



Transition Team Communication #6

February 2022

Hello St. Andrew's United Church family,

The following is an update on the work of your Transition Team:

On January 30, 2022, the Transition Team led a congregational event looking at how we talk about ourselves at the start and at the end of our weekly worship services. This was part of looking at St. Andrew's United Church's identity, one of the five focal points in the Intentional Interim Ministry journey. The worship service and workshop were based on 1 Corinthians 13. Rev. Shannon Mang's reflection was titled Do They Know We are Christians by Our Love?. Henry Yeung shared what the Welcoming Statement meant to a newcomer to St. Andrew's & Gwyneth Mast expressed how meaningful the Choral Benediction was to her. The congregation was then divided into three 'break out' groups to discuss how the Welcome, Mission & Vision statement and the Choral Benediction reflect SAUC's identity now and into the future.

Summarizing the comments made during the 'break out' groups:

Welcoming Statement:

- *Meant a lot to newcomers*
- *We are all welcome no matter what may have happened in the past week*
- *"doubt or believe" gave the freedom to have doubts which has strengthened belief*
- *miss this welcoming statement*
- *doesn't like "prison/tattoo" in statement; could these words be changed?*
- *tattoo is a reminder of having unwanted tattoos for medical reasons*
- *wears medical tattoos with pride that treatment was completed with the help of many prayers and God's goodness*
- *- felt tattoo/prison was a negative approach*
- *message is embracing however modification would be good*
- *doesn't like the welcome statement as we are a church,; we are welcoming. Do we need to say it every Sunday?*

Vision and Mission Statement:

- *Comments from some who were involved in creating the statement:*
 - *resonated because of involvement*
 - *it was built over months*
- *not spoken with the same passion as the Welcoming Statement*
- *Love the mission statement*
- *Inspired and encouraged to live it out*
- *doesn't pay much attention to it*
- *could it be consolidated into 25 – 30 words reflective of current reality and be inspirational?*
- *it's cold; not welcoming*
- *while important, it is clinical and almost a professional/corporate tool*

Choral Benediction:

- *It's SAUC*
- *Resonates on so many levels*
- *Experiences its peaceful meaning through mind, body and soul*
- *Leaves the service with assurance that God is with us at all times*
- *It is emotional; sometimes brings tears*
- *Wonderful to leave the service with a song*
- *Sustains us to serve throughout the week*
- *Best thing about the service; sets you on a path for what is to come*

People appreciated having an opportunity to express their opinions. Our members are different people with different experiences and different needs and sometimes different priorities at a given time. We are not expecting to find unanimous responses but share what we have heard so far as a reminder that we can love & support each other despite our differences. Something that is meaningful to us might not be to someone else & vice versa. That too is okay. It was suggested that having the questions ahead of time would give time to think of responses. With this in mind Bea Volino has created a survey which is attached to this communication. Please give your feedback by completing the **St. Andrew's United Church Identity – Welcomes & Benediction Survey (link below)**.

During February, the Transition Team has taken on the role of the Ministry and Personnel committee just until the new committee is formed. We have welcomed Bea Volino, a member of the new M & P committee, to the part of our meetings concerning M & P.

To continue our exploration of the core identity of St. Andrew's United Church, on February 13 Rev. Shannon Mang introduced us to Rev. Janet Gear's Theological Banquet – five ways United Church people tend to express their 'theologies'. The

pages Rev. Shannon shared during her sermon are also attached to this communication.

In March your Transition Team will start a consulting process with Rev. Wayne Beamer in the area of Church Governance. Rev. Beamer will provide guidance towards policies, procedures, rules and regulations of the United Church of Canada.

Please give your feedback by completing **[St. Andrew's United Church Identity – Welcomes & Benediction Survey.](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeaY1RMfa5GquqaXiYjrV7awpQ_O1WJWYli7581vSd8gg9Ow/viewform)**

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We look forward to our next Intentional Interim Ministry congregational worship/workshop on Sunday March 6, 2022.

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We hope everyone embraces this transition time as an interesting, positive experience. It is an opportunity to clarify our identity as a church to prepare us for our next journey as a community of faith.

Sincerely and with church love,

Your Transition Team