

TSP *matters*

Toronto Southeast Presbytery Matters

January 2012, Issue # 5

Mission & Outreach Team For Toronto Southeast Presbytery (M & O)

The M & O Team has had a busy fall in 2011 dealing with both the traditional Mission Support Grant applications and the new Presbyteries of Toronto Conference Corporation (PTCC) applications.

t Grants – Each year Toronto Conference is provided with Mission & Service funds for distribution to organizations within its constituent Presbyteries. The M & O Team is responsible for vetting the applications received by Toronto Conference for the Toronto Southeast Presbytery (TSE). Thirteen organizations in TSE applied for and received Mission Support Grants for 2012, including the brand new Tamil Ministry, approved by the Executive in 2011. In addition to reviewing application forms and presenting recommendations to the Executives of Presbytery and Conference, representatives of M & O also visited each of the organizations applying for funds, so a human as well as financial relationship can be maintained with the organizations.

PTCC Grants – PTCC grants were introduced in 2011 to replace the old Tri-Presbytery grants. The Executive has not yet decided the process for dealing with these grants, so in the interim M & O agreed to vet applications for PTCC operational grants for 2012. At the time of writing, eight organizations have applied for PTCC operating grants. M & O has presented its recommendations on five of these organizations, which were passed by the Presbytery Executive and Plenary in November 2011. M & O hopes to be able to present recommendations on two other organizations early in the New Year. The remaining organization's application (which raised some complicated issues) is being considered by the Executive.

M & O advised the Executive and Plenary in November that with the exception of the Tamil Ministry, all the other organizations M & O is dealing with had historic ties to the original three Presbyteries that were amalgamated into Toronto Southeast and therefore do not necessarily meet the priorities of the new Presbytery. Consequently, the Presbytery may have to revise its priorities and/or adjust the organizations to which it provides funding.

From the desk of John Joseph Mastandrea

The New Year begins with a many new moments of trail blazing for Toronto South East Presbytery. Just the other day I heard the splendid voice of Australian Quadriplegic Tim McCallum sang these words

This is the moment! This is the day, when I send all my doubts and demons on their way!

Every endeavor, I have ever made - is coming into play, here and now - today!

This is a fresh beginning for January 2012, the work of the Pastoral Relations Commission continues to offer support for all.

This past year came to a close with many hills and valleys. In the face of many trials we were there, in the moment of many joys we were there and in the opportunity to stand in support we were there to lend assistance through the tunnels to find the God light in the gathered community.

A sad farewell to Rev. Teresa Burnett-Cole, a special thank you for her many efforts above and beyond the call of duty. Her new contact information is the following:

“Rev. Teresa Burnett-Cole; Christian Island United Church; Beausoleil First Nation; 78 Kate Kegwin Street - Cedar Point Post Office; Christian Island, ON L0K 1C0; Phone: 705-247-2034; E-mail: revtbc@gmail.com

“May the Creator continue to bless you as you carry out your ministries.”

Welcome Aboard

Please join me in welcoming Rev. Shelley Roberts to a six-month contract as the Conference Minister for Pastoral Relations and Ministry Personnel Support in Toronto Southeast Presbytery. Shelley will begin her work January 1, and will be in touch with the Presbytery's leadership to determine priorities for the work in the January 1-June 30 period.

Shelley is known to many within the Conference. She is the half-time minister at Palgrave United Church in Northern Waters Presbytery. She has spent much of her volunteer life in the church in the social justice area, and more recently has been involved in governance at both the Conference and Presbytery levels. She has been a member of many joint needs assessment and search committees, and is well acquainted with church policy. She will take a leave of absence from the Conference Executive while serving in this role.

Beginning in January, Shelley can be reached at 416-241-2677, ext. 251. Her e-mail address will be available in a couple of weeks. For the month of December, I can be reached for personnel questions within Toronto Southeast Presbytery.

Thank you to the members of the Pastoral Relations Commission.

A person isn't who they are during the last conversation you had with them - they're who they've been throughout your whole relationship
Rainer Maria Rilke

Thank you for your continued support in the work of the Joint Needs assessment committees and the Joint Search Committees. Thank you to the Pastoral Charge Supervisors.

And finally thank you to Anne Shirley Sutherland and Wendy Miller for all their stellar support for the work of the Pastoral Relations Commission.

