

*August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009*  
*Kootenay Presbytery NewsLetter*

Editor: [David Boyd](#)

**Deadline for submissions to next edition: September 10<sup>th</sup>.  
Ministry Team Leaders please be sure to send your reports.**

Website: [Kootenay Presbytery](#)

Webminister: [Don Seaton](#)

Deep peace of the running wave to you,  
The deep peace of the flowing air to you,  
The deep peace of the sun and the moon to you,  
And the deep peace of the Christ to you!

Please share this information with your presbyters who do not have access to the internet and with your congregation as you see fit.

**1. Newsletter New Feature: What's happening in our Pastoral Charges.** This second endeavour features Nakusp, which will appear in the September edition of this newsletter.

**2. Ministry Team Reports—None.**

In the midst of summer, things are fairly quiet; **please do send any information you want to share with the presbytery or any reports you have to disseminate and I will include them in the newsletter. Ministry Team leaders, please make this a normal part of your monthly thinking about presbytery matters.**

**3. Congratulations Keith Simmonds:**

Keith was commissioned to the Diaconal Ministry of Education, Service and Pastoral Care at BC Conference in May. He has been settled to the Communities in Faith Pastoral Charge. Not only do we convey our congratulations at being commissioned, we can also welcome him into ministry as one of our colleagues. Blessings to Keith and CIF. Stay tuned for details about Keith's Covenanting service with CIF and Kootenay

Presbytery. Here is what Keith has written about himself by way of introduction:

Hello Folks,

Thanks for your interest in the road I've travelled to this point in life. Briefly put, I come from Scots-English-Irish ancestry, and my family has roots deep in mining and service work. Born in Kitimat BC in 1957, I was raised in a trade union, CCF, United Church household, and learned the gospel according to Tommy Douglas at my mother's knee. Dad's job took us to Flin Flon MB in 1969, where I graduated high school and began working in industry, while volunteering with my union and the NDP. I maintained some involvement with the United Church, there and in Kamloops BC, where I began working in the mining industry in 1979. On the mine's closure in 1991 I moved to the Castlegar area, taking up work in the pulp mill in 1992.

I was recruited to work for the BC NDP Government in 1998, mainly because of my experience in community organizing and my background in the union movement, and I moved to Merritt BC to take up a call as an Executive Assistant to the Minister of Highways, Harry Lali. I began attending church again on a regular basis and was welcomed into the life and work of the congregation at Trinity United in Merritt where folk helped me discern the beginnings of a call to ministry. I continued considering that call while attending church at Comox United, following my move to Courtenay BC, in 2000 to be closer to my partner Laurel and her children – Amy, Brenna and Jonah. Our son Liam, joined us in 2001, and we were reconnected with Laurel's first born – Wade, a bit later that year. Our family of six returned to Castlegar in July of 2001, where I began working in the pulp mill again.

In 2002 I entered the discernment process, and began education in the diaconal stream of ministry in 2004. During my own education, we have celebrated as Amy, Brenna and Jonah each graduated from high school and Wade married Michael and settled into wedded life in Calgary. Liam is navigating the waters of elementary school with some success, and Laurel – after working for Nelson United Church for two years, is now a full time assistant to our Member of Parliament – Alex Atamanenko, in his Castlegar office. I graduated in 2008 and deferred settlement for a year in order to pay down some of our financial obligations resulting from my education and the ongoing needs of the kids. I am now happily settled as one of two full time ministers at Communities in Faith Pastoral Charge. Laurel, Liam and I have just moved to Trail (Tadanac) where we look forward to integrating into the life and living of our new community of friends.

#### 4. Covenanting Service: Elk Valley PC, Jane Clarke, Kootenay Presbytery

Make sure your calendars are marked for the covenanting service, which will be on Sunday, Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm at Knox United Church, Fernie. At 5:00-5:30 pm there will be a corn roast supper at the church. (Please feel free to bring any thing else you would like to share.) All are welcome.

Elk Valley would also like to invite people to stay at Rock Lake Camp on the night of Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>. You would need to bring a sleeping bag and your own breakfast—it's about ½ way between Fernie and Cranbrook. If anyone is interested, please contact Joan Giesbrecht: [joanegiesbrecht@gmail.com](mailto:joanegiesbrecht@gmail.com) or 250-237-7654. Please contact Louisa Sullivan if you have any questions: [elsullivan@hotmail.com](mailto:elsullivan@hotmail.com).

