



September 25-28, 2008
First United Church, Dryden

Cambrian Calls



Sixty-two Presbyters, guests and Conference Staff, with approximately thirty Youth and their leaders, attended the Fall meeting of Cambrian Presbytery at First United Church in Dryden. They joined members of the local congregation for Sunday morning worship, when Presbytery Chair, the Rev. Gord Waldie preached. With the title of "The Back to Egypt Committee", Gord asked what happens when the excitement of change wears off? Do we go ahead or go back where we were?

Conference Personnel Minister, Judy Hare, as theme speaker, presented an overview of the updated Sexual Abuse Policy of The United Church of Canada. Christina Stricker and Roy Dedon are Officers of the Court for Cambrian Presbytery in regard to this Sexual Abuse Policy. The document is available for downloading from the United Church Conference web site (below). Each Pastoral Charge should have a copy available and the Chair of each Board or Council should be made aware of the location and contents of the Policy. Faithful Footsteps, the church's screening policy for volunteers and paid employees, should also be downloaded from the Conference or National web site as it provides important guidelines for this process.

Points to Note:

- October 19-25 is Spiritual and Religious Care Week.
- Rev. Jan Stevenson and Rev. Scott Gale will share responsibility for attendance at the meetings of SJNOC, the Social Justice Network of Ontario Conferences. (Approved by motion)
- Visioning meetings in the North and South Wards of Thunder Bay were led recently by Judy Hare.
- Dave McMaster's Hat received \$628 for the Mission and Service Fund.
- The Observer is available on audio tape for the visually impaired. More info at www.eastminster.on.ca or www.aots.ca/Observer.htm
- 29 congregations received Observer subscriptions in 2008 with a total subscriber list of 604. Sioux Lookout has received an Observer Award for the high number of Observer subscriptions - 71 out of 89 households. Janice Boneham is the new Observer rep. for Presbytery.
- Updates have been made to Camp Duncan. Sunny Cove had a successful camping week. Presbytery Youth Minister, Matt Woodall, participated in the Sunny Cove Camp.
- Matt is now doing intentional work with congregations.
- Two Joint Needs Assessment Committees have been formed - one at the Rainy River-Stratton Pastoral Charge and one at St. Paul's United Church, Thunder Bay
- An M&P Workshop is planned for Thunder Bay.
- MAST is an online community with M & S information. <http://communitites.united-church.ca/mast>
- Rev. Jann Sampson is now Chair of the Oversight of Pastoral Charges Committee.
- Former Moderator Bill Phipps and his partner, author Carolyn Pogue, will be in Thunder Bay on Thursday, October 30. For details see the Cambrian web site (below)
- Paul Rumbolt, a composer and performer, who has two compositions in More Voices will be performing at a Coffee House October 10 at Knox Pruden, Thunder Bay.

New clergy to Cambrian Presbytery are the Rev. Scott Gale at Broadway-Pinegrove Pastoral Charge, the Rev. Carl Emke at Lake of the Woods Pastoral Charge; and the Rev. Judy Hare, Conference Personnel Minister.

Ren Amell gave an excellent PowerPoint presentation on the trip to Zambia with seven young people. They connected with two organizations - the People's Action Forum and Women for Change. The trip was most informative and they all felt changed by the experience.

A Petition asking that the Manual be changed to allow Sacraments Elders to preside at the sacraments when the minister is on Sabbatical or extended medical leave will be forwarded to Conference.

The theme for the Presbytery Youth Event was "Tell Me The Stories of Jesus". As usual, the Youth did many fun things including, presenting in dramatic form, something of the origin of the four Gospels and the four different pictures of Jesus they depict. They enjoyed their presentation from Ren Amell on Zambia 2008. They expressed some concern about the lack of information they were receiving from their pastoral charges about opportunities such as the Zambia experience. The Youth appreciated meeting and spending time with Debbie Coss, Conference Youth Minister.

Worship at Presbytery was an enhancing experience, particularly the Evening Vespers on Friday evening.

Motions Passed:

- ★ To write a letter to the "Social Justice Network of Ontario Conferences (SJNOC) encouraging them to reinstate meeting in conjunction with the Interfaith Social Assistance Reform Coalition (ISARC).
- ★ To support the application of Confederation College Chaplaincy for a Mission Support Grant of \$5,000 for the year 2009 from the Mission Support Fund of Conference.
- ★ To develop an implementation plan for the Youth Minister's Outdoor Ministries Proposal.
- ★ To license Sharon Loghrin as a Sacraments Elder at Central United Church, Kakabeka Falls. Alice Bloomfield, Nova Cook and Donna Prior have completed the requirements for licensing.
- ★ To recommend designation of Gregory McKee as a Designated Lay Minister at the Conference AGM in May 2009.
- ★ To recommend Julia Sinclair for Ordination to the ministry of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care at the Conference AGM in May 2009.
- ★ To provide funds for the cost of the Navigating Change resource,
- ★ To write to the Honourable Tony Clement, Minister of Health, protesting the indiscriminate banning of gay men from organ donation, suggesting that any health risks are better addressed by universal testing of all donors rather than promotion of inappropriate linkage of illness with sexual orientation.
- ★ To support the application from Broadway United Church, Thunder Bay, for a Technology Support Grant of \$1,500 to upgrade the sanctuary sound system and purchase a new system for the church hall.
- ★ To support the application from Riverview United, Atikokan, for a Technology Support Grant of \$1,500 to assist in the purchase of a new photocopier and computer.
- ★ Six Remits were discussed and voted upon and Remits #1-5 were approved by presbytery; Remit #6 was not approved. (Note - Remits can be read and/or downloaded from the United Church website: www.united-church.ca)

The new Fall lineup for KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives, includes CSI: KAIROS. The CSI stands for **C**arbon **S**abbath **I**nitiative. Groups concerned with the environment will be formed across the country. KAIROS is promoting Make Poverty History: World Food Day is October 16; the UN International Day for Eradication of Poverty is October 17; October 12-19 is Make Poverty History Week; and, October 19 is World Food Sunday.

KAIROS national web site www.kairoscanada.org

KAIROS Cambrian-Agassiz Region www.kairoscambrianagassiz.org

Thanks go to everyone who participated in this wonderful and productive Presbytery meeting. Thanks are extended to the congregation of First United Church, Dryden, for their warm hospitality, with special thanks to the tremendous kitchen staff for the great meals and coffee breaks. Thanks also go to the Lutheran Church for providing space for Youth.

Have a safe journey home.

See you all at Winter Presbytery at Trinity United Church, Thunder Bay Feb 19-22, 2008

Moderator David Giuliano will be with us.

www.cambrianpresbytery.org www.confmnwo.united-church.ca