

VANCOUVER UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

The Financial Cost of Carrying Out our Mission in 2021: **\$267,705**

MAKING LEMONADE

The people in this congregation are amazing! Once again life has given us lemons, and once again we ask ourselves not “how can we go on?” but “how is God calling us to be the church, to be the body of Christ, in this strange post-Covid 19 world?”. God has shown us so many ways to love each other, to celebrate together, to serve God’s realm in these times. We move forward with joy and purpose despite health crises and social distancing. We continue to experience the certainty of God in these most uncertain times. While the church’s building use costs are a bit less until we are able to return, our ministry and most of our expenses go on. **Please help our congregation stay strong.**

“It is the mission of our church to follow Christ in faith and lead the community by example.

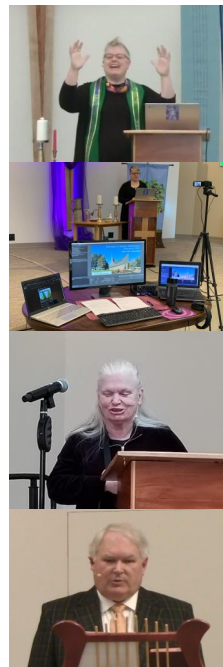
We worship together with creativity and joy, being rooted in but not root-bound by Christian tradition.

We commit ourselves to encourage spiritual growth and loving service to others; reach out to people of all races, backgrounds, gender expressions/identities, and affectional orientations; and work for social justice and peace.”

Our beautiful worship space now serves as the setting for our weekly on-line worship broadcast. Our music ministry, under the seasoned and energetic leadership of Sterling and Christopher, continues to thrive, and we are enjoying the musical gifts of many during worship. The worship planning team would love to hear from you as we work together to explore worshipping in this brave, new world.

Worship Expenses include the entire music ministry, production costs for online worship, most of the cost of maintaining and (hopefully soon) operating the sanctuary, one-fourth of the costs for our pastor, a portion of other staff costs, a share of grounds and exterior maintenance and a percentage of other office operating costs.

The annual cost of our Worship activity in 2021 will be \$86,971.



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Our Justice & Witness work is incredibly important in these times. Threats to human rights are rampant and everywhere. As an Open and Affirming, Just Peace & Immigrant Welcoming Congregation, we will continue to explore how God calls us to be the face of Christ in our world. We hope to reactivate our hands-on mission work and again work closely with our partner Martha’s Pantry in our meal program for our neighbors experiencing homelessness.

Martha’s Pantry’s twice a week food distribution continues to be strong, and includes regular volunteer support from within our congregation.

Justice & Witness expenses include our budgeted support for the wider church, one-fourth of the costs for our pastor, a portion of other staff costs, a share of grounds and exterior maintenance and a percentage of other office operating costs.

The annual cost of our Justice & Witness work in 2021 will be \$65,026.



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Christian formation is the process of life-long learning which is the core of our Christian life. Locally Empowered & Authorized Preachers (LEAP), Sacred Geography (a spiritual exploration class), Theology Happy Hour, and book clubs are just some of the adult learning opportunities we share. In 2021, we will continue to engage with our youth ministry coordinator who will guide and support our enthusiastic and growing group of middle and high schoolers, and we are exploring ways to support and teach parents of younger children.

We continue to be excited about our Godly Play curriculum for children, which is now available to all every Sunday during worship. We invite additional caring adults to participate in this enriching and fulfilling opportunity to engage with the children of our church.

The costs of our Christian education ministry include curriculum materials and supplies, our youth ministry coordinator, youth activities, nursery attendant costs when we are back in our building, one-fourth of the costs for our pastor, a portion of other staff costs, a share of building and grounds costs, and a percentage of other office operating costs.

Our total Education costs in 2021 will be \$65,668.



And he set the dove forth again and it flew and it flew.

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“Now I am giving you a new command—love one another. This is how everyone will know that you are my disciples, because you have such love for one another.” (John 13)



This is such a caring community! We are a community that grieves with, celebrates with and prays for one another. The most common comments from people who find and become part of this congregation center on feeling welcome and loved. The current pandemic brings new challenges and opportunities for us to be in community with one another. On line coffee hour after church, socially distanced small gatherings and small Circles of Care are all examples of ways we can be in community with each other when we cannot yet safely gather in large groups. We look forward to being able to gather again as a congregation some time in 2021!



The financial costs of our life together as a caring community include operating costs for our activities around membership, stewardship, and congregational care, honoring those who have passed on, and our celebrations of our common community. Also included are one-fourth of the costs for our pastor, a portion of other staff costs, a share of building and grounds costs, and a percentage of other office operating costs.

The total cost to support our life together as a Caring Community in 2021 will be \$54,381.