

Update from the Executive Board

On behalf of the Executive Board, we are pleased to share with you some exciting information and an update on our Transition Team activities.

You will remember that at the Annual General Meeting in April, we outlined our approach to transitioning from Reverend Kevin Little's ministerial leadership to eventually extending a call for a new lead minister within the next year. This entailed forming several groups to accomplish the tasks involved in the Transition.

A **Leadership Team** to oversee the process was formed consisting of Glen Knapp, Chuck Maxner, Herb Steeves, Jim Musgrave, and Lisa Harrison.

A **Supply Team** was formed with a mandate to work with our UCC Bermuda Nova Scotia Region liaison, Reverend David Hewitt, to seek out a supply minister to fulfill our Ministerial needs as the congregation prepared our Community of Faith documentation as mandated by the UCC prior to extending a call for a new lead minister. The **Supply Team** consists of Lynn Steeves, Bob Carter, Louisa Duck, Laura King, Pam Carter, and Jamie Black. This group has successfully completed their task and their recommended candidate has been approved by the Bermuda Nova Scotia Pastoral Relations Committee. We thank Reverend Hewitt for all of his guidance and assistance offered to the **Supply Team**.

We announce now that **Reverend Martha Martin** has accepted the position for the term of **July 29th, 2024 until July 30, 2025**. Please welcome her to our Congregational Family! We will send out her contact particulars in due course. We are so pleased to have such an accomplished individual lead us. The following outlines the details of her prior activities.

Reverend Martha Martin retired in 2023 from the position of Minister of Word and Sacrament at Kingston Road United Church in Toronto. During her time there she offered leadership to the congregation in all aspects of ministry – worship, leadership and volunteer development, community involvement, social justice work and Christian Education.

From 2015-18 she was the Intentional Interim Minister at St. John's United Church in Halifax. She has also served as Minister of Education and Care at St. Andrew's United Church, Halifax; Coordinator for Congregational Life, Tatamagouche Centre; Instructor at Atlantic School of Theology, Halifax; Volunteer at The Corrymeela Peace and Reconciliation Centre, Ballycastle, Northern Ireland; Atlantic School of Theology, Board of Governors; and Chair, Pine Hill Divinity Hall Board of Governors.

Over the past 30 years she has had experience in worship leadership, program planning, implementation and leadership development within churches and non-government organizations. She was a university chaplain at two universities for 16 years and has experience building ecumenical and interfaith relationships, as well as working with young adults.

Given the duration of the Supply Appointment, a Covenanting Service will be held within the next several months and so stay tuned for the details.

Another very important group formed was the **Profile Team** with a mandate to prepare our **Community of Faith Profile** and **Living Faith Story** requiring completion and submission to the UCC before a call can be extended for a new lead minister. This is indeed a very important undertaking and we are so pleased that the following individuals have undertaken to lead this effort: Rick Anningson, Elizabeth Carter, Lori Cormier, Karen Finley, Heather Fitzpatrick, Kathy Grant, Joan Macvicar, Yvonne Macor, Steve Morley, and Brian Jay (Chair). This group will be working on your behalf but please be sure to assist them in any way if they ask for your help or input. The timeline is to have the documentation ready for the UCC by late autumn of this year so that the call for the new lead minister can be extended in the first half of 2025.

In the background we have the **Data/Analytics Team** of Rob Steeves, Tina Gascon and Dana Mills who collect our congregational information on a real time basis but can support any of the other Transition Groups with data as needed.

A special thank you is extended to Elizabeth Carter and the Worship Committee of Session for providing assistance in organizing the July Summer Worship Services which were led by Ann Bradley (July 7th), Louisa Duck (July 14th), Reverend Rob Fennell (July 21st), and Reverend Heather Fraser (July 28th). We certainly thank Ann, Louisa, Reverend Fennell and Reverend Fraser for their inspiring messages. As well we are also grateful for the efforts of Annie Bayne and Karen Hatcher for providing the “Lemonade on the Lawn” each week at the conclusion of the worship service.

We also offer sincere thanks to Reverend Dr. Kathleen Anderson from Hope United Church who was available for our congregational pastoral care ministry needs but also assisted with ministerial support for our Leadership Meetings.

On the maintenance front, we are pleased to note that the old boiler (which has served us well for many years!) is on the way out and hopefully the new gas fired boiler will be installed and ready “to roll” by early in the next heating season. Obviously, there are considerable costs associated with this project and your leadership team is exploring the best approach to a Stewardship Campaign to assist with funding this project and other congregational endeavours.

As well, the carpeting throughout the church (excluding the sanctuary) is about to be replaced and this will lead to some disruption of activities and movement within the church premises—please pay attention to guidance from the Board of Managers regarding this project.

Thank you to all who contributed to the gifts given to Brunswick Street Mission and Margaret’s House in recognition of Reverend Kevin’s ministerial leadership of our Community of Faith.

Blessings to all and we hope that you are having a wonderful and restful summer season!

Glen Knapp

Chuck Maxner

Co-chairs Executive Board