

UPDATE REGARDING NEW MINISTER

NOTE

The purpose of this document is to update you regarding the future hiring of a minister, in as much as we know at this time. Three options have been identified at this time.

It is really important for you ~ the congregation ~ to have a voice in this process. Please read and consider the options.

Make note of any concerns or questions and submit them to the office. The board and chinook winds will work together to answer them.

We do have a choice for our futures.

Also, this is an ASAP procedure.



Betty, Scott, Barbara-Lynn along with Erskine United met with Karen Medland from Chinook Winds to discuss options for our congregations going forward.

The following options were discussed:

Option 1

Collaboration with a possible 5-6 churches ~ This option is an idea being developed by Chinook Winds for rural congregations because they are all experiencing lower congregation and contribution numbers.

- Two full-time ministers and 1 student would be appointed to look after the congregation's needs of all 5 – 6 congregations.
- Each church will contribute to the "pot" to cover ministerial costs, based on a percentage that the

congregation/board/financial committee will have to figure out.

- Amount of funds contributed would not dictate the hours allocated to each congregation.
- Unsure how many Sundays we would have a minister.
- Chinook Winds requires a commitment from all congregations that will be a part of the collaborative group.

Option 2

Using the past process of forming a search committee, producing a needs assessment, gathering resumes and interviewing.

- Advertising on Church Hub
- The process takes a long time and volunteers would be needed.
- We are not financially able to hire and sustain a full-time minister on our own.
- Ministers don't want part-time especially rural ministries
- International ministers are required to have full-time positions to meet the regulations of their working visas.

Option 3

Preparing, Offering, and presenting Sunday Worship on our own.

- A minister will come quarterly to keep us operating under the United Church of Canada umbrella.
- A senior Eucharistic person can be appointed to come serve communion. This is usually a volunteer position.
- Worship Committee and other groups/committees would be responsible for assembling and presenting the Sunday worship services.
- Speakers could be hired.
- Pulpit supply may be available; we don't have the updated list.
- Could collaborate with other churches.

Option 1 and 3

- Everyone would have to come together to support the worship committee and other committees who are putting

the services together. We can't rely solely on the worship committee to look after all the services.

Unfortunately, we do not have many clear answers for the first option. The idea of a collaboration is a work in progress for Chinook Winds, as many rural churches are experiencing smaller congregations and financial difficulty.

There will be further meetings with Chinook Winds taking place and information will be shared when we have it.

Additional Notes

- Big Valley United has officially closed.
- Erskine United feels financially they cannot afford to pay more than 20% for wages, this leaves Stettler United with 80% of the wage expense.

Once all the churches have made their decisions, the implementation of the chosen option can take between 4 and 6 months.

A congregation meeting will be held when we have clear information about the program.

PS For anyone who has problems writing, please feel free to stop in at the office and I will record them for you.