The Spirit of St John's United Church

Advent 2016

Christmas Day and New Year's Day Worship at St. John's.

Christmas Day and New Years' Day this year fall on a Sunday – and St. John's will open our doors for worship both days at 10:30 am. On Christmas Day we have invited our neighbours from St. Paul's United to join us for an informal celebration of worship with carols, fellowship and refreshments, in remembrance of the birth of our Saviour. New Year's Day we will gather for regular Sunday worship at 10:30 am.

The Remits Are Still Here!

Last August the 42nd General Council approved a number of remits or questions to be voted on by pastoral charges and presbyteries. The results of these remits will make significant changes to both the organizational and financial structure of the United Church of Canada.

An information and educational strategy has been developed for both the congregation and the board members at St. John's. You will have an opportunity to learn more about these remits and their potential impact through a series of Sunday bulletin inserts and links on the St. John's web site.

In the interim, anyone interested in learning more about the remits can access the following websites.

42nd General Council Workbook	www.gc42.ca/workbook
Remit Study Guide	www.gc42.ca/remits
Questions for UCC Staff	remits@united-church.ca

Email updates and alerts www.gc42.ca/news (click "Subscribe here" in the first line)
For more information, to comment or ask questions, please email **remits@stjohnsunited.ca.**

Remit #2 – Elimination of Transfer and Settlement– to be voted on at the January 25th, 2017 Board meeting.

The Question: Does the presbytery/pastoral charge agree that:

(a) the processes of transfer and settlement for members of the order of ministry within the United Church be eliminated, including the elimination of the General Council Transfer Committee; and that

(b) the Basis of Union be amended to reflect this change?

Background

"Transfer" is the process of moving diaconal or ordained ministers from one Conference to another for the purpose of settlement, or call and settlement. "Settlement" is the process of matching diaconal or ordained ministers with United Church pastoral charges that request settlement. Settlement also means ratifying calls made by pastoral charges and presbyteries.

Currently, the Conference Settlement Committee can place any member of the order of ministry who does not have a call in any pastoral charge that is vacant as of the 30th of June. However, this policy is rarely used. **Implications**

Pastoral charges will have to find their own ministers through their needs assessment and search committees and all members of the order of ministry will seek their own calls. Settlement and Transfer committees will no longer exist, meaning fewer volunteers will be needed.

This remit eliminates the process of Conferences authorizing the settlement of ministers into ministries within their jurisdiction, but does not eliminate is "cooperation with the regional council" in "calling, appointing and covenanting" with ministry personnel. Also, with the membership of ministry personnel residing with the region, a record would be retained there It may make it more difficult for communities of faith that have traditionally relied on this system for ordered ministers.

LIFE & WORK OF ST. JOHN'S

Candlelight Christmas Service: This year the chancel choir and guests present a Gospel Christmas Celebration – JOY! on Sunday December 11th at 7:00 pm. Please join us, as we celebrate the season, and the birth of our Lord in a new and entertaining way!

Food & Fellowship: Friday night Community Dinners are served at 6:30 pm on January 20, punch and fellowship begins at 6:00 pm. Full course home cooking with dessert and treats for only $15, children under 12 eat free. Wednesday December 14 at 6:00 pm will be another A+ Dinner, great food and entertainment for seniors and guests.

Faith & Fellowship: On Wednesday December 21st at 7:00 pm all are invited to a short time of worship in the Memorial Garden as we celebrate the coming of the light of a new season in Word and Song (and enjoy hot chocolate and cookies). At this busy time of the year, we will welcome the pause between the seasons–and anticipate the renewed life promised to God's people.

Breakfast at Dawn continues every other week on Friday mornings at **7:00 am December 9th, and resumes in January on the 6th and 20th.** Deep discussion on spiritual questions and timely topics is a wonderful way to share breakfast with others. All are welcome.

