

**ANGLICAN PARISH OF SALT SPRING ISLAND
PASTORAL CARE CONVERSATION NOTES
PART I
THU AUG 27, 2015**

Presenter: Elaina Hyde-Mills.

Present: Doreen Davidson, Peter Grove, Sarah Mathieson, Claire Pickering, John Pickering, Dale Storm, Joan Warren.

PAST:

- driving to-from church and for appointments- list existed
- meals-casseroles delivered for short-term periods as needed
 - meal ministry ended with safe church requirements
- some lay pastoral ministry was offered, and latterly led by Noreen Davies

PRESENT:

- How do we care for peoples' spirits? Do we primarily focus on loving or on the "rules"?
- barriers to pastoral ministry are an issue (eg. CRCs) and are contributing to lack of volunteers
 - two conversations 1) pastoral care & 2) barriers to pastoral care
- cards to sign for illnesses, etc. and cakes for special birthdays -who does this? the wardens?
- care facilities
 - Lady Minto Extended Care-Eucharist service 1st Thursday of month
 - Greenwoods Eldercare-Eucharist service 2nd Thursday of month
 - Lady Minto Extended Care-Hymn-Sing ~every 5 weeks
 - Meadowbrook-monthly visit and private Eucharist
- dinners (socializing and reaching out to others)
- some driving to/from church
- healing ministry (Sundays & Tuesdays Laying on of Hands)
- home communions (no need at present, but there is a team for when a need arises)
- meat pies for sale (made in the church by volunteers)
 - would the diocese consider this food safe ??
- prayer chain (presently must have permission of person prayed for) not functioning well
- prayer shawl ministry

FUTURE:

- loneliness-needs to be identified and addressed eg. after-church brunches?
- Loving Kindness, Love in Action, Spiritual care
- NEEDS
 - care and concern of others in the parish
 - companionship
 - driving (need a list or rota for when needs come up)
 - driving to Church in winter-who has 4-wheel-drive vehicles?
 - grief visits for survivors after a death in the family
 - grocery shopping
 - house cleaning ?
 - meals
 - visiting
 - wood chopping
 - yard maintenance ?
- more communication
 - prayer chain-include everyone who needs prayers ? (confidential group of pray-ers)
 - survey congregation re skills, gifts & talents (willing acts)-small pastoral group needed
 - creative underground pastoral ministry to "friends". Will this suffice ?
 - small group of volunteers to communicate needs with office/rector
 - needs could be reported to underground
 - underground follows up as "friends" and reports back
 - how to keep people from falling through the cracks?
 - moving to a care facility may mean the person is forgotten by the congregation
 - shepherding by groups (eg. choir) or by geographical locations
 - welcoming group for newcomers to let them know what's available and how we communicate
 - possible 2-night course for newcomers
 - possible card in pews with items to check off (eg. interested in \surd visit from clergy)
 - who needs care?
 - rector to emphasize weekly that communication is needed from congregants about needs within the congregation (eg. call or email office staff/rector about needs)

COMMUNITY RESOURCES THAT CAN BE ACCESSED BY CONGREGATION:

- Grief Counselling through hospice
- Meals on Wheels
- Salt Spring Wellness Programs (for Seniors-through Community Services)
- Seniors for Seniors-choir, driving, lunches, etc.
- Stone Soup-Gabriel
- Sunday meal in Centennial Park

FURTHER COMMUNICATIONS:

- the group supports sending a letter to the Diocese to give the Diocese some feedback on how the many requirements re volunteers contribute to a culture of fear rather than love and create barriers which affect pastoral care. Group thinks that the administration of this is unwieldy and its precepts are unrealistic for Church “families”... Perhaps the letter that could be signed by others in the congregation ?

-group wants to know where Richard stands on these various requirements for volunteers.

-group suggests meeting again for part 2 of conversation to include Richard and others who couldn't be here.

-group suggests a small team is needed to work alongside the rector and to respond to the above parish needs on an ongoing basis.

Spontaneous unsolicited offers for this ministry so far are:

John Pickering, Dave Phillips.