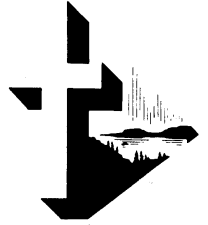




Knox United Church  
Fort Frances, Ontario  
September 27-30, 2012

# CAMBRIAN CALLS



The 30 young people who attended the Presbytery Youth Event joined with 60 adult Presbyters to worship with the congregation of Knox United Church, Fort Frances on Sunday morning. In her message, the Rev. Barbara Miller drew on the First Nations additions to the United Church Crest. Using Micah and the Gospel of Mark she spoke of “all our relations.”

At arrival on Thursday evening, Presbyters were treated to a great supper, with voluntary donations going to the local Extra Measures program, this time supporting Los Quinchos in Nicaragua. Check the website in a few days for copies of the recipes used.

#### Christian Outreach and Social Action:

- Potential of Presbytery liaison with First Nations. A motion to invite a representative from Keewatin Presbytery was tabled, in order to consider the most acceptable way to approach this.
- Ron Klusmeier will be in Kenora (October 25), Thunder Bay (October 27) and Marathon (October 28), sponsored by the Canadian Foodgrains Bank and the United Church Observer.
- The DVD, “My Neighbour Our Community” (with workbook), is now available for purchase or a copy can be borrowed from the Presbytery office.
- COSA reminds Presbytery about the use of Fair Trade coffee at all meetings.
- Sisters in Spirit Memory Walk will be held on October 4. More detail at [www.sistersinspirit.ca](http://www.sistersinspirit.ca)

Youth Minister, Sarah Bruer, reported that there were 60 campers at Sunny Cove Camp this summer, along with 21 youth volunteer leaders. She shared a story from her spring visit to Stratton United Church (average Sunday attendance of 10) as an example of how a congregation can make contact with young people in the community. Four members who met and brainstormed with Sarah decided to send birthday cards, signed by congregation members, to 16-17 children nearby with some connection to the church. One member invited her guitar students to church on Earth Day. This attracted another ten youth to the service. The Church has also set up a Facebook page. Care packages are going to young adults out of town.

During another visit to a group of pastoral charges in Thunder Bay, those present participated in a webinar from Princeton Seminary.

Another Skype youth worship service is planned for November 30. Although it is intended for youth and young adults, all are invited. Further information to follow. Abby Bloomfield, who attended the General Council Youth Forum, will be leading worship at First United Church, Dryden, on October 14.

Presbytery agreed to adopt and implement the proposed model for the Cambrian Presbytery Youth Council.

#### Christian Development:

- For easy comparison of different Bible passage translations check [www.youversion.com](http://www.youversion.com).
- For daily Scripture reading suggestions Google “daily Scripture readings.”
- For worship and preaching helps and ideas, lectionary and special season related resources [www.textweek.com](http://www.textweek.com)
- Camp Duncan Children’s Camp in July had 27 campers, with 10 camperships provided to children of families devastated by the Thunder Bay floods at the end of May. Camp bookings may be made through the Knox Shuniah office. Camp Duncan now has its charitable status number back.
- Gathering is looking for contributions of prayers and worship ideas. E-mail to Susan Lukey ([tworevs@telusplanet.net](mailto:tworevs@telusplanet.net)) and hymns (words, music or both) to Tammy Jo Mortenson ([gatheringmusiceditor@gmail.com](mailto:gatheringmusiceditor@gmail.com)) Gathering will go to 4 issues annually in 2013 and has subscribers from many countries.
- Lincoln Dunn now has the newly-designed Presbytery web site up, hosted by the Fort Frances Times, which gives us more space and makes the site interactive.
- The Winter Cambrian Calls Youth Section was widely accepted.
- The United Church Observer is offering a 50% price reduction for congregations that increase their subscriptions by 50%. The October issue will feature a summary of the 41<sup>st</sup> General Council. Congregations are encouraged to get Observer gift subscriptions for young people now living away for school or work.
- Sunny Cove Camp this year had 70 campers, 20 youth leaders and 20 adults.

#### Mission and Service:

- Suggestions for raising more M & S funds in congregations include: giving a tithe of your mortgage payment or monthly groceries cost or credit card balance, etc.; “Change for Change” which encourages participation by all ages in the congregation by collecting coins (children - nickles; youth - quarters; adults - twonies); Christmas carolling cards.
- Dave McMaster’s Hat raised \$759.92 for the Mission and Service Fund.

