

# JOINT NEEDS ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE REPORT



*A church where children, adults and seniors find a place to belong*

## **DIAMOND VALLEY PASTORAL CHARGE**

**125 Royal Avenue**

**Box 118**

**Turner Valley, AB T0L 2A0**

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Foothills Presbytery - March 2012

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## **Reason for JNAC**

Rev. Shelley Lavenne asked for a change of pastoral relations. A Joint Needs Assessment had not been done for over nine years.

## **Recommendations:**

The Diamond Valley Pastoral Charge requests that the Foothills Presbytery declare a vacancy for one part time (.5) member of the Order of Ministry of the United Church of Canada.

Foothills Presbytery endorse the establishment for a Joint Search Committee for Diamond Valley Pastoral Charge

The Joint Needs Assessment Committee be disbanded



The Sheep River

## Mission Statement of Diamond Valley Pastoral Charge

### WORSHIP – NURTURE & SUPPORT – SPIRITUAL GROWTH – OUTREACH

*Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.*

*Love your neighbor as you love yourself*

*Matthew 22: 37-39*

As members of Diamond Valley Pastoral charge, we are called by God as followers of Jesus Christ:

1. To foster spiritual growth through Christian education for children, youth and adults.
2. To encourage outreach to our community and to the world, through prayer, education, service, and financial support.
3. To nurture and support each other through fellowship, visitation, and service to all.
4. To share in worship in our church and throughout the community.
5. To provide a welcoming community of faith.

### **Visioning**

Our church does not have a Vision statement however in 2009 a group of volunteers and facilitators Rev. Joel Den Haan and Rev. Shelley Lavenne met to consider the symbolic, emotional and mission life of the church. Key themes that emerged from the meetings were community, fellowship and outreach. This church community believes in having quality relationships, maintaining a commitment to the small-town church character but also begin flexible and adaptable to change.

*\*A copy of the Vision Discernment Report is available from the church office*



## History of the Pastoral Charge

Our church was the first Protestant Church in the Diamond Valley area and has a strong history of serving our community.

Prior to 1904 lay leaders and saddlebag ministers who travelled on horseback visited the area to hold services in schools and homes. In 1904 the first church was built on a farm near Turner Valley. In 1928 Dr. W.A. Lewis (for whom the church is named) came to the area to build a church in Turner Valley in preparation for the expected oil boom. That church was dedicated in 1929.

In 1940 a building from the oilfields was moved to Black Diamond to become the Black Diamond church. Before that, church was held in the Black Diamond Community Hall.

During the 1980's there was a thriving Sunday School, junior choir and youth group in the churches.

Due to the deterioration of the church building in Turner Valley, the present building was erected in 1990. The name of the area was changed to Diamond Valley Pastoral Charge.

In 1994 the Black Diamond and Turner Valley churches combined to form one board but each church operated on its own holding rummage sales, teas, bazaars, and special events like the Christmas Candlelight Service and Christmas Concerts.

With the sale of the Black Diamond Church in 2003 the two churches combined to form one congregation, which is the present congregation. Black Diamond brought some of it's traditions to the new church. One such event is the Community Christmas Candlelight Service which still takes place.



An outside view of the Diamond Valley Pastoral Charge



Sunday school in the Community Room



## **Our neighborhood - Our community**

The Diamond Valley Pastoral Charge is centrally located in the Town of Turner Valley (pictured) in the picturesque foothills of the Rocky Mountains. Included in the Diamond Valley region are two neighboring towns of Turner Valley and Black Diamond which are connected by highway, a paved walking/bike path and the Sheep River. The rural areas that border the towns are the Municipal District of Foothills and include the communities of Millarville and Longview. The Diamond Valley is easily accessible by car; approximately 35 minute drive southwest of the City of Calgary and 20 minutes west of the City of Okotoks. There is no public transportation system serving the area, therefore a vehicle is required. We are approximately 1 hour drive from the Calgary International Airport.



