

## Session Notes – January, 2023

Session met on Wednesday, January 19<sup>th</sup> instead of our usual fourth Tuesday. Always on the January meeting agenda is the development of a draft budget for the new year, to be presented for approval at the Annual Congregational Meeting. Treasurer Larry Eastwood is key to this process, and he attended via Zoom. Thanks, Larry!

Usually at the end of this meeting we have a complete set of figures to present at the ACM, but this year, it made sense to defer some decisions until after the “call weekend”, February 18-19. Once a call is extended, we will know what the starting date and agreed stipend will be for our new minister, which obviously have a significant impact on the budget. In addition, we will have the new minister’s thoughts around the just-vacated Director of Education role, also a significant budget item.

So the intent is to have the ACM in early March, like last year, at which point there will be much more clarity around what 2023 ministries and finances will look like. Session will finalise the budget draft and set a date for the ACM at our February meeting.

The other major item of business was preparing for the visit of our candidate for minister, culminating in Preaching for the Call on Sunday, Feb 19 followed by a congregational meeting for discussion and vote. More details will be forthcoming soon, but in summary:

- Friday, Feb 17, candidate and family arrive – informal Session-candidate dinner that evening
- Saturday morning, tours of the church and manse and meetings with staff
- Saturday afternoon the congregation is invited to drop by the church to meet the candidate
- Sunday morning, Preach for the Call, followed immediately by congregational meeting and vote
- Monday morning, candidate & family leave for home

The departure of Anne-Marie, Director of Education, means that role is vacant. The Educational Ministries team is in discussion with an interested candidate for Program Planner, which will ensure that in the short term, the children and youth programs continue. We will consult with the new minister before determining a long-term direction in this area.

Good news from within the Presbytery: the amalgamation of Gordon Presbyterian (Burnaby) with St Aidan’s & Knox (both New Westminster) into Trinity Presbyterian Church is now official. The three congregations have been working towards this amicably and proactively for some time. Their combined resources will strengthen Presbyterian ministry and witness in that part of the Lower Mainland

Being without a minister can be seen as a challenging time of pause without a leader. But while this is somewhat true, it is also the case that our ministries such as the Community Meal, care and fellowship, and music continue as always. We learn to trust God and the gifts already within the congregation. And we have the tingle of anticipation, looking forward to the renewed energy and fresh start that the arrival of a talented and committed new minister will mean.

Graeme Stager, Clerk