



SUMMER

at

North Shore Unitarian Church

Sunday Conversations: 10:30am on Zoom During July & August



Join us Sunday mornings at 10:30am for a Conversation via Zoom. The weekly Host will be provided in the eBulletin, along with the Zoom link. (Contact [Janni](#) in the Church Office to subscribe to our eBulletin).

Pastoral Care: During Rev. Ron's away dates (see the [church calendar](#)), he will not necessarily be available by email or phone. For pastoral care emergencies, contact him at 604-999-3690 or rev.phares@northshoreunitarians.ca.

Lay Chaplains: Our Lay Chaplains, Lindsay Hindle and Barb Moore, may be available to perform Rite of Passage services. Contact the [Church Office](#) if you need their assistance.

Board of Trustees: One or more Board Officers will be available throughout the summer. If needed, contact Board President Ryan Guenther (president@northshoreunitarians.ca or 778-383-1313) or Vice President Sonya Wachowski (via the church office).

Cares & Concerns: Our Cares and Concerns (C&C) Team is available to provide support to congregants throughout the summer. Contact C&C Chair [Joy Silver](#) (604-941-2606) for assistance.

STAFF AVAILABILITY

Rev. Ron Phares

will be away for the month of July, but will be here for most of August.

Janni/Church Office

Our Church Office will be open irregular hours now through August 6th. (Call before coming, to verify we are here: 604-926-1621) and watch our [Home page](#) and eBulletins for updates.

Other Staff

- **Laura McNaughton** (our new Director of Engagement) begins her employment with us on August 3rd. Please help us welcome her!
- **Marge Zieroth** will be generally available by email throughout the summer.
- **Alison Nixon** is on an unpaid Summer Break during July & August.
- **Lynn Sabourin** is retired!

Staff will likely not respond to emails or phone calls during their away dates.



Rev. Ron Phares

rev.phares@northshoreunitarians.ca

It is time to look forward. Renewal awaits. Renewal, but not repetition. All around us we are finding that the thinking, wisdom, and institutions that got us to this point (accomplishing some truly miraculous things along the way) are increasingly insufficient to needs of the moment and the needs of the future.

Much like the rest of the world (or perhaps, setting an example for the rest of the world), North Shore Unitarian will continue to nurture those timeless practices and perspectives that have been core to us since ancient times, while also evolving them into a form and function that will shake us out of habit and into vibrant life.

This is the work of the world. This is the work of our church. This is your work. We will need every one of you, even if your part of that work is limited to encouragement, support, and the curation of the wisdom gathered in your life. We need that. We need presence coming alive, emerging into the moment.

Big words. How do we do that?

Much like the architect's drawings look grand, they mean nothing without a shovel and mortar. The work may look mundane. But what it builds will grant new insights and ways of being.

Is that the church you want? I hope so.

So what do shovels and mortar look like? Well, it looks like a very full autumn.

It looks like a Province wide **leadership development workshop** in early October. It looks like researching, refining, and implementing a Vancouver Metro UU (four congregations) **cooperative restorative justice process** to help one another get back into loving relationship when things go sideways. It looks like deep reflection and discussion in September and October presaging a November vote on the merits of the proposed **8th Principle**. It looks like the recentring and rewriting of our **congregational covenant**. It looks like thinking and feeling deeply about what it means to be a **spiritual community**. So, so rich. And of course, it looks like a **newly configured Sunday morning** that leans into the multi-generational wisdom and heart of our congregation. It looks like building toward the future. But none of that even touches on the programming we hope to offer as a congregation. In another space in the newsletter you will see the proposed details of the evolution of our **rainbow reading groups**. Soul Matters and Circles

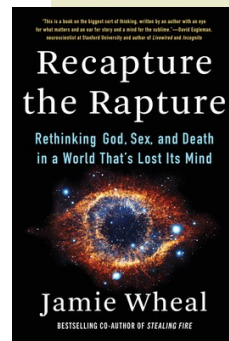
of Light and Essay groups will be ongoing and enriching. Three of our Teams will have additional offerings to encourage your cultivation of depth, meaning, and purpose.

While history often puts on different clothes and reprises itself, it is also true that the future is not the past (deep thoughts). What is coming is not what we're accustomed to. But the essential truths around which we gather remain a burning ember from which new paths will be illuminated. Everyone is sacred. Everything is co-creative.

Giddyup.

Blessing on your summer. See you real soon. ~ Rev. Ron

What is Rev. Ron Reading This Summer?



