

Summary of the April Meeting of Ottawa Presbytery

Kitchissippi United Church welcomed Ottawa Presbytery for its April 10, 2012 meeting. Following dinner, Chair Rev. Dianne Cardin called the meeting to order. Doug Patriquin, the chair of Council for the Kitchissippi congregation extended greeting and talked about the emerging identity of this amalgamated congregation. He reflected that the process of coming together as one church family while requiring work and commitment also offered opportunity and energy.

Opening worship was led by the Licensed Lay Worship Leaders of the presbytery. The two year course equips lay people to plan and lead worship and to be available to congregations for pulpit supply. There were twelve graduates of the just completed program offered by Ottawa Presbytery, with participants coming from Renfrew, Seaway Valley and Ottawa presbyteries. Seven people from Ottawa Presbytery were licensed for the first time and twenty-nine were relicensed to be certified Lay Worship Leaders. The list of Licensed Lay Worship Leaders is found on the presbytery website.

Chair Dianne indicated that the Executive had named the committee to lead the discernment process for Affirming Ministry. Those have agreed to serve are: Rev. Andrew Jensen, Rev. Meg Illman-White, Rev. Jenni Leslie, John Keddy, Rev. Jim Baldwin. The presbytery will be engaging in discernment over the coming year. There were two announcements from Church in Society, one reminded pastoral charges that the Seed Money for New Initiatives in Street Related Ministry is now available, the deadline for application is September 30, 2012; and the other was the invitation to join in the visit to Kitigan Zibi and Chief Whiteduck on April 20, 2012.

The president of Montreal and Ottawa Conference, Debbie Poirier, in her official visit to Ottawa Presbytery addressed the court. She reflected on the size of the conference and its diversity and the unique opportunity this conference has to do ministry in both official languages. In a time when there are many challenges to traditional approaches to ministry, the conference can serve as a place of gathering resources and building partnerships. She noted that in many ways the challenges of our current context are helping us rediscover the roots of the early church where mission and ministry were one. Some of the idioms she chose to speak of finding a way forward included: mission is where our greatest passion meets the world's greatest need; mission is about blooming where God has planted you; we don't need all the answers to risk trying new ways of doing mission and being the church; our greatest currency is our blood, sweat, tears and faith. Debbie then talked about her belief in the important role that youth and young adults have in the church and shaping its future. This will be reflected in the theme for the upcoming annual meeting (May 25-27) with theme speaker Rev. Dr. Tom Sherwood.

Youth and Young Adult Minister, Rev. Hilary Merritt with the help of two youth, Hanna Strong and Melissa Baldwin, shared with the presbytery the work and witness of Camp Awesome and upcoming opportunities for YAYA and YAYA leaders. There is an evening youth leaders' event planned for May 17, 2012 at Rideau Park United Church. Their presentation ended with Melissa teaching a prayer chant and Hilary offering prayer for YAYA ministry. If you want to receive the regular emailing for YAYA news, please contact Hilary.

Rev. Brian Cornelius, the clergy representative from Montreal and Ottawa Conference on the General Council Executive spoke of some the highlights emerging from the General Council Executive meeting held in late March. There is a plan to approach the next time of planning with a commitment to bring everything to the table. The image is one that speaks of the abundance of what can be offered to the call to be the church, even as new ways of using those resources are explored. Brian also updated the court on the Effective Pastoral Relations report, which will become part of the table discussion and the decision by GCE to ask the General Secretary to work towards the implementation of a compensation model that is one number and inclusive of salary and housing. Presbyters were reminded that pastoral charges need to plan for the 2% increase in pension plan contributions for both employer and employee effective January 2013. He noted that the Palestinian-Israeli document will not be released until early May and that a plan is being created for its release.

The presbytery forwards suggested nominations for commission to General Council to the Conference. This time the presbytery was asked to forward four names, two ministry personnel and two lay with the hope that one of those would be under the age of 30. An election process was conducted and the names being forwarded are: Rev. Anne Montgomery, Rev. Tom Sherwood, Melissa Baldwin and Hanna Strong. Two alternates were also noted should those named need to withdraw their nomination before the Conference AGM.

Ottawa Presbytery has operated a resource centre for many years. An assessment of the Resource Centre was done in 2009 and at that time a two year pilot project was put in place. A review of the pilot project was completed in March 2012 with the resulting

recommendations to move towards closure of the Resource Centre. The presbytery dealt with the recommendations which were accepted. The current Resource Centre Coordinator will continue to work until August 31, 2012; orders for books and materials will be taken until June 30, 2012; the only curriculum which will be ordered for the coming year is Seasons for the Spirit. The presbytery noted its appreciation for the ministry of the Resource Centre and those who have served as volunteers and staff over its operation.

Rev. Angelika Piché shared the “C’est la vie” presentation focusing on French words and phrases associated with Easter.

Barbara Reynolds and David Stafford, co-chairs of Local Arrangements for GC41 reminded the presbytery of opportunities for service and engagement with Council when it meets in our city in August. Did you know we need 55 dozen muffins and 110 dozen cookies for each day?! So dig out your favourite recipe. More details can be found in the April Sojourner and on the presbytery website.

Each year the presbytery convenes as the annual meeting of The W. H. Bill Scrivens Memorial Fund for Youth Ministry. Rev. Steve Lawson became the acting chair in January 2012 and Larry Richardson, the acting secretary. The Scrivens Fund now works in conjunction with the Baillie Fund to support youth and young adult ministry and youth and young adults within the church. The annual report was approved and the meeting adjourned.

Rev. Gail Christy led the closing prayer time with a reading from The Song of Faith, the singing of Go To the World and benediction.

Rev. Lillian Roberts
Presbytery Minister