



# TRANSITION TEAM UPDATE

Transition Team Newsletter : Issue 7

**August 14, 2016**

## **Transition Team Update:**

Trinity's Transition Team has been meeting regularly over June and July with more meetings scheduled for August and September. As previously mentioned, our over-arching goal (purpose) through this period of Intentional Interim Ministry is to revitalize Trinity's mission after our long pastorate.

### **Our Goals:**

- ◆ Review our history, consider the present, and define a vision for the future;
- ◆ Develop a shared "living mission" where a sense of belonging and caring is felt by all who enter the church, that inspires commitment, enthusiasm, stewardship, provides direction and focus for Trinity's programs, activities and celebrations;
- ◆ Identify and address structures, functions, programs and relationships that may need to be developed and/or altered to support the vision and facilitates our emerging "living mission";
- ◆ Assist in gathering information that will be utilized by the Joint Needs Assessment Committee for the purpose of seeking new Ministerial Personnel and Congregational Growth.
- ◆ Project and match our future Ministry Personnel requirements and financial potential.

### **Current Transition Activity (reflective questioning):**

Over the last few months Rev. Arlyce and the Transition Team have been posing questions to the congregation to help us determine Trinity's identity, mission, vision, and priorities for the future.

**Here are the questions that were posed to the congregation and the responses received.**

#### **1. What is one thing that you could do to make your congregation more genuinely hospitable?**

- If a regular member misses 2 or 3 Sundays, I will give them a call.
  - Support the program for food security and model a positive attitude about the program to others!
  - Be kind and friendly to each other.
  - I try to be attuned to people's needs: prayer
- shawls, Affirm, garden-planting-produce, cookies, smile
- I take part with anything I can.
  - Speak to people you don't know well every Sunday.
  - I would suggest moving the sale of gift cards to the lower level at coffee hour or before the service. This way now looks like you are greeted with hands out looking for money.



# TRANSITION TEAM UPDATE

Transition Team Newsletter : Issue 7

August 14, 2016

**#2. Think of a time when you had to make change(s) in your life that were unexpected or unwanted. How did you make it through the change(s)? What resources did you use? Who did you trust to help you in the process of change? How did your faith help you in the process?**

- my faith in Thee; my minister and my family; It strengthened me
- growth, acceptance, forgiveness; my spouse, God; accept the things I cannot change
- I just kept praying; my child; my faith was very strong, I just kept praying.
- one day at a time, wonderful old friends; God got me through my whole family passing; I knew I could make it
- Inner strength, prayer; God; gave me strength
- Prayer, knowing that I am never alone and that God is with us always; God, my family, friends and my Bible study group; "I can do anything through God that strengthens me"
- With a great deal of help from my faith and my minister, family, friends and Trinity congregation; God, my family and friends; could not have got through it without prayer
- With the help of family; my mother; It gave me strength to carry on!
- Trying to be open to hearing others; the catalyst of change is really within me and help is from those around me; the certainty that God has always listened to me and been good to me—a blessed life.
- Conversations with friends who had done similar things; friends; the security it provides to assure me I am not alone.
- One day at a time; what remained the same I cherished and was thankful for; community mental health, doctors, in part the minister; God alone; my Rock
- Prayers were always first; God only gave me strength; knowing God would provide strength

**#3. What would you most want to pay for that you don't already have?**

- Easy access from street in front of the church front door—knock the curb down; easier for those using walkers and wheelchairs
- Cushions for church pews (if I could afford it)
- Air condition and new carpets
- Youth ministry (4 responses)
- Children's minister; junior/youth choir; openness to let us help others like the soup kitchen of the past; important as we had a homeless person approach for change today for a coffee
- Grandchildren's post secondary education
- On a personal level, my life has been blessed and there is nothing I want that I don't have. However, a more kind and loving world would be worth paying for.
- Love Thy "Enemies"
- Peace in the World (3 responses)



**#4. What do you value most about TUC?**

- It is my spiritual home (two responses)
- The help they give to the community (three responses)
- Beautiful sanctuary
- Friendship (2 responses)
- Fellowship (5 responses)
- Music (2 responses)
- The service, fellowship, prayers, music, love the organ, choir, innovative minister
- History and United Church polity
- A place to share our faith
- Some of the people here with whom I am acquainted
- Activities and religious programs
- Communion (3 responses)
- To connect with God
- To start the week on the right foot

**Be Kind and Friendly**



# TRANSITION TEAM UPDATE

Transition Team Newsletter : Issue 7

**August 14, 2016**

## #5. What makes you want to be involved with TUC?

- To support the workings of our church (4 responses)
- Friendship and fellowship (7 responses)
- Because I feel peaceful while spending time with faithful people
- Love of God and need to learn more about Him
- Beauty of the building, my beliefs, family atmosphere
- Participation makes it all work
- The thirst I have for growth in my spiritual journey
- UCW
- A common goal to keep the faith alive
- A belief that the Christian community must remain strong
- Making sure that TUC is in good shape (2 responses)

- Financial stability (6 responses)
- Health, happiness, new minister
- It continues its witness
- It is blessed by the Spirit
- It gets stronger and stronger
- To continue to be a place of welcome
- To be fed spiritually
- That there is continued teaching from the Bible and that it is related to present day circumstances
- That people rally together to be a presence in our community
- Fresh leadership for teams
- Various modes of music, i.e. fiddles, guitar, children's choir
- That we achieve our goal for a new minister (3 responses)
- To enlarge the congregation (5 responses)
- That attendance improves
- To help keep it open!
- Remain active
- All working together
- People open to change – a must! (2 responses)

**Faith**

**Participate**

**Fellowship**

**Connect with God**

## # 6. What are your three wishes for TUC?

- Sunday School (6 responses)
- Friendship (2 responses)
- Openness/to have fewer cliques( 3 responses)
- Learning





# TRANSITION TEAM UPDATE

Transition Team Newsletter : Issue 7

**August 14, 2016**

## Synopsis of survey results:

- ◆ Members want an open, friendly membership, with financial stability.
- ◆ Members want vibrant Children and Youth Ministries.
- ◆ Members are hoping for a new minister that will bring spiritual leadership, growth, and maintain community.

## Transition Team Takeaways:

- ◆ **Grow our Children and Youth Ministries**
- ◆ **Work for financial stability**
- ◆ **Grow our congregation**
- ◆ **Get more people involved in community**

## As we continue our Transition journey:

- ◆ **Listen to each other**, the broader community and for God - listening to understand how we are being called to be "church" in this place we call Trinity
- ◆ **Discern** who we are and where we want to go, and
- ◆ **Act** by making courageous and bold choices for the future.

## Transition Team:

- |                  |                            |
|------------------|----------------------------|
| ◆ Diane Bennett  | ◆ Heidi Peskett            |
| ◆ Cheryl Bird    | ◆ Bob Swan                 |
| ◆ Bill Dickson   | ◆ Norma Wrightly           |
| ◆ Walter Edwards | ◆ Rev. Arlyce Schiebout    |
| ◆ Al McFadden    | ◆ Rev. Micheline Montreuil |

If you have any comments/questions/concerns for the Transition Team, please contact one of the Co-Chairs or use the drop box in the cloak room.

Diane Bennett: 283-8956

[bennettdiane135@gmail.com](mailto:bennettdiane135@gmail.com)

Bob Swan: 283-4933

**Thank you to our organist, John Wanless, our soloist, Shelley Doucet and musicians Larry Paul, Ron Gain, and Gordon Fyfe for providing the summer concert series. This series raised \$1104.40 for the Smiths Falls Community Food Bank.**