Interested in what “mind viruses” the minister is experimenting with this summer, you might want to pick up *Recapture the Rapture* by Jamie Wheal. It lays out the

stakes of our present historical circumstance and outlines a way forward that may take us from the brink to the bravo. The book touches on the institutional, as well as the spiritual and personal, and may serve as a primer for where we are and what lies ahead.

From Our Board President



Ryan Guenther, Board President
president@northshoreunitarians.ca

To paraphrase Joseph Stalin: Death is the solution to all problems —no congregation, no problems.

We at North Shore Unitarian Church are blessed with many problems, which means we're still very much alive. And since we don't want to use Stalin's solution, we'll have to do things the hard way. As President, the church's problems have become my problems, so now I'm making them your problems.

First among them, and from which all others spring, is the simple and inexorable passage of time. Like the 2018 Canucks, we've been carried for years by a core group of veterans that's now approaching retirement (or in fact, second retirement). It's time to rebuild.

For decades, FundFest has been a major fundraiser for the church and the hub of the social calendar. It also hasn't happened in two years, and not merely because of the pandemic. The team which had run it so smoothly for so long had already retired after 2019, and

covid merely provided an additional hurdle to finding replacements.

Our church has been sitting mostly empty and undisturbed since March of last year, like a time capsule from the time before covid, except not old enough to be nostalgic about. It just needs some spring cleaning. Ordinarily, organizing this would be the purview of Buildings & Grounds, but B&G is currently without a chair following the well-earned retirement of Brian McConnell.

Cares & Concerns is also looking for some new blood, to carry out the vital work of bringing the love of the congregation to members who are in hospital or otherwise going through something.

We'll continue streaming church services even when we're back in person, which means we need more people on the Production Team.

And one of my personal projects for the year will be to revive Neighbourhood Groups, which will require someone to get them up and running.

As you can see, we have a lot of holes in our roster, and while we were able to bring in a free agent to replace Lynn, we're hard up against the salary cap and will have to fill the rest of the holes by promoting from within. But fortunately, we have a deep bench.

Each passing year also brings a fresh crop of retirees with time to fill, a new wave of empty nesters whose children have gone off to university.

This is, as the Simpsons say, a crisisatunity. We're changing the way we do church, as a matter of survival. That means we don't have to keep doing things the same way. Meetings don't always have to be in person, and neither does FundFest. There's never been a better time to try something new and think outside the box.

I'm a prime example of how far you can go just by saying yes occasionally (not even half the time!). I've had no leadership training, I'd never chaired a meeting before I joined the Board, never taken minutes before I

became Secretary, never looked at a strategic plan before I agreed to help write one, and I'm already too busy to be President. If nothing else, I want to be a living rebuttal

“THINK ABOUT
THE WORK THAT NEEDS
TO BE DONE,
AND WHO YOU KNOW
IN THE CHURCH
WHO MIGHT BE GOOD AT IT”

to all the usual excuses and prevarications people give when the Nominating Committee comes calling.

It doesn't even have to be you! Think about the work that needs to be done, and who you know in the church who might be good at it, and then rat them out to me or the Nominating Committee. The value of informants is something Stalin and I both agree on.

Welcome to our new Director of Engagement (DE)



The Transition Task Force, Human Resources Committee, Board of Trustees and Staff are excited to introduce our new Director of Engagement (DE) Laura McNaughton, who starts at NSUC in early August! We began the process back in October, thinking about the congregation's needs and aspirations, and redefining our Director of Lifespan Learning position. So the Task Force is thrilled to make this announcement!

The new DE position requires a range of important skills, from big-picture thinking of creating all-ages programming to the detail-oriented and person-to-person work of a volunteer organization. Maybe most importantly, the position needs someone with a big heart: to bring us together, to kindle our spirits, and to help us engage with each other and the wider world.

Laura is a great match for all these skills, perhaps better than we dreamed. She brings decades of experience as a member, volunteer, and staff at Unitarian Universalist congregations. We were excited by her experience in the arts, theater and dance.

She has long been interested in multi-generational worship and programming. She's creative, a good colleague, organized, professional, and shows lots of heart. We can't wait to welcome her here in August and support her in this new role.

Task Force members are: Gail Lehman (Chair), Rev. Ron, Joy Silver, Paul Simons, Melissa Picher-Kelly, Cindy Leitner, Sian Kilpatrick, Kit To, and Sara Stevens. We were generously advised by HR Committee's Tricia Edgar (Chair) and Pat Brand. Many thanks to these people for their time, spirit, and dedication to the process.

