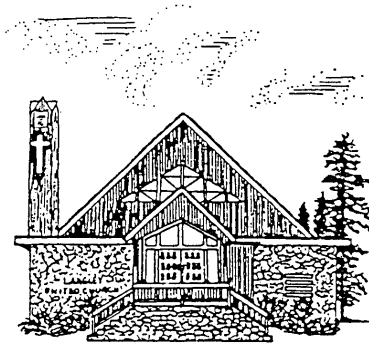


LANGLEY UNITED CHURCH

NARRATIVE BUDGET
2006



This narrative budget attempts to communicate how we at Langley United Church use the resources entrusted to us by God to do the work we believe we are called to do. A narrative budget is a communication tool, not an administrative tool. A narrative budget does not provide a line-by-line breakdown of where money goes, although that information is also available, but tells our story and interprets our mission. It reminds us of what we do, and why we do it.

As part of the visioning process at Langley United Church, the board has several statements which are intended to guide the decision making and direction of LUC. These include:

Identity Statement

We are a part of the Body of Christ, endeavouring as Christ's disciples to continue his mission and ministry in Langley and the world,

Core Values

- an openness to diversity and difference; the welcoming of all.
- the vitality that children and youth bring to our church family
- scripture as a central source in guiding and shaping us as followers of Jesus
- the centrality of Christ's commandment to reach out in service to the world
- the importance of supporting and caring for one another within the Christian community
- the place of music in the worship and fellowship life of our congregation

Our new draft Mission Statement is the outline for this narrative budget.

*Guided by the Holy Spirit, we are called together by Jesus:
to worship God;
to grow as disciples of Christ;
to serve the world and each other;
and to offer hospitality and welcome to all.*

***Guided by the Holy Spirit, we are called together by Jesus:
to worship God ...***

Worship

Worship is the primary focus of the Christian life in general, and of our congregational life in particular. It is the primary reason for, and method of, the community gathering. Many people who think of church think of what happens on Sunday morning. For these and other reasons, worship is the area where most of our resources are focused.

Worship includes not only Sunday morning services, but special services during certain seasons and holy days, and funerals and memorial services. Volunteers working through the worship committee plan worship services, including communion and baptism services; arrange for the preparation and distribution of the Communion elements; arrange for coverage of staff during vacation/leave times, give consideration to new forms and expressions of worship; and encourage the use of various art forms, such as drama, dance, banners, etc. The worship committee is also responsible for the decorating of the sanctuary, including the changing of banners and other liturgical cloths, and arranging for flowers for the Sunday morning services.

The costs associated with offering the quality of worship we are able to provide range from licensing fees for the legal use of copyrighted music, to providing things like candles and communion supplies, to staffing. Dr. Greg Caisley's time and roughly 40% of Rev. Scott's time are devoted to preparing and leading worship.

Worship: \$57,107

... to grow as disciples of Christ ...

Christian Development/Christian Formation

Christian Development focuses on the work of building up the body of Christ at Langley United Church by helping all of us to grow in our Christian faith. The work of Christian nurture and formation teaches people the broader Christian story and helps them to draw connections between that story and their own lives. Much of our ministry relates to our congregation's children and youth programmes (Sunday school, Friends of Fire, junior and senior youth groups), and we also work to provide contemporary, relevant library resources to all, including adults. We rely on many volunteers for our Sunday school and youth programmes, and our budget also includes the congregation's youth minister, David Nelson, and this year we are also adding staffing resources to ministry with children and families with the Rev. Gabrielle Suedfeld. We calculate that roughly 20% of Rev. Scott's time goes to Christian formation through various teen and adult study groups and EFM, and we include that in our budget as well.

Christian education/formation: \$21,060

... to serve the world and each other and to offer hospitality and welcome to all.

Outreach

One of the core values of Langley United is belief in "the centrality of Christ's commandment to reach out in service to the world." This is what we mean by "outreach." Langley United financially supports a number of ministries beyond our community, including the Naramata Centre, Cultus Lake United Church Camp, the Inter-church Refugee Programme, and First United Church in Vancouver's downtown east side. At Langley United we love to eat together, and our outreach ministries support those who long for enough to eat. We support the Langley Food Bank, distribute Christmas hampers, and have bags of food available in the office. We are involved in the Nicomekl Elementary School breakfast programme and this year will begin a community hot meal programme based on the human and financial resources available to us.

Outreach: \$ 6,250

Pastoral Care

One of the primary ways we try to serve each other and offer hospitality and welcome to all is through pastoral care. Much on-going pastoral care happens informally as people visit and care for one another. In times of crisis or during times of significant changes in people's lives, we do our best to respond to those special needs. We are grateful for those who visit, and also for those who are now providing the casseroles that are instantly available when needed. Our on-going goal is to be more aware of people needing help or visits, due to illness in the home, having been in hospital, being a caregiver or being lonely.

We support the Pastoral Care position at Langley Memorial Hospital, which offers counsel, education and support to patients and staff, as well as to those who visit in the hospital.

