

Thursday October 22, 2009

Present: (lay), Brian Baybay, Carol Cox, Bruce Cowburn, Ross Dunning, Ralph Johnston, Eileen Karyula, Sue Kellas, John Kim, Marilyn McCutcheon, Jo Shearer, Barb. Tunnicliffe, Kathy Young

Ministry personnel: Charles Ahn, Dave Anderson, Jan Bihl, Richard Bott, Brian Burke, Kevin Hegseth, Julie Lebrun, Ian Macdonald, Gabrielle McLarty, Ernie Roberts, Shannon Tennant, Scott Turnbrook

Youth: Katrina Anderson, Moriah Anderson, Hilani Baybay, Jacquie Bolster, Cole Burenski, Shayla Kennedy, Finn Leary, Elfrin Ordanza, Janelle Roberts, Angela Roberts

Visitors: Shannon Baird, Marina Gilson, Rowan Tennant

Regrets: Doug Throop, Lois Brown, Janet Babey, Rick Newbury, Angela Stevens, Mary Nichol, Rich Crooks, Cattarina Patrice, Ann White, Kim Horwood, David Vervaet, Carole Finch, Fred Nienaber, Georgia Runcie, Donna Dawson

A Quorum was present.

Call to order and prayer: Dave Anderson called the retreat meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.

Welcome and Worship

Ernie Roberts led us in singing and Dave Anderson offered an opening prayer.

Those present introduced themselves and we moved into small groups to study scripture (Psalm 34) and pray for each other.

Theme, Agenda and Goal Setting

Dave Anderson recorded our goals for the weekend on a flip chart. An agenda was circulated.

Dismissal

We concluded our first evening together with a snack and campfire.

Friday October 23, 2009

Opening

We gathered with singing led by Ernie.

Theme 1 - What does God value in church?

Dave Anderson and Richard Bott challenged us to think about what God values in the ideal church/God's ideal Christian community?

Theme 2 The Westminster Presbytery Report

Marina Gilson shared the demographic and financial information she had compiled from the data the Year Book and from each pastoral charge.

Lunch

Theme 3 Living God's values here and now

Marina Gilson provided printed information about each congregation's participation, givings, funds raised and core income and expenses. We broke into small groups to discuss this information and then reported back.

Break

Westminster Presbytery **Retreat Meeting Held at Chehalis Healing Centre, Harrison B. C. Oct. 22 - Oct. 24 2009****Presbytery Meeting**

Authority: The meeting of Westminster Presbytery of The United Church of Canada was convened at the call of the chair Dave Anderson at Chehalis Healing Centre, Harrison, B. C. at 4:00 pm on Friday October 23, 2009.

Motion 48/2009 Moved and seconded (Ross Dunning/Scott Turnbrook) That we adopt the agenda as circulated.

Carried

Motion 49/2009 Moved and seconded (Ernie Roberts/Bruce Cowburn) That we amend the minutes of the regular meeting held June 2, 2009 adding Kathy Young and John Kim under "Present (lay)".

Carried

Motion 50/2009 Moved and seconded (Gabrielle McLarty/Kevin Hegseth) That we receive the minutes of the executive meeting held June 9, 2009 for information.

Carried

Motion 51/2009 Moved and seconded (Ross Dunning/Scott Turnbrook) That we receive the minutes of the executive meeting held September 1, 2009 for information.

Carried

Business Arising from Minutes

Ross Dunning asked how persons serving on JNAC and Discernment Committees were determined. This was referred to the agenda item, 'recruitment for presbytery ministries'.

Correspondence

1. Residential Schools Update newsletter - file
2. General Council, change of broker for Insurance Plan from Willis to Hub International - file
4. Fellowship Magazine - Education and Students
5. General Council, copy of letter sent to pastoral charges not enrolled in Payroll Service - treasurer

Julie Lebrun shared a letter from Jean McLeod, writing on behalf of Naramata Centre seeking a contact person in each pastoral charge to promote Naramata. There is a worship service on Naramata's web site suitable for use on November 15th. Further information will be posted on Presbytery's website.

Remits

General Council Commissionaire Shannon Tennant presented background information on the first two remits authorized by the 49th General Council. Discussion time was provided

Remit Number 1 Election of Lay Representatives to Presbytery

The Question: Does the Presbytery agree that it is the duty of the Congregation to elect representatives, in full church membership of the Congregation, to the Presbytery; and that the Bases of Union section 5.8.4, 5.9.1, 5.9.2, 5.12, 5.12.1, 5.12.2, 6.0, 6.2, and 6.2.5 should be amended to reflect this policy?

The Vote

Westminster Presbytery voted YES on Remit Number 1

Remit Number 2 "Appointed," "Chosen," "Elected," "Selected"

The Question: Does the Presbytery agree that the Basis of Union should be amended to reflect a consistent use of "appoint" and "elect" as indicated in manual sections 5.3, 5.6, 5.6.1, 5.9, 5.11, 6.0, 6.2, 6.2.5, 6.2.6, 6.4, 6.4.14, 7.6.1, 8.49.4, and 9.7.?

The Vote

Westminster Presbytery voted NO on Remit Number 2

Education and Students

Carol Cox reported that we have a new student, Sue Rogers from Alberta and Northwest Conference.

