



Cochrane Street United Church

Honouring the Past ♦ Celebrating the Present ♦ Dreaming for the Future
1916 – 2022

Dear Member

July 2023

Greetings from your new Church Council.

The new Church Council was approved at our Annual Meeting in April and the final steps of approving myself as Chair and David Peters as Vice Chair were approved at our congregational meeting held on June 18, 2023. David and myself encourage you to get in touch with either one of us or any other member of our council (Tara Bishop, Blair Bradbury, Karen Critch, Stephen Jewczyk, Judy Kay, Paula Reynolds and Sandy Stavlo) if you have matters concerning our church that you would like to discuss. We are all here representing you as we guide and direct the operation of our church.

The June 18th congregational meeting was a very important meeting as the 38 members that were present approved the MAP implementation team's (Stephen Jewczyk, David Peters & Tim Reynolds) recommendation to develop a one-year pilot collaboration project with St. James United Church. This recommendation was based on the analysis undertaken by the implementation team of the proposal submitted by St. James. Proposals were also submitted by Cowan Heights and George Street United Churches. However, the proposal from St. James was clearly assessed as the best option for Cochrane Street.

The St. James proposal will provide one 11:00 am Sunday morning service in our sanctuary each month led by the St. James Minister Rev. James Ravenscroft. It also provides for a 2nd 11:00 am Sunday Morning Cochrane Street service held at St. James each month and a 3rd more contemporary service led by Susan Sheppard the designated lay minister at St. James on a Sunday evening or on another evening during the week. This leaves us with 1 or 2 weeks per month, depending on whether the month has four or five weeks in it, where we would have to find other leaders, either ministerial or lay, to lead our remaining monthly services. As we negotiate our one-year pilot project with St. James, we will need to better understand the congregation's wishes regarding weekly services and the proposed contemporary service and whether we wish to maintain weekly services for the entire month. If you have an opinion on these matters, please let us know.

The 2nd service hosted by us at St. James is also very important as it will give us the opportunity to get to better know the congregation at St. James and for them to know us and better understand our ministries. I hope that this improved familiarization will help reenergize our two congregations and lead to further areas of collaboration.

Page 1 of 2

Regarding pastoral care, Rev. James would assume all of our ministerial pastoral care responsibilities and would become a member of our Worship and Pastoral Care committee. He would also assume governance responsibilities becoming involved with our church council.

So, how much will this cost? St. James currently supports one full time minister and one minister half time. This totals 240 hours per month. Our costs associated with this collaboration project would be 80 hours of ministerial payment per month which seems like a very equitable sharing of the ministerial expenses for the services offered while remaining within our budgetary abilities.

So, where do we go from here? Over the next month or so, your MAP implementation team will be meeting with representatives from St. James to negotiate and prepare a memorandum of understanding between the two churches that outlines our one-year pilot collaboration project. We will need to receive our congregation's approval of the memorandum of understanding, hopefully in late August. It will then need to be approved by our District Council. It is my hope that we will be able to implement the pilot later in the fall.

So, there is still work to be done but much has been accomplished to get us to this point. Your MAP implementation team appreciates all the input you have provided in the past and encourages you to continue to provide your comments and opinions as we embark on this new ministry with St. James. Please don't hesitate to contact any member of the church council with your thoughts and ideas.

God Bless

Tim Reynolds