#### 5. Mission Support Grants:

Any applications are to be in the hands of Sarah Tupholme or Ted Giesbrecht by October 10<sup>th</sup> at the very latest. If you require assistance in preparing one or need to ask questions, please contact Sarah or Ted. Sarah's email address is [tupholme@telus.net](mailto:tupholme@telus.net) and Ted's is [joangiesbrecht@gmail.com](mailto:joangiesbrecht@gmail.com).

#### 6. Ministry & Personnel Workshops in BC Conference:

1. "Building Skills in Transitional Ministries" Phase 1: Oct 25-30, 2009, Phase 3: April 11-16, 2010. Queenswood Retreat Centre, Victoria BC. Interim Ministers are trained ministry specialists who help pastoral charges move through change with confidence and clarity. But you might want to take the course for your own interest. BC Conference has lowered the price of the course to \$1800.00 and payments can be made over 2 years so that you can use your con ed money. Questions or comments or to register? **BC Conference needs trained Interim Ministers in case you're interested.** Email [bwolff@bc.united-church.ca](mailto:bwolff@bc.united-church.ca) for more information or call (604) 431-0434 loc 308.

#### 7. Digital Projection in Worship Workshop

Many congregations in The United Church of Canada are starting to explore using digital projectors in their worship gatherings. On the evening

of Friday, October 2 through Saturday, October 3, Rev. Richard Bott and St. Andrew's Haney United Church (Maple Ridge) will be offering a workshop to help United Church congregations explore and develop skills with this ministry tool. This is meant for congregations just beginning the digital enhancement of worship. For more information and a brochure to explore the workshop and/or register, please contact Richard at (604)506-2299 or by emailing him at [richard.bott@gmail.com](mailto:richard.bott@gmail.com).

## 8. Naramata Centre News

There are lots of exciting programs at Naramata Centre, including the Western Women's Conference and the search for a new Executive Director. For more information about Naramata Centre, including programs, click here: [Naramata Centre](#).

1. Naramata Centre has made the difficult decision to cancel the **Children and Youth Ministry Conference** scheduled for October of this year.
2. **Request for Expression of Interest or Proposals.** The centre requires the expertise of a business analyst or team to review the current business processes and make recommendations for redesign or replacement of systems. This work requires in -depth understanding and experience with: a) Process review and mapping; b) Current commercially available technology to support a retreat/learning/ conference centre; c) Generally accepted accounting and tax practices for non profit charities; and d) Project management and implementation skills. We anticipate this project beginning in August 2009 with completion by the end of the year.

## 9. United Church News (Get more details at the United Church website: [www.united-church.ca](http://www.united-church.ca).)

1. **40th General Council 2009: Website now online**



- **When:** August 9–15, 2009

- **Where:** University of British Columbia (UBC) Okanagan, Kelowna, B.C.

“Down to the Potter’s House” (Jeremiah 18:1–6) is the theme of the 40th General Council 2009. Please check out the following link: [GC40](#). When you go to website, you’ll find all kinds of information; you’ll find blog posts, news, etc. Make sure you check often when GC gets underway.

## 2. **Residential Schools Newsletter**

April 2009: Resources for a Month for Reflection on Healing and Reconciliation, May 26-June 21; Red Deer Industrial School cemetery project; museum displays; claims and hearings update; assistance for Returning to Spirit programs; and more on living into right relations. Click on the following link to read the newsletter and for more information: [Newsletter](#).

## 3. **Keeping a Watchful Eye on the Kelowna Wildfires**

Toronto: With less than three weeks until the opening of the 40th General Council, all eyes have been focused on news reports detailing the current wildfire emergency in Kelowna, British Columbia. To read more, click on this link: [Kelowna](#).

## 4. **Summer Programs and the Influenza Pandemic**

It’s summer, and although the activity in many congregations is slowing down, the season is just beginning for camps and other summer programs across the country. With concerns about the H1N1 influenza pandemic still fresh in our minds, many may be asking, “Should we be running summer programs for children and youth?”

Click on this link for more information and to read the article: [Influenza](#).

## 5. **United Church Responds to Critique of Middle East Proposals**

Toronto: In a statement released today, The United Church of Canada has responded to concerns raised by the Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) regarding four proposals on the Middle East that are coming before the August meeting of the United Church's 40th General Council. The CJC's critique of the proposals was published in the July 29 edition of the National Post.

