

Council Update: March 2, 2011

Wayne Bond opened with the Monthly Reflection. Council members were asked to think about how they show trust to others in carrying out God's work.

A letter was received from The United Church thanking Rideau Park for its 2010 Mission and Service contributions.

Financial & Stewardship Surveys were delivered to our 565 households; 181 surveys have been completed (March 8th). The survey results will be presented to the congregation and options discussed at a Town Hall meeting scheduled for Sunday, March 27, 10:45 a.m. Council will discuss the survey results and financial and stewardship options at a retreat on Saturday, April 30.

A new item, "Council Discussion", has been added to the Council Agenda and the topic was RPUC Inventory of Ministry: Issues of a "Program Church". Council broke into small groups to discuss the benefits and challenges of a "Program Church". Rideau Park, according to a study by the Alban Institute, would be a Program Church, which is defined as having 151-400 members attending each Sunday, and being known for the quality and variety of its programs.

Congregational Development Team reported that they will ensure that the Church's Bookmark and other outreach material will be available at upcoming events (Nearly New Sale, book sale, fashion show, bells concert). An Easter postcard highlighting Rideau Park activities will be distributed in the local community. Three brochures featuring Spirituality, Community, and Service at Rideau Park are being designed for newcomers.

Communications Team reported that the Media Contact List has been updated and made available to event organizers and committee chairs for advertising their activities. The advertising plan to June 2011 has been finalized. Inclusion of a "Donate Now" button on the RPUC website is under study.

Session reported that at its February meeting, Social Action/Outreach Committee gave a report on its programs, projects and upcoming events. After discussion, a motion was passed by Session in support of an *Observer* Information Sunday (April 3rd) to inform the congregation about RPUC's congregational subscription to the *United Church Observer* for every household, and the need to financially support this subscription.

Stewards reported that the Church finances are similar to last year at this time. Property reported that the final bank of upper cupboards in the Beecroft kitchen will be installed in mid-March, and the flooring and lighting will then be completed. Stewards are looking into having selected Sunday services videotaped for uploading onto the website. One service, as a test run, has been taped and can be viewed on the website.

Volunteer Appreciation Day will be celebrated on April 10th. Rideau Park's broad range of volunteer activities and ministry will be emphasized, as reflected in the RPUC Inventory of Ministry. The Mats from Milk Bags initiative at Rideau Park will be presented to Presbytery through its "Mission Possible" program.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact [Wayne Bond](#), Chair of Council, Mary Lynne Holton, Vice-Chair or Sandra Weedmark, Member at Large.