~ Sara Stevens



Laura McNaughton
Director of Engagement

I am delighted to serve North Shore Unitarians as your Director of Engagement. I have been a member of the Saskatoon Unitarians for over 25 years.

There, I served as Director of Religious Education (DRE) twice (2001-2005, 2020-2021) and in many volunteer roles. I served the Edmonds Unitarian Universalist Church in Washington as its DRE for two years. I have experience as a lay chaplain, youth advisor, young adult chaplain, worship service leader and ritualist in a UU context.

I also have experience as the administrator for an arts organization, producer and director for a small theatrical company, storyteller and programming associate for the Saskatoon Public Library, as a hospice volunteer and in various roles in university research and administration.

I am excited by the new direction NSUC is taking with its Sunday morning experience. A fundamental foundation of my religious education and faith formation philosophy is strong multigenerational connections and experiences. I am looking forward to sharing this journey with you all.

The move to Vancouver will be a wonderful adventure. I have been dreaming of returning to the Coast for many years. I have family in Victoria and on Saltspring Island and will now see them again soon. I look forward to everything that Vancouver and North Shore Unitarians will bring to my life.

~ Laura McNaughton

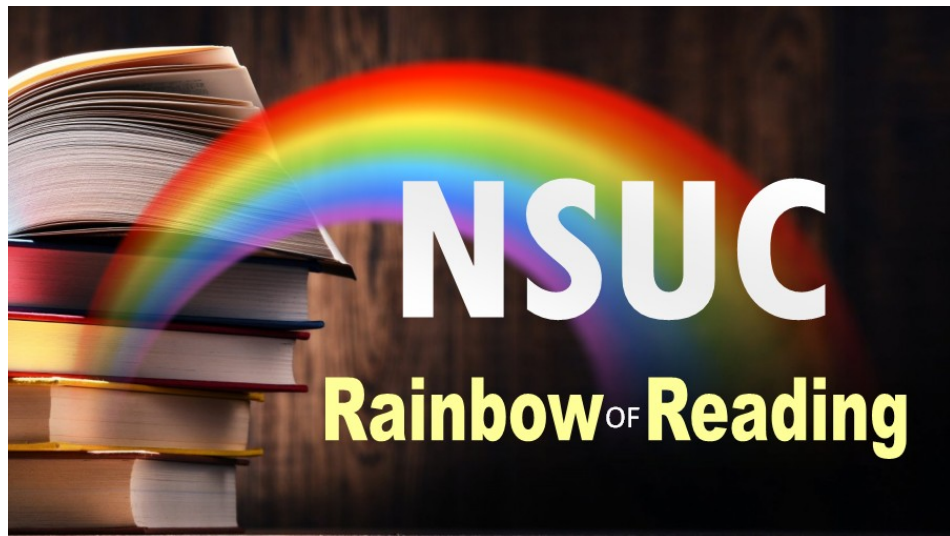
NSUC Rainbow of Reading

Announcing the NSUC Rainbow of Reading

This year, we successfully implemented anti-racist reading groups. Many of those groups finished the suggested reading and carried on engaging self-selected texts. This shows that reading groups are a way to get to know one another, hold sacred space, and delve deeply into important topics.

This Fall, three of our Teams will each feature a book, to be read consecutively. Each Team has supplied their choice (below).

We will devote three months to each book beginning in late September. An added benefit of this approach is that the minister will know the issues, thoughts, puzzles, and practices with which many folks in the congregation will be engaging, and can preach with those in mind. Also, this helps us maintain a well-rounded and not overly-siloed focus. Feel free to read ahead this summer, if you wish. Or, wait until you are reading in real time with the rest of your group. It's all good.



Rainbow of Reading groups start this fall!

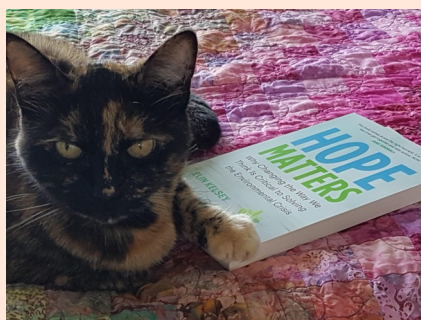
To Participate

in our Rainbow of Reading book groups, click [HERE](#).

