

STRATEGIC MISSION DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
Annual Report to HPE September 6, 2011
covering church year July 1-10 to June 30-11

CONTEXT:

In 2006 Presbytery embraced the notion that a strong committee, supplemented by paid and accountable support, was needed to achieve reasonable mission goals within our bounds. This led to development of a mandate, recruitment of members, an initial meeting in February 2007 and regular meetings ever since. An extensive report was made to Presbytery on June 10, 2008 at which time the court approved engagement in October that year of Rev. Peter Hoyle as Mission Development Officer. That position reports operationally to the committee chair.

SMDC MANDATE

VISION

To constantly strive to visualize what the United Church of Canada could be within the boundaries of Halton Presbytery and to provide the Executive of Presbytery with guidance, suggestions and recommendations that contribute to strengthening congregations in their role of growing disciples.

MISSION:

Through the Mission Development Officer, its members and otherwise; to assist Presbytery, its committees and congregations to operate in a coordinated, consistent and strategic manner with a focus on established goals and priorities, including sharing of information/best practices, avoidance of duplication of effort and enhanced mission development in both existing and new situations.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

- ❖ Halton Presbytery, Communications and Technology Committee was established with active engagement by SMDC. Peter Curran, Peter Hoyle, Jim Joseph and Brian McFadyen actively participate as a C&T Committee. Their attention is focused on developing new technology for the web site which should contribute to 'strengthening congregations'. Secondly the C&T Committee will help congregations with technological resources. The process of these developments will, we expect, result in an appropriate mandate for C&T.
- ❖ The enhanced website will be available to Presbytery this fall with two emphases a) Resources and Information for Presbyters and b) Resources and Information for Congregations.
- ❖ Carol Hennigar designed and facilitated a Website Workshop on January 29th with 14 invited attendees. Considerable discussion and debate resulted in consensus on the primary purpose(s) of the HP website for consideration by the aforementioned committee.
- ❖ A power point presentation regarding the position of Mission Development Officer was made to Presbytery in September 2010 with a Notice of Motion. This resulted in the court's commitment in February 2011 to keep the position of Mission Development Officer available full-time through 2012 and 2013.
- ❖ The summary of the HPE Retreat in January 2011 has been used as a basis for keeping the Mission and Purpose of Presbytery before the court.
- ❖ The committee is the anchor point for the Mission Development Officer, providing connection, supervision and encouragement. He attends all SMDC and RTF meetings and uses these as sounding boards of opportunistic thinking. The committee chair communicates regularly with the MDO. The committee reviewed, and supported, goals and priorities established with the MDO at his annual performance review.
- ❖ Some one-off involvements included:
 - Considered, and rejected, obtaining Environics Analytics data for all HP.
 - Interesting presentation by Josephine Braun on a research project commissioned by Munn's United Church. The project sought to understand the spiritual needs of unchurched people in

- Joshua Creek (northeast Oakville) with a view to exploring potential alternate styles of ministry on the basis of data gathered.
- Committee members read “Pathway To Renewal – Practical Steps for Congregations” by Smith & Sellon. Discussion centred on the potential value of this resource for both Presbytery and individual congregations.
 - Chair participated in; > the Livable Oakville issue,> Hillcrest/Norval interaction re South Halton Hills, > investigative work in Churchill Meadows.

**FORWARD INITIATIVES:
Communications Report-**

- ✓ The committee will continue to follow up on the recommendations of this report from 2010 to foster further implementation of recommendations.
- ✓ SMDC expects the C&T Committee will become an active participant of the Presbytery Executive.

Mission and Purpose of Presbytery-

- ✓ SMDC will continue to search for ways to help Presbytery achieve its Mission and Purpose.
- ✓ We have a ‘shopper’s list’ of possible issue for consideration from which to develop strategies for recommendation.
- ✓ We will become more familiar with the Emerging Spirit materials with a view to their utilization in support of the work of Presbytery.
- ✓ We will continue to encourage all Presbytery committees to thoughtfully consider how their mandate and activities could be revamped to bring them more actively into line with the Mission and Purpose.
- ✓ Presbytery needs to devote effort to ‘identification, communication and celebration’ of events and actions that represent even small gains! Let’s make room for some joyful noise!

Mission Development Officer-

- ✓ SMDC will support the MDO with statistical information and analysis that can be used when interacting with order of ministry and others in the pastoral charges.
- ✓ In cooperation with RTF; support the MDO in developing strategies to bring about renewal in existing congregations.
- ✓ Actively support the MDO in efforts to develop new and creative ministry initiatives within Halton Presbytery.

Leadership Development-

- ✓ SMDC will explore through discussion and research ways to help develop leadership skills of lay and ministry personnel.

0-0-0-0-0

John Fargey

