

# Ministers' Musings

We hear a lot of questions .... here are some answers

## Core Ministry Groups

By now, you will have received your letter inviting you to a Core Ministry Group of the new congregation. There are many subgroups and details still to be worked out in the coming months and we trust that you will be prayerfully discerning your place in our work. At the last Expanded Transition Team meeting we were reminded that some have been invited into different places other than those where they are presently serving. We know that many people come with a variety of gifts and we have been diligent in discerning your place(s). We look forward to these groups forming and beginning their work.

## New Community Team Work

The work of the New Community Team is wrapping up. One of their last tasks is to assist us in choosing a new name for the amalgamated congregation. We will celebrate their work in early January when the amalgamation becomes official.

## Communications Workshop:

The Expanded Transition Team is hosting two communications workshops to be held October 1<sup>st</sup> and November 5<sup>th</sup>. Our new Conference Minister Kathy Davies will lead us October 1<sup>st</sup>.

## Community Lunch:

The Community Lunch has relocated to the Rumble Site. We **really need more volunteers** for this ministry. Please consider coming out and donating 3-4 hours every Tuesday. If you are willing to help with shopping, that too would be appreciated.

### Ministers' Time Off

Rev. Graham:

- **Study Leave**  
October 11-19
- **Holidays**  
November 9-16
- **General Council Executive**  
November 17-22
- **Time Off**  
December 25-31

Rev. Jay:

- **Vacation** January 1-7
- Remaining vacation and study leave to be determined.

T/F

### TRUE OR FALSE

Our offering is going to support the building of a new church.

T/F

### TRUE OR FALSE

The congregations have poured thousands of dollars into building a new church.

T/F

### TRUE OR FALSE

The ministers make decisions based first on what's best for them.

T/F

### TRUE OR FALSE

The Ministry Profile Search (MPS) process has a pre-determined outcome.

## The Rev. Jay P. Olson

### Who Am I?

Rev. Graham and I were asked to write bios for this September Musings. This gives South Burnaby UC an opportunity to get to know Rev. Graham a bit more and for West Burnaby UC to get to know me. This task feels a bit odd for me at this point because we know that my time with you is definitely limited but we're not done yet! There is lots of work left to do together.

I came to South Burnaby UC in 2014 as an Interim Minister after 28 years of ordained ministry. I graduated from VST in 1986 and was ordained by BC Conference in 1987. Over those 28 years I served congregations in Victoria, Vancouver, Anchorage Alaska and Long Beach California. I spent nearly 12 years in executive service as Presbytery Executive for Alaska Presbytery and Assoc. Exec. for the Presbyteries of Sacramento, Stockton and Nevada. I worked with dozens of congregations, ministers and leaders.

While I was in Alaska I was adopted into the Kiks.adi clan of the Tlingit people in Sitka. It is a gift I treasure beyond words.

So, to the work. The most important work this fall is the Ministry Profile Search (MPS) process. Work on governance and healthy communication will be ongoing. Accompanying the good work to be done will be my gratitude for having this gift of working with the good people of South and West Burnaby United Churches. I think you are wonderful! I believe that good things are ahead for you if you are brave, committed, joyful and discerning.

As sad as it makes me, it will soon be time to consider my ending with you and my beginning with another congregation. My end date here is uncertain, as it is dependent upon the completion of the interim work. The outcome of the MPS process, which is yet to be determined, will impact the length of my time here. The Expanded Transition Team and I are entering into the process with open

minds, prayerful attitudes and all the feedback that has been collected from you over the past years.

If the work is completed by the end of January 2017, and if my sabbatical funding is approved, I will take a sabbatical and any remaining vacation beginning March 2017. In 30 years of ministry I have never had a sabbatical. I admit that the thought of spending a few months immersed in a different area of learning is very exciting. I am a long way from knowing though whether it will be a reality.

There is so much for which I am grateful:

- ▶ Shared laughter, play and tears.
- ▶ Memorials, Marriages, and Baptisms.
- ▶ Working with wonderful staff and a committed, faithful Church Board.
- ▶ God giving to us Marcus who is a perfect fit for the church and a true joy!
- ▶ Transition Team and Expanded Transition Team who are fabulous! They have only ever had the church's best interests at heart.
- ▶ Carla's exceptional leadership in interim work.
- ▶ Deeply committed lay leaders in worship, finance, UCW, AOTS, Thrift, audio/visual and more.
- ▶ Margaret Turner's faithfulness in pastoral visitation.
- ▶ The privilege of being with your children as they grow.
- ▶ Graham's friendship and ministry partnership.
- ▶ Your many kindnesses, your prayers, and your sacred trust.

I am grateful that you have accepted me as I am and for the grace of God I receive through you. I am looking forward to our next months together all four of us – South Burnaby UC, West Burnaby UC, Rev. Graham and me! You're not done with me yet!

## TRUE OR FALSE ANSWERS

All of the answers are FALSE!

## The Rev. Graham K. Brownmiller

**Who am I?** I was born and raised at St. Andrew's United Church in Quesnel, BC. As a child I attended church with mom Robbie who once wrote in my baby book: "Graham would rather be at church than anywhere!" When mom died in 1988, no-one else in my family was a church go-er, so I stopped going to church for a few years. In my early pre-teen years I was "re-welcomed" to the church family. I spent my teen years singing in the choir, igniting my love of church, church music and choral singing.

