

February 17th, 2010
Kootenay Presbytery NewsLetter

Editor: David Boyd, nuc@telus.net

Deadline for submissions to next edition: March 10th.

Website: www.bc.united-church.ca/kootenay/

Webminister: Don Seaton, webmaster@kimberleyunited.ca

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

1. Ash Wednesday Greetings from Moderator Mardi Tindal

Last Friday I was warmly greeted with a fresh cup of coffee at the office of the Conference of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario.

Shortly after a nice chat with staff, when I had been sufficiently lulled into a false sense of security, Conference Executive Secretary Bruce Faurschou suddenly produced a video camera and asked me to respond to Jesus' question, "Who do you say that I am?"

Now I wouldn't want to suggest that Bruce is in any way, um, *_devilish_*, but I felt somewhat tested in that moment. And yet a few minutes later, when Jordan Crosthwaite started recording, I found myself responding in a way that felt authentic, and I became very grateful for the request.

Grappling with Jesus' question is a good way to begin Lent. I recommend it.

In the 90 seconds I was given to respond, here's roughly what I said.

Had I been there when you asked "Who do you say that I am?" I would have told you that you're someone with more questions than answers, and your questions go straight to the heart; no detours. Your questions are so life-giving that here we are, still grappling with them, generation after generation.

Second, I would have said that you are a person of well-formed faith, because on those occasions when you did answer a question (e.g. What is the most important commandment?), you answered as a good rabbi - for example, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul and all your mind", adding, "and your neighbour as yourself."

Today, I call you friend, companion and saviour. Your saving presence brings wholeness and healing to souls, to communities and to all of creation.

I'll be returning to Jesus' question throughout Lent. Thank you, Bruce!
And I commend this practice to you: with 90 seconds, how would you answer Jesus' question?

If you're inclined to share the Moderator's video Lenten message, with more thoughts on how to mark Lent, please check out:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/unitedchurchofcanada?gl=CA&hl=en>

2. What's happening in our Pastoral Charges:

Our article this month features **Trinity United Church, Creston**, and it was written by Fern Phillips and Joan Fahselt. The office secretary is now Cathy Garritsen so please make any changes in your list of secretaries in Kootenay Presbytery; the email address remains the same for Trinity United Church.

Our hopes

- to call the right interim minister for us and start the process of celebrating our history, learning who we are now, and who we plan to be in future as a community of faith.
- to continue to be a presence of faith and integrity in the community of Creston and the Valley for many, many years.

Our joys

- our commitment to purchase the grand piano and to bring musicals into our building as fundraisers.
- in finding out that we are all good people in the eyes of our God, we all have good intentions, we just go about our faith in diverse ways.
- in the strength of our lay leadership, our volunteers, our hard working UCW, and every individual who contributes to our community.
- the incredible beauty in our land, climate and in the strength of heart in the community.

Our fears

- the differences between our older members expectations and the hopes that younger members have (by younger I mean the newly retired and soon to retire) to attend church for the next fifty years.
- we wonder where the church will go, and where it will be in the next five to ten years.
- we walk a difficult path as we learn to manage our differences with 'holy manners,' knowing we are fully valued, loved and upheld

in our church family. We have taken the first tentative steps of opening this up to the light of discussion.

3. Ministry Team Reports.

Please be sure to send me any information you'd like to disseminate to the presbytery. Rosemary Manarin sends the following reminder to us:

The United Church of Canada Calls for the Immediate Release of 43 Detained Health Workers

The United Church of Canada strongly condemns the arrest by 300 government security forces of two medical doctors, a nurse, a midwife and 39 health workers on 6 February 2010.

We call on President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to immediately ensure that their rights are respected and to order their release.

We are informed by Philippine partners of the United Church of Canada that the victims were participants in a training course organised by the non-governmental organization, Council for Health and Development at the home of Dr. Melicia Velmonte in the province of Rizal. The United Church of Canada respects the work of the CHD to provide basic health services and train health care workers to serve in the many communities that have no access to health services. Dr. Velmonte is a renowned and respected infectious disease specialist. Dr. Merry Mia, the Education and Training Services coordinator for CHD and Dr. Alex Montes of Community Medicine Development Foundation, who were conducting the training, are dedicated proponents of community health care and worked many years with their respective NGOs. Dr. Montes is a member of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines which commends his work with marginalized communities.

For more information, please go to www.united-church.ca/communications/news/general/100210

4. Naramata Centre News

2010 Program.

The 2010 calendar of offerings is ready, so please check out the Centre's website: www.naramatacentre.net/ and check out the many wonderful programs available to us.

New Board Members Needed

The Board of Directors is made up of people from Alberta and British Columbia who are passionate about Naramata Centre. We strive to maintain a

balance by gender, age and provincial representation, as well as by skill set. The work of the Board is through policy governance (for more information on our governance model please go to <http://www.carvergovernance.com/pg-np.htm>), developing vision and mission, strategic planning, developing and maintaining policy and working with the constituency.

Board members are elected to a three-year term with the possibility of one further term of up to three years. We commit to four meeting times per year; meetings are held at Naramata Centre and generally run from Friday morning to Sunday lunchtime. In addition to attending meetings, there is an expectation that Board work will be done between meetings.

Four positions are open this year. The Naramata Centre bylaws call for two Directors to be under 30 years of age at time of election. Since both these positions become vacant this year, we are seeking two applicants in that age range.