The Diamond Valley is well known as the gateway to Kananaskis Country, an awe inspiring area blessed with an abundance of wildlife and outdoor recreation opportunities. Life in the Diamond Valley region is the best of both worlds: close to the diversity, employment and entertainment of Calgary (population 1.2 million) yet we feel a strong sense of community and serenity living so close to nature. Other features inspiring young families, adults and seniors to move to the area are: an affordable housing market, the NEW Sheep River Community Library, various organized recreation opportunities like: skating, curling, golfing, an outdoor swimming pool, an arts council, fitness center, schools (4), churches (10) and senior's centers (2). Furthermore, the Towns of Black Diamond and Turner Valley share the following services: Oilfields General Hospital and health unit staffed by 10 doctors, 3 seniors residents and an extended care facility, 24 hr emergency services including RCMP and fire, a dentist, 2 pharmacies, grocery and gas stores, food bank, family and community support services (FCSS) and several service clubs like Lions, Legion, Girl Guides, Scouts and the Boys & Girls Club.

## **People of the Diamond Valley**

A wide variety of people consider the Diamond Valley home. According to Census Canada (2001) the Diamond Valley area has an approximate population of 9425 people living in 3465 households. On average, the majority of households consist of two residents and seniors account for over half of the population (52.6%). The second age group is the Emerging Spirits (25-44 yr) which account for nearly one third of the population (28.9%). In regards to language and ethnicity, the residents are predominantly Canadian born and English speaking. There is a small



percentage of visible minorities (2.1%) and European languages spoken (3.4%). The report states that a large percentage of Diamond Valley residents identify as Christian (72.4%) and within those Christians a significant number identify as members of the United Church (19.4%); a slightly smaller number identify as Roman Catholic (18.5%). The Diamond Valley is above provincial averages in regards to education level and household income (\$129,682). The Environics Report (2009) provides more in-depth analysis of who our residents are. The report identified 8 lifestyle categories out of a possible 66 that apply to our congregation and area. Common themes within the eight categories are upper middle class, exurban, couples and families and small-town seniors.

Furthermore, people of the area value the natural world, connectedness to organized religion, community involvement and environmental protection. A full copy of the Environics report cited is available in the Diamond Valley Pastoral Charge.

## **The Ministry of the Pastoral Charge**

The Governance of Diamond Valley Pastoral Charge is based on living out our Mission Statement.

The current committees are Church Board, Ministry and Personnel Committee, Pastoral Care Committee, Maintenance Committee, Worship Committee and Board of Trustees. The Church Board meets monthly and other committees meet as needed.

2012 Board of Directors

Kim Lucas, Chair

Lena Butler, Past Chair

Rod Mumby, Vice Chair

Carol Williams, Treasurer

Ken McIntosh, Ministry and Personnel

Sandra Farr-Jones, Presbytery Representative

Ron Thomson, Trustee Representative, Maintenance Committee

Francine Raab, Linda Thomson, Members at large

Ida Wegelin, Director and Food Bank Representative

## **The Resources of the Pastoral Charge**

### **Human Resources**

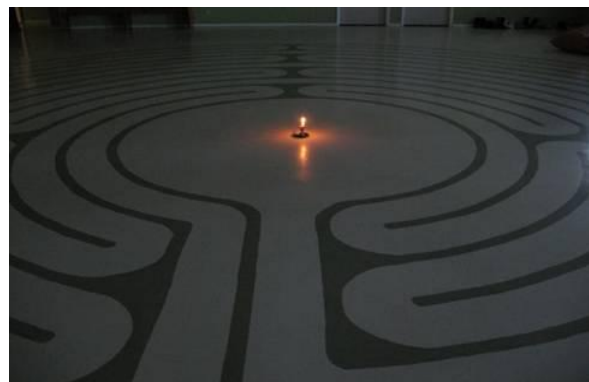
- 7-12 volunteer board members
- Dedicated volunteers who engage in fundraising, spiritual leadership and maintenance
- Part time office coordinator
- Part time supply Minister
- Lay worship leader
- M & P committee
- Part time Janitor
- Gifted pianist
- Board of Trustees

