

FALL PRESBYTERY

I had the pleasure of attending the fall meeting of the Cariboo Presbytery at Knox United in Prince George last weekend, October 13-15, 2017. We missed having representatives from 100 Mile and Robson Valley, but the other nine pastoral charges were present.

One of the first reports was from Rev. Dr. Bob Fillier about the Connect North project. This entails livestreaming worship services from different sites in our presbytery to other churches every Sunday morning. St. Andrew's Prince George has installed the necessary equipment and has been recording services for a few weeks. They are still learning, but it should be up and running soon. The hope is to use this service internally free of charge so that some congregations no longer have to rely on Together We Worship. The website is connectnorth.ca.

Rev. Linda gave a report about some of what happened in Williams Lake this summer. It was quite eye opening for some of the others. We were assured Presbytery supports us in the recovery process.

The lay representative for SAUC, Prince George, gave us a report on Harmony House. It's main goal is to house and support pregnant, mainly indigenous women, who are struggling with mental health and or addictions so that they are able to keep their babies. Harmony House opened in January 2017 and has already helped 17 women, even some evacuees this summer. I have a little more information if you are interested in learning more about this.

Congregational reports were shared. Morgan Ryder, student minister in Houston, is continuing to lead worship in Burns Lake, Vanderhoof, and Ft. St. James monthly as well as Houston twice a month. The Vanderhoof congregation has a lay leader who, with the help of Together We Worship, leads worship weekly as well as going to Ft. St. James once a month. They really appreciate being able to receive communion again with Morgan. Kim McNaughton, student minister, is now working part time in Robson Valley. Her covenanting service is Nov. 5, 2017. Knox United and St. Andrew's United, Prince George, have voted in favour of amalgamation which will become effective January 1, 2018. They will meet at the now St. Andrew's site, but with a new name, as yet to be determined (an enormous amount of work ongoing) Interim Minister Rev. Michael Hare will serve at Knox until the end of this year.

Remits 1-4 that were voted on over the past year and all passed, which means a total restructuring of our governance. Presbyteries will cease to exist at the end of 2018. We will have a Festival of Faith in October 2018. If you are interested in joining a planning team for this event, please let me know.

After the treasurer's report, there was much discussion as to what would happen to our assets at the end of next year. A motion was carried that the executive develop a plan for excess assets held at the end of 2018.

There is a Boundaries commission, federally, which will release the new regions in March, 2018.

There was much discussion as to how clusters, networks, and staffing might work post 2018. Doug Goodwin (executive BC Conference) has asked for input. We were all in agreement that it was essential to have a full time staff person (like Rev. Victoria) for BC North.

Rev. Victoria reviewed with us the proposed financing changes post 2018.

We took part in a module from the Fresh Start Workshop which was very interesting. This particular module dealt with Change-readiness. We each filled out an assessment individually and then compiled the results with categories such as resourcefulness, optimism, confidence and the like. Overall, it was determined that as a group we had a good mix so should be able to adapt well to the changes coming.

Finally we discussed and voted on Remit 6, one order of ministry. This remit passed.

The spring meeting of presbytery will take place on April 20-22, 2018. The place to be determined, possibly Vanderhoof.

Submitted by Janet Whalley, your presbytery representative