Harp & Holly

An Evening of Christmas Reverie

Canada's most prolific and influential Celtic harpist Sharlene Wallace joins violinist/violist Sandra Swannell and fingerstyle guitar virtuoso Terry Young in bringing their annual concert celebration of Christmas to **St. John's On Sunday December 18 at 7:30 pm.** Harp & Holly's music is a poetic blend of Celtic, New Age and Baroque sounds. Oakville's own Sharlene Wallace is a winner of two international competitions, the Lyon & Healy International Pop & Jazz Lever Harp Competition (Tucson, Arizona) and the Concours d'Improvisation de Rencontres Internationales de Harpe Celtique (Dinan, France). She says "I'm thrilled and excited to have been invited to be part of this Christmas' Harp & Holly tour". Sharlene is also the principal concert harpist with the Guelph, Oakville, and Kingston Symphonies. Sandra Swannell and Terry Young are no strangers to the Ontario music scene. Both are Canadian Folk Music Award winners. Harp & Holly audiences will be treated to a family–friendly enchanted world of Christmas reverie with stirring arrangements of ancient carols, jubilant seasonal favourites and poignant storytelling. **Tickets $20, at the door.**

Worship

Sunday December 11
White Gift Service
10:30 am Rev. Sheila Murray
Psalm 146 Isaiah 35: 1-10
Candlelight Service 7:00 pm - Joy!

Sunday December 18
10:30 am Rev. Sheila Murray
Psalm 80 Matthew 1: 18-25
Harp & Holly Concert 7:30 pm

Wednesday December 21
7:00 pm Rev. Sheila Murray
Reflection and prayers for the return of light.

Saturday December 24
7:00 pm Family Service
10:00 pm Christmas Communion

Sunday December 25
10:30 am Rev. Sheila Murray
We welcome St. Paul's to worship
Isaiah 52:7-10 Psalm 98 Luke 2: 13-20

Sunday January 1
10:30 am Rev. Sheila Murray
Ecclesiastes 3: 1-13 Psalm 8

Sunday January 8
10:30 am Rev. Sheila Murray
Jeremiah 31: 7-14, Psalm 27, John 1: 1-18
Soup Lunch following worship

Sunday January 15
10:30 am Rev. Sheila Murray
Psalm 40; Romans 1: 1-17

Sunday January 22
10:30 am Rev. Sheila Murray
Psalm 147; Romans 1: 18-32

Sunday January 29
10:30 am Rev. Sheila Murray
Psalm 15; Romans 2: 1-29
Men's Cake Bake-Off following worship

Weekly at St. John's

Tuesday:
Prayer Group, Terry Chapel 10:00 am

Thursday:
Henderson Bell Choir practice: 6:00 pm
Chancel Choir rehearsal: 7:00 pm
Youth Group: 7:30 pm

Faith and Fellowship

Breakfast At Dawn:
Friday mornings 7:00 am
December 9, January 6 & 20, February 3 & 17

Women's Fellowship Group:
Wednesday afternoons at 1:30 pm
December 7, January 4, February 1

Euchre Events - Tuesday December 13th, and January 10th. Euchre, prizes and refreshments for only $6 per person starting at 7:30 pm. Everyone is welcome, no matter your skill level.

Community Communion:
Delmanor: 2:30 pm-December 27

Food and Fellowship

Youth Group Banquet - December 9, 6:00 pm

Soup Lunch - January 8, and February 5th, following worship

Community Dinners- Friday January 20 and March 10 6:00 pm, tickets in advance or at the door.

A+ Dinner - Wednesday December 14th, 6:00 pm

Events

Oakville Children's Choir Concerts - December 10

Board Meeting - January 25, 7:30 pm

Power of One Cake Bake-Off January 29, 12 noon

Messy Church - February 3, 6:00 pm

Annual General Meeting - February 12, after worship.

THE POWER OF ONE

Men's Cake Bake–Off!

This popular event will be held on Jan. 29th 2017, after the morning service. It is time for the men to get their creativity in motion to dream up another spectacular entry for this auction. We have had such wonderful entries over the last few years! The cakes are beautiful, and creatively designed, as well as being delicious and many people go home with a treasure. For the past few years, this has proven to be a significant and most fun way to raise a considerable amount towards our **First Nation's Bursary**. The sign up sheets for bakers will be posted at the church at the beginning of January.

Modern Miracle Spaghetti Dinner

This year our dinner will be held at here at St. John's on Sunday Feb. 19th 2017. Mark your calendars for this event, and plan on excellent Italian food, and an opportunity to help prepare, serve, or clean up for a great cause. All proceeds go to The Canadian Foodgrains Bank.

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