### **Material Resources**

- Fully furnished 4800 square feet church with sanctuary, nursery, 4 offices – 2 newly renovated with the potential to bring in revenue, an elevator, a fully stocked commercial kitchen, community room and large open space in basement to accommodate big groups



Our church Sanctuary



Labyrinth design on basement floor used for meditation

## Financial Resources

- Budget for 2012 (see Appendix A)
- Treasurers Report for 2011 (see Appendix A)

## Snap Shot of Church Life

- Number of households under Pastoral Care (adherents and members) - 98
- Number of financially supporting households – 57
- Average weekly attendance – 32
- Children in attendance- 4-9
- Wedding -1
- Funerals – 6
- Baptisms – 4

*(Numbers taken from 2011 Statistical and Information Forms)*

## Other Regular Church Activities

Women's Breakfast, Men's Breakfast, Christmas Tea, Community Candle Light Service, Pancake Supper, Special Lenten Service, Congregational Picnic, Seniors Coffee Party,

## Community Outreach

- Diamond Valley Food Bank
- McMann Family Services Rainbows Program
- Scouts, Cubs, Beavers
- Girl Guides, Brownies, Sparks, Pathfinders
- Chef's United Community Kitchen
- Exercise Classes – Mommy & Me, Middle aged movement
- Taiji Qigong
- Labyrinth Meditation
- Buddhist Group Sit Happens
- Summer use by Boy & Girls Club
- Year end music recitals



Sparks & Brownies



Food bank volunteers



Middle aged movement exercise class



## **Ministerial Position Description**

- The Diamond Valley Pastoral Charge is seeking a part time ministry personnel

## **Ministerial Duties at Lewis Memorial Church include**

- Worship services
- Pastoral care
- Attendance at monthly Board meetings
- Communion, weddings, funerals and baptisms services
- Resources and leadership to congregational members
- Counseling for food bank 2 months of the year
- Attend presbytery

## **Knowledge and Skills Required**

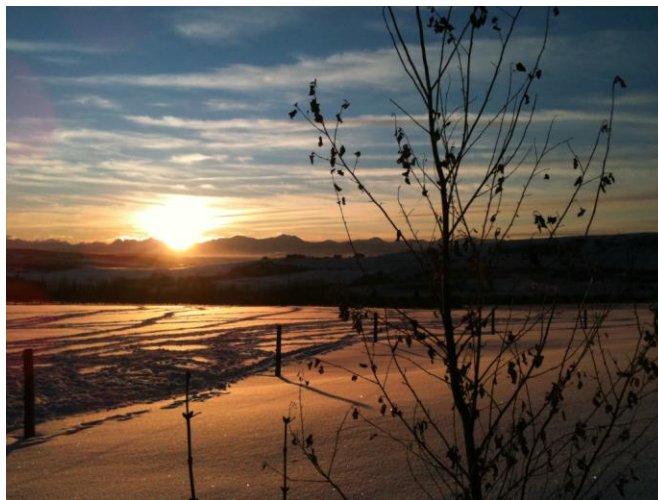
- Strong interpersonal communication skills
- Able to work independently and under direction of the church Board
- Caring
- Compassionate
- Honest
- Sense of humor
- Resourceful
- Able to engage with a variety of ages and life stages within the congregation

## **Congregational Responsibilities**

- Fundraising
- Organizing or attending congregation/social events
- Coordinating or maintenance of community outreach programs

## **Terms**

Salary, benefits and other requirements of the 2012 United Church salary and allowance schedules. The salary above base is negotiable. Housing allowance of approximately \$7000 per year. All benefits to be pro-rated as per part-time position.



A sunny winter day near Black Diamond

## APPENDIX A

### TREASURER'S REPORT 2011

It's important for me to let you know the facts of our current financial situation. We can't know what the future holds but I feel it's my responsibility to keep you informed so that none of us will be able to say, "I had no idea what was happening."

