

COUNCIL UPDATE – June 13, 2022

Announcements before our worship services

Upon worship committee recommendations, Council recently passed a motion to eliminate making announcements at the beginning of our Sunday services. We have done worship services without opening announcements during Advent and Lent, and this approach has enhanced the overall flow of the worship service. Important announcements and reminders, as appropriate, will be integrated into the service itself by the pastor and/or relevant service participants. When we have a guest pastor, we will still have someone (an elder or a member of the worship team or a member of the congregation) introduce and welcome the pastor to our church. Complete announcements and reminders of upcoming ministries/events will continue to be in the bulletin and on the screen before the service. We will give this approach a try and hope that it will deliver the intended goal of improving the flow of our worship service.

Pastor Kasey

As we are all aware, Pastor Kasey will conclude his ministry at GCRC as our STM (Specialized Transitional Minister) on July 31, 2022. Pastor Kasey will start his STM ministry with Water Street CRC in Guelph in the Fall. We, as Council and congregation, are grateful for Pastor Kasey's leadership and ministry with us these past 2 years. We pray that he and Liz may be a blessing to Water Street CRC as they have been to our church family. In any case, Pastor Kasey will still be with us until July 31 and there are still a few things that we will do together with Pastor Kasey until then. After Pastor Kasey leaves, we will have a combination of traditional pulpit supply as well as sermon series from the Right Now Media, Talbot Street CRC sermons, and other resources. We are blessed to have a group of gifted and creative Worship Planners who will continue to plan and craft worship services. We will also have a classical appointment once per month starting in September. Pat Woudstra will continue to work to secure pulpit supply as needed. May we all continue to pray that our God will lead and guide us as we discern His will and plans for our church.

GCRC Website

Our church website www.gcrc.on.ca has been refreshed and updated with new contents. Special thanks to Maddy Zomer, Irene Westerveld, Pat Woudstra, and others for doing this. Please take some time to check out our new website. In the member section, you will find useful information about our church, its ministries and mandates, our Council, worship schedule, past worship services etc. that you can peruse at your leisure.

Canada Summer Jobs

This year our church participates once again in the Canada Summer Jobs program for young people. The program runs for about 6-9 weeks. GCRC's goal in participating in this program is to help provide an opportunity for young people to engage in career exploration while at the same time contribute to enhancing the life of the GCRC community. It is our hope that the program will be a benefit to the young people participating, the community, and GCRC. Aviva Wielinga is the administrator of the program at our church. To date, we have Victor An, Sarah Nagtegaal, Maddie Zomer, and Annalise Zomer participating in this program.

Challenging Conversation - Listening Circles – Human Sexuality Report

We have just completed a six-session listening circle on the Human Sexuality Report. Thank you to all the facilitators and participants who took part in offering your valuable feedback on a topic that can definitely be challenging to discuss at times, and to listen to each other views in a non-judgmental way.

This challenging conversation topic will also be discussed when Synod meets this summer. A summary report from this round of listening circles is currently being prepared. Once Council has an opportunity to review it and discuss what needs to be addressed, we will together, as a congregation, discern as to “what is next” for us.

HHCS - GCRC Partnership

The room renovation work downstairs for the partnership with HHCS is going well. HHCS should be able to use these classrooms by the Fall 2022. We are currently working closely with the school to ensure that safety and security concerns for students and teachers are being addressed.

Crossroads

Crossroads publication will be suspended for now. Articles and updates from members of congregation will continue to be available via other means. Anyone who wishes to share stories or articles for distribution to the congregation, may contact Pat who can send them out via e-mail.

Soundboard

Council has approved Worship Committee’s recommendations to upgrade the sound systems to improve the quality of sound during our worship services and to enhance our overall online presence as we worship our God and Saviour together.

Discerning His Direction Reboot

The Discerning His Direction Reboot Committee continues to work on Healthy Church recommendations to find ways and training opportunities for our church to:

- Develop an outward expression of the faith that we treasure
- Shape the way we care for each other (in new ways)
- Train leaders for leading (in a new way)
- Connect with the community around us in ways that grow the Kingdom of God

“Appreciative Inquiry” workshop is planned for mid June. The goal here is to recognize and appreciate God’s blessings at GCRC and the ways in which we have appreciated GCRC and how we may keep those things front and centre moving forward. In the Fall, we will build on this theme with “Asset Mapping” to help us take stock of our collective resources, assets, skills and how we may leverage those to create concrete actions for the benefits of others within our community. Also, a training program called “Witness” will be rolled out in the Fall to help us connect with our community in a practical and more intentional way. More information on these is coming soon by e-mail and in the bulletin.

As summer is approaching, may we take an opportunity to rest, reflect, and rejuvenate. Marvel at what God has done and blessed us all with. We serve a faithful God. Praise be to God.

In His Service
GCRC Council