

## **SPRING PRESBYTERY MEETING**

Rev. Linda and I travelled to Vanderhoof to attend the Spring Cariboo Presbytery meeting on Friday, April 20. More than 20 people met with every Pastoral Charge represented except Mackenzie.

Friday evening, each pastoral charge reported on events in their home Communities of Faith. There was an overall feeling of hope as our many smaller congregations continue to have regular services. Morgan, one of our student ministers continues to travel to Burns Lake, Vanderhoof and Ft. St. James once a month as well as Houston United Church. St. Andrew's, Quesnel, is considering whether they wish to continue their lay-led ministry or hire a part time minister. The newly formed Trinity United, resulting from the merging of St. Andrew's and Knox in Prince George, seems to be thriving.

One of the first items on the agenda Saturday morning was the Treasurer's report, leading into discussion around preparation for closing accounts at the end of 2018. The terms of reference for all the current Cariboo Presbytery funds will be posted on the website, so that we can give feedback as to which funds need to be kept active. The presbytery executive will report to the fall presbytery meeting as to their recommendations after reviewing our feedback.

It was decided that a Boundaries workshop for ordained clergy and lay leaders would be held, probably prior to the fall presbytery meeting.

Rev. Bob Fillier gave the Conference executive report. Needless to say, as there are numerous issues to be addressed they have met many times this year. There is a call out for suggestions for a new name for Region 1. As this region now includes Whitehorse, YT and Banff, AB it can no longer be called BC region. Suggestions can be emailed to BC Conference. All conference staff has received termination notice effective January 1, 2019. We do know that the new Regional Executive Minister position will oversee both Region 1 and Region 2 (the southern part of Alberta). Doug Goodwin, the current BC Conference Executive Secretary has decided to retire as of June 2019. Other than that we have no idea of how the regional office will be staffed. The current executive will stay on in the transition period.

Our church statistics will become even more important as the entire financing formulas will change with the national church body assessing 4 1/2 %. BC Conference striving to not add any additional assessment. All disciplinary measures will shift to the National church. The denominational council executive will be nominated regionally and voted in on their areas of expertise.

We discussed the fundamental difference between clusters and networks. The main one seems to be that networks could be national (online) working on specific issues such as housing, intercultural concerns, and the like. Clusters are more local concerns including mission, worship, collegiality, and strategic planning. The annual clergy retreat could be an example of a cluster. As far as we know the ProVision grants would still be available for funding.

In the last few years, Cariboo Presbytery has been working on the Affirming process through a series of educational exercises. To complete this process, we revised the presbytery mission statement to include 'affirming the gender identity, sexual orientation, spiritedness, and ability of all God's people'. We are now the first official Affirming Presbytery in BC Conference with completed paperwork. A planning team will organize a public celebration to be held at the BC Conference meeting.

General Council will be held July 21-27 in Oshawa, ON. Rev. Bob Fillier and Rebecca Fillier will be our nominations for BC Conference, which will also accept nominations from the floor. Then BC conference will elect its delegates to General Council.

We approved a proposal for GC 43 Leadership and Supervision. This proposal addresses the work load of pastoral charge supervisors for lay led congregations, as well as other lay led congregations who are sharing a student minister, and the like. We also approved the proposal 'A Vision to Ground Us'. This calls on the national church to develop a denominational vision that intentionally shapes our priorities and plans.

Rev. Bob presented an update on Connect North, the initiative for live broadcasting on Sunday worship. Trinity United, PG has been broadcasting live since October, 2018.

Rev. Linda presented the Gen On Logos Ministry that she has been learning about. This program is an over reaching intergenerational ministry program. There are similarities with 'Messy church' which is currently used at St. Peter's here. If interest is shown from other congregations this option may be pursued.

Cariboo Presbytery will meet briefly at BC Conference General Meeting in Penticton May 31-June 3. The main fall presbytery meeting will take place on October 19-21 probably in Prince George. As this will be the final meeting as a presbytery, all are invited for a celebration Saturday night, especially former representatives from past years!

A planning team was formed to begin consultation with Prince Rupert Presbytery about holding a Festival of Faith in the spring of 2019.

Janet Whalley, your presbytery representative