



Transition Team Communication #2

Hello everyone who has attended or supported St. Andrew's United Church in Markham,

As noted previously, St. Andrew's is currently in a period of Intentional Interim Ministry, as recommended by the Shining Waters Regional Council, as a means for St. Andrew's to positively move forward. The Transition Team (TT) was formed to help with this process which is targeted to conclude in the Autumn of 2022 with the calling of a new Minister. These TT updates will continue on a monthly basis.

The TT is interested in hearing from anyone who may have input, thoughts or advice for the team (whether or not you are currently attending church). The TT would appreciate contributions to help us understand specific things about St. Andrew's that you love, connect with, and prioritize as well as any concerns you have, so that possible improvements can be investigated. Your input would be treated with the utmost confidentiality.

You may choose to share your ideas via email, phone or by attending a TT zoom meeting. You may prefer to talk with only one TT member. Based on that conversation, you would have total say over whether any or all of your comments are conveyed to the full TT.

TT members you may contact are:

Reverend Shannon Mang -1-403-607-8645 or mangshannon@gmail.com

Rick Brewer (TT chair) – brewerabee@sympatico.ca

Daveisha Francis – daveisha-dance@hotmail.com

Gwyneth Mast – 905 294-6028 - gmast@rogers.com

Tara Truscott - 905 471-4599 or paulandtara@yahoo.com

Henry Yeung – hyeung2130@gmail.com

Lynella Reid-James – lzrjames2@gmail.com

If you would like to participate in part of a TT zoom meeting and share with the group in that forum, please email Rick to coordinate.

Since our last communication, the TT led the August 29th service, which highlighted the recent history of St. Andrew's. The break out groups explored the question of what people learned from the previous Ministerial times at St. Andrew's.

Please note the following goals which the TT have developed, based on TT discussions, and on the general concerns recommendations previously communicated by the Shining Waters Regional Council.

Goals:

- Examine Church governance and board constitution to streamline council and committees and embed succession planning
- Research and provide social justice and inter-cultural training and conversation opportunities to congregation and staff
- Look for ways to improve communication, transparency and trust between staff, council and congregation.
- Investigate process for managing disagreement (including possibly training a group in conflict management strategies).
- Use St. Andrew's vision to guide the goals of all church groups. Identify which church and community groups (neighbours) we are not currently serving. Identify ways we are being called by God to serve and/or partner with them.
- Reach out to congregation through surveys and small group discussions to get feedback about what the congregation wants for our church (worship, music, areas of focus).

The Intentional Interim Ministry process has now concluded the focus point of *Examining our Heritage*. These focus points will help us to achieve our goals. Future focus points include the following:

- Leadership Development
- Clarifying Our Mission (Discerning our Identity and Purpose)
- Making Connections (in our Community and with the United Church of Canada)
- Discerning Our Future

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 journeys as a community of faith.

Sincerely and with church love,

Your Transition Team:

Rick Brewer (Chair) Daveisha Francis Gwyneth Mast Henry Yeung

Tara Truscott Lynella Reid-James (Shining Waters Regional Representative)

Rev. Shannon Mang (Intentional Interim Minister)