

Minister's Musings

"IT'S AVAILABLE ONLINE"

When we say something "is available online" it is typically about an item that has also been published and is available in print. We are not trying to keep anything from anyone. It doesn't mean that it's not accessible for others who like paper copies or cannot access those items online. If you would like a copy of anything and it's mentioned that it's available online, the office will be happy to print you a copy, if you request it.

This includes things such like "The Governance Manual" (2017), Minutes of Transitional Council & Congregational Meetings etc.

Core Ministry Groups (CMG)

Many of my working hours have been used answering questions and orienting others about Core Ministry Groups. I am happy that folks are asking questions, rather than assuming, or answering other people with wrong information. Core Ministry Groups are the way that Ministry is now being done at Jubilee. Some ministries that were in place, still are and they proceed with the support of the Core Ministry Group to which it belongs. Please let me remind you that these are not my invention. When the Amalgamation document "Stronger Together" was made public in the fall of 2015, this is the structure that was put forth in it. It took us longer to put the structure together than we anticipated.

In the new Governance Manual which was created and adopted by the Transitional Council in February 2017, there are outlines for each of the Core Ministry Groups and their responsibilities. Often responsibilities of CMGs overlap.

Who is welcome or "allowed" to attend a Core Ministry Group?

Anyone who is interested in and/or participating in the Core Ministry is welcome to attend the publicly advertised gatherings. The hope and anticipation is that ANYONE will show up at ANY of the Core Ministry Groups - there is nothing that will prevent anyone from showing up, contributing to, and/or simply learning what is happening in that area of our community ministry.

Who is a member of the Core Ministry Group?

There is no list of names of the members of the CMGs because their commitment is to that particular gathering. If a person volunteers during a gathering to continue on a small (time-defined) task group, they will know they are taking on that work. Otherwise, they have not committed to "being a member" until the next gathering. Any new business that needs attention during the time between gatherings goes to the coordinator(s) and/or staff. That piece of business is then decided upon, or held off until the next Core Ministry Gathering.

WHAT is the work of the CMG?

During a gathering of the Core Ministry Group, we begin with bible study and a learning time. We then engage in some review of what has been happening in that Core Ministry area. The next step is how we then envision the Core Ministry Group growing. This is where some suggestions are offered, and the gathered group hears the vision of the CMG.

At that gathering the work is to be shared by the people in attendance at the gathering(s). Each participant is encouraged to discern their role in the continued work that is set by that gathering; and to be encouraging of others to discern their role and place too.

What about the Coordinator(s)?

The Coordinator(s) have authority to do/delegate that work and to think about who might need to take on each task. Presently there are coordinators for only 2 of the CMGs. Coordinators do not dictate the work of the sub-groups, but help and support them.

How does anything get done?

There are 2 Scenarios that I can think of:

A1. Someone (a group of someones) decides they want to do something (e.g., a desire to continue a tradition, or a new idea).

A2. They talk to the Coordinator(s) of the CMG (or the Minister, or all) and suggest their plan.

A3. If it is within the mandate of Jubilee's vision and mission then they plan it and execute it.

“At the core of all this is the opportunity for us to trust each other. Perhaps something won't go on exactly as you would have done it because someone else is doing it this time. Supporting and allowing someone else to do what we have done in our own ways may be the hardest thing for us as a community to learn to do.”

or

B1. An event is coming up (e.g., liturgical, historical).

B2. The Coordinator(s) and/or the minister talk about what is needed and think about some people to ask (or send out a volunteer request).

B3. That volunteer (or voluntold) learns of the plan and receives some ideas.

B4. That person (group of persons) execute plan.

What does this mean? We want to do something but we don't have the people to do them.

This is a very interesting dilemma. Congregations have long been held up by our guilt over not getting everything done that we think we should get done. We want to keep doing things that we've done for a long time, and yet, no one really has the energy to do them. Perhaps we need to let some of them go without guilt.

Where is the opportunity to review the season and receive suggestions (e.g., for worship)?

The opportunity to review and receive suggestions is either 1) through the coordinators and the Minister and 2) during the CMG 'review' time. At each gathering, a future projection should be set according to Jubilee's vision and mission, in order that the coordinator(s) understand the work to be done until the next gathering.

How does this make anything better?

The anticipation is that there is more permission given to people to do the work to which they're called to do and want to do. It means having less hoops to jump through, and fewer "large group meetings" to make decisions.

Isn't there to be an Administration Working Group?

Yes, there is to be an Administration Working Group in this new structure. Currently the Transitional Council, and members thereof, are fulfilling this task. We hope and anticipate that this new task group will come together by the end of the summer.

REV. GRAHAM, WHERE ARE YOU WHEN YOU'RE NOT HERE?

When Jubilee United Church continued my call it included certain benefits such as: are holidays, study leave, and some time off after the busiest seasons of the church year.

Also, back in 2012, long before I joined this community, I was elected a member of the Executive of the General Council to serve until August 2018. The executive meets 2 times per year, plus the Pension Board, which came with this role, meets 4 times per year, but not over a weekend. During Executive meetings, the congregation receives remuneration to cover pulpit supply.

Half of the time that I'm 'away' I am actually still working or studying. During many of my days off or holiday days I often find myself doing work at home because I haven't had time to finish it during my regular work weeks.

Just because you don't see me in the office doesn't mean I'm not "working." As many will know, even on my days off, or during times away, I am available to you and can best be reached on my cell phone number (778) 791-1864 (text or talk) or by email minister@jubilee-uc.ca