


connecting resources with ministry

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02 March 2016

CCDL 2016 What's New?

TORONTO UNITED CHURCH COUNCIL

The Toronto United Church Council works with the church community to connect resources with ministry. Offering access to professional advice, financial support and leadership development, Council helps our church address the social and spiritual challenges of the day.

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It's already looking like an exciting and busy year for the CCDL and it's just getting started. Highlights include the exciting, and ground-breaking journey towards a new mission and ministry in East Gwillimbury; helping 7 congregations in the East end of Toronto envision their future as a regional ministry; facilitating a presbytery governance review; and as always resourcing congregational mission articulation, vision setting, coaching leaders in change, and shepherding congregations towards making good and faithful decisions for their future.

Living Waters' Living Presence Ministry in East Gwillimbury & area is a unique initiative. By resourcing both the vitalization of area congregations and introducing a pioneer ministry into the area, it is taking a truly holistic approach to growing the United Church presence in an area of rapid growth and change. It is expected that this commitment to both traditional and emerging expressions of ministry within the same project will offer huge potential for learning. The plan is to share the story and the learning widely with others in the church seeking ways of connecting meaningfully with their communities.

Over the next year TUCC will be providing facilitation and consultation to a dedicated and skilled steering team,



Janet Marshall

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communications support to the project, and we've bought a house for the pioneer on a corner, near schools, a park, and the downtown core of the new development.

Mission Articulation that makes a difference. There's a lot of conversation throughout the Conference these days about congregations' experiences with the Effective Leadership/Mission Articulation process. With the Toronto Southeast Presbytery, the CCDL developed a process that offers hands-on support for congregations so they can get the most benefit out of this process. Working with trained volunteer accompaniers and/or the CCDL director, congregations are able to prioritize and develop plans for those areas that have the potential to make the most significant difference to their ministries over the next few years.

While continuing to offer assistance in mission articulations, 2016 will see the development of the next phase of the project. What are the priorities being set by congregations? How might the Presbytery and the CCDL offer support and resources for these?

Regional ministries: better together. Neighbouring congregations have been having conversations about possibly working together for years now. Many of us have large files of minutes of joint conversations that date from the 1970's and 1980's. Some of these have resulted in amalgamations between pairs of congregations, but little more. Something's different now. The CCDL is being asked to consult with groups of congregations who, having been there at least once before, are coming back to the table to consider regionally-based ministry. A number of years ago a group of congregational development consultants identified, from their experience,

what needs to be present for a healthy change process to take root. We saw 5 conditions:

1. **AUTHORITY:** The process is supported and authorized by the congregational and presbytery leadership.
2. **APPROPRIATELY SKILLED FACILITATOR:** The facilitator is able to deliver the appropriate processes and resources to fit the need.
3. **CONTEXTUALIZED RESOURCE:** The facilitator has been able to listen carefully and flexibly fit processes and resources to the specific context of the situation.
4. **LEADERSHIP:** The right people with the right skills are supporting and working on the team. This could include volunteers, clergy, and presbytery representatives.
5. **FULLNESS OF TIME:** There is a sense that it is the 'fullness of time'. The process/resource is not being offered prematurely or too late but instead when the environment is most open and receptive to it.

My hunch is that 2016 is a year that will test if we are entering a "fullness of time" moment. Will congregations take the risk and build substantive new relationships with each other? Is this the best or only way to have the resources needed to care for the faithful long-time members, revitalize our ministries, and stretch out to embrace new missional initiatives that are made possible by working together?

Discerning, deciding, doing: governance reviews & coaching. While it is tempting to think that money is our scarcest resource, it may actually be time. When people assess their participation in presbytery or church governance on a 'value for time' basis, we are challenged to review our

systems and structures for how they support, authorize, and empower what we value most – mission and ministry. Then when we change how we organize ourselves it takes time and practice to get used to the new ways.

This year the CCDL is facilitating a governance review with Southwest Presbytery and coaching a congregation in operationalizing their recently adopted new governance system.

Each of the stories here illustrates the Centre for Church Development & Leadership's approach. The CCDL focuses on finding pathways in mission and ministry that are both forward looking and shaped around the realities that impact congregations, mission units and presbyteries. Starting from who you are and where you are, you'll find us ready to listen, prompt, question, challenge and coach you into a faithful future.

Janet Marshall
Director
Centre for Church Development & Leadership

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT!
**Council's 2016 Heart & Vision Award Recipients have
been announced!**

[Click here to get your tickets for May 9th!](#)

Dr. Roberta L. Jamieson is the first First Nations woman to earn a law degree in Canada, and the President of Indspire, Canada's premiere Indigenous-led charity. She was the first

woman to serve as the Province of Ontario's Ombudsman.

Dr. Marie Wilson is a journalist and media professional, and was one of the Commissioners who led the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, examining the impacts of more than a century of forced residential schooling for Aboriginal children.

Toronto United Church Council's
8TH ANNUAL

Heart & Vision
Awards Concert

2016 AWARD RECIPIENTS

 DR. ROBERTA L. JAMIESON is the first First Nations woman to earn a law degree in Canada, and the President of Inspire, Canada's premiere Indigenous-led charity. She was the first woman to serve as the Province of Ontario's Ombudsman.

 DR. MARIE WILSON is a journalist and media professional, and was one of the Commissioners who led the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, examining the impacts of more than a century of forced residential schooling for Aboriginal children.

Save the Date:
Monday
May 9, 2016

WHERE: Metropolitan United Church
WHEN: Monday, May 9, 2016.
Doors open at 7 pm.
Concert begins at 7:30.
Reception to follow at 9:15.

TICKETS:
\$150/ticket (concert + reception)
\$60/ticket (concert only)
* a donation receipt will be issued for a portion of the ticket price.

CONTACT US TO RESERVE YOUR TICKET!
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<http://tinyurl.com/hv2016>

[Download a save the date card here.](#)

Stay tuned for details on the guest artists and MC in our next e-newsletter! Not familiar with the Heart & Vision Awards?

[Read more on Council's website.](#)

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