

Message from the Transition Team - Sept 2, 2018

When there is a period of intentional Interim Ministry the United Church of Canada requires the formation of a Transition Team to facilitate the work of the minister. According to the UCC website, a Transition Team is a group of three to five people from the congregation and up to two people from the presbytery who work with the Interim Minister to help guide the congregation through the period of Interim Ministry. The Transition Team is appointed jointly by the official board (or equivalent) and presbytery and is separate from the Ministry and Personnel (M&P) Committee. (https://www.united-church.ca/sites/default/files/handbook_introducing-interim-ministry.pdf)

Because of our unique situation in which there are two congregations, it was decided to have four representatives from each congregation and two representatives from Presbytery. In June, Chalmers appointed Rosemary MacLachlan, Al Fletcher, Monika Holzschuh Sator, and Mary Stewart Ross to represent their congregation. At the same time, Sydenham St chose Ian Malcolm, Ross Drummond, Deborah Elliott and Rosemary Robinson to be their representatives. Lynda Price and Maureen O'Neill are the Presbytery Representatives. We have met three times over the summer and have examined the 48 pages in the document giving Guidelines for Transition Teams. (https://www.united-church.ca/sites/default/files/handbook_transition-teams.pdf) Again our situation is unique and the Transition Team is open to exploring innovative ways to help Rev. Barry King as he embarks on this period of intentional interim ministry.

We have been in touch with Rev. King and have facilitated some of the practical aspects of his settling into Kingston. He has been sent documents and background information about the two churches. Once he arrives September 10 we will ensure he is oriented to the buildings, the staff and the congregations and then work with him to explore goals and ways for the two congregations to develop together but also to work on their own separate issues of concern.

One of the tasks of the transition team is to look at goals already established for the interim ministry, but it is equally important to look at emerging goals and to be aware of new concerns or goals which may need to change or be modified. Over the summer the Transition Team discussed the importance of communication and the importance of ensuring the various committees and organizational structures within the two congregations are working in tandem in a collaborative manner. All members of the Transition Team are ready to serve you by providing information when controversial issues arise, by being transparent throughout the process, by providing reassurance when long-standing assumptions are challenged. We are committed to providing leadership as we try to find new ways of being God's people.

We are ready to meet the challenge of moving forward together.

The members from Chalmers have chosen Mary Stewart Ross (marystewartross@gmail.com) as co-chair and Deborah Elliott (elliottd33@gmail.com) has agreed to be the co-chair from Sydenham St. We are eager to hear from members of either congregation and will make every effort to give timely information as we move forward with Rev. Barry King during this new journey of intentional ministry.