

TSP *matters*

Toronto Southeast Presbytery Matters

A WORD FROM THE TORONTO EXECUTIVE “Are you listening?”

Since the beginning of the new presbytery structure, one of the major concerns expressed by presbyters has been that of a lack of both communication with and “connectedness” to Conference and its people. With this in mind, Conference Executive has begun a “Listening” process – listening to each of the four new Presbyteries, to find out what needs they have that can be addressed by Conference in its new role as Policy Maker and Provider of Resources that enable presbyteries to do their job.

The findings of these Listening Teams will be brought to and discussed by Conference Executive at an early meeting in the New Year, with the hope that their findings can not only be acknowledged but acted upon at the earliest opportunity. There is no doubt that there will be some different concerns that will reflect both the geography and the “culture” of each of the four presbyteries. Obviously, there will not be any “one size fits all” answers or solutions to concerns expressed. The outcome of this valuable exercise will probably be that Conference will ask for time to report back to each presbytery with their comments and suggestions to help forward their work in both their mission and vision.

Education and Students Commission

The Education and Students Commission is currently journeying with and supporting approximately 30 candidates for ministry. They are at every stage, from Inquirers just beginning their journey to those who are almost ready for ordination. We have two potential candidates for ordination in May of 2011, Ian Kellogg and Kristin Philipson, and two potential persons from other denominations for Admission to the United Church at the same annual meeting of Toronto Conference, Basil Coward and Douglas duCharme. We send our blessings and wish them luck in their January CIB interviews, and in the completion of their other requirements.

Finance and Property Commission

The request of Dentonia Park Pastoral Charge to relocate to rented space at Hope United and sell its building was referred by the Executive to Finance and Property for its recommendations. A consultative team of representatives of Finance & Property, Pastoral Oversight and Mission Strategy met with the Board of Dentonia Park. At its December 13th meeting, Finance and Property approved a report with recommendations to the Executive to approve the relocation as per Section 334 of the Manual. On December 14th, the Executive approved the relocation and other recommendations related to it. Finance & Property reviewed first and second drafts of its “Property Guidelines And Procedures” document prepared for the information and guidance of Trustees and Congregations of Toronto Southeast Presbytery and expected to be in final form early in the new year.

Justice and Global Affairs Team

GAN – Is the **Green Awakening Network** – what is that about, you may ask? Well, GAN is a network of United Churches – and other faith communities in the Toronto area that is committed to responding to the challenge of climate change, by encouraging lifestyle changes and by reducing the carbon footprint of church buildings. The network is an initiative of the Toronto United Church Council (TUCC) and if your congregation is concerned about living up to our Creed’s promise “To Live With Respect In Creation”, then find out more of what you can do by contacting GAN by phone (905 771-5124) or by email: greenawakening@tucc.ca – you can also access the GAN website: www.greenawakeningnetwork.ca. Look for more information regarding a Spring Workshop in Toronto that will provide practical information in greening both churches and private homes. Check out the above website for further details.

Pastoral Oversight Commission

The Pastoral Oversight team is hosting a Ministry and Personnel Workshop on February 5th, 2011 at the Wilmar Heights Presbytery location. This event is intended to assist Ministry and Personnel Committees in their work and all interested in TSP are invited. It may be a refresher for some with new information for others, however in personnel related work there are always changes in policies, legislation and best practices. We hope to cover many of these.