

Greetings in this Advent Season:

As congregations busy themselves amidst the season of bazaars and dinners, concerts and dramas, White Gift services and candle lit communions, we in the Conference office are already into transition for 2012. Within this packet is a card offering warm wishes from the staff, and also a number of flyers indicating special events planned for the year ahead.

As I move out of the position of Acting Executive Secretary and into full-time ministry at First United Waterloo, I wish you sincere warm wishes for the months and years ahead. It is an exciting time to be part of the church, and I see many opportunities for new energy and renewed commitment here in Bay of Quinte Conference.



Let me offer some reminders of events and activities ahead not in the flyers:

Congregations are asked to conduct a study and vote on the remits related to the Basis of Union faith section and possibly expanding the list of documents that we see as being part of our faith, but "subordinate standard" to scripture itself. Pastoral Charges are asked to look at the remits and reply this spring. You are encouraged to engage this process as we all look at our faith and consider how we wish to express it now and into the future.

Conference Executive will hold a special meeting in January to review a draft proposal on developing a new system within the church around Pastoral Oversight, Pastoral Relations, Discipline, Ministry Support, and other pastoral issues. A response is invited from anyone in the church – presbyteries and congregations in particular may want to look at the ideas and offer comments. You can access the resource package online on the Church Leadership Network.

If you are not already registered, you will need to do that first. (New registrations are confirmed by email within 24 hours.) The Ministry Leadership website is accessible online at <http://churchleadership.united-church.ca/page/leadership>.

Later in December the Sub-Executive will be finalizing the job description for the new Minister of Pastoral Care position (now known as the Personnel Minister). Elaine Smith will be finishing her appointment as of June 30, 2012, and we hope to advertise the position and have a new person in place by that date. We expect to finalize the search for a new Executive Secretary early in the new year. Until that time Carol Hancock in the General Council Office will be coordinating coverage here in Bay of Quinte Conference.



The Boundaries Commission members continue their work. They have received many responses to their presentations, and invite further responses and reflections on their report up to December 31, 2011. They have two more meetings planned early in 2012 to carefully review the input received, and to finalize their report.

In closing, may the peace of Christ truly be evident to you this holy season. May we see the face of Christ in everyone we meet, and may everyone we meet see the face of Christ in us.

Blessings to one and all.