Discernment committees have also been set up for:

Dona Lethbridge, Deer Lake United Church with Julie Lebrun and Ross Dunning representing Presbytery

Christopher Burkeholder, Shiloh-Sixth Avenue United Church with Scott Turnbrook and Marilyn

McCutcheon representing Presbytery

Barbara Grant, St. Andrew's Haney United Church with Kevin Hegseth and Kathleen Edmunds representing Presbytery.

Pastoral Relations No reportTreasurer's ReportBudget

Bruce Cowburn circulated last year's approved budget showing actual amounts spent to September 30, 2009. He is predicting a surplus at year end. The executive will review the draft budget at the November meeting and it will be distributed to all presbyters for discussion at the December Presbytery meeting.

Housing Allowances/Mileage

Based on a survey of real estate there will be no change in housing allowances for 2010. The current amounts are: Burnaby, New Westminster and Coquitlam \$2,121, Port Coquitlam and Port Moody \$2,090, and Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows \$2,060. The rate per kilometer for travel is 52¢.

Income Tax Filing Requirement

Bruce distributed a Revenue Canada form for Ministry Personnel who receive a housing allowance.

Ross Dunning commended the treasurer and the executive for exercising their fiduciary responsibilities.

SOCAN Licensing Fee

It is not necessary to hold a SOCAN music license to use recorded music during worship services but it is required for concerts, dances and weddings.

Dinner was served. Richard Bott offered Grace.

Ross Dunning and Gabrielle McLarty left the meeting.

Youth Presentations

The youth attending the retreat gave an awesome presentation of their vision of the church we might build if we has \$10 million dollars. They also composed a song based on the Barenaked Ladies song "If I had a Million Dollars".

Youth Ministry Proposal

Barb Tunnicliffe gave a historic background of youth work in Westminster Presbytery since 1996. Carol Cox summarized Kerry Child's recommendations. A copy of a proposed Youth Ministry Position for Westminster Presbytery was distributed. Following discussion, a show of hands indicated that presbyters favored opening the position to trained lay people, extending the hours to 12 per week and making the appointment for 2 years. The committee will look at these changes and bring the proposal back to the meeting tomorrow.

Governance Structure

Westminster Presbytery **Retreat Meeting Held at Chehalis Healing Centre, Harrison B. C. Oct. 22 - Oct. 24 2009**

A copy of the governance structure model that was developed at last year's retreat was distributed. A new section, Executive Responsibilities has been added however the executive has not reviewed it yet. Each committee outlined the work they have accomplished under the new model. It was generally agreed that we must engage all presbyters at the committee level. This is a proactive model and requires more people than are currently on the Presbytery roll. The Executive must ensure that committees are meeting and addressing their responsibilities.

Recruitment for Presbytery Ministries

A review of the Year Book indicated that most pastoral charges are eligible for two lay presbytery delegates. It was agreed that those present had a duty to ensure that their church elected presbytery delegates with the skills required to carry out the task of presbytery including serving on JNAC and Discernment Committees, Oversight visits to pastoral charges and helping support congregations. It was further recommended that each presbyter undertake the Spiritual Gifts Inventory and consult with another presbyter about where they might best serve the presbytery.

It may also be necessary to provide training for certain tasks. It was further suggested that an alternate delegate should be named who would attend meetings and event when the regular delegate is unavailable.

Ministry Personnel have a responsibility to ensure that their congregations understand the importance of the work at the Presbytery level. It was also agreed that those ministry personnel who were unable to attend the retreat should be contacted.

Closing

The meeting closed at 9:30 pm and Julie Lebrun offered prayer.

Saturday October 24, 2009**Breakfast**

Bruce Cowburn and Charles Ahn left the meeting.

Ernie Roberts led in singing and Dave Anderson opened the final day of our meeting/retreat with prayer.

Youth Proposal

Motion 52/2009 Moved and seconded (Richard Bott/Brian Burke) That Westminster Presbytery agree, in principle, to initiate a two year Westminster Presbytery Youth Ministry position following the document Youth Ministry Proposal (Appendix A), 12 hours per week, open to lay and ministry personnel beginning August 1, 2010. **Carried**

Details about the financial implications, if any, to each pastoral charge will be available once the budget is drafted.

It was agreed to establish a search committee consisting of 2 presbyters, 1 youth leader and 4 to 5 youth who are members of churches within our presbytery.

Motion 53/2009 Moved and seconded (Ian Macdonald/Brian Burke) That we hire a contract person to plan the spring presbytery youth retreat. **Carried**

Carol Cox will find a person to fill this contract.

Theme 4 What is God calling The United Church of Canada in Westminster Presbytery to look like?

It was agreed that we have too many locations and too much infrastructure to support with our declining numbers and aging congregations. Some tools we can use to help us reach some decisions are the Natural Church Development program, Environics Reports, Facilitated Learning Circle and Mission and Purpose Statements for each congregation. A plan to use 2009 unspent budget funds to allow some congregations to utilize these tools will be discussed.

Small Group Reflection on Scripture

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We broke into small groups and reflected on Mark 10:46-52, Bartimaeus recovers his sight. Dave recorded our final thoughts on next steps on the flip chart.

Music and Prayer

Ernie led us in singing and Dave offered prayer.

Adjournment The meeting adjourned at noon.

Chair

Secretary

Executive meeting - November 17, 2009 1:00 pm, Eagle Ridge

Regular Meeting - Tuesday December 1, 2009

5:30 pm

Como Lake United Church