

WATERLOO PRESBYTERY

Our mission statement is found in its entirety on our website at www.watpres.ca. However, for the purpose of this report, it is important to highlight these statements:

...first and foremost...live out the Gospel of Jesus Christ

...sees itself as an active, developing Christian community

...who ministers by “listening, being sensitive, by loving”

Waterloo Presbytery is in its second year of implementing its strategic plan. Just as Conference has 4 priorities, Waterloo has stressed the need for

1. Living well
2. Matchmaking
3. Giving birth
4. Dying well

With these priorities in mind, 5 congregations have entered a learning project called ‘Into the Promise’ co-ordinated by Rev. Christine Jerrett that explores Alan Roxburgh’s 5 practises—listening, discerning, experimenting, reflecting and implementing change. This project will continue over several months.

In September, we decided to focus on “fruitfulness.” The idea of reinvigorating our cluster model, to be the catalyst for congregational initiative should the remits around restructuring be implemented, has led to a plan to educate presbytery about the values in reaching out, whether geographically or by affinity. Our next meeting will initiate the conversation, and we have tentative meeting dates for more in depth learnings in fall of 2017.

Mission, Health and Vitality committee (MHV) has been struggling with how to cover its wide mandate, and especially the oversight component. A way forward has been proposed around the strategic plan, and volunteers are being actively sought who have passion and gifts in these areas.

Presbytery meetings have been jam-packed, thanks to the remit work, plus our desire to share and partner with others. Representatives from Edge and St. Paul’s College Greenhouse program brought leadership and public witness to encourage congregations to develop projects.

Presbytery has partnered with a congregation and Kitchener United Way in a “giving circle” which works towards discovering the needs in a specific community, initiating change and being there to see the results.

We are challenged by Dave Jagger to share how we as a presbytery have made a positive difference in a congregation or missional group, on our website.

We have been fortunate to have our presbytery support minister for three years now. His effectiveness has led us to believe it is a model from which others could benefit. We plan to 'proselytize' on a wider format.

Next year will be a full and exciting year, with clusters operational by January 2018, our MHV using motivated volunteers to assist congregations, and those partnerships initiated beginning to show their fruits.

As our finance chair says, the mission is not there to provide finances; the finances are there to provide mission!

Respectfully submitted by

Joyce Ward, Co-chair