

DOING A NEW THING

We are a people of faith. We believe that Jesus showed the people of his time a way to interact with people that was respectful, non-judgmental, filled with hope and love, and gave everyone a sense of equality in the community. It is the deep desire of the people of St. Albert United Church to live into this ministry. We hope to embody Christ in our encounters with others. And we have determined that we will create a safe space for everyone.

As the United Church of Canada undergoes change and we notice subtle but relevant changes within our congregation a decision was made a year ago to set aside this past year for Transition work.

One of the major remaining tasks of the Transition Team has been to streamline and hopefully organize the work of the church into committees (herein after referred to as Ministries). We have had clarity about the reduction in the numbers of volunteers available to us and the weariness of those we have.

Last fall on Rally Sunday we heard from 24 (I think) different groups who do very important work in the congregation and community. However, by #9 I was beginning to be on overload and very shortly thereafter my brain went into neutral. After that Sunday I became clear that it does a disservice to the groups following #9 to present our important work in that manner. Not long after that experience Council and the ministry personnel were informed of the disbanding of both the Christian Education Committee and the Pastoral Care Committee. The Transition Team began to consider having co-ordinators for those areas of service with the co-ordinator being supported by a group of people.

Our ponderings as a Transition Team have led us to the place where we present to you a model for consideration which has four different Ministries co-ordinating the variety of services provided by our congregation.

We trust that each Ministry will have a convenor. We also hope that the congregation will give each Ministry the authority to fulfill their responsibilities in the best manner possible. The overall administration is at the center of the circle and includes the clergy. This does not mean that the clergy never leave the office but that all the information ought to flow through the clergy and the office admin. staff. There ought never to be any size event or meeting happening within these walls of which Laurie is not aware.

There is also a suggestion from the Transition Team that the Council move toward meeting four times a year and that the key areas for the Council will be creating and/or maintaining Vision, Co-ordination, Policy and Ethos. It is also suggested that the convenor (or representative) of each of the 4 Ministries have a seat on Council.

The attached document will hopefully explain to some degree the vision of the Transition Team. A decision regarding whether or not to adopt this model will be made at the Annual Meeting on June 16. We desire your prayerful consideration and participation in this decision.