

# Ministers' Musings

We hear a lot of questions .... here are some answers

## Why are we paying for 2 Ministers?

Until January 1, '17, Rev. Jay remains the Interim Minister of South Burnaby UC and Rev. Graham continues as the Minister of West Burnaby UC. Each church continues to compensate their Ministers per their agreements.



We anticipate that beginning this September a Ministry Profile Search (MPS) will begin. The MPS is a requirement set forth by BC Conference for the well-being of the congregation. The process will result in the articulation of the new community's ministry plan, a description of staffing needs and a recommendation for the Minister Position(s). It is expected that the process will be completed before Jan. 1, '17 when the amalgamation officially takes place. The new congregation will receive the MPS report and recommendations at a congregational meeting. Rev. Jay's appointment as the Interim Minister ends June 30, '17.

*Rev. Jay's Sabbatical:* Rev. Jay is applying for Sabbatical Leave and Funding to begin April 1, '17. If that is approved, and if the New Community has done its essential work and effective leadership is in place, she will go on sabbatical and the financial obligation to her ceases March 31, '17.



### Finances (until Jan 1, '17 and onwards)

The amalgamation is effective (Jan 1, '17) and until then each congregation maintains its own books and financial records (offering etc.). Upon the official amalgamation, all assets and liabilities of the founding congregations become the assets and liabilities of the New Community. Until the amalgamation is finalized the Church Boards will continue to review the income and expenses (as is our responsibility to do) and share both the benefits and the costs as equitably as possible.

**T/F**

### TRUE OR FALSE

The Interim Minister can become one of the Ministers of the New Community.

**T/F**

### TRUE OR FALSE

We can tell the Minister(s) what s/he will preach on.

**T/F**

### TRUE OR FALSE

Prior to the amalgamation, all staff are required to be laid off.

## Expanded Transition Team

A Transition Team is required for a congregation that enters into Interim Ministry. South Burnaby United Church Board appointed the team of 5 members, and Westminster Presbytery appointed a lay member and a Clergy Member to the team. With the support of BC Conference, an Interim Minister was appointed. The appointment of Rev. Jay will be completed June 30, '17; the Transition Team work must continue until then. The Church Boards have determined that expanding that team to include equal numbers of people from West Burnaby UC is the best way forward for implementing the details of the amalgamation and to do the other Interim Work of establishing effective communication.

We would like to introduce the Expanded Transition Team: Carla Wilks (Chair), John Baird, Ken Martin, Maureen Hole, Gary Begin, Brandon Eyre, Beau Bierhaus, Bill Medland, Barry Morley, Debra Legge, Betty McLean, Rev. Julie Lebrun, Rev. Graham Brownmiller, and Rev. Jay Olson. Their mandate is to continue the Interim work of making recommendations to the Church Board(s) and to the incoming Transitional Council on matters of implementation of the governance, ministries, and staffing of the newly amalgamated congregation.

## New Community Team

### What is their work now?

The New Community Team (which was established prior to '14) is to facilitate the move from the Sussex Site to the Rumble Site, and to make sure everything is in place to ensure a celebratory July 3rd first service together in one location. Members of the team have served faithfully and they are: Barb Tunnicliffe, Ken Tunnicliffe, Don Morse, Donna Dawson, Carla Wilks, Linda Wray, Barry Morley, Reine Hitchen, Karuna Nalliah, Rev. Jay Olson and Rev. Graham Brownmiller.

## Property & Finance

The title of the Sussex site was transferred to BC Conference in November '14, to facilitate most effectively the development on that site. Upon completion of the project, the title is transferred back to the (amalgamated) congregation.

In transferring that title, and working with the Property Development Team, the Conference has borne the costs (thousands of dollars) associated with this development project. Neither congregation has incurred any direct cost, or had to contribute any financial resources to the project. The Conference has borne the financial liability. West Burnaby UC, and other congregations, would not be able to enter into projects like this without the resources of the Conference. Developers are less likely to enter into agreements with individual congregations than they are with a regional body such as the Conference. As per the written agreement, the financial proceeds from the sale of the property and the title will be transferred back to the New Community by BC Conference. None of the funds will be transferred to the National Office (General Council).