We try to ensure that all who attend our services of worship are made welcome, and we keep everyone informed of our services and activities through our phone chain, newsletter and webpage.

Coffee hour each week gives people the chance for social time after worship, to get to know each other, support each other, and especially to welcome visitors and newcomers. This year we would like to purchase two new coffee makers so we can be better stewards with coffee expenses. Many Sundays coffee is thrown out because

we just don't know how many people will attend. Smaller coffee makers will be faster and more flexible for making the right amount of coffee. The larger portion of our budget is for the supplies associated this time of fellowship after services, but happily much of that is recovered through donations made during coffee hour.

The work of the pastoral care committee also includes organizing some of the social events through which opportunities for conversation and care of one another are made possible: the Corn Roast, LUC Anniversary, and the Annual Picnic, as well as smaller events such as Newcomers Lunches and Farewell cakes. The balance of our budget is for our wonderful history books and for subscriptions to the United Church magazine, The Observer. Approximately 10% of Rev. Scott's time also goes to pastoral care.

Pastoral Care: \$7,574

Mission and Service Fund

Langley United Church is a congregation of The United Church of Canada. The Mission and Service Fund of The United Church of Canada is the general fund of the national church. The M&S Fund collects in the range of \$30 million dollars per year from congregations and individuals across the church in order to fund everything from programme and support staff to grants to theological schools, to administration of the church pension and insurance programmes, to financial support for a wide variety of congregational and community ministries. The World Development and Relief Fund which supports work in the Global South is also funded and administered through M&S. The goal for BC Conference for 2006 is \$2.5 million. More information on the work of the M&S Fund is available in the "Minutes for Mission" booklet and through Mandate Magazine.

M&S Goal: \$19,000

Fraser Presbytery Assessment

In addition to the national and congregational levels, The United Church of Canada organizes itself into Presbyteries (regional collections of congregations) and Conferences (regional collections of presbyteries) which are charged with specific parts of the work of the church. The national church is funded directly through the Mission and Service Fund. Presbyteries receive their funding through assessments to congregations, and Conferences through assessments to Presbyteries. Langley United's assessment to Fraser Presbytery helps to pay for the Presbytery youth and young adult worker, the costs associated with doing the work of the Presbytery, and the Conference assessment.

Presbytery Assessment: \$10,072

Other Involvement in the Wider Church

In addition to our gifts to the M&S Fund and our Presbytery assessment, we contribute to the work of the wider church offering ourselves as a student internship site, and through the roughly 10% of Rev. Scott's time that goes into work for Fraser Presbytery and BC Conference.

Other Involvement in the Church: \$11,325

Administration/Ministry Support & Buildings

The balance of the annual budget of Langley United goes to the costs of administering the congregation, supporting the work of the various ministries, and keeping up the land and buildings.

Our office support staff person, Kathleen Hearty, is the cornerstone of the smooth functioning of the church. Nearly every ministry and committee has administrative costs associated with it. The remaining 20% of Rev. Scott's time goes to administrative and leadership functions.

Maintenance and upgrading of our physical plant and property is the most costly of our budget items, next to salaries, and requires particular care. In the next year, the Property committee plans to make repairs to the roof, assist the music committee to upgrade the sound system and perform the ongoing preventative maintenance necessary. They also plan to complete the landscaping of the house. There are many daily matters that need attention both in the church and the house. Electrical repairs, plumbing repairs, janitorial services and garbage collection are all part of this committee's responsibility. Much of the work is done by volunteers, when appropriate, and our thanks to all those who help, in any way, large or small.

In order to have staff that support our work as a welcoming, worshipping community, and a facility in which to gather to carry out our mission statement through the programs of Christian Education/Formation, Pastoral Care and Outreach, the finances need to be well managed. The Finance Committee manages and records the income and disbursements required to carry out the life and work of the congregation. Our Treasurer oversees the payment of all expenses, including salaries, mortgage and taxes, insurance, utilities and miscellaneous bills.

Without diligence on the part of these committees, we would not be able to offer the programmes we do, and the building would not be the welcoming and hospitable place it is to our own members and those from the wider community who come to worship and be part of a Christian community.

Administration/Ministry Support: \$107,200

Stewardship

The responsibility of the Stewardship Committee is the ongoing education of the congregation regarding all aspects of support for the Church. We also encourage the members of the church family to donate their time, their talents and their monetary offerings to the Church. The M&S Enthusiast is responsible for interpreting and animating the work of The United Church of Canada and to encourage support of that work through the Mission and Service Fund.

Our focus for 2006 includes implementing a Planned Giving campaign and an "Every Home" visitation program in the fall. It is also our dream to send two members to the national stewardship event in Kananaskis, Alberta. It is very worthwhile in terms of the information regarding stewardship, connecting with other United Church people, and instilling enthusiasm for our work. As this would cost almost \$1000.00, it may not be feasible for this fiscal year, but it is still our dream.

Stewardship: \$290