

HAMILTON PRESBYTERY

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

The work of the Property Committee of Hamilton Presbytery is done in support of our pastoral charges. This past year this work has included the following:

- the use of manse funds by pastoral charges
- agreements concerning the use of the property of pastoral charges
- applications for United Church grants
- advice with respect to the sale of church properties.

Generally speaking, we provide advice to congregations in property matters, and we bring necessary motions to presbytery for approval. All of our work is done in support of maintaining healthy congregations

RESOURCE CENTRE

We have had a busy and fun year at the Resource Centre. Our sales were up approximately 20 percent, which is always good news. The top selling book was *Fishing Tips*. We have a regular volunteer team who enjoy supporting our local churches with books, bulletins, and church supplies. We provided book displays at presbytery meetings, UCW events as well as for one of our churches. We look forward to the coming year as we have some new things we are hoping to try.

EDUCATION AND STUDENTS

The education and students committee have 3 students who we are supporting at this time. Two candidates for ordained ministry and one applicant for DLM. We enjoy meeting our candidates each year to hear how they are doing.

CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT

The Christian Development committee of Hamilton Presbytery has once again focused most of our energies on planning for the presbytery-wide travelling summer day camp. As in the past, we applied for and received grants from the Canada Summer Jobs program to offset the costs of staffing the camps. This year we, as a committee and a presbytery, worked with Westdale United Church to bring Diana Butler Bass to Hamilton, and to offer a workshop for congregational leaders to come together to learn about awakening contemporary spiritual voices. We believe both of these programs fit our mission of building healthy congregations.

SOCIAL JUSTICE & WORLD OUTREACH

The mandate of this committee continues to inspire each of us, from Micah 6:8, “what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?”

During the November presbytery meeting, a questionnaire was circulated to help us set our priorities for the year. Two major concerns were identified: 1) dispute between the Israelis and the Palestinians and 2) the progress of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Other responses identified were the desire to assist refugees locating here, supporting Muslim communities, support for the LGBTQ victims of discrimination, child poverty and those who fall through the cracks of our health care system especially mental health supports.

MISSION COUNCIL

Is an Incorporated Body that oversees both restricted and unrestricted funds for Hamilton Presbytery. its mandate is support congregations, the work of presbytery, UC corporations to develop and redevelop ministry within the presbytery.

In 2016 Mission Council disbursed \$65,408 and further commitments of \$39,250 for 2017. These funds supported Chaplaincy, CE staff, audio visual equipment, and ministers who took the Student Intern Supervisors course. These funds were for congregations, presbytery committees and Wesley Urban Ministry.

PASTORAL RELATIONS

The past year has been an active one. In conjunction with our normal duties, we spearheaded a motion addressing phone allowance recognizing that internet costs should be reflected in that allowance. A motion was presented to presbytery and passed a motion naming \$75.00 per month as the minimum. We supported congregations and ministers who needed to use the benefits of Restorative Care. We have encouraged conversations between congregations to look at shared ministry and celebrated that Pioneer United and St. Columba Presbyterian now share one minister, Rev. Tim Kennedy, who is in the admissions program to the UCC. Together with Pastoral Oversight we have supported Mount Hope and Barton Stone as they walked the path of amalgamation. In this process we were aware of the concerns of Case United Church who was part of the two point charge of Mount Hope/Case before discussion happened between Mount Hope and Barton Stone. We with Olivet United this year, a second year of Interim Ministry, as they sadly came to the conclusion that closure would happen by June 2017. We are currently starting to wrestle with half-time positions and have been reminded by one of our members that we need to look at the benefits of not having half-time positions but also at who this direction will hurt.

PASTORAL OVERSIGHT

It was a very busy year for our committee as we supported Barton Stone, Mount Hope and Case United Churches in their amalgamation and realignment. We have also worked with Olivet United in their journey towards closure. We have other churches lined up waiting for our assistance. There is a lot of behind the scenes work that goes into these things! We are thankful for the assistance of Conference Office and the patience of these congregations. We are not yet experts in these processes. Fortunately or unfortunately, working with congregations as they revision their ministry is fast becoming the primary focus of our committee. While that is interesting work, a lot of our “pastoral” oversight has gotten shuffled to the side.