### SUGGESTION BOX

There will be a suggestion box available for your questions and ideas and as always you can email or speak to one of the ministers. It is not our practice to respond to anonymous notes.

We will welcome your questions and suggestions; if we know from whom they come then we can speak with the sender directly.

### TRUE OR FALSE ANSWERS

All of the answers are FALSE!

### A NEW CHURCH NAME?

The New Community Team is also tasked with the responsibility of completing the process of designating the name of the newly amalgamated Congregation. Lots of contributions were made last fall in the effort to discern a new name. The New

Community Team will test whether that work is out of date or not, and will report to you the next steps forward.

## Other Info

**Summer Schedule:** Over the summer, we have planned our vacation time so that there is only one Sunday when pulpit supply will be required. Rev. Jay will be away July 17 - August 16 and Rev. Graham will be away August 13 - September 6.

**Division of Labour:** We know that people have questions about who will be doing what, when, and how? We, your Ministers, are discerning now our division of labours and will consult with M&P and Boards about our plans. It is our understanding that on worship related matters we will continue as we have done in the last year of Joint Worship up until Dec. 31, '16. Further conversation needs to occur with areas such as those who serve in the coffee hour and those who count the offering.

**Community Lunch:** will continue at the Sussex Site through August 16, '16 with bag lunches. We anticipate September 6th will be the first Tuesday where community lunch happens on the Rumble Site. We will be seeking co-workers to assist with the community lunch from September until the end of December. Simultaneously, people will be asked to discern what a community lunch hosted by the newly amalgamated congregation will look like.

**Thrift:** When Thrift opens up and begins its work again in September, additional co-workers will be needed for the ongoing unfolding of the Thrift Shop Ministry into the future.

**Sandwiches:** First United Church - We recognize that the simple act of making sandwiches is part of the mission which holds dear the call to assist people who are financially vulnerable. We believe the groups who make sandwiches for First will continue to do so; we look forward to expanding the circle of sandwich makers.

## CORE MINISTRY GROUPS

The Transition Team has begun to put form on the ministry priorities for the New Community, considering those gifted for these various ministries. You will be invited to have a place in the ministry activities of the new community. If you believe you are called to serve in a place other than the one to which we invite you, you will not be obligated to accept this invitation as is. Letters of invitation will be forthcoming, hoping that you will consider your place in one or more of the following areas:

- **Worship:** Sunday & Special Services, Rituals, Lay Participation, Music, Sanctuary Space & Furnishings
- **Belonging:** Fellowship & Community Events, Hospitality, Transportation, Communications, Pastoral Care & Elders, Groups of Belonging
- **Service:** Thrift Shop, Community Lunch, Relationship with Neighbours and User Groups, Refugees, Emergent Needs & Appeals
- **Learning:** Formation across Generations, Topical Groups
- **Facilities & Property:** This is big picture planning of the Rumble Physical Plant, it is not daily maintenance responsibilities.
- **Administration:** Finance, Office Management, Day-to-day Maintenance, Archives
- **Mandated:** Trustees, Ministry & Personnel



**It's not about who gains or who loses; it's about recognizing who and what God is calling us to be in this time and in this place. It's all about the Vision!**



**P1**

**JULY '16 - JANUARY '17**

Moving in together, learning to trust each other, and continued planning for implementation of the New Community.

**P2**

**JANUARY '17 - JANUARY '19 (maybe?)**

The newly amalgamated congregation is formed Jan. 1, 2017.

Mission & Ministries will be conducted at the Rumble Site alone. The Development of the Sussex Site will continue.

Ministry plan and staffing will be approved for implementation.

Interim Minister departs no later than June 30, 2017.

**P3**

**JANUARY '19 (maybe?) - FORWARD**

Growing the Mission over two functional sites.

Determining the use of two functional sites.

Governance structure and staffing to be reviewed depending on the needs of the Mission (over two functional sites).