

Capilano United Church

A Community of God
Rooted in the Neighbourhood
Learning to Follow Jesus

Joint Needs Assessment Committee Report
January 2010



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Position Profile

The congregation of Capilano United Church is wanting to engage a 2-year full-time ministerial appointment who is looking for an exciting challenge. This person will have the enthusiasm and wisdom to help us make major, very significant decisions about the future of our little community church, a small but vital church congregation in the midst of a large urban population of social and ethnic variety and change. He or she will be aware of the new Emerging Spirit philosophy of the United Church and will be open to new ways of doing things. He or she will have the skills and personality that will engage older congregants and, especially, young families and that will see opportunities for our church to become more relevant to its members, the surrounding community, and the North Shore ministry. This person will be rooted in reality but be a visionary as well.

We would like this ministerial appointment to help us with the following (in no particular order):

- what to do about our property-rich, numbers / financial ability / volunteer-poor status
- a decision regarding our church's continuing given the above situation
- how to find a niche / niches that will benefit and involve both this church and this community better
- how to promote better community awareness of the value of this little church
- how to attract and get commitment from more and younger people / families
- how to see and accept more and different ways for people to be involved and committed to this church
- how to continue and improve the programs that we already have
- how to use computer technology to expand our presence in the community

Skill Profile

We are looking for someone who (in no particular order):

- has demonstrated strong leadership while, at the same time, helping congregants visualize, consider options possible, and be creative about pursuing those dreams and goals
- has the ability to imagine new possibilities/opportunities for this church
- has good facilitation skills and the ability and sensitivity to enable co-operation between people with disparate points of view
- has good listening and people-to-people skills
- is a dynamic speaker
- has a good sense of humour
- is not intimidated by adverse opinions or situations
- is technologically “savvy”
- delights in being with children and in nurturing families
- is willing to continue learning about the Bible, Christianity and other faiths both to increase and nurture his/her own understanding of and commitment to God and Christ and also to help us do the same for ourselves
- is comfortable and not reticent about approaching unknown people or situations

Vision Profile

We are a predominantly open minded congregation in the midst of transition. We have heard we need to make big changes and being a small congregation, we struggle with visualizing them. We are small in size and we are small in numbers but not in our commitment to keep our church alive. We are looking for someone to help guide, encourage, direct, and support us in finding our vision for the future.

Capilano is always looking for new ways to involve the community. We have found that activities are a way of opening communication and providing opportunities to socialize, strengthen relationships and share our faith. Some important community/church events have been: Neighbourhood Easter Egg Hunt, Kris Kringle Market and Tea, Christmas Eve Improv Pageant, Youth Group activities, evening Art Classes, Fun Run, afternoon Bible Study and Cubs involvement in a church service. We also joined Capilano Elementary School in celebrating their 100th Anniversary by supplying coffee and refreshments. We are hoping to find new ways to enhance our worship and activities.

“Capilano United church is called by God to be a friendly community church, supportive of all people and committed to: Christian worship, growth, enrichment of families, and serving the needs of the community.”

Community Profile

Capilano United Church is a long established congregation situated in Pemberton Heights a neighbourhood fairly well defined in geographical terms. It lies between the Upper Levels Highway #1) to the North, Marine Drive to the South, Capilano Road to the West and Mackay Avenue to the East. Pemberton Heights is a desirable, family oriented, area of North Vancouver in which to live and just a short drive to downtown Vancouver.

Our neighbourhood consists of approximately 660 homes and 155 apartment units located on quiet streets with well-treed properties. Three parks: Bridgeman, Sowden, Capilano River Regional and Murdo Frazer, a pitch and putt golf course, plus public and private tennis facilities are within or very near this community. These and other nearby facilities offer residents a leisurely lifestyle and relaxed atmosphere.

There are two entrances to Pemberton Heights by car. This coupled with our geographical boundaries gives a close-knit feeling to our neighbourhood. The Capilano United Church is on a direct bus route that passes right in front of the Church. Pemberton Heights contains a corner grocery/coffee shop, elementary school and our church, which combined with our surroundings, gives people lots of opportunities to get to know one another. There are many long time residents living here and it is not uncommon for the children of those residents to return to this area to raise their families.

