

Stewardship Updates!

Equipping for God's Mission

Mission & Service:

THANKS!!! To all who chose in 2018 to support the ministry and mission work we can only do together through Mission & Service. While we are adding and totaling to complete our Mission & Service year-end, the life changing work of Mission & Service carries on.

- Have your Pastoral Charge submitted its Mission & Service Goal for 2019? Please invite your Board to make a challenging but realistic goal and fill out the online Covenant Form -- [here](#)
- Minute for Mission 2019: View and download **Minutes for Mission 2019**--including English and French Minutes as well as snippets, photos, and videos-- [here »](#)
- Looking for the 2019 **Minutes for Mission DVD**? The 2019 Minutes for Mission videos are available on a USB flash-drive, which works with almost all laptop and desktop computers--no DVD drive needed. For more information or to request a USB flash-drive, contact Ruth Noble by email at rnoble@united-church.ca or by phone at 1-800-268-3781, ext. 3037. Videos are also available to watch and download on YouTube-- [here »](#)
- Watch for some exciting news about refocusing on Mission & Service!! Coming soon.

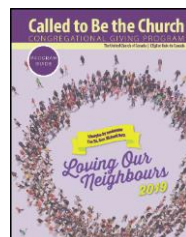


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Congregational Giving:

Called to be the Church: Loving Our Neighbours 2019

- The NEW Called to be the Church: Loving Our Neighbours 2019 has arrived! A copy was sent to all congregations in January and should be arriving now.
- Plan when you will use it this year: Lent (with worship services prepared by our new Moderator, Rt. Rev. Richard Bott) or early or late fall (resources for these two times can be found on www.stewardshiptoolkit.ca). How will you invite generosity this year? Resources for hosting a community meal are also in the kit.



Generosity, Giving & Gratitude Seasonal Ideas for February:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1sxnVx58ZMF8JMVe6acvdf5dqFCopjA5/view>

INSPIRE:

- In the weeks leading up to the annual meeting, highlight a different area of ministry in your congregation and recognize the people who are involved.

INVITE:

- Invite a group of four to six people for a simple supper each week in Epiphany (or in Lent) and discuss faith sharing questions. Sharing Faith Dinners (www.sharingfaithdinners.com) has some suggestions.

THANK:

- Inspire gratitude and celebrate love in February. Give everyone in the congregation a thank-you card (perhaps made by the Sunday School) and invite them to write a note of thanks for someone they know who is doing something for others. Like Valentine, they could remain anonymous.

Looking Ahead:

Lent is coming! The Ecumenical Stewardship Centre offers this:

Lent is a season to spend additional time in prayer and study, fast, and give up something, like a favorite food or activity. But what if we not only GAVE UP something, but GAVE something for Lent? What if Lent was more than a time to think about ourselves, but a time to find ways to turn our sacrifices into doing good for others?

- If you give up your daily trip to the coffee cafe, can you give the money you would have spent to your congregation or Mission & Service?
- If you give up spending time online, can you invest it in volunteering?
- If you decide to fast, eat less, or give up a favorite treat, can you buy some healthy food for your local food bank instead?

United Church Foundation:

- The Spring 2019 Seeds of Hope granting cycle is now open! Completed applications must be received by 8 p.m. Eastern on April 15, 2019 to be considered by the Joint Grants Committee. Please visit the [How to Apply](#) section of the Seeds of Hope page on United Church Foundation web-site (<https://unitedchurchfoundation.ca/>) or contact Erik Lo Forte at grants@united-church.ca for more information.
- Wondering what ideas and projects we funded in the fall of 2018? Find out here! <https://unitedchurchfoundation.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018-Fall-Granting-Summary.pdf>

Great ideas!

Webinars through United in Learning: <https://www.united-in-learning.com/index.php/webinars>

Loving Our Neighbours: Inspire; Invite; Thank

- April 30, May 7, 14 7:30 - 9pm ET / 4:30 - 6pm PT

How to Ask from the Pulpit

- March 19, 2019 1-2:30pm ET / 10-11:30am PT

Fill the Tax-Receipt Envelope!

- Every year your congregation sends out an envelope to each person or family that supports your ministry financially. As well as the tax credit receipt for their donation, why not include: a thank-you note signed by the minister and the Chair of your Board/Council, a 1-page narrative budget, a brief story of something your congregation did that made a difference in someone's life (testimony is best!). Don't waste the opportunity to thank and inspire!

Interesting Links

- Watch this short [thank-you video](#) (<https://youtu.be/zEQF1QHK2hc>) from the Daily Bread Food Bank in Toronto and imagine what it would look like coming from your congregation. Make one yourself and show it in worship and at your Annual Meeting. Post it to your web-site.

Don't forget me!!!

If you are looking for encouragement, new ways to think about stewardship, resources, help to implement Congregational Giving, Mission & Service, Planned Legacy Giving, United Church Foundation and investing opportunities for your congregation, and personalised support to help grow strong generous thankful disciples, then contact me and let's talk.

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