Interested applicants should submit their resume and cover letter to Ken Fanning at

kfanning@shaw.ca. The Nominations Committee will review all applications and present its recommendations at the March Board meeting; applicants will be contacted in early April and will be advised of the outcome of the selection process. **Deadline for application is March 12th.**

5. United Church News (Get more details at the United Church website: www.united-church.ca.)

1. Check out updates regarding work in Haiti at

<http://www.united-church.ca/haiti>.

2. Remit 3, Settlement and Transfer, due by April 30th, 2010

As a presbytery we will be dealing with this important remit in the near future. Please watch for details from Hilary or Tess regarding how we will take action on this remit by the deadline date.

The background to this remit, which everyone needs to read, can be found at gc40.united-church.ca/files/remit03_report.pdf and the remit itself can be found at gc40.united-church.ca/files/remit03_2009.pdf. Also, there are study questions if you'd like to look at those also, or have a study session with other presbyters: gc40.united-church.ca/files/remit03_questions.pdf.

If anyone has any difficulty opening these files, please email me and I'll send you the text files directly.

3. The Record of Proceedings for the 40th General Council will be ready this spring. The Record of Proceedings includes the records,

reports, proposals, and minutes of the meeting. It is a large document - more than 800 pages.

In the interests of good environmental and financial stewardship, we will be posting the Record of Proceedings on the 40th General Council website (<http://gc40.united-church.ca/>). You will be able to consult, download, and print it as you need to in order to fulfill your presbytery duties. We will let you know when it is online.

4. **Act now to stop the killings of human rights activists and environmental protestors in El Salvador.** Since June 2009, four people have been murdered and threats continue against leaders of the Santa Marta Association for Economic and Social Development (ADES), a non-governmental organization that is a partner of The United Church of Canada.

ADES works closely with the journalists of Radio Victoria, the Cabañas Environment Committee, and others concerned about the ecological impact of a proposed Canadian-owned gold mining project in El Salvador.

Send an e-mail or fax officials in El Salvador and Canada demanding a stop to assassinations of anti-mining protesters.

Learn more and respond through the www.united-church.ca/getinvolved/takeaction/100211.

5. The General Council is seeking many new members to serve in various roles on committees and task groups. **Complete expressions of interest must be received by March 25.**

Members across the denomination are encouraged to consider prayerfully the work of the church at this time and the current opportunities to serve. Ask: Who is God calling to lead and serve through these roles?

Detailed information outlining how to nominate someone or put one's own name forward is available at: www.united-church.ca/getinvolved/servegc/opportunities/submit.

To see a listing of the current opportunities and their terms of reference, go to www.united-church.ca/getinvolved/servegc/opportunities/current.

6. **It's United Church stats time again!** Tom Broadhurst has sent out the 2009 stats forms for completion by congregations. As Secretary, Tess has received 2 extra sets should anyone need one. You can also file your stats online this year; go to the United Church website to find out how.

6. BC Conference News

Note the new website; if you haven't already checked it out, go to www.bc.united-church.ca/. Make sure you check out the Conference Calling newsletter at the Conference website; you'll find that Doug Goodwin will be on sabbatical, that Missy Taylor is away until mid-April, that there will be a leadership development workshop in October, and that some properties were sold. You'll also hear of an update about the Camp Futures project and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

7. Continuing Education Opportunity:

1. **The Centre for Clergy Care and Congregational Health:** two events are quickly approaching. The Centre is a partnership of Emmanuel and Knox Colleges at the University of Toronto with United Church of Canada and Presbyterian Church in Canada national staff on our Advisory Board. From their email: "We seek to be an ecumenical source of support and research for all clergy and congregations in Canada. All of our events are open to clergy, diaconal ministers and designated lay ministers." Their website is www.caringforclergy.ca; please check it out. Offerings in the near future include:
 - a) **Take Care: Mid-Career Stretch** will be held in Edmonton at Star of the North Retreat Centre from May 4th-6th, 2010.
 - b) **Starting Well** program will again be offered this summer in two locations. From June 14th-17th, participants can attend the event held at Emmanuel College with the focus of "Reading the Context for Ministry." The Vancouver School of Theology will be hosting an event from July 19th-22nd where the focus will be "Your Role as Leader."
 - c) In November, **Making the Most of Retirement** event will be offered in partnership with St. Stephen's College in Edmonton.
2. **"Conflict Competent Leadership" with Susan Nienaber** June 22-24th at Northwood United Church. Susan is an Ordained Minister in the United Methodist Church, and an Alban Senior consultant. Since 1993 Susan has served as consultant and mediator in congregations and denominations. She writes lectures and leads training workshops and retreats for clergy and laity on a variety of subjects such as managing conflicts, professional boundaries, the use of dialogue,

developing staff, and strengthening leadership. More information coming soon!

3. **“Spiritual Care Network Retreat”** April 19-22, 2010 at Loon Lake Research and Educational Centre in Maple Ridge. A retreat and workshop for the continuing development of the spiritual care of ministry personnel in your presbytery.

8. CGIT Reunion in Victoria

Centennial UC in Victoria is hosting a celebration of the 95th Anniversary of CGIT on Saturday 24 April. Lesley Crassweller, who is organising it, would like to contact all the UCW groups in BC to ask for their help in inviting CGIT groups and alumnae to the event.

Contact:

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9. May the lengthening days provide you an opportunity for reflection and preparation for the burst of new life at Easter.

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

Blessings to all,
David