

A Renewed Sense of Mission for KUC - A recommendation from your Transition Team

The Transition Team recommends a renewed sense of mission for KUC focused on faith development and education. Please give this your prayerful consideration. You are invited to make a decision on this recommendation at a congregational meeting on May 31, 2009. This decision will guide our congregational life and work going forward and play a key role in the next steps of defining our new model of ministry, our ministerial requirements and any changes to our governance structure.

Background

The Transition Team has looked at a renewed sense of mission for KUC through three strong and interrelated themes, building on Tapestry of our Times, our identity profile as revealed in "Terry" and other KUC resources. These three interrelated themes are:

Christian Worship - we gather in worship, enriched by prayer, thought provoking sermons and music

Reaching Out - we reach out to each other and our community through Christian hospitality, fellowship, pastoral care and our outreach programs

Faith Development and Education - we deepen our faith through our Christian Development programs and opportunities for personal spiritual growth.



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KUC is a diverse, busy congregation which sees each of these themes as high priorities. We are not a church in crisis but are lacking a clear sense of direction in our middle age. The Transition Team recommends that KUC renew its sense of mission through a focus on faith development and education as outlined below.

Transition Team Recommendation

To support and lift up KUC through a renewed sense of mission centered on Faith Development and Education. The objective is exploring and developing spiritual faith and learning to enable our faith to be lived in action.

Why Faith Development and Education?

During the time of Interim Ministry, a sense was gained that we see ourselves as very busy with an emphasis on fellowship and social activities. But what makes us different from other groups that do good works and enjoy each other's company? In the congregation's reflections, words like God, Jesus, the Bible, Christian, and discipleship rarely appear. We see a strong desire to balance our good works and fellowship with a deepening of our understanding of our faith journey. We have a hunger for knowledge and faith development not only through sermons but also through lectures, discussion, study groups, and opportunities for personal reflection.

The depth of our faith is the wellspring from which we nurture our Christian hospitality, pastoral care and community outreach. Reaching out should all flow from our spiritual life. Learning and spiritual growth is intertwined with our desire for Reaching Out and being more inclusive. For example, interfaith learning enables us to better know our neighbours, to share with them in tangible hands-on outreach, to recognize and respond to community needs and to be a vital Christian pastoral presence.

In an increasingly secular and multicultural society, as Christians we need to know who we are as a Faith Family, to find opportunities for learning and faith development in a contemporary context, and how we can practice our faith in the context of the 21st century. We can become more relevant for people and families of all ages, including children and youth.

We have the opportunity to present an alternative voice of faith to that of Christian conservative fundamentalism. With educational events that share knowledge, we can not only feed ourselves spiritually but also offer something to the community at large. With a strengthened spiritual and faith life, we are not just another "service club", but a real Christian presence in the community. Giving greater emphasis to faith development and education on an exploratory journey provides us with opportunities to reach out to others in the community who are asking questions and searching for answers.

Faith development builds on one of our unique strengths as a thoughtful, educated, searching people. KUC identifies itself as an intellectual congregation expressing a desire for thoughtful discussion, contemplative reflection and learning.

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What does adopting this renewed mission mean?

More clearly defines who we are and how we are known by our community at this time.

Being more intentional about looking at all our activities through a lens of what is contributed to faith development and education.

Strengthening and deepening our programmes of Christian Development for all ages, including children and youth.

Expanding modestly our education activities with more regular planning of 2 – 3 yearly learning events: some intellectual in content, others pragmatic and intergenerational. We would look for opportunities to invite outside resources into our midst to discuss faith based issues such as interfaith and multicultural concerns. Our identity as a place of faith development and learning would deepen and grow as we gain experience, engage lay members in organizing and supporting such initiatives and better understand our community needs and interests.

Becoming intentional about inviting others beyond our congregation into our faith development events and activities allowing us to support our community and being seen as a place open to "learning" and "education".

Exploring intentional learning opportunities relevant to youth and linked to existing initiatives such as Habitat for Humanity.

Being more intentional about seeking opportunities for relationship with the wider church, especially at Presbytery level through its Christian development programs, supporting KUC in becoming known as a centre for learning.

Do you see faith development and education as providing a relevant, attractive and workable statement of renewed mission for our life and work as KUC?

If the congregation decides on a renewed mission based on faith development and education, this will strongly influence the next steps in defining our model of ministry, our ministerial requirements and any changes to our governance structures.

The Transition Team welcomes your comments and questions. Please contact us through email at transition@kuc.ca or contact any member from KUC: **Robert Ashton, Rev. Angela Bailey, Lindsay Blue, Rod Delcourt, Don George, Steve Free (Chair), Susan Maslin, Helen Pinel, Maureen Purnell or Deepak Wanner.**

Join us on May 31st for a pot luck lunch after the 10:30a.m. service, followed by a congregational meeting. There will be a presentation by the Transition Team, time for discussion and a motion inviting a decision on a renewed sense of mission for KUC focused on faith development and education. Your participation is important for the life and work of the congregation.

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