1. 'Traditional' fundraising met its goal with a net profit of \$9310 however total fundraising fell short by approx. \$4000.
2. The Literacy for Life program moved their offices to High River – decreasing our revenue for building use.
3. Our M&S grant was cut by \$1500 by Alberta Northwest Conference as we didn't have a permanent full time minister for July & August. Note: The church & programs continued to function without interruption & the office was open.
4. Operating revenue was \$120,338. Operating expense was \$123,668. We had a deficit of \$3349. Forecasted budget amounts fell short.
5. Major building repairs were required to the heating system & elevator. We anticipate repairs & maintenance will increase as the building ages. Other upgrades paint/carpet/front deck/landscaping were done through special donations from individuals.
6. Donations & contributions by individuals were down \$15,000 from last year.
7. We were not able to meet our M&S commitment & fell short by \$1500. The Board made a motion to honour our commitment & used money from the Good Samaritan fund.
8. JNAC expenses will be on-going as they begin their search, we are not certain what they will be.

The Board has consciously looked at various options to meet our financial obligations for 2012. In an effort to be fiscally responsible we took a serious look ahead & offer the following solutions for 2012:

- Part-time ministry. 2012 figures do not include allowances for benefits (UCC pension, receiver general tax remittances) as these numbers are not known until a specific candidate has been hired.
- Custodial – a 10-month contract January-June. The building is used very little in July & August & volunteers will be asked to do an occasional cleaning.
- Office Co-ordinator – remains the same re wages & hours as we don't know if, or when, a minister will be hired. This, we feel, will help maintain consistency.
- Increase revenues from fundraising if we can solicit a commitment from the congregation to help us work towards this goal.
- Increase revenues from building use, i.e. rental office space, rental of Sanctuary for concerts etc. if we can solicit a commitment from the congregation to help us work towards this goal.

We're not the only church looking for solutions to financial shortfalls. I do know we're a strong group who value & respect the faith community that we share & have built together these past years. If we work together and roll up our sleeves, we can 'get it done'.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Williams, Treasurer

**Diamond Valley Pastoral Charge  
Balance Sheet As at 12/31/2011**

**ASSET**

**Current Chequing Account**

Cash Handling Account - Deposits	0.00
Royal Bank - chqing acct	4,361.44
Petty Cash	46.89
<b>TOTAL CURRENT CHEQUING ACCOUNT</b>	<u>4,408.33</u>

**INVESTMENTS**

Capital Investments	19,429.43
<b>TOTAL INVESTMENTS</b>	<u>19,429.43</u>

**CURRENT ASSETS**

GST Paid Out - Capital	0.00
GST Paid out - General	951.58
Accounts Receivable	0.00
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<u>951.58</u>

**LONG TERM ASSETS**

Land	55,000.00
Building	400,000.00
Contents	146,000.00
Elevator	35,312.57
Furnishings & Equipment	8,865.56
Building Improvement	17,543.61
<b>TOTAL LONG TERM ASSETS</b>	<u>662,721.74</u>

<b>TOTAL ASSET</b>	<u><u>687,511.08</u></u>
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**LIABILITY**

**CURRENT LIABILITIES**

Loans - Revolving Line of Credit	0.00
RBC Visa Card	0.00
Accounts Payable	0.00
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<u>0.00</u>

<b>TOTAL LIABILITY</b>	<u>0.00</u>
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<b>EQUITY</b>	
Previous years earnings	12,193.12
Retained Earnings	678,667.08
Current Earnings	<u>-3,349.12</u>
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<u>687,511.08</u>
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<u>687,511.08</u>
<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	<u>687,511.08</u>

