

## **Office of Vocation Minister**

### **Report to Regional Gatherings 2020**

Hello everyone,

Greetings in the name of Living God who by the Spirit moves and works amongst us, and who gave us the life of Jesus to teach us what it meant to be people of faith.

Well it has been a busy and interesting year since we last met. Who could have predicted that we would have a pandemic break out as well as having to learn ChurchHub all in one year?

Firstly, the work of the Office of Vocation is part of the Ministry and Employment Unit, and how that fits together please visit the United Church Website:

<https://www.united-church.ca/leadership/supporting-ministry/office-vocation>.

We continue to see a great interest in the new candidacy pathway, and at present we have 39 inquirers and candidates on file for the three regions I work with. Interest in serving in paid accountable ministry comes from a variety of people. Anything from what we often call “cradle” United Church people, to those who have been raised in other traditions and who are attracted by our social justice work.

I’d like to thank this region’s members of the Candidacy Board, Rev Adam Hall (Chair), and Wayne Youngward who are working diligently to support our inquirers and candidates. If you know of anyone who is considering paid accountable ministry please have them email me at the address below.

The Office of Vocation also continues its work in ensuring that all our clergy are compliant with mandatory training and annual declarations. I know that there has been much frustration around getting annual declarations done and Deb Kigar’s contract has been extended in order to assist in the transition. If you are having issues related to ChurchHub, please email Deb and the support staff at [ministry@united-church.ca](mailto:ministry@united-church.ca).

The pandemic has meant that I have not been able to visit congregations that are considering becoming or have become learning sites. Thank you to all of you who have joined me in a zoom meeting and training in the meantime. I am still hoping to travel to our learning sites in the fall or early next year depending on the pandemic and the weather.

The pandemic has certainly changed how we all work and worship together. I am constantly amazed at the ingenuity and creativity of all our paid accountable staff and volunteers who make everything work so well during this time.

I hope that each and every one of you knows that I am praying for you and your communities of faith. My favourite meme during this time is the one that says, “The church has not been closed, merely deployed.” We will always be the church, the body of Christ no matter where we might physically meet.

Blessings

The Rev. Dr. Karen Medland

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