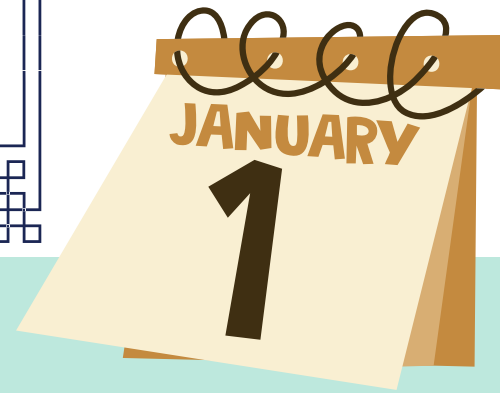


January 5, 2022



Parable of the Pastor

As we begin 2022, the transitional process (ie., interim ministry) we have engaged over these last 3+ years needs to begin to move toward our desired outcome; the call of a permanent minister. Looking back at the Pastor's Column in the first Link article that I wrote for the September 2018 edition, my feelings and sentiment have not wavered. I said in that article:

I Believe in Interim Ministry and I Believe in St. Andrew's.

Interim ministry has become Transitional Ministry as all churches find themselves facing incredible challenges due to the drastic changes in culture and aging congregations and buildings. Interim ministry that used to focus on maintaining normalcy until the new pastor arrives has by necessity come to not only providing consistency in worship and preaching, pastoral care, Bible Study, administration and leadership but guiding the congregation in claiming and reclaiming identity, values and purpose.

The role of Transitional Ministry is about adaptive leadership – leadership that doesn't have all the right answers at a given time, but leadership that guides a congregation to question themselves, to explore their deepest resources and to remember as God has led and guided and provided for greater than a century, God has not abandoned and forgotten us

...

My primary goal as a transitional leader has been to guide us in asking at least three questions: "What are your values?" "What is your purpose?" and "What is the process?" In other words, "Do you behave as you say you believe?" Adaptive leadership helps congregations move through change that enables the capacity to thrive.

No one could have predicted the hard stop to our in-person ministry that has been forced upon us these last 22 months. We have persisted. We have embraced new technology. We are reaching new and the St. Andrew's faithful that are not able to see regularly. Our Session, committee meetings, Bible studies, and fellowship times have all been by Zoom. Certainly not desirable or relationship building.

But we must move forward.

*We must finalize the church profile with the addition of the vision focus we gained in the 2019 Town Hall meeting and the results from the focus groups conducted in Oct-Nov 2021.

*We must continue to fill key positions of leadership within the next 6 months

*We must stabilize our new committee structures and committee conveners

*We must move toward the beginning of the search process as soon as is feasible when we feel that we have answered these key questions "What are your values?" "What is your purpose?" and "What is the process?" In other words, "Do you behave as you say you believe?"



Continued on next page

We all are tired, but I remind us of St. Paul's words of encouragement, "9 So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. 10 So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith." Galatians 6:9-10. Are you on-board?

Notice from Session

St Andrew's has maintained tight safety measures in the sanctuary for in-person worship.

Renters, Ballet Victoria, and members of our church community use the Kirk Hall public spaces, some of whom are not compliant to the mask-wearing regulations. Session will address this safety concern as soon as possible. Until we have a plan to achieve compliance with mask-wearing, the church office will be closed, and the Church Administrator will work from home.

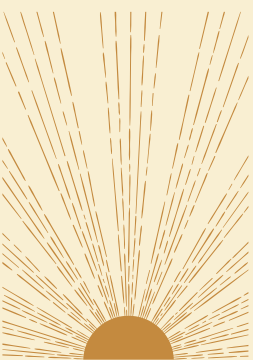
A Message from PCC Justice Ministries

In the midst of intense flooding, an ongoing pandemic, pressing calls for renewed efforts on reconciliation in the wake of ongoing confirmation of thousands of unmarked graves at former Residential School sites, growing calls for racial justice, and a global climate crisis w're brought, collectively, into Advent.

That is quite an opening sentence, but it's been quite a year. And even that over-long sentence can't pack in all the other ongoing conflicts and crises—or the personal losses, hopes, and fears—each of us are carrying into this Christmas season. With so many urgent, pressing justice issues, it can be hard to know what to do; how to help, what action to take. Each one of these issues requires right action long overdue.

[Click here for the full message](#)

New Years Prayer



Dear God, Give me the courage to begin again — to overlook the difficulties, to overcome the obstacles and to stay open to the moment as best I can. Help me be patient enough to know it takes time to start over, and wise enough to ask for help from friends and family when I need it. As I look to the future, may I reflect on the past and remember the lessons it's taught me. And God, may I always look to you for strength and guidance.

A prayer from the Benedictine monks of Saint Meinrad

Reservations for Sunday

We are still asking for congregants to register for attendance at the Sunday service. We know that many have stopped pre-registering. However, as more people attend (and we get closer to reaching our capacity of 70 attendees) we need your help to let us know if you'll be there in-person on Sunday. Please help us to prepare for worship by [clicking here](#) for the form to register for Sunday.

Read From Your Bible This Week

- Isaiah 60:1-6
- Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
- Ephesians 3:1-12
- Matthew 2:1-12

