

June 3, 2021

**Dear Mayfair United Church friends, family, members and adherents;**

I would like to provide a bit more in-depth information from council than was sent out on May 19th. This all ties together so please be patient with my explanation.

We ended 2020 in a good financial position but in truth this happened only because we had applied for and received the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy which is only available for a few more months.

Reverend Shelly was hired in a half time position as our Faith Development minister. Since the spring of 2020 when Rev. Dave submitted his resignation and the Saskatchewan Health Authority implemented social distancing guidelines, Rev. Shelly graciously increased her time to three quarters and assumed some of the duties previously done by Rev. Dave. With those additional duties added there isn't as much time left in the week for her to fulfill our vision for the Faith Development position.

Some of you may be wondering what is happening with the position of Word and Sacrament and why that position is not filled yet. The congregation approved the JNAC (Joint Needs Assessment Committee) report a few years back and that was the documentation used to hire Rev. Shelly. Council revisited that document for the current vacant position and submitted it to Living Skies Region. As previously mentioned, this vacant position is top of mind with council and is discussed at every council meeting. Council has discussed the possibility of filling the position with a student, but it was felt that it wouldn't be a good fit at this time. Council has discussed the possibility of filling the position as a half time position, this is where the discussion currently sits. The Living Skies representative has stated that our JNAC is written for a full-time position and if we want to reduce it to half time that the JNAC would need to be rewritten and approved by the congregation. To be honest these options are only being considered by council because of the church finances.

With the school year ending and the Pentecost season bringing us to summer, this is typically the time that ministers contemplate changing churches. To get some of those ministers to consider Mayfair as their new charge we need to answer the questions of half time, full time, and finances.

Since restrictions started in March 2020 our sources of income are down. Rentals, weddings, funerals, fundraising, and offerings are all part of our income stream. While this decrease is understandable, it leaves council with many questions regarding what our post pandemic finances will look like. There are too many unknowns that can't be answered at this time.

On a positive note we will be **returning to in-person worship on June 20<sup>th</sup>** with limited numbers of people being able to attend. The services will still be available virtually. More information about future services will be provided in the coming weeks.

The AGM is being planned for September and council is asking you to think about some questions on where you see our church community heading in a post Covid world. Some of the questions are included, but these are not all the questions that need answers.

- Are you considering returning to in-person worship when restrictions are lifted?
- Would you consider having those tough financial conversations?
- Would you consider volunteering your time and talents to our fundraising efforts?
- Would you be in support of a financial campaign which may include pledging your financial support?

May the Peace of Christ be with you.

Molly Jordan / Chair of Trustees