In 1999 I began studies at Simon Fraser University where I obtained a Bachelor of General Studies. Through my work with Youth Ministry in BC Conference (including time here at South Burnaby), I strengthened my understanding of a call to ministry with all ages. When I completed my BGS at SFU in 2005, I began my Master of Divinity studies at the Vancouver School of Theology. I served my internship at Trinity United Church in London, ON (2007-2008) and was delighted to work as the Summer Staff Chaplain at Naramata Centre the summers before and after my internship. In 2009 I was Ordained to the Ministry of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care and was settled to the North Thompson Pastoral Charge (Barriere/Clearwater). I then served two years at Queens Avenue United Church in New Westminster, BC.

In May of 2012, I was elected by BC Conference to serve as the Ordered Representative to the General Council Executive and I serve in that role until the rise of General Council in 2018. Due to this election, I also serve on the BC Conference Executive, and in a cascade role to the Pension Board of the UCCan. I am passionate about The United Church of Canada and have served at all levels of the church as a lay member and then a Minister member. I believe that everyone is welcome in the church, regardless of culture, race, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, level of belief, self-understanding of good and bad choices, economic status, or whatever else people seem to find that keep them from a personal

relationship with the Source of all being - that which I call God.

### Who I am as Minister:

- ▶ I am committed to serving in ministry as faithfully as possible.
- ▶ I love deep, authentic, mutual relationships.
- ▶ I respect my elders and continue to learn from them.
- ▶ Children, youth and adults have a place in every aspect of our church life. I expect children to be children, noise and all.
- ▶ I am passionate about my faith and respectful of those who believe differently.
- ▶ I try to honour the past while working to move the church into a new future.
- ▶ I try to keep the best interest of the church in mind when I make decisions.
- ▶ I love both community and one-on-one interaction.
- ▶ I am honoured to witness people's stories and to the presence of God's grace through authentic relationships.
- ▶ I encourage people to connect with me, with each other and with God in ways that are safe and comfortable for them.
- ▶ I am casual even in my dress except for when it is necessary to be more formal.
- ▶ I wear a clergy collar at times to remind me that I am called and appointed to the role in which I serve.
- ▶ I may not appear to be so but I am shy. Though I am boisterous, I carry wounds from my past as do many others.
- ▶ I am sometimes outspoken to the point of being stubborn. When challenged I can respond defensively. I strive to accept the challenge of replacing those moments of defensiveness with empathetic expressions of God's grace.
- ▶ I am human. I sometimes fail. I sometimes get hurt. I sometimes say things that I shouldn't. I am forgiving and seek forgiveness.
- ▶ I am a beloved child of God along with all others. I love the disparate, confused, messed up, broken and sometimes joyful, children of God who make up communities of faith.
- ▶ I would love to know more about you.

## Who's In the Building?

There is a variety of user groups in the building.

- Monday – Friday:  
 Montessori  
 Angels Playhouse
- Monday :  
 Greater Vancouver Food Bank  
 Al-Anon  
 Jazzercise  
 Tai Chi  
 Sparks  
 Pathfinders  
 Venturers  
 UCW / UCW Sandwiches  
 Worship Committee
- Tuesday:  
 Community Lunch  
 Scouts  
 Jazzercise  
 Official Board  
 UCW
- Wednesday:  
 Brownies  
 BC Philatelic Society (Stamps)  
 MyungSung Methodist Church  
 Stewards  
 Lenten Lunches
- Thursday:  
 Choir  
 Jazzercise  
 Guides  
 Beavers  
 Men's Sandwiches  
 Food Safety  
 Fraser Health
- Friday:  
 Narcotics Anonymous  
 Alcoholics Anonymous
- Saturday:  
 First United Methodist Church Choir  
 Romance Writers
- Sunday:  
 South & West Burnaby United  
 MyungSung Methodist Church  
 First United Methodist Church

## Timeline

We previously outlined the next 3 phases of our life together:

Stage 1 (July – December 2016) Completing the move, formulating the core ministry groups and completing the Ministry Profile Search (MPS) work.

Stage 2 (January 2017 - 2019) Electing a Transitional Council that will bring recommendations to the congregation for a new governance structure. Consider for approval the MPS recommendations. Embodying the vision and mission at the Rumble Site. The redevelopment of the Sussex site and considerations about what aspects of the mission will be at which location.

Stage 3 (January 2019 - forward) a fully amalgamated congregation with two fully functioning sites.

## Worship Calendar

- Communion Sundays -  
 September 11th (Welcome Back)  
 October 2nd (World Communion)  
 November 6 (All Saints Sunday)  
 November 27<sup>th</sup> (First Sunday in Advent)
- Other Dates -  
 October 9<sup>th</sup> (Thanksgiving Sunday)  
 \*Food Baskets will be available  
 October 2nd and 9th for donations.

**Financial Windfall:** Since we moved out of the Sussex site on July 1, we have been approached by a variety of Television shows to use the church for filming. We have been a set for both the shows "Lucifer" and "Timeless." Between these two shoots, we were paid \$35,700! We hope to have some more filming in the near future!

**About Financial Offerings:** Until December 31, 2016 please continue to make your donations payable to the name of either founding congregation (i.e, South Burnaby United Church or West Burnaby United Church)