

The Mirror

Reflections on the life and work of Como Lake United Church Summer 2011

Joint Needs Assessment Report Accepted

At a congregational meeting on June 26, 2011 the congregation voted to accept the report of the Joint Needs Assessment Committee (JNAC) and its recommendations that:

- a) Westminster Presbytery accept the changes to the Position Description of our Lead Minister, the Rev. Jan Bihl; and
 - b) Westminster Presbytery declare an additional part-time (20 hr/wk) Presbytery-appointed ministry position as described by the "Minister of Pastoral Care & Christian Nurture with Older Adults" position description; and that the vacancy be declared immediately.
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From the Chair

How we got to where we are



The journey to the approval by Presbytery of the recent JNAC report and what will become the striking of a Joint Search Committee and the calling of an additional half-time (20 hrs./wk.) ministry person has been a long, a sometimes frustrating and an always challenging journey in discerning God's call for Como

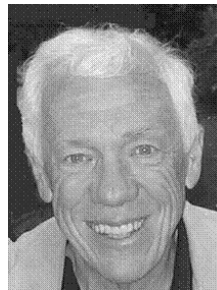
Lake United Church. It has, however, helped greatly in revealing so many joyful opportunities to grow as God's people here, in this community, both in spirit and in numbers.

It started with the formation of the Dream Team some 3 ½ years ago and followed with the many luncheons, meetings and general Congregational meetings the Team held over some 30 months. The Dream Team tabled its final report and recommendations to the Board and after its

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From the Editor

Where do we go from here?



Now that the Joint Needs Assessment Report and its recommendations have been accepted by the congregation we can proceed to the next steps. First the report must be accepted by Presbytery and unless there is

something in there which raises a red flag that will not be a problem. In the meantime we will need to put together a search committee which, like the Needs Assessment will have two members from Presbytery. We will then be able to advertise the position, setting out a closing date for applications. In order to get the most suitable person we have not limited the pool of possible applicants. It could be an ordained minister, a commissioned (or diaconal) minister or a

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**We are Christ's caring community
connecting people with God
and with one another
answering God's call
and making a difference**

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designated lay minister who has taken training in the areas of expertise for which we are looking.

The search committee will then invite the suitable applicants for interviews, choose the best applicant for the job and make a recommendation to the congregation. It's an exciting time in the life of Como Lake United as our Caring Community embarks on this next step in fulfilling our purpose to connect people to God and with one another in order to answer God's call and make a difference. It is important to remember that each of us has a call to share our gifts in ministry, be it through worship, sharing our faith, teaching and learning, building loving relationships, or service, however humble they may seem and without that sharing the dream will not become a reality. - *Ralph Johnston*

Summer Story Camp

Ages 9 to 99

July 25th to 29th

9:00am to Noon

**This is an intergenerational event
for sharing life and faith.**

Guest Story Teller

Games

Songs

Remember Your Smile Card



Every time you fill your Smile Card 5% of it goes toward extending the fire monitoring into the sanctuary.

Governance

Following the June 12, 2011 Annual General Meeting the make up of the major committees of the church is:

Board

Gordon Clay

Wendy Dinahan

Lionel Durante

George Elgstrand

Jacquie Johnston—Treasurer

Ralph Johnston

Angie Neville

Dave Nicol

Verna Ranger

Richard Smith

David Tolton

Rev. Jan Bihl

M&P Committee

Cheryl Blake (Chair)

David Tolton

Eric Ranger

Trustees

Rev. Jan Bihl (Chair)

Jacquie Johnston

Peter Linton

Don Robertson

George Elgstrand

Summer Thrift Shop Hours

Tuesday 9:00am to Noon

**Thursday 6:30pm to
8:30pm**

Saturday 9:00am to Noon

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acceptance, the Board honoured the Teams request to be disbanded in November, 2010.

The Board then undertook to discern the Church's ministry further and enlisted the services of a paid facilitator to lead it through several special sessions to fully explore a myriad of issues – including a redefined position description for the Rev. Jan Bihl (Lead Minister) and an additional half-time Ministers position description (Minister of Pastoral Care & Christian Nurture With Older Adults". The Board then prepared and presented a report and its written recommendations to a Congregational Meeting for discussion. That then was followed with three more information meetings open to all congregants.

After report modifications as a result of those meetings and after being satisfied that



"And now it's that time of our service for everyone to stand, mingle, and schmooze."


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there were the resources and the congregational will to pursue the addition of this revised ministry, with Presbytery's approval, it then struck a Joint Needs Assessment Committee (JNAC).

The JNAC was formed and its 3 Board members, 2 Congregation Members and 2 Presbytery Representatives undertook to prepare a JNAC Report. The report was received and approved by the Board, taken to the congregation in a special Congregational Meeting and mailed to those members and adherents listed in the Church Directory on June 7th, 2011. Additional meetings for discussion and clarification were offered and the final Congregation Meeting held on June 26th for the process of formal approval or rejection.

At that meeting, the recommendations of the JNAC Report were accepted – which brings us to where we are today. What lies ahead is the exhilarating part of the journey! We trust and believe in God's grace and our connection with Him and each other to sustain us in travelling this new road. - George Elgstrand

**Watch for it!
Corn Roast at
Dave & Marilyn McCutcheon's**



**Watch for more information in
the bulletin and on the
web site**

Refugee Family Settled in Burnaby

The refugee family we are sponsoring, the Dawoods, arrived in Vancouver June 20th along with four other families. They were met, with much excitement, by their sponsors and other relatives who had arrived earlier. They were able to move into their two bedroom apartment on Balmoral Avenue in Burnaby, which thanks to many people, was ready for them.

Then began the work of getting the many papers signed for health, landed immigrant status, and others needed to get them started in their new life in Canada. They will have basic health covered at a Clinic with an Arabic interpreter. We have shown them where to shop within walking distance and how to use the public

transportation routes. There is a Pita bread factory near them. ESL classes and a school for the 13 year old daughter Samah are also nearby. The parents Suliman, and wife Eman as well as 19 yr. old son Fadel will be starting ESL too.

On the Sponsorship team from Como Lake are: Dave and Marilyn McCutcheon, Paul Thompson, and Eileen Shinkewski. All have done various parts to help the family settle in. We will continue to visit and introduce them to our Canadian life.

Thanks are also due to the many other people who have been so helpful in many ways to make this settlement possible. I will try to name them hoping I won't leave anyone out: Dick Smith, Blair Simpson, Paul Thompson, Bill Parker, Carol Parker, Keith Oldham, Gordon Clay, Frank Davies, Alastair Priestly, Duncan Priestly, Judy Helme, John Ford, Pat Marshall.

Furnishings for the Dawoods apartment and also for the Nasaar family sponsored by the Burnaby mosque were donated by two families from West Vancouver, two from North Vancouver and three from Coquitlam. In addition items from our Garage sale helped to outfit the two apartments. The people from the Burnaby Mosque provided many items, food supplies, computers, and welcoming through their interpretations and love!

Please ask any one of us on the sponsoring team questions you may have.

Financial support has been received from: Westminster Presbytery from the Ellesmere United legacy fund, the Vancouver Korean United Church (Burnaby), St. Andrews United Pt Moody, Trinity United Church, other bequests anonymously. \$26,000 was needed in order to be accepted by the Canadian Government as sponsors.

- Marilyn McCutcheon



The Dawood family, father Sulliman, wife Eman, son 19yrs-Fadel Alaa, daughter Samah 13.