$10 a week	9	\$ 1,860
\$10 a week	10	\$ 6,380
\$20 a week	10	\$ 11,800
\$30 a week	9	\$ 15,300
\$45 a week	5	\$ 12,300
\$60 a week	6	\$ 18,700
Over \$100 a week	11	\$ 67,800

(While the congregation's financial year end is June 20, 2015, this report is compiled from calendar year statistics to provide continuity with previous years.)

University Hill Congregation
Operating Income Statement
For the year ended June 30, 2015

November 14, 2015

	Actual	Budget	Budget 2016
1 Revenue			
2 Envelope givings	115,134	145,000	125,000
3 Open givings	7,193	6,000	6,000
4 Retirement fund	7,715	-	-
5 Flowers	822	500	500
6 Donations - Sandwich Making	1,120	500	1,000
7 Donations - Native Ministries Dinner	225	250	250
8 Donations - Other	1,055		500
9 UBC Campus Ministry - Grant	40,477	29,167	50,000
Transition Grant - Vancouver-Burrard	9,483	9,000	
Internship Grant			10,000
10 UBC Campus Ministry - Donations	375	2,500	2,500
11 Christian Seasons Calendar - Net	28,929	40,000	40,000
12 Investment income (Operations)	4,510	5,000	5,000
13 Total Revenue	217,038	237,917	240,750
14 Expenses			
15 Ordained Ministry			
17 Minister's salary and benefits	103,378	95,000	52,525
18 Education & books	1,106	1,500	1,250
19 Sub-total	104,484	96,500	53,775
20 Ministry of Music			
21 Minister of Music	13,550	9,500	9,500
22 Leader of The Singers (honorarium)	-	-	-
23 Guest Musicians	150	500	500
24 Ministry of Music supplies	1,170	500	500
25 Sub-total	14,870	10,500	10,500
26 Ministry of Christian Education			
27 Minister of CE salary & benefits	11,520	11,500	11,500
28 Teachers salary & benefits	2,652	2,500	2,500
29 Supplies	581	500	500
30 Sub-total	14,753	14,500	14,500
31 UBC Campus Ministry			
32 Campus Minister Salary & Benefits - 85%	29,071	26,000	72,291
33 Education & Books	999	600	1,330
34 Supplies	127		
35 Activities	4,420	3,500	3,500
36 Telephone	436	600	600
37 Shared office costs	5,799	4,000	5,500
38 Sub-total	40,852	34,700	83,221
39 Ministries & Activities			
40 First United Sandwiches	1,272	500	1,000
41 Flowers	822	500	500
42 Hospitality on Sunday	1,623	1,450	1,500
43 Minister's discretionary fund	2,471	1,000	1,000
44 Native Ministries Dinner	566	500	500
45 Observer	209	-	-
46 Presbytery	9,525	9,000	9,000
47 Transition Fees & Retreats	12,924	11,000	

48	VST Scholarship			2,500
49	Worship supplies	809	500	500
50		Sub-total	30,221	23,450
51	Administration			
52	Accounting & Legal fees	5,324	3,500	3,500
53	Amortization	740	300	500
54	Bank charges	371	600	300
55	Insurance	1,115	600	1,000
56	Lease - Carey Hall	7,115	9,600	9,600
57	Lease - VST	16,400	16,500	16,500
58	Office supplies	3,276	4,000	4,000
59	Parking	1,500	1,440	1,440
60	Sacristan	2,455	2,400	2,400
61	Secretary salary & benefits	20,080	22,000	24,000
62	Telephone & Internet	2,093	2,500	2,500
63	UCC Payroll service	997	1,800	1,000
64	Workers Compensation	355	400	400
65	Less: Campus Ministry shared costs	(5,799)	(4,000)	(5,500)
66		Sub-total	56,022	61,640
67				
68	Total Expenses		261,202	241,290
69				
70	Revenue less Expenses from operations		(44,164)	(3,373)
71				
72	Plus: Investment income included from funds		13,708	15,000
73				
74	Net increase (loss) in total assets		(30,456)	11,627