**Diamond Valley Pastoral Charge**  
**Income Statement 01/01/2011 to 12/31/2011**

**REVENUE**

**REVENUE OPERATING**

Offering - Donations	72,975.90	
Offering - Special Donations	279.00	
Offering - Cash	<u>1,910.00</u>	
<b>OFFERING -TOTAL</b>		75,164.90
Projects - Donations	55.65	
Projects - Cash	1,157.88	
Projects – mom & me regist. money	957.00	
Projects - mom/me childcare \$	<u>0.00</u>	
<b>PROJECTS - TOTAL</b>		2,170.53
Building Use		18,021.50
Fundraising Event - Donations	90.00	
Fundraising Event - Traditional	11,982.36	
Fundraising Event - Creative	<u>0.00</u>	
<b>FUNDRAISING TOTALS</b>		12,072.36
Interest		239.68
GST		444.66
MS Grant UCC MS Revenue		<u>4,500.00</u>
<b>OPERATING REVENUE - TOTAL</b>		<u>112,613.63</u>

**REVENUE - DESIGNATED FUNDS**

Mission & Service - Donations	5,531.45	
Mission & Service - Cash	<u>0.00</u>	
<b>MISSION &amp; SERVICE -TOTAL</b>		5,531.45
International Relief - Donations	1,608.55	
International Relief - Cash	<u>0.00</u>	
<b>INTERNATIONAL RELIEF - TOTAL</b>		1,608.55
Food Grains - Donations	126.00	
Food Grains - Cash	<u>0.00</u>	
<b>FOOD GRAINS - TOTAL</b>		126.00
Emerging Spirit - Donations	0.00	
Emerging Spirit - Cash	<u>0.00</u>	
<b>EMERGING SPIRIT- TOTAL</b>		0.00
Good Samaritan - Donations	0.00	
Good Samaritan - Cash	<u>0.00</u>	



GOOD SAMARITAN - TOTAL		0.00
Stitching in Faith - Donations	0.00	
Stitching in Faith - Cash	<u>0.00</u>	
STITCHING IN FAITH - TOTAL		0.00
Women's Group - Donations	351.25	
Women's Group - Cash	<u>0.00</u>	
WOMEN'S GROUP - TOTAL		351.25
Labyrinth - Donations	0.00	
Labyrinth - Cash	<u>0.00</u>	
LABYRINTH - TOTAL		0.00
Children Family Faith - Donations	108.00	
Children Family Faith - Cash	<u>0.00</u>	
CHILDREN FAMILY FAITH -TOTAL		<u>108.00</u>
<b>DESIGNATED FUNDS - TOTAL</b>		<u><b>7,725.25</b></u>

**REVENUE - CAPITAL**

Capital - Donations		0.00
Memorial-Donations(capital reserve)		0.00
Capital - Cash		<u>0.00</u>
<b>CAPITAL - TOTAL</b>		<u><b>0.00</b></u>

<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>		<u><b>120,338.88</b></u>
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**EXPENSE**

**OPERATING EXPENDITURES**

Advertising		587.76
Worship Supplies & Resources		752.84
Building - Repairs & Maintenance		7,877.70
Equipment - Repairs & Maintenance		258.18
Insurance		4,152.58
Website Licenses		132.01
Office Supplies		1,150.59
Cleaning Supplies		234.02
Electricity		3,850.56
Gas		2,106.43
Software		161.61
Internet		265.02
Telephone		838.26
Water & Sewer		<u>925.96</u>
<b>OPERATING EXPENTITURES -TOTAL</b>		<u><b>23,293.52</b></u>

**PAYROL & CONTRACTS**

Minister - Salary		26,902.83
Minister - Housing Allowance		10,125.00
Minister - Telephone Allowance		340.88
Minister - Life Long Learning		1,070.09
Minister - Travel Allowance		1,389.61
Project Coordinator - Wages		17,016.88
Bookkeeping -Wages		0.00
Custodial - Wages		7,046.00
Subcontract - office help		1,593.00
Pianist - Honorarium		1,750.00
Pulpit Supply		2,050.02

Sabbatical Support	0.00
Receiver General - CCRA Source Ded.	3,410.16
UCC Pension & Insurance Benefits	4,018.11
Maintenance Agreements/Licenses	345.13
ADP Payroll - processing cost	256.94
Staff Training	<u>201.02</u>
<b>PAYROLL &amp; CONTRACTS - TOTAL</b>	<u>77,515.67</u>

