

**Pastoral Oversight Team – Toronto Southeast Presbytery  
Accountability Report  
May 2011**

**Team Members**

James Chong  
Michael Cottrell  
Carol Anne Green (on leave)  
Hae Bin Jung (until Sept 2010)  
Michael Kennedy  
Gordon MacNeill  
Jim McKnight  
Bob Nelson  
Bill Scott  
Roma Scott (until Dec 2010)  
Anne Shirley Sutherland (Lead Staff)  
Martha ter Kuile (Chair)

**Team Visits Completed**

Donway Covenant  
Eastminster  
Glebe Road,  
Kingston Road  
Knox Agincourt  
Metropolitan  
St Andrews  
Trinity St Paul's  
Victoria Park

**Team Visits Upcoming**

Bathurst  
Northlea  
Rosedale  
West Hill

**Other Visits**

Centennial Rouge  
Dentonia Park  
Deer Park  
Hope  
Iondale Heights  
Riverdale  
St Matthews  
West Ellesmere (planned)

## **Our Approach**

Objective: to move from compliance model to support model; not to oversee in the sense of control, but to offer insight and support to congregations. NB No decision making role in mandate.

Team Visits: 2 main questions

1. Are the activities of the congregation congruent with the vision and mission that the congregation has articulated?
2. If not, are there dynamics in the congregation that are preventing that?

## **Major Tasks and Activities**

Visits, both routine triennial and in response to request; participate in various transition teams and reference groups established by Presbytery; referrals/coaching; tracking Annual Reports

Visit Guidelines handbook

Lesson on how to read financial reports

Congregational Links

M&P Workshop

Participation in MORF

Upcoming:

“Between a Rock and a Hard Place” resource

Presbytery protocol for former ministers

**What we have learned :**

- A. How many congregations are facing major viability challenges – numbers, financial, energy for maintenance.
- B. Also in trouble on something harder to define – what the church IS, is FOR (social service club, group of dear friends, place for kids to learn morals, link with the past).
- C. Congregations are motivated to thrive – and not just in conventional sense. Make a contribution, for members and for the world.
- D. Need to think outside the box – other ways of being church, meeting, worshiping, clustering, shared space, *without losing sense of home*.
- E. Congregations need to talk within themselves, to each other (not to us) about these matters.
- F. Congregations need assistance to have the kind of serious, heartfelt conversations they need to be having. Conversations that allow us to speak frankly about the challenges we face, and open the doors to new possibilities (once we stop focusing on, are we following the rules).
- G. We need to develop the role of Presbytery as facilitator of such conversations – a long process.

**Table group questions:**

3 mins silence for individual reflection

10 minutes in table group discussion

5 mins highlights

1. What is the topic of the heartfelt conversation you need to have in your congregation?
2. What are the questions that pastoral Oversight might ask that would unlock that conversation and help you to have it?