



*Toronto Conference*  
The United Church of Canada



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To: Pastoral Charges and Outreach Ministries, Ministry Personnel, and Lay members of  
Presbyteries of Toronto Conference

cc: Presbytery offices and Toronto Conference Executive

From: Rev. Dr. Carol Gierak, President of Toronto Conference

October 2009

Dear Friends;

This is the first of my irregular messages to you for the next eight months. Last year, as we prepared for the transition into a new way of doing the work of the Conference, Carol Paniccia, Project Manager, kept the Conference informed about the transitional work as it unfolded. Structurally, that work is completed and we are living into our new model. As I visited with three of the four Presbyteries last month, I was able to witness how well each have handled the transition.

At the same time, we will discover that we are living into a new model that will change and evolve as we go along, discovering things that we overlooked and adjusting to meet the needs of our members. We will also discover things that are working very well - maybe better than expected! Our need for good clear communication has increased and using a variety of ways to communicate is important. With this in mind, this letter will be distributed widely and can be found on the Toronto Conference web site.

One of the questions that has been asked repeatedly is:

In the new structure, how will the annual meeting be handled?

The question was raised at the annual meeting in May 2009 and considered by both the former and new Executives. It was clear from the response heard at the annual meeting, that a number feel the annual meeting is a highlight of the church year. Because we heard that message, the meeting of Conference will again be a three day meeting beginning on May 28 and ending with the Celebration of Ministries Service on May 30, 2010.

At this time we are beginning to explore ideas for the agenda. The first thing we felt needed to be done was to confirm the values we wish to uphold in the time we are together. Those values are



included with this communication. The values document comes as a result of the Agenda Planning Committee's work over the past two years and with further refinement this fall.

We anticipate there will be a variety of possibilities for youth programming in the Presbyteries, however, as you can see from the values statement, there will be no age specific programming at the annual meeting.

As we move into our pastoral year and planning continues for the annual meeting, you will be kept informed. Please keep an eye on the web site [www.torontoconference.ca](http://www.torontoconference.ca) for information.

Blessings to each of you in your ministry.

Carol