



Sharing our Legacy Giving Story

St. John's United Church, Sechelt, B.C. – April 2026

We are grateful for this opportunity to share our experience of being part of The United Church of Canada Foundation's Centennial Legacy Campaign (2025).

Our story began in 2023, when we recognized how important stewardship was to the health and well-being of our congregation, and how little we understood the meaning of true stewardship. In that year, a team from our church, including our minister, began the stewardship training "Called To Be The Church", with Vicki Nelson, offered by Pacific Mountain Regional Council. As we learned together, we began to understand that stewardship done well can strengthen all aspects of the church, and that we were not alone in wanting to find a new way of talking about money, supporting our church financially, writing and updating our wills, and exploring practical ways to support our future. Our journey then landed us an invitation to be part of the Legacy Giving Campaign which became a most rewarding experience indeed!

While our greatest break through has been to become brave enough to talk about money and invite generosity, a few other things stand out for us. Integrating stewardship into Sunday service and sermons by our minister helped make this a true team approach. And no team does well without a good coach. We acknowledge with gratitude the ongoing mentorship of Tamara Granatstein, Volunteer Animator for the Centennial Legacy Campaign. Tamara helped the Stewardship team debrief its activities using thoughtful listening, providing gentle suggestions and encouragement, and just cheering us on. Tamara had introduced herself to our congregation one Sunday early in the campaign by Zoom. She continues to meet with us regularly as we execute activities such as two targeted financial campaigns which were met within the desired time frame, and two workshops on will planning using the excellent The United Church of Canada Foundation "Will Workbook: A Guide to Planning Your Estate" as a resource for attendees. It was also used to create a PowerPoint presentation which reflects St. John's United Church's situation, personality and vision.

The guidance and support in creating and following a clear plan we received from both Vicki and Tamara have given us a solid foundation, a map for the future. We are willing to share more details about specifics to help inspire other congregations.

Our financial picture continues to be a priority for us, but we are well on our way to creating a more sustainable future, and we are most grateful to be part of the bigger picture of The United Church of Canada.

Humbly submitted by Sue Lamb and Michele Stobie.