



Cochrane Street United Church

Honouring the Past ♦ Celebrating the Present ♦ Dreaming for the Future
1916 - 2024

March 12, 2024

Council Report and 2024 Easter Message

It is just a month ago that I wrote the council report for our Annual General Meeting where I highlighted our ministry successes of last year and remained optimistic regarding our future and the upcoming pilot project with St. James United Church. Significant water has passed under the bridge since that time and I'm now disappointed to report that St. James and ourselves have not been successful in finding a part time minister. No local candidates have come forward to express an interest in the position. This is a significant blow to our pilot project as your council does not believe that we can implement the pilot without the part time position being staffed.

We have implemented the pilot on a partial basis for the months of March and April to provide time to investigate other options that we might pursue that would allow us to implement the full pilot. As a result, we had Rev. James Ravencroft from St. James, leading our service on March 3rd and we will have our service at St. James on Palm Sunday March 24th. Our Worship and Pastoral Care committee has found leaders who have agreed to lead the services during the other weeks of March. Rev. James will not be taking over as our regular minister until we are able to implement the full pilot project, but he will start pastoral care visits in the interim.

As you all know we have been without a Minister for almost all of the last three years and as I mentioned in my Annual General Meeting report our Worship and Pastoral Care committee always found a leader for each and every service throughout that period. This was a significant task that required considerable work particularly on the part of Paula Reynolds the chair of the committee. It's a major accomplishment that they all can be very proud of. However, this level of workload cannot continue, and we had hopes that the pilot project with St. James would have reduced that workload to a more acceptable level. The part time minister would have provided leadership in pastoral care and for an additional Sunday morning service each month.

Leadership in our congregation takes many forms. Sometimes leadership is expressed individually, as by our members who have just completed the work of updating our Historic Roll; or the member who looks after our archives; or the member who prepares our annual report for printing; or the member who leads Sunday morning worship; or the members who connect with our church family through our phone tree. Individual leadership is also expressed in the support of our ministries with our representatives on other boards such as Bridges to Hope, Guide to the Good, and Cochrane Centre. Finally, individual