#### Stewardship:

- There is money available from the Interim Ministry Fund for churches who need to call an interim minister. Due to changes within The United Church of Canada regarding interns, the Cambrian Presbytery Internship Fund may be dissolved and funds re-allocated.
- \$102,233 of the \$137,300 of the 2012 Presbytery Assessments has been received so far. A letter will go to Conference before the Conference budget is decided, to remind them that many congregations cannot afford to send more money in Assessments and still have the money they need for their own home ministries.
- Presbytery consented to the sale of the Red Rock United Church building, funds to reside with the Trustees until the members decide on their future as a congregation. From the sale of the Red Rock United Church net proceeds are held in trust until it is decided what is to become of the congregation. 1% will go to Visioning of Cambrian Presbytery, 1% up to \$1,000 to Conference Archives Committee and disbursement of remainder referred to Cambrian Presbytery for approval.

#### Youth Minister Funding:

- \$62,161 is needed to fund the Youth Minister position for one year. Suggestions for fund raising:
  - “Dollar a Day” campaign. Two commitments from each pastoral charge would raise about \$20,000 - one third of the goal.
  - Pledge forms can be sent out.
  - One-third could be raised through grant programs.
  - Indiegogo.com is a well-established crowd-funding mechanism for creating an online fundraising campaign. It is used by business organizations, charities and groups around the world. There is no up-front cost. Fee is a percentage. Donations made be made by Visa, Mastercard or Pay Pal. There is a 3% fee for credit card handling. Tax receipts are available.

#### Ministry, Personnel & Education:

- Dryden and Rainy River-Stratton are in the Joint Search process.
- Westminster, North Shore and Current River are in JNAC.
- There is a transition team for Interim Ministry at Knox Shuniah. The Rev. Lilian Patey has recently started a two-year term

- as Interim Minister at Knox Shuniah.
- A survey will be sent to all pastoral charges to supply the Manse Convenor with updated information regarding manses and housing allowances.
- A motion was carried, that on the recommendation of the Conference SAPRPP Committee and Executive of Conference, that training in the Sexual Abuse Prevention and Response Policies and Procedures be made mandatory for all new appointments and calls and for those retained on the roll requiring letters of good standing.
- Christina Stricker, Muriel Poster and Lori Van Santvoort-Jansekovich were re-licensed for two years as lay worship leaders.
- Lynne Dimma was recommended to continue in the Designated Lay Ministry program.
- Hubert Den Draak was recommended to continue as a Candidate in the Diaconal Ministry Program.
- Ren Amell and Kate Jones were appointed to the Discernment Committee at Knox Kenora. There is another one at Broadway.
- Since Cheryl Kinney Matheson will be President of Conference as of the end of June, Barbara Miller will be the incoming Chair of the Ministry, Personnel & Education Committee.

#### Worship and Music:

- Hubert Den Draak led Friday morning worship; Chair Nell Romyn and Scott Gale led the Saturday morning Communion Service. Singing with Verna Puhalski on piano and whomping breaks with Christina Stricker were energizing.

#### Pastoral Oversight:

- A Mission Support Grant request of \$10,000 for the Lake of the Woods Pastoral Charge (Nestor Falls congregation) was supported and will be forwarded to Conference Mission Support Fund Committee for their consideration.
- A second request for funding from a non-United Church charitable organization was presented and considered by the court but the motion to support the request was defeated. This request will not be forwarded to the Conference office.
- 2012 Triennial Visitations: 12 visits were scheduled and by the end of the year it is expected that 10 of them will be completed. In 2013 visits are planned for Dryden, Ignace, Sioux Lookout, Atikokan, Fort Frances, Marathon, Knox Pruden and Knox Shuniah.
- The Visioning and Action Committee in Thunder Bay sent a questionnaire to all local congregations to make a decision of one out of five options for the future in the life of their congregations.
- The United Church of Canada, beginning in October 2012, offers a variety of national learning circles. Once a month meetings are held online or by teleconference. Various topics are explored including small church ministry, new technology, supporting church leadership, churches in transitions, and amalgamations, mergers and other cooperative strategies. For more information, including costs, visit [www.united-in-learning.com](http://www.united-in-learning.com)
- Information on archives is available from the Presbytery office or from The United Church of Canada website. Congregations were strongly encouraged to familiarize themselves with the process.

