

connecting resources with ministry

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The Toronto United Church Council works with the church community to connect resources with ministry. Offering access to professional advice, financial support and leadership development, Council helps our church address the social and spiritual challenges of the day.

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November 4 2015 - Centre for Church Development and Leadership Project Highlights

The Centre for Church Development & Leadership has had a busy and fruitful year. Highlights include an exciting, multi-year project for Living Waters Presbytery and the congregations in the East Gwillimbury area, continued development of the mission articulation process in Toronto Southeast Presbytery, and an exploration of regional ministry possibilities for congregations in the east end of Toronto. More details below!



The CCDL steering team maps out its projects

Growing the church in East Gwillimbury

The Centre for Church Development & Leadership has begun an exciting and courageous multi-year project with Living Waters Presbytery to grow the United Church in East Gwillimbury. The project will build and support the local congregations as vital and relevant places of worship, discipleship and service AND introduce a

pioneer ministry within the new town of Queensville.

Sharon Hope, Queensville Holland Landing, Trinity Newmarket, Keswick and Ravenshoe congregations are all involved in this exciting initiative. Unlike previous church development projects, no new church building is being proposed. Rather, the goal is to strengthen and resource the churches we already have. We're already in the right places. Each congregation will be encouraged and equipped to build on its strengths to become more missional.

The pioneer ministry is brand new for the United Church. A pioneer is someone who is gifted and skilled in birthing new forms of faithful community that connect with people who have little or no church or Christian background. There are many young adults from many different backgrounds who are spiritually open and willing to explore a Christianity that engages seriously and meaningfully with their context. This is what pioneer ministry offers.

Guided by a Steering Team drawn from each congregation and Living Waters Commissions, the project is just beginning to take shape. In their orientation meeting in early October team members affirmed that "while change can be frightening, God is in the change. We are being called to be a blessing to our new neighbours – to risk and learn. We are not alone!"

**CCDL supports the Effective Leadership Mission
Articulation process in Toronto Southeast Presbytery**

The CCDL helps congregations go deeper when preparing their Ministry & Mission Profiles. The result is a

living document that guides the operationalization of a congregation's vision through priority-focused goals and plans. The process has also helped churches make critical decisions regarding their capacity and resources for ministry.

In partnership with Toronto Southeast Presbytery, the CCDL developed a training programme for Mission Accompaniers. These volunteer facilitators work with congregations as they create their profiles. When the congregation is moving to a call process, the facilitation helps the congregation link their mission articulation with the job description for their new minister.

Examples of decisions made through Ministry & Mission Profile are:

- human resources - what is most needed given the finances available
- the need to invest in a more comprehensive vision planning process
- recognizing that it's time to identify options for a congregation's future (investing in a regional ministry, amalgamation, or considering closure)

Congregations also report that the process has helped them find alternative strategies for accomplishing previously stalled goals.

Working Together In the East End of Toronto

East End United is a group of 6 churches working with the CCDL to actively explore a vision for their future as a regional ministry. Built on shared values for developing sustainable, relevant congregational ministries and meaningful mission within their neighbourhoods, these

churches are asking what can only or best be accomplished by working together.

The steering team of ambassadors have cast a vision which includes: joint pilot projects such as new experiences of worship and learning; assessing outreach ministries, including the use of the buildings, to become a more effective and missional presence in the areas we serve; investigating a move towards a shared ministry team, shared administration and property management structure; and the identification of the best uses for the properties.

In addition to these major projects, Janet Marshall, Director of the Centre for Church Development & Leadership, is working with individuals, congregations and mission units on a wide variety of other projects.

Looking for assistance for your congregation? Give Janet a call at 905 771 5124 to explore ways in which the CCDL could support you in what God is calling you to do.

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