

On January 30, 2021, the community of Grace United Church, in Lax Kw'alaams, BC lost their building to a fire. In the weeks since the fire, minister Lawrence Sankey and community members have been in conversation with me and others in the regional council, and together we've identified ways that the wider United Church communities of faith can offer support and help, in addition to holding the Lax Kw'alaams community in prayer.

Grace United is well-insured, however, the challenge of responding to this situation as a remote community is significant. Additional costs will come with getting materials to the community, and there will be other expenses not covered by insurance, such as the important sacred practice of feeding the workers in the village.

Financial donations to Grace United church community are welcome and the regional council office is ready to receive donations on behalf of Grace United Church.

If you are called to and able to offer a financial donation to Lax Kw'alaams Grace United Church, please follow these steps:

1. Go to the [Pacific Mountain Regional Council donation page that is hosted on CanadaHelps.org](#)
2. In the first section called "Donation Details" you need to designate the fund you wish your donation to go to:
 - Under AMOUNT
 - Select the frequency of your donation.
 - Set the amount of your donation.
 - Under FUND
 - **Change the drop-down option** from "General" to "**Grace United Church – Lax Kw'alaams Rebuilding Fund**" to designate your donation to this specific effort.
3. Then complete the rest of the form. Note: you'll be prompted to make a one-time donation to the organization that hosts our donation page (CanadaHelps.org).
4. After submitting your donation, you will see confirmation page and number on the website, and you will receive an email with tax receipt (if applicable) to the email address you used on the donation page.

We are hearing many expressions of desire to help, and the Pacific Mountain Regional Council office and staff will continue to bridge the community of Lax Kw'alaams with the wider Indigenous and Non-Indigenous communities of faith, as needed by the Grace United community.

With gratitude and blessings,
Treena Duncan
Executive Minister
Pacific Mountain Regional Council.
United Church of Canada