Pemberton Heights has access to a preschool at the church and Capilano Elementary School. Capilano University is located in North Vancouver. The University of British Columbia is located in Vancouver and the British Columbia Institute of Technology and Simon Fraser University in Burnaby. North Vancouver has several excellent theatres and the Art and Cultural centers of downtown Vancouver are nearby. North Vancouver has several excellent shopping areas as well as medical facilities including Lions Gate Hospital.

We have access to a tremendous variety of outdoor recreational activities. Skiing golfing, hiking, sailing, swimming are all only a few minutes away. It is actually possible to ski on the mountains in the morning and sail on the water in the afternoon.

We have enjoyed fellowship with St. David's United in worship and ministry. We participate in an annual joint worship service with St. David's and Lynn Valley United at Ambleside Beach at the end of each summer. First United ministry in downtown Vancouver has been the major focus of our outreach for many years.

We are a small congregation with a very big heart. Our congregation has been encouraged by the recent arrival of new and younger families. These families are worshipping with us and bring renewed energy to our church activities. Capilano has been open and welcoming to diverse types of families.

Capilano United Church JNAC 2010

Due to our unique physical boundaries, we live, socialize and worship together. Pemberton Heights enjoys a sense of old-fashioned community spirit as well as being a larger part of a cosmopolitan city. Our community is represented by the Pemberton Heights Ratepayers Association at both the District and City levels bringing concerns of this neighbourhood to both local levels of government.

The ethnic diversity in our neighbourhood is changing therefore the religious needs may change also. The population has grown with the subdivision of property and increased number of suites. Our economic and political situation remains consistent because of stable and long-term residents.

Our history is rich and varied going as far back as 1914 and some children of the pioneers of this church and community are still living in Pemberton Heights. Our elementary school is also steeped in rich history and shares its children with Capilano Church.

We predict that the family unit will continue to be the basis of our community. We hope that these families will come to be a part of Capilano United through worship or CE Centre activities. Capilano United provides a centre for families to meet and to socialize, as well as worship. We are keeping the lines of communication open to our community, in order to learn how better to serve their needs and increase our membership.

Resource Profile

Capilano United Church has approximately 25 people attending worship on Sundays. We have 12 children/youth who also attend worship, but on a sporadic attendance. We have an average of 17 people involved in at least one form of leadership in the congregation. One of our encouraging assets is one particular family with two great youths who give us a sparkle to our congregation. A recent survey indicated 52 people for our surrounding community would support us in at least four ways: financial; worship; attendance to activities/events; and in time/effort. This represents 84% of the people who completed the community survey.

Capilano United Church owns 2 acres of land on which there is a sanctuary building; a multi-purpose Community Education (CE) Centre (which included a private Daycare and a Church-run Preschool); and a 50-year old manse which is in need of approximately \$50,000.00 in repairs (some in more dire needs than others). Currently the manse provides us with a net income of \$17,950.00/year. The value of this whole parcel of land has an assessed value of \$2,523,600.00. The value of the manse alone is estimated at \$690,000.00 - \$730,000.00.

Each year we pay the costs of ministry in our congregation with a little surplus. However, this is achieved by carefully limiting expenses and not investing in new or co-operative ministry projects.

The following information is based on the 12 months ranging from October 2008 – September 2009:

Income: approximately \$136,126.00 consisting of:

Offerings	\$41,208.00
Manse	\$22,950.00
Preschool	\$26,924.00
Daycare	\$26,311.00
Other facility use	\$18,733.00

Expenditures: approximately \$129,468.00 consisting of:

Staff (incl benefits)	\$88,447.00
Operating costs (Mtnce, insurance, taxes)	\$33,421.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 7,600.00

Capilano United Church JNAC 2010

In the past, we have been limited in our willingness to open the building to user groups, but now have changed that old view.

Our immediate catchment area which we wish to serve consists of approximately 660 homes and 155 apartment units. We have an excellent Bible Study group, and a worship space that is well looked after, and an appropriate size for our worshipping congregation. We have just recently installed an elevator for our senior citizens and handicapped.

TERMS

We pay minimum salary

Housing allowance \$2,000.00 per month

Compensation for telephone

Continuing education allowance is \$1,200.00

Travel allowance \$.41/kilometer or public transit

Benefits per United Church of Canada

Vacation and Study Leave as per United Church of Canada