



## **A SUMMER UPDATE FROM YOUR WESTMINSTER BOARD OF MANAGEMENT**

Dear Westminster Family and Friends:

We hope that early July finds everyone into the swing of everything great that summer has to offer: vacation and play time with family and friends, slower times at our places of work (hopefully!), fitness through many different kinds of summer activities and just generally taking it a notch easier than our normal pace for the next couple of months. We all need time to simply be in order to recharge our batteries, so let's all remember to find some time to do that in the midst of our summer plans.

At Westminster, our regular church season ended with our Annual Picnic Sunday event on Sunday, June 26<sup>th</sup> and our summer worship and open session Sunday School schedule is underway from now until Labour Day. Please do join us for worship on Sunday morning as much as you're able to this summer -- it's fantastic to connect in with each other each week and summertime often sees us welcoming new faces to our church, both out-of-towners and those seeking a new place of worship. Let's all remember to say hello and introduce ourselves to someone we haven't met before -- a simple reach-out can have an amazing impact on the lives of those we touch and welcome into Christ's ministry through our church.

We know we won't connect in person with everyone this summer, so we'd like to share with you some important information about Westminster in this letter: some things for which we can be grateful and a general update on what's happening as we prepare for our fall ahead:

### **First, some things for which we can be grateful:**

- ✠ We have a committed, caring congregation of Christ-followers that will continue to stick together through this next phase of our transition period at Westminster. Thank you to everyone who has helped keep our church pointing forward, through their gifts of enthusiasm, time, talent and stewardship. This congregation responds when called time and again. From our Food Bank, to WHAM, to Sunday School, to Mitten & Sock Trees, to a JNAC Team, to Christmas Eve traditions -- we continue to be good disciples and provide a harbour of safety in our community. It's who we are.
- ✠ We have a gifted Joint Search Committee that is working diligently on our behalf towards our congregational plan to call new ministry leadership to our church. Please continue to pray for this group and be sure to thank them for their work on our behalf over a glass of lemonade after worship one Sunday this summer.
- ✠ We have a caring and involved Supply Minister who walks beside us as we continue along this path of transition together these next few months.
- ✠ We have a chance to walk an exciting new path of ministry in the months ahead. Our ministry has changed and will continue to evolve in some key areas, which will bring new opportunities for growth in different directions. By all of us opening our hearts and minds to what God's calling us to, we will all be involved in the future of our church's ministry. How exciting is that?

Let's all remember we have so much to be grateful for through our continuing commitment to Westminster's ministry.

## And here's an update on what's happening at Westminster the next few months:

- ✠ The Rev Bill Service will continue as our Supply Minister effective July 1, 2011 until our new ministry leadership is called to Westminster
- ✠ We continue to send our prayers and best wishes to Donna LeClair, our Church Administrator, who is currently on medical leave. We are thankful for the work of Garth Edwards, our contract Office Administrator, during this leave period.
- ✠ We send prayers and best wishes to Bill Fitton, our Custodian, who is also currently on medical leave until the fall. During Bill's absence, Jan-Pro Cleaning is providing contract custodial services for our church facility. Thank you to our Property Team for helping to cover off church access requirements this summer.
- ✠ Anne Tiffin, Sunday School Coordinator and Youth Leader, has prayerfully decided to step down from paid ministry at Westminster, effective August 31, 2011. We thank Anne for her commitment to our children and youth these past 4 years with us. Anne has offered to volunteer her time and gifts to lead our Youth program this fall, for which we are grateful. Currently, our Christian Education Team is looking at options for Sunday School leadership through volunteer means. An update will follow on our Sunday School towards the end of the summer.
- ✠ We are hopeful that a new Montessori school rental will start in September 2011 in Room 2, our Large Sunday School Room. At present, the school is starting its room set up as preparation for licensing approvals. This rental would be a great addition to Westminster and provide us with much-needed additional monthly rental income in order to assist us with our ministry commitments. An update will follow on this rental towards the end of the summer.
- ✠ Our Board Leadership Team is presently seeking people of our congregation to share their gifts of time and talent in the following ministry areas:

**Board Secretary**

**Outreach Team members (including Chair or Co-Chairs of Outreach)**

**Worship Team members**

**Technology Team Leader**

**Sunday School teachers**

**Volunteer Coordinator(s)**

Are you feeling a call to help with our church's ministry in one of these areas? Please let your Board of Management Team know via [boardchair@westminster-uc.ca](mailto:boardchair@westminster-uc.ca) and we'll happily connect with you to talk one on one about sharing your gifts through our Westminster community.

As you can see, we have some interesting opportunities in the works these next couple of months.

As a community, we will move forward in faith, hope and love, more intentionally listening and looking for signs of Christ in our midst.

It's going to be a great fall ahead – you don't want to miss a minute of it!

In service and with great blessings for summer,

Cathy Cherwinka

**Chair, Westminster's Board of Management**