**PROJECTS EXPENDITURES**

Congregational Training	0.00
Fundraising	2,762.19
Projects	240.00
Stewardship	59.00
JNAC Committee Expense	<u>202.29</u>
<b>PROJECTS -TOTAL</b>	<u>3,263.48</u>

**CONFERENCE & PRESBYTERY**

Conference & Presbytery Assessment	<u>3,909.12</u>
<b>CONFERENCE &amp; PRESBYTERY - TOTAL</b>	<u>3,909.12</u>

**FINANCIAL EXPENSES**

Bank Services Charges	732.90
Credit Card charges & fees	0.00
Interest - Line of Credit	94.09
GST	<u>444.66</u>
<b>FINANCIAL EXPENSES - TOTAL</b>	<u>1,271.65</u>

**DESIGNATED FUNDS - EXPENSES**

Mission & Service	5,500.00
International Relief	2,021.55
Food Grains	116.00
Emerging Spirit	0.00
Good Samaritan	1,491.45
Stitching In Faith	0.00
Women's Group	0.00
Men's Group	0.00
Labyrinth	0.00
Children Family Faith	189.56
Mom & me childcare expense	820.00
<b>DESIGNATED FUNDS - TOTAL</b>	<u>10,138.56</u>

**CAPITAL EXPENSES**

Furnishings	4,296.00
Building Improvement	0.00
<b>CAPITAL EXPENSES - TOTAL</b>	<u>4,296.00</u>

<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<u>123,688.00</u>
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<b>NET INCOME</b>	<u><u>-3,349.12</u></u>
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<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>ACTUAL 2010</b>	<b>ACTUAL 2011</b>	<b>BUDGET 2012</b>	
Advertising	\$643.00	\$587.00	\$500.00	
Worship Supp & Res.	\$505.00	\$753.00	\$650.00	Seasons of Spirit
Building Rep. & Maint	\$2,845.00	\$7,878.00	\$3,000.00	windows, basement sound proofing
Equip Rep. & Maint	\$1,573.00	\$258.00	\$775.00	Cooler, Exhaust hood, furnace
Insurance	\$3,373.00	\$4,152.00	\$4,275.00	5% INCREASE
Web Site /Licenses		\$132.00	\$400.00	Domain 35.;
Office supplies	\$722.00	\$1,150.00	\$800.00	
Cleaning Supplies	\$171.00	\$234.00	\$250.00	
Electricity	\$4,144.00	\$3,850.00	\$4,000.00	
Gas	\$1,193.00	\$2,106.00	\$3,000.00	30% increase
Software		\$162.00		
Internet	\$299.00	\$265.00	\$385.00	\$32X12 -Lit Life pd half in 2010/11
E Newsletter		\$97.00	\$200.00	Constant Contact License
Telephone	\$797.00	\$838.00	\$900.00	
Water & Sewer	\$1,136.00	\$925.00	\$1,000.00	
<b>PAYROLL &amp; CONTRACTS</b>				
Minister - Salary	\$41,371.00	\$26,902.00	\$24,138.00	1.8 %inc. - 60% of Cat. F.
Minister - Housing	\$13,200.00	\$10,125.00	\$10,800.00	900 x 12 mos
Minister - Telephone	\$365.00	\$340.00	\$600.00	50 x12
Minister - Life Long Learning	\$752.00	\$1,070.00	\$765.00	1275 @ 60 % UCC
Minister - Travel	\$3,401.00	\$1,389.00	\$850.00	.41/Km Estimated from last yr mileage
Administrative Coord.	\$15,539.00	\$16,883.00	\$19,750.00	****NO Inc. 20hr/wk,\$18. per hr.
Custodial	\$7,800.00	\$7,046.00	\$6,500.00	****10 month contract - no benefits
Pianist _ Honorarium	\$1,680.00	\$1,750.00	\$1,995.00	\$35/sund
Pulpit Supply	\$932.00	\$2,050.00	\$2,400.00	*60% by min. remaining sundays tocover 24
				UCC rate for ordained is \$116 + Mileage
Rec. Gen.	\$4,188.00	\$3,285.00	\$2,580.00	****None for Min. unless new min. Coord. & Cost??
UCC Benefits	\$7,927.00	\$4,018.00		None unless new min.
ADP Payroll -processing	\$267.00	\$260.00	\$275.00	
Maintenance - Agreem/Lic.	\$339.00	\$345.00	\$980.00	Xelv \$600;Fire \$125;Elv.Lic \$135, Elv Insp \$12o
				XXXFURNACE MAINT AGREE????????
Staff Training	\$125.00	\$201.00	\$200.00	???
<b>CONFERENCE &amp; PRESBYTERY</b>				
Assessment	\$3,415.00	\$3,909.00	\$3,510.48	
<b>PROJECTS</b>				
Congregational Training				
Projects				
Stewardship			\$450.00	****PLANS for 2012
JNAC Comm. Expenses			\$500.00	****Mailings, interviews, moving