The Rev. Dr. John Joseph Mastandrea

Committee Reports from the ICIF

Debra Schneider

The Interchurch/Interfaith Committee are excited to be planning the order of the day and worship for our January 17 Presbytery meeting. We plan to gather at the Noor Cultural Centre on Wynford Drive where we will be welcomed by Samira Kanji, the President of The Noor Centre. She will also begin our program with an opening prayer. We have also invited up to 10 members of the Noor Muslim congregation to join us for dinner and for the program part of our plenary meeting. In September a group of 60 people – 20 Christian, 20 Muslim, 20 Jewish – travelled to Israel together with the goal of building mutual understanding and trust. Karen Hamilton and John Joseph Mastandrea were among them. The Pilgrimage to Israel was called “In the Path of Abraham”. The milestone pilgrimage represented an opportunity to Muslim, Jewish and Christian pilgrims to experience the land of Israel and Palestine together, through the eyes and context of their brothers and sisters in faith. The purpose of this journey was that it would become a catalyst for peace through telling and retelling of the living narrative that all had the

opportunity to share. For the January meeting we are hoping to hear from the interfaith leadership of that group as each one shares a story and offers some brief reflections about a particular moment, or incident that somehow invited a shift in understanding, or offered a challenge to previous ways of thinking and enriched or changed their faith perspective or practice. Worship, reflection, discussion, and Q & A will be woven together into what we hope will be a meaningful and rich experience for us all.

As a committee, we are committed to developing and supporting various ecumenical and interfaith groups and projects; and to supporting and encouraging ecumenical and interfaith relationships and activities across the Presbytery. Currently we have representatives on The Multifaith Alliance to End Homelessness, The Canadian Council of Churches, The Toronto Area Interfaith Council, and on The Christian-Jewish Dialogue of Toronto. In the past year we hosted a faith sharing event at Toronto Urban Native Ministries. Our plan is to continue to nurture that connection.

We are also actively looking to develop and support a deeper connection our Muslim brothers and sisters as well.

In the coming year, we hope to develop an on-line map of our Presbytery Congregations along with Congregations from other denominations and faith groups in proximity to them. We hope to include information about both existing and potential relationships between the various congregations. In the future, we will be asking for your help in this project. We meet at 4:00 prior to Presbytery meetings. If you have an interest in being a part of this active and engaging group, please contact any of our members: Debra Schneider (chair), Hans van Nie (past-chair), Wenh-In Eng, Richard Choe, Cynthia Scott, Karen Hamilton, John Joseph Mastandrea, Jennifer Palin, Marion Current, or Margaret Mooney. If you have a passion for this kind of work, we would be delighted to have you join us.

Peace,

Debra Schneider

Report of Finance and Property Team (December 31, 2011)

Thomas Clarke, Chair

Please see the Finance and Property Team minutes posted regularly on the Presbytery Website for a fuller appreciation of the work of the Team. Here are some highlights of the past three months.

Toronto Southeast Presbytery was fully paid up for its 2010 assessment by Conference deadline of October 31st. The Treasurer reports that the 2011 assessment payments are coming in quite well. Thank you to all the hardworking congregational Treasurers and to Clyde Harris, our Presbytery Treasurer for his diligent follow-up.

In November City of Toronto congregations received a letter advising that the City budget proposal would remove the exemption from garbage fees previously enjoyed by places of worship and other non-residential organizations. The proposed fee schedule is: \$403 annually per bin (garbage not recycling) for bi-weekly

pick up. The fee would be phased in at 25% per year starting July 1, 2012. Yellow bag fee per bag is \$3.10. Although there were suggestions that Presbytery oppose this change, I fear that there is no supportable reason why churches who are tax exempt should expect others to pay for their garbage. Churches can respond by:

- Understanding better what goes into the garbage bin
- Reducing their actual garbage
- Doing a better job of recycling and making more use of blue and green bins.
- Passing on costs to building users who do generate garbage

The Board of Malvern Community Outreach Ministry met with representatives of Pastoral Oversight, Mission Support and Outreach (M&O), and Finance and Property

(F&P) regarding their current and future priorities and finances. Further consultation is expected through 2012. To meet a projected financial shortfall, M&O and F&P jointly recommended and Executive approved a supplementary grant of \$3,500 from the Presbytery Outreach Fund which accrues a portion of any end of year operating surplus.

The provincial minister responsible for Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) recently provided a letter that states that the fifth set of standards “will not require buildings, or other structures such as playgrounds to be retrofitted to meet accessibility requirements. Once it becomes law, the standard will apply to new construction and extensive renovation only, as is the case with the Ontario Building Code now.” This mitigates the concern that AODA would require expensive physical upgrades to church buildings.

Want information on
Camp Lake Scugog?
go to www.lakescugogcamp.org

Committee Chairs!!!

Please send future articles to: John Lloyd 416-706-9270 e-mail john-lloyd@lpgraphics.on.ca

Toronto Southeast Presbytery is called to:

- support good, faithful and healthy communities of faith
- develop opportunities for cross-congregational initiatives
- encourage mutual support, collegiality and shared ministry
- provide a place where lively worship is affirmed
- attend to administrative responsibilities of personnel and property
- engage in public witness and programme