

Hello ECC,

The Fall has come fast upon us, and I am sure it's greeted with mixed emotions with summer ending and school re-starting for many. I do hope it has held a break of some sort from the 'normal' day in and day out, but that the shifting seasons also brings unexpected joys, even as we head into cooler temperatures.

It has been a little while since the last community update, and for some, this may be the first Community Letter you've read - having just joined our Church in the past few weeks or months. **Welcome, we are so glad you are here.** Regardless of how long you've been with us, I do hope that as you read the following you get the sense of a community on a journey, leaning in, seeking the Lord's direction and trying to walk there as best as we can: together. We are inviting you to join us in this walk, would continue to ask for your prayer and active participation in the coming months.

### **TRANSITIONAL MINISTRY**

January to July 1st were full months for the Leadership Team, and for you the community. We worked through some very significant portions of the transitional process: who we were, who we are now and who we want to be. *Part* of this was aligning on what our understanding of key concepts like priesthood of all believers, and the role of the pastor as it relates to the leadership structure at ECC is. This phase of the transitional process we're on culminated in publishing the [Pastoral Job Profile for ECC](#) and commissioning the Search Team. The Elders and others involved are super grateful for the amount of prayer, feedback and support extended to us by you all during what we would consider to be a critical time in our Church's story.

As it relates to the transitional period that we are in, the immediate next steps for us as a whole community are:

1. Continue to hold our Search Team in prayer as they begin reaching out to prospects and prayerfully discerning a short list of candidates for the Elders. They can be reached at: [search@myecc.ca](mailto:search@myecc.ca)
2. Continue to pray for the missional posture of ECC. Essentially, how we view the community / family dynamic, which is such a wonderful strength for our church, and how the Lord would have us use it for his Kingdom.
3. Elder / Congregation relationship and exploring the idea of membership

Expect more updates from us on the other KRAs in the coming months.

### **LOOKING AHEAD: CHILDREN'S MINISTRY**

We are so appreciative of Ingrid and the many who supported her in the creative, engaging and meaningful summer Children's program. Thank you for organizing this Ingrid and a huge thanks to the many who taught and supported it during the Summer.

The Fall brings a new Children's Ministry program under the leadership of Cherilyn, Hazel, Jackie, Stephanie, Ingrid, along with the support from many. We are excited to see how the Lord will use their gifts at this time, and they would greatly appreciate your prayers and support as they take on the leadership of this vital ministry. The team can be reached at: [children@myecc.ca](mailto:children@myecc.ca).

### **LOOKING AHEAD: TRANSITIONS FOR KEY MINISTRIES**

1. We are excited to announce that Cherilyn Pattern has been offered the Administrator Job and will assume this position starting October 1st. We will do a more formal prayer and send off for Karen in the coming weeks as well as pray for Cherilyn as she enters this role. Many thanks to those who applied and joined with us in prayerfully discerning this key part of ECC.
2. The Verge has wound down with no immediate plans to continue its Thursday AM meetings. If you feel the Lord calling you to lead this, or another ministry please speak with the Elders.

### **LOOKING AHEAD: EQUIPPING & OUTREACH**

As many will remember, this year's budget included a line item for "Equipping" as well as one for us as a Church to minister in perhaps a more 'collective' or organized way to the community around us. We are excited to announce 2 uses of these funds and are urging you to join with us in asking how we should best use our resources to **a)** build up the body of ECC to be better equipped to do ministry and **b)** what those avenues or opportunities look like for us to take advantage of in the coming months to better reach the neighbourhood around us.

- 1) Brittani Hislop is organizing Part One of a Mental Health & the Church workshop in partnership with Sanctuary Mental Health. This will be at ECC in October and will be open to all to attend. More details coming soon.
- 2) Trish Poehnell is looking for a group of people interested in doing a Kids themed Fall Fair activity on the Saturday Oct 28th at ECC. If you are interested in either helping organize or volunteer for the day of, she would love to talk with you. More details to follow.
- 3) There are a lot of new faces at ECC. We would love to host an informal dessert night or some means to better connect those who are newer with those who have been here for a while. If you'd like to support facilitating something like this with the Elders, please come talk with us.

We're excited for these two (very different) forms of building up the body, and welcome more expressions of these goals, (Equip and Outreach) big or small, particularly around Christmas time.

Believe it or not, there's still more we could share about the coming months - but we'll save it for the next update. Thank You for the tireless prayer, hours, sacrifice and love you've put into this Christ following community in the corner of Richmond. We are keen to continue to lean in, to seek the Lord lead for ECC, and to walk there together: one step at a time.