#### Policy and Planning:

- In each pastoral charge, for every 100 households under pastoral care there can be one lay delegate to Presbytery.
- Scott Gale agreed to be the Officer of the Court with regard to the Sexual Abuse Prevention and Response Policies and Procedures.
- Presbyters heard about a package available to pastoral charges, at a cost of \$100 plus shipping and handling, to use to help be in compliance with Bill 168 of the Occupational Health and Safety Amendment Act (Violence and Harassment in the Workplace). Visit <http://workrightsolutionsinc.com> for more information.

Joan Jarvis led us through a very informative illustrated presentation of her recent trip to South Korea and the Philippines. The emphasis was on Empire Peace and Economic Justice. The gap between rich and poor is widening. What empire does is facilitate the flow of wealth and power from the vulnerable to the more powerful. We as Canadians benefit from empire whether wittingly or unwittingly. Consumers promote the market. There is hope, she said, from the David and Goliath story. We feel helpless when we confront empire (the giant) and the end result of that thinking is apathy or anger - the opposite of hope. David chose 5 smooth stones to defeat the giant. What are our five stones, our gifts, skills, experience we could bring and how could we use them to lift up hope and possibility in the face of empire? Those stones could be thrown into a vast pond and ripple outwards to make a difference. The injustice of empire prevails where good people do nothing. We can make a difference and we need to ask do we want to be part of making that difference.

Nova Cook and Scott Gale, as well as Abigail Bloomfield, reported to the Court on General Council 41 that was held in Ottawa in August. There is a change to the United Church Crest to include First Nations as part of the Church. The words "All My Relations" is added in Mohawk, which was the language of first contact between Europeans and Aboriginal people. The colours black, white, red and yellow are now in the Crest.

David Giuliano presented pictures of his visit to Israel and Palestine, explaining how Palestinians are subject to human rights abuses, as Israelis illegally occupy territories and impose barriers to Palestinian movement. This was offered as background to General Council's decision to refuse to purchase products from the occupied territories. Labels indicating "made in Israel" may include products from the occupied territory.

Next year Conference will be in Beausejour, Manitoba, but it was decided that Presbytery would send a letter to the Conference Executive asking them to take another look at the frequency of full Conference meetings. Some other Conferences do not meet annually.

Theological Reflector, Aileen Urquhart reminded us we were meeting on Ojibwe territory, on the banks of Rainy River which flows into Lake of the Woods, on to the Winnipeg River, to Lake Winnipeg and Nelson River, to Hudson Bay and the Arctic, and to the Atlantic, and south to the Mississippi and Caribbean. We are in the middle of Turtle Island. About 8000 years ago we would have been on the edge of the Great Glacier Lake and as waters receded ancestors of indigenous people hunted and fished and held ceremonies - had understanding that the land was to be shared with others and all living things - land to be cared for as part of the circle of life including all things. The Creator was the giver. Different groups of people lived in relationship with each other, governed by treaties, encompassing all birds, animals and plants.

Janine Collison and Katelynn Everatt reported from the Youth that, while the adults enjoyed their meeting, the 30 Youth from all over Northwestern Ontario were busy as well. During this weekend the youth had many opportunities for fun and learning. "We went swimming, bowling, and participated in several "get-to-know-you" games. The topic was Justice and it really opened our eyes to the issues around us - from David's presentation to our second theme times and activities that targeted equality of different nationalities and examples of injustices from both today and Scripture. One of our activities consisted of many blankets laid out to represent North American land. The 30 youth represented the indigenous people of North America and as time went on they died of disease and were kicked off their land. This activity helped us understand what the aboriginal people had to go through in the past. Thank you to all the volunteers who chaperoned, fed, entertained, planned and educated us and helped us to have a fantastic weekend at Presbytery."

Many thanks go to the Rev. Barbara Miller, the Council and Congregation of Knox Church and especially the UCW for their great hospitality for this meeting of Presbytery.

Safe journey home.

See you at St. Paul's United Church, Thunder Bay, February 21-24, 2013  
Watch for Cambrian Calls Plus! (With pictures) in a day or two  
at [www.cambrianpresbytery.org](http://www.cambrianpresbytery.org)