APCI REPORT

2015

I attended a meeting of clergy in Williams Lake in May where there were discussed the various common problems facing the many small congregations in the B.C. Interior. Specific was the maintenance of buildings with associated costs and the supply of clergy with that associated cost. Discussion ranged through shared buildings to renting, and over the use of lay ministry and the necessity for training.

Brian attended a later follow-up meeting in Valemont.

In addition, the Deanery was held in Barriere, where the recent progress of the various congregations was reported on.

In Christian Unity,

Glenn Andrews

Report on the BC Synod

The BC Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) meets in convention every two years, alternating with National Conventions. This year, the ELCIC met in convention in Edmonton, but that does not mean that the synod was not busy.

Bishop Greg went on sabbatical for 3 months this year which put a greater workload on the synod office assistant, the other synod officers and the conference deans. Several congregations were in the process of calling a new pastor, but all was capably handled so that when Bishop Greg returned from his sabbatical, he had very little besides the usual catching up to do. Obviously the sabbatical had the desired effect since, upon his return Bishop Greg reported that "he time away was exceptionally helpful, renewing, and affirming."

THe BC Synod continues to engage the service of Rev. Alan Roxburgh, pastor and consultant with The Missional Network, who is leading several of our congregations and pastors through a "missional renewal" process. One group of congregations and pastors has already begun this process and a second group is preparing to join in. The preliminary results of this engagement has been so positive that the synod has decided to hire an Assistant to the Bishop for Missional Renewal. The ELCIC provided a special one time gift of money that allowed this to happen. Rev. Kathy Martin, who serves King of Life Lutheran Church in Coquitlam, began her work in this capacity this Fall, initially a half-time commitment but eventually moving to one-third time.

The National Convention passed several important and ground-breaking motions. One has opened the door for congregations who find themselves in extra-ordinary or isolated circumstances to have sacramental ministry provided to them by specially trained and licensed lay people. A second motion recognizes that the Lutheran Church worldwide is coming up to a significant anniversary - 2017 will mark 500 years since Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the door of the church in Wittenburg, Germany, effectively sparking the Protestant Reformation. In recognition of this anniversary, the ELCIC has committed itself to a "Reformation Challenge", which challenges individuals, churches and synods to 500 new refugee sponsorships, 500 new bursaries for students in schools of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, 500,000 trees to be planted in Canada and around the world, and $500,000 to be raised for The Lutheran World Federation Endowment Fund.

It was good to have Bishop Greg Mohr present with us this past September for the signing of our Ecumenical Shared Ministry Agreement and to preach and preside in our two congregations that same weekend. Moments like that help to strengthen our relationship with the BC Synod. This April, the BC Synod will meet in convention in Coquitlam. Hopefully we will send a lay delegate to this meeting and further strengthen our ties.

Respectfully submitted,
Pastor Brian

North Thompson Ecumenical Shared Ministry
Presbytery Report – 2015

It has been said before but bears repeating. The North Thompson Ecumenical Shared Ministry continues to have a strong presence in the Kamloops-Okanagan Presbytery. Leslie Ross is the Presbytery Secretary. Leslie Stirling is the Presbytery Treasurer. Abigail Rutley is a member of the Christian Formation Working Unit. Leslie Ross and Micki Andrews are members of the Communications Working Unit. Abigail Rutley and Leslie Stirling represent their congregations as the elected representatives at the regular gatherings of Presbytery. The Reverend Brian Krushel also represents us by virtue of his position as our minister. For a small Pastoral Charge that is a lot of involvement.

The Spring Presbytery meeting was held at Penticton United Church and we felt a bit like Snowbirds in the warmer climate. We continue to use the Circle process which is an interesting way of making sure that all folks (even the shy ones) are able to take part in the conversations. The Leadership Circle and some congregations reported on the Congregational Vitality Resource and later in the day the court discussed possible revisions to the resource. Ian Fraser (Naramata Community Church) gave a slide presentation on the United Church's system of governance. The Comprehensive Review Task Group's report was discussed. We were reminded of meetings set for April to review and comment on this report.

Fall Presbytery was held at Mount Paul United Church and it was wonderful to see former Barriere members Wally McMorland and Bea Thalheimer working in the kitchen. We did have an opportunity to visit with them both. Much of the meeting time was spent discussing changes on the horizon for the United Church of Canada. Doug Goodwin, Executive Secretary of BC Conference made a presentation on the Comprehensive Review and what it might mean for BC Conference and Kamloops-Okanagan Presbytery. For me the highlight of the weekend was a Q & A session with Doug. (That and the food - food is always a highlight for me)

Of course, we also spent time at both meetings to deal with the work of Presbytery. The 'routine' or 'usual' work of Presbytery includes receiving reports from Working Units; adopting budgets; hearing from the Youth Council; dealing with Remits; receiving updates on various activities of the congregations within the Presbytery and dealing with items that need to be approved by the whole of Presbytery. We also take time to enjoy the social aspect of being part of a large family. It can be very interesting work and we 'reps' usually come home enthused, invigorated and sometimes exhausted.

In May we attended the meeting of BC Conference at Whistler.

Prepared by Leslie Stirling
on behalf of the Presbytery Reps