Sunday School Cir.			\$250.00	
<b>FINANCIAL EXP.</b>				
Bank Ser. Charges	\$720.00	\$732.00	\$500.00	Night Dep \$250/yr; \$25/mos line cr.
Cr. Card Charges & Fees				
Interest - Line of Cr.	\$10.00	\$92.00	\$100.00	
GST				
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$97,278.52</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>BUDGET 2012</b>	
Offering/donations Envelope	\$84,741.00	\$74,963.00	\$75,000.00	
Building Use	\$13,960.00	\$18,021.00	\$16,700.00	
Fundraising	\$6,809.00	\$9,310.00	\$10,250.00	
GRANT	\$69,000.00	\$4,500.00	???	
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$101,950.00</b>	<b>Total Income</b>



## APPENDIX B

In an effort to find out more about how the congregation feels about their church the following four questions were given to congregational members in the form of comment cards on the pews at Sunday service. The JNAC committee asked a question every couple of weeks and tried to collect as many responses as possible that day and the days following. The responses are exactly as they were written on the cards.

### JNAC Congregational Survey

#### 1.) What is the church good at?

- living out God's word in action. So many wonderful events and projects are carried out with enthusiasm & joy & service
- our church is also wonderful at singing & praising God
- making people feel welcome
- including people
- outreach in the community
- we are an open, generous and giving community
- sharing our space (building) @ the community
- caring about each other
- relaxed and friendly
- reminding us to always renew our strength & faith
- establishing a strong sense of community which is essential to all our well being
- supporting agencies within the community with a good outreach to others
- fellowship
- preparing food
- community services (use of basement areas)
- being a part of the community- with changes of recent months in our church make-up there seems to be an abrupt turnaround in making people feel welcome (visitors). This is encouraging and should be sustained
- social events within the church are handled very well and are very successful
- opening your arms and welcoming the community inside – regardless of religion & with no plan to change who they are or what they believe
- the fellowship & caring spirit of the church has endured over the years. Also the sustainability & ability to find a way to keep the church operating through adversity is truly a blessing
- able to fill in when unexpected problems arise
- providing events for the community to come together and interact
- music- we have the most wonderful pianist around – more choir would be great
- volunteers – we need to make sure they do not burn out and leave
- outreach – we are the basis for many groups (feel we need to ask for more money to cover utilities, etc.)
- we are known for being a church of outreach to all