The Three Teams and their Sponsored Books

The Environmental Action Team's Book Choice:

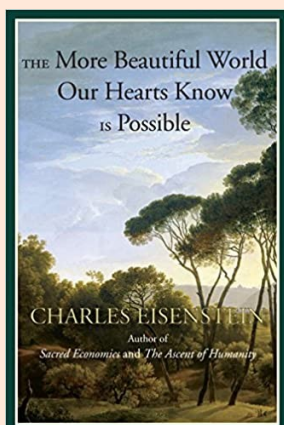
Hope Matters by Elin Kelsey
(Theme speaker at Winter Eliot 2021).



Hope matters to all life forms on the planet, including the Stephenson' cat

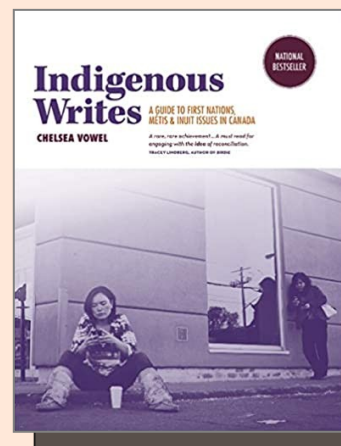
The Heart Mind Spirit Team's Book Choice:

The More Beautiful World Our Hearts Know is Possible
by Charles Eisenstein



The Justice Equity Diversity & Inclusion Team's Choice:

Indigenous Writes: A Guide to First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Issues in Canada by Chelsea Vowel





Environmental Action Team

Summer is upon us, and the next few months are prime time for North Shore Unitarians to connect with the natural world we are striving to protect. Since your Environmental Action Team was formed in January 2021, we have sponsored six Open Meetings on 4th Wednesday nights on

Zoom. We've heard from guest speakers Dr. John Millar of Force of Nature and Claire McGillivray of the Edible Garden Project. Webinars and essays have inspired our online discussions as well, along with Judith Gordon's "Green Tips of the Month" which also appeared in the Friday eBulletin. Letter-writing alerts to municipal councils have resulted in some victories for measures to combat Climate Change.

This Spring, we've been busy exploring options for reducing the size of the NSUC lawn—putting the suggestion of growing vegetables in raised beds on hold for now and turning instead to creating a proposal for a pollinator-friendly planted area. Our allies in this research are NorthShore Butterfly Rangers from the David Suzuki Foundation. We're always looking for more members of our Core Steering Group to help us prioritize actions and improve our communications to the congregation. Please contact Marcia Stephenson or the [Church Office](#) if you're interested, or if you'd like to receive our monthly emails. Next Fall, we hope to return to meeting in person, but over the summer, join us on Zoom at 7:15 pm on 4th Wednesdays: July 28th and August 25th. Find topics and links in the eBulletin.

~ Marcia Stephenson, Chair

Unitarians at the End of the Earth

Did you know that there is a Unitarian Universalist congregation in Tierra Del Fuego (Argentina)? More info here: <https://www.uua.org/offices/organizations/paz-y-armonia>

They don't call themselves a Church (to the locals, the word "Church" is altogether too reminiscent of the Catholic Church). Nor do they call themselves "Unitarians" (because it looks too much like "Unitarianists", a political party in Argentina after their war of independence).

They are a thriving little group, and I know their founder leader, Lilian Burlando, a lawyer by profession who has attended numerous meetings of the UUA, the CUC and the ICUU. In addition to their own activities, the group sometimes has well-attended retreats (100+) for their larger community.

~ John Slattery, Chair of Denominational Affairs

The 8th Principle

of UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALISM

The population of the North Shore is about 70% white. The percentage of white people in our congregation is much, much higher than that. The [CUC's Dismantling Racism Study Group Report](#) shows that we are far from unique. Unitarian congregations in Canada are significantly whiter than their surrounding communities, and have been for most of our history. Our lack of action around anti-racism also has us out of step with our own youth and young adults.

The 8th Principle is not a solution; it is a commitment to identify and address the barriers that push people away from our congregation. We've already set this as a priority, both in the strategic plan and in last summer's social justice survey.

A sub-committee of the Board (Ryan Guenther, Yette Gram, Sonya Wachowski, and Rev Ron) will lead our 8th Principle program, holding Town Halls this Fall to answer questions and discuss the 8th Principle. We will then have a congregational meeting, to direct our delegates on how to vote at the CUC's meeting on November 27th.