The four proposals deal with matters related to bringing peace to Israel and Palestine. Altogether, the church's General Council will consider 173 proposals on various issues, 105 of which originate from across the church, from regional bodies called Conferences.

The full text of the four Middle East proposals can be found in the Atlantic Commission section of Workbook 2 on The United Church of Canada's 40th General Council website (<http://gc40.united-church.ca/downloads/workbooks>). Proposals to General Council are offered for consideration and can be adopted, amended, or defeated.

To read the rest of this article click on this link: [Response](#).

## **10. THE “F” WORD: Faith Based Fund Raising with Ben Harder & Friends—different location and lower price!!**

**September 24-25, 2009 @ Korean United Church in Burnaby.**

Event for Clergy, Lay, Youth Leaders, Mission Units Development Officers, and those interested in Faith Based Fundraising. *Jointly sponsored by The Anglican Church, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, & the United Church of Canada.*

It is said that the main benefit of listening is that the listener may actually learn something. This is in fact true when it comes to "The F-Word Conference" - a faith-based fundraising conference ecumenically organized by the United, Anglican and Lutheran church communities that previously, was to be held at Harrison Resort. The organizers heard three main pieces of feed back: great content, great distance and great (as in too much) expense! So, not only as in scripture (Mat 11:15), do we have ears and we listen, we have also taken action.

Wanting to be good stewards of your time and resources, we have significantly revamped the "F" Word Conference plan, while at the same time, retaining or enhancing most of the stewardship skills, education programming and faith-based fundraising content you expected. **It will now be held in Burnaby at the Korean United Church of Canada on Friday evening September 25th, and all day Saturday, September 26th, 2009.**

And, it will only cost \$120 for individuals. Groups of 3 or more from a congregation will pay only \$99 each. The "Sundae Reception" on Friday evening and lunch and refreshments on Saturday are included.

**September 25-26, 2009 Burnaby, BC**

New Price: **\$99. to \$120.** For More information and registration details visit the web site: [www.faithbasedfundraising.org](http://www.faithbasedfundraising.org)

## **11. Youth and Youth Leaders Gathering this Fall: EVOLVE**

Mark the dates of November 13-15, 2009 for **Evolve**, a United Church Conference for Youth (grades 7 and up), Young Adults (18-35), Youth Leaders, Ministers and anyone who is connected and cares about youth and young adult ministry. The event will take place at Shaughnessy Heights United Church in Vancouver.

**TRAVEL:** For those living in outlying Presbyteries your travel will be coordinated by the Evolve travel coordinator, Michelle Sylvest and costs are covered by the Conference.

**COST:** The registration fee is set at a sliding scale of \$125 to \$150 for the weekend which includes meals, leadership, your travel costs if you live outside of the lower mainland or on Vancouver Island. Please indicate on the registration form what fee you will be paying. For those registering after Nov. 1 the registration fee is \$150. Registration deadline is: Nov. 9

**SLEEPOVER CHURCHES:** We will have two churches set up as the women's (Dunbar Heights United) and men's (Ryerson United Church) sleepover churches for the event. We ask that if you live a comfortable commuting distance from the Church that you consider sleeping at home (have a sleepover with all your youth group friends!). Everyone who signs up to stay at the sleepover churches will be provided a place to stay and transportation back to the event each evening and morning. Check in with our accommodation coordinator Missy Taylor if you need assistance or clarification.

**MORE THAN 3 YOUTH?** Bring your leader! Any church sending three or more participants **MUST** send one or more youth leaders over the age of 19 with the group. Youth leaders are expected to be responsible for their youth while the conference is going on and are expected to be accommodated with them or ensure they have safe transportation to and from the Conference site. Youth leaders are also encouraged to attend the special youth leader workshop designed specifically for your own learning!

**More information:** each of your congregations should have received a brochure detailing the above (and more) information. I've included a PDF document of this brochure with this email.

## **12. Youth News.**

The Youth and Camping Ministry Team would like to compile an inventory of youth leaders or youth contact people in each congregation. Please send the name and contact info for each youth leader or youth contact person in your congregation; you can send this information to me, [David Boyd](#).

**13.** May summer blessings give peace to you, your pastoral charges, and this world in which we live.

If you have anything you'd like to share in this newsletter, please let me know; September 10<sup>th</sup> is deadline for September edition. Also, if there are any mistakes in email addresses, etc. please let me know.

Blessings to all,  
David