## 2.) Why is the church important to you?

- it is in the community
- it is a part of my family, a part of my history & a part of my tradition
- the people that belong are great & give you a sense of family & a lot of peace in your life
- “Where 2 or 3 are gathered together, there am I” Lewis Memorial is important to me as a community of believers, to love & support one another in our Christian journey, to share God’s word & praise God through song
- it is a place to worship God
- it is important to make connections with the people of the faith – be supportive & support others
- we worship with our neighbors
- it offers faith support. I’ve enjoyed classes, book studies & Bible studies when offered as an opportunity for growth. I look forward to sermons which stimulate, challenge my thinking or teach me more about the Bible & something to deepen my faith
- giving me a sense of sharing my spiritual needs with a church family
- I like the “spiritual” uplifting I receive when I attend regularly thereby helping me to get through the week
- I have enjoyed meeting new people through the church
- This church is more concerned with living God’s word than any other I know of
- it centers me on God, Christ & the Holy Spirit , love , peace , faith , hope, mercy, compassion, kindness & generosity
- fellowship
- centering – spiritual growth
- place of quiet and serenity
- I have attended the United Church since I was a child. I have drifted away and want to be part of the church again, in some fashion
- faithful renewal
- more old hymns
- it has been my family ever since I moved to the area. People – mostly seniors were very welcoming to me& I felt comfortable
- I have learned a lot about my faith journey through studies & discussions
- It is important to be connected to the Spiritual community for daily thought & restoration of common belief
- we gain spiritual support & comfort if and when required
- \*-I have been a part this church for many years. I have considered moving to another church only because of United Church policies, but you build up many friendships in a small church
- I want to be involved with a church to be fulfilled

## 3.)What is our biggest challenge?

- gathering folks to regularly attend Sunday worship. I know people’s lives are busy but I think as our congregation moves forward it will be important for us to “feed ourselves” through worship & song. In the 6 years I have been attended, Lewis Memorial I have watched the attendance slowly decline and it is troubling to me. I really believe attendance also impacts the financial situation of any church

- balancing finances and having a reasonable level of ministry
- raising enough funds
- building or rebuilding our congregation and Sunday School
- getting our financial situation to a point where we can comfortably afford a full time minister and retain programs – Sunday school, Youth, breakfasts, etc.
- To be confident in what we have to offer by realizing that it takes money to continue to fuel the fire and it's OK to ask for financial support in a variety of ways
- a beautiful building and too much disillusionment with religion in the general population (i.e.) Yoga is taking off and churches are fading
- to find a minister for our church who everyone likes so people will want to come to the United Church regularly and stay involved with the church
- finances
- the small number of people who are carrying the financial load will continue to be our problem, in my opinion. We may need to accept the reality that small communities cannot continue to maintain the salary of a full time minister. Changing attitudes and ways of doing things will be an important part of the future.
- Funds, which would be solved by bringing new people into the church
- would like to raise funds for needy projects instead of trying to keep the doors open
- immediate challenge is to strive for a recovery from the past few years and build a strong and binding spirit among us. I am confident our congregation will grow, but we're not out of the woods yet. A program for youngsters is eventually essential.
- to see members and adherents on the church "role" to become visible on a regular basis
- to attract children
- hiring the correct minister to ensure we can build our church congregation and programs to a level in which we can sustain a vibrant church in the Diamond Valley area
- financial – we need to build up more membership; not just drop ins (they are also welcome but don't keep the church going)
- I do not want to see us go with a part time minister unless really necessary, as I feel we need to build up, not stay the same
- we need to inform the community of all the things our church does

#### 4.)What do you need most from your church?

- fulfilling my spiritual needs
- I really liked book/Bible study and music- singing in the choir
- spiritual growth
- good Sunday worship- thought-provoking messages on Sunday
- good music
- fellowship
- pastoral care
- spiritual guidance
- a feeling of family
- a building to meet in
- I enjoy the fellowship both on Sundays and at other gatherings throughout the year. I would like to see a more fluid and meaningful worship. I want to leave the church feeling enriched and energized. It is very frustrating listening to 15 minutes of

announcements at the beginning of the worship service. I also love to sing and would like to see more variety and upbeat rhythms to the music

- reflection, prayers on Sunday
- fellowship and support
- spiritual growth and leadership
- Bible study and discussion
- what I need most from our church is for it to be here. The loss of a church in a community is such an incredible loss. I need Lewis Memorial to be here – to be a strong and faithful presence in this community
- \*support
- companionship- (eg.) Women's breakfast
- a good sermon – important to me for a good message
- lots of music