John Slattery is leading an 8th Principle Alternate Wording Task Force to gather feedback from the congregation on the currently proposed motion. To be involved, contact [John](#).

~ Ryan Guenther

B&G

Building & Grounds

Building & Grounds

Whether by design, low traffic or by luck, demands on the B&G Team's members and budget have been lower than usual during the

pandemic. Since last summer, when the boiler underwent its first maintenance in decades, only fence repair, fallen tree limb removal, rodent trapping, crash door lock replacements in the Rod Stewart Building have been required. Kuddles handled snow removal work and upgrades to its space. Recording, rendering and streaming services have necessitated some significant video and audio equipment purchases and consulting. This has largely been led by Alison Nixon and used budget lines approved by the Board.

Going forward, these areas need attention:

- continued annual ground water drain lines clearing (\$2-3K),
- painting of some exterior surfaces (up to \$16K without volunteers),
- continued surveillance of large trees for limb loss and potentially, removal (\$8-10K each),
- an expected furnace removal in RSB.
- succession planning for the current B&G Team

~Brian McConnell, Outgoing B&G Chair



Artarian News

We hope all artists are enjoying the sun and able to get out of the studio to their favourite location to do a bit of outdoor painting/sketching or photography. Once again this summer there will not be any art on display in the Sanctuary as the services will all be on Zoom. We will have a new art show in the fall (see the Fall Newsletter for details). Things to watch for in the future: art shows in the sanctuary with the artist present, our Christmas wreath sale, art cards and other artworks.

~ Beverly Grice, Artarian Chair

Outreach

Each Sunday, 100% of our offering plate collections, unless otherwise marked, are given to the charity featured that month. Here are the recent amounts we've raised:

March: Our Partner Church in Hungary (\$1,376)

April: [The Edible Garden Project](#) (\$731)

May: [SOS Children's Village](#) (\$605)

During the summer months (June, July & August)

we will collect for the [Indian Residential School Survivors Society](#).



Grocery Receipt Program

City Market and

IGA Dundarave participate in our Grocery Receipt Program. For each \$5,000 worth of receipts, these stores give us gift cards that Nora Coates converts into cash donations to the church. Since 1999, this program has earned over \$7,000 for the church! If you shop at these stores, put your receipts on the bulletin board in the stairwell. It results in "free money" for the church!



Want to learn more about the Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC)?

Sign up for the Canadian Unitarian Council's eNews at <https://cuc.ca/about-cuc/communications-publications/>



Connections Team News

We held our last meeting before the summer on June 28th. We keep in touch with new people who have connected with us this past Spring and encourage them to come to our Fall Services in September. Sue and Barrie Forbes are taking a break from Connections after 5 years of great advice and service. We will miss them. We would welcome a few more folks to help us connect with new people to the church. ~ Joanna Vaughan, Chair



Lunch Bunch

We will continue our gatherings with church friends in the Fireside Room (or on the lawn) at 12:30pm on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month. Our Summer dates are: July 8th & 22nd, and August 12th & 26th. Conversations together over the summer will keep us connected and informed as we look forward to our Fall Opening in the Church.

~ Joanna Vaughan

Cares & Concerns Team

Our Team provides connection, assistance and resources to NSUC members and friends. During COVID, we increased our numbers of callers and methods of providing resources to folks in need.



We welcome news of celebratory events, illness, assistance during recovery and loss, loneliness and needs for cheering up. We also welcome comments of concern if someone has received inadequate connection. Once we identify a need, we do our best to connect you with just the right person or resource.

Our volunteer callers offer to be a companion, a driver, do prescription pick-ups, and/or provide soup or a casserole to convalescing folk. We continue to welcome all genders to join our volunteer team.

Have you heard of our new **Birthday Angel Program**? These child and senior buddies connect with each other via birthday cards and letters. We are encouraging the current buddies to meet each other at our first **Corn Roast, Sunday, September 12th**.

If you have any concerns or changes to your status, please contact me at odetojoy@telus.net or 604-941-2606. Wishing you a summer filled with joyful encounters and playful connections and experiences.

~ Joy Silver, Chair



Leadership Workshop

Save the Date:
9:30am - 5:30 pm
Saturday, October 2nd

Join fellow BC Unitarians as we discern what makes us come alive, identify leadership gifts, find creative expression for UU Values, and more! Presenters include Joan Carolyn, Liz James, Arran Liddel, Alex Okrainetz, Aukje Byker, and Ben Wolfe.

