

# Deseronto-Napanee Pastoral Charge

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Dear Friends,

This July 2018, the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Council of The United Church of Canada will be meeting. The General Council is our national body that makes decisions about the vision and management of the whole United Church.

The 43<sup>rd</sup> General Council has some major decisions before it. Just as many of our local churches are shrinking in members and resources, the national church is feeling stretched. Over the last 2 years, our Deseronto-Grace Joint Board discussed and voted on a number of remittances that have the potential to profoundly change the shape of our church. These remits will also come before the General Council, and they have to be ratified there before changes are made.

The remits, if approved, will change the present four courts of our church (Pastoral Charge, Presbytery, Conference, General Council) to three courts (Pastoral Charge, Regional Council, and General Council). Pastoral relations matters would be handled by the Region or at the national level, instead of Presbytery, where most of it takes place now. There would be a different funding system; instead of being assessed on church membership and paying an assessment to our local Presbytery, the work of the national church would be paid by local churches sending a percentage of our income to the national church. There would be fewer staff members at the Regional level than we currently operate with at the Conference level.

I have some concerns about the direction these remits are taking the church, but I have confidence that the General Council has the skills and the wisdom to do what is best for our church.

For the first time, I have been chosen to be a commissioner to General Council, and I am looking forward to the challenges



## Upcoming Events

### June 13<sup>th</sup>

**Deseronto U. C. W. Meeting**  
beginning at 1:30 p.m. in  
Stover Hall.

### June 14<sup>th</sup>

The ladies of the Maple Ridge Women's Institute would like to invite the ladies of **both Deseronto and Grace U. C. W.s** to join them for **lunch** beginning at 12:00 p.m. at The Royal Coachman. Stephen Paul, Director of Community and Development for Lennox and Addington County will be the guest speaker. There will be a carpool from the Grace parking lot at 11:30 a.m.

### June 16<sup>th</sup>

The next **Men's Breakfast** will begin at 8:30 a.m. in the Grace Hall.



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of the week long gathering. The Council will meet from July 21<sup>st</sup> to July 28<sup>th</sup> in Oshawa, On.

Please pray for me, and for the whole Council, that we will make decisions which are Christ-honouring, and which will serve to strengthen our United Church of Canada.

*"Brothers and sisters, pray for us that the message of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honoured, just as it was with you...The Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one...May the Lord direct your hearts into God's love and Christ's perseverance."*

2 Thessalonians 3: 1, 3, 5

*Rev. Elaine*

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## Grace Finance Minute

We wish to thank all our members and adherents for your generous financial support to date. This is just a reminder that since we will be closed in July and attendance during the summer is usually down, we would really appreciate if you would make your summer donations prior to our closing. We still have bills to pay for the summer months, and having a steady income is very helpful. If you are already on PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittances), thank you, we already receive a regular donation. If you are not on PAR, perhaps you would consider going on PAR. You can do this, by contacting Leslie in the office, and any amount that you chose to give can be changed at *any* time should your personal circumstances change. We now have the option to make donations through our website with the assistance of CanadaHelps, and we will gratefully accept post-dated cheques.

Thank you in advance for your continued financial support,  
and have a great summer!

## Mission and Service

At the end of May, we received a letter and certificate regarding our Pastoral Charge's contributions to The United Church's Mission and Service Fund. In the letter, written by David Armour, Director of Philanthropy, he stated that nationally, \$26,000,000 was given in 2017 for Mission and Service. Our Pastoral Charge combined contributed \$21,416! Way to go!!



**Risking Faith  
Daring Hope**

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## Volunteer Opportunities at the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Council

There are many, many volunteer opportunities of helping with transportation, first aid, meeting and greeting, helping others find their way, being a runner, helping to move items from place to place and the list is still being formed. There are jobs that require people to be sitting and there are jobs that will add steps to your fit bit.

The 43<sup>rd</sup> General Council will be held at the University of Ontario Institute of Technology in Oshawa, On.

Please contact Rev. Sandra Farrow to volunteer at [revsandralfarrow@gmail.com](mailto:revsandralfarrow@gmail.com) or at Northminster United Church 905-725-4133.

*“Mission & Service giving means that families needing food and care are welcomed and fed, people who are sick in hospital are visited and accompanied, people needing justice declare their call for rights with supportive community, people needing housing find shelter and security, students receive bursaries for their journey to becoming ministers, churches testing innovative ministry ideas get funding and coaching, people from the margins find a welcome and home in our church, and searchers find spaces of belonging.”*



## Upcoming Events

**June 17th**

**Father's Day**

**Grace's Annual Family Picnic**

will take place directly following our 10:30 a.m. worship service at Rotary Park in Napanee. Please bring a dish to share, and your lawn chair!

**June 21<sup>st</sup>**

**National Indigenous Day**

**June 24<sup>th</sup>**

**Deseronto U. C.** is hosting a **Family Picnic** beginning at 12:00 p.m. in the side yard. Please come out and us celebrate 150 years of being a Congregation! Period costume is *encouraged*, but *not required*. Bring a box lunch for the number of people in your family attending, but the surprise is in that you will not be eating the lunch that you bring! So please *clearly* mark on the outside of the box what it contains, eg. Tuna sandwich, carrot and celery sticks. The Deseronto U. C. W. will be preparing desserts and beverages. There will be games for kids of all ages! **Everyone** is invited!!