For more info, contact Joan@cuc.ca or robyn.newton.mail@gmail.com

Spirit Zones for This Fall

This fall, we're planning to "do church" a different way.

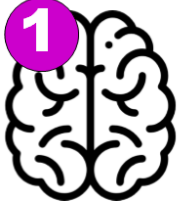



All ages will gather in the Sanctuary for the first part of the service. We'll sing the children out prior to the Reflection, so they can go downstairs for a snack and bio break. After the Reflection, adults and children of all ages will disperse into "Spirit Zones" (see image at right) for the second part of the service. We'll continue our beloved tradition of Coffee and Conversation following the services.

Thus, adults and children will interact, explore, and learn together using a variety of activities — all organized by our new Director of Engagement (see page 4 to learn more about Laura McNaughton).

This will be new to us — and experimental (especially at first), so there may be some bumps along the way. But we look forward to trying this new way of exploring and learning in an intergenerational environment.

Potential

Fall Spirit Zones

<p>1</p> 	<p>2</p> 	<p>3</p> 	<p>4</p> 
<p>Cerebral</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forum Guest Musician Sermon Chat Poetry 	<p>Embodied</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Story Telling Ethical Improv Spirit Play Spell Casting Moon Rituals Story Making Meditation 	<p>Civic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Letter Writing Activism Gardening Litter Pick Up Prep Work 	<p>Kinetic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crafts Games Songs Yoga Dance Chanting Drums

The above chart shows examples of the kinds of activities that may be offered in each of the four Spirit Zones. If you're interested in volunteering in any of the rooms, we welcome you to contact the [Church Office](#) now, or our Director of Engagement (after her arrival in August).

We look forward to connecting with you in new ways as we experiment with this new way of doing church!



Gord Latter, Jean Prescott & Stuart Browning at one of the Tour de Lynn stops

A BIG Thank You from Lynn

I don't know how to begin to thank all of you amazing North Shore Unitarians for the incredible, fantastic, and over-the-top Retirement Celebration on Saturday, June 19th. It was a trip down memory lane and a loving send-off that I will never, ever forget. How you managed to plan all of that in the middle of a pandemic is mind boggling! (Read my full Thank You letter [HERE](#)). ~ Lynn Sabourin



July Eliot: July 17-24th “Music Lessons & Rhythm Revelations” with Matt Meyer

Explore what music can teach us about being in harmony, moving in rhythm, and making a difference. Through song and rhythm, story and reflection, we'll explore what a radically inclusive, spiritually alive, and justice-centered movement of Unitarian Universalism looks like. Online. Info [HERE](#).

August Eliot: August 7-14th with Rev. Cheryl M. Walker

We live in turbulent times, navigating choppy waters. Knowing we cannot go back from where we came, and that we have not reached a new land, we need to learn the skills to survive and thrive the journey. How will we get there together? Online. Info [HERE](#).

Creative Arts Eliot August 14-18th

Participants will choose their workshops based on personal interest. On site at Seabeck. Workshop descriptions, instructors, and registration info is [HERE](#).

Winter Eliot “Hope Matters” Dec. 28, 2021-Jan. 1, 2022 Speaker Elin Kelsey

On Site at Seabeck. Details [HERE](#).



North Shore Unitarians
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Facebook:
[https://www.facebook.com/
NorthShoreUUCanada/](https://www.facebook.com/NorthShoreUUCanada/)

... meeting in Squamish
and Tsleil-Waututh
traditional territory

STAFF AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Minister: [Rev. Ron Phares](#)

Affiliated Community Minister: [Rev. Arthur Berman](#)

Lay Chaplains: [Lindsay Hindle](#) & [Barb Moore](#)

Director of Engagement: [Laura McNaughton](#) (begins August 3, 2021)

Children’s Program Assistant: [Cara Elrod](#)

Music Director: [Alison Nixon](#)

Accompanist: Catherine Tseng

Church Administrator: [Janni Kretlow](#)

Financial Administrator: [Marge Zieroth](#)

Custodian: Tom Fullerton

Board of Trustees:

[Ryan Guenther](#), President

[Sonya Wachowski](#), Vice President

[Brian Funt](#), Treasurer

[Yette Gram](#), Secretary

[Kit To](#), Member at Large

[Lynda Fownes](#), Member at Large

[Paul Symons](#), Member at Large

[John Duffy](#), Member at Large

[Catarina Gomes](#), Member at Large



We actively welcome
all genders
and sexual orientations
in our faith community.