## P. A. Day Fun Day Camp

Another GREAT Fun Day camp was held on Friday, May 18<sup>th</sup>! The enthusiastic group learned a little bit about the Residential Schools and the Reconciliation movement with Rev. Elaine. They did some planting in the Heart Garden, and made some lovely garden stakes for it. (Check out the garden on the west side of the church!) The kids had some outdoor time with Dawn Harry-Adrain. They also had a lot of enjoyment from constructing and decorating some birdhouses with John Sonneveld, Fred Newton, Boyd Ford, Scott Piercy, and Tracey Stevens which they could take home.

The Christian Education Committee would like to thank everyone for their continued support of our P. A. Day Fun Days. It takes many volunteers to pull the day together, and we appreciate all of your contributions.

Our next Fun Day will at the end of September. Watch our website and Facebook page for more information at the summer progresses!

Submitted by Patti Sweet



## Heart and Market Garden

We are expanding our gardens! With the permission of the Grace Trustees, we are working hard to pull up some of the grass to give us some more planting space. This will be an on-going process, and will eventually involve a fundraising effort to purchase flowerbed edging to aid in soil retention, erosion prevention, and to help make Scott Piercy's lawn mowing job easier. Keep an eye out in the coming months for ways that you can help!

The P. A. Day kids were hard at work getting our gardens started in May. They planted sage (both common and a local variety), cone flowers (Echinacea), Foxgloves, squash, and strawberries. Their heart stakes look great with the garden stone that the Grace Sunday School made in 2015 when we established our Heart Garden.

Our Market Garden is a little slow to get moving this year, but hopefully in the coming weeks, we will have planted corn, sunflowers, more strawberries, beans, and peas. Some rhubarb has already been harvested and given to some of our neighbours.

The Bee House that was donated in the early spring and appeared in our Easter Newsletter, has been hung on the south side of the fence with the help of Scott. As of printing, no tenants had taken up residency.

Help will be required for a few weeks during July to water our plants. We have rain barrels and watering cans to help make things easier. If you or someone you know are able to help with this task, please contact Leslie for more details.

## Did You Know?!?!

As part of Deseronto United Church's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, we have been hard at work digging up little known facts about our congregation, the church building, and the local area. Some interesting facts were highlighted in our last newsletter, and we will continue this throughout the rest of 2018. Some of these stories will also be shared and pictures will be displayed at our Family Picnic on Sunday, June 24<sup>th</sup>. If you have any interesting information that you would like to share, please contact Marilyn Cole or Leslie, in the church office.

Here are some interesting tidbits:

- E. Pauline Johnson, an Indigenous Poet Reciter, spoke at Deseronto United Church on Thursday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, 1892. There was a large attendance including local dignitaries and representatives from our local reserve.
- The seating within the church is arranged amphitheatre style, with curved pews and the floor sloping to the pulpit. This places a heavy emphasis on the organ and choir, which was popular in late 19<sup>th</sup> century Methodist churches as our denomination had a heavy musical emphasis to services.



## Summer Hours

Holidays are soon upon us! The office will be closed beginning Wednesday, June 27<sup>th</sup> and will re-open on Wednesday, August 1<sup>st</sup>. During this time, if you or someone you know is in need of Pastoral Care, please contact Rev. Mark Arnill at Trinity United Church, 613-354-3858.

We will join our friends in worship at Trinity beginning at 10:30 a.m. for the month of July. They will, in turn, join us for worship throughout August. Sunday School will be available at the Trinity services.

It is NOW summer hours for Scott Piercy. We are in need of volunteers to help with caretaker duties while he is off. Please contact the office to sign-up for a week, or to find our more details.

## Thank you!!

Thank you to EVERYONE that helped with our Earth Day clean-up. We were able to pick up more than 12 large bags of garbage, 5 bags of recycling, signs, clothes, a toaster, a kettle, and ceramic tiles along the west half of Jim Kimmett Blvd. We were then able to do a speedy clean-up around our own grounds...and eaves troughs. We also had other members of our church helping to pick up waste in other corners of our towns. Thank you! All of your hard work truly is appreciated!

Thank you to EVERYONE that helped with the Conference Annual Meeting in April from preparing and serving food, directing traffic, and organizing the people to do it! Thanks to you, more than 330 meals were served in two days with LOTS of positive feedback from participants, Presbytery, and the Bay of Quinte Conference Staff Members. Without your teamwork and perseverance, none of it would have been possible. Way to go!

## Volunteers Wanted!

We have a list of volunteer positions that we need help with. Some needs that we currently have include, but are not limited to:

- Summer caretaker coverage – 1-week sign-up to do a “walk around”.
- Watering our Heart and Market Garden in July – Water barrels and cans provided!
- Greeters and Ushers – Leslie is having a hard time filling these spots. Two consecutive weeks, no longer a month-long commitment!
- Collection Counters
- 1<sup>st</sup> Napanee Valley Scouting Liaison – 1 Scouting meeting every other month, and 1 Christian Education meeting quarterly.
- Nursery Room and Sunday School Helpers – not a weekly commitment; rotations with flexible scheduling.

A BIG THANK YOU, to Jean Bentley for volunteering to be our new United Church Observer Representative!! We will be renewing our subscriptions in the Fall, so keep your eyes and ears open for Jean!



## Announcement

If you would like to sponsor our weekly bulletin in memory or in honour of a friend or family member at any time, please contact Leslie in the office. We have several options for you to choose from including the plain, black and white cover; full colour brochure-style; or with enough notice, full colour traditional style.

If you would like to sponsor our newsletter in memory or in honour of a friend or family member at any time, please contact Leslie.