

January 17, 2017 FSA Council Meeting

Ad Hoc Planning Committee

Since the November 2016 Council meeting, we've taken steps to make the survey report available to the congregation in both electronic and paper form.

We have also advertised for new members and I'm pleased to report that we now have four new members: John McDonald, Erica Zarins, Nancy Johnson and most recently Kerry Hill - who I have just learned was author of a 1991 FSA vision committee report.

**A key success factor for the process we're undertaking is to engage and solicit participation on an on-going basis – and to be as open as possible.**

Beginning the first week of January we are currently posting weekly items to help FSA members think about the future. A short one sentence item is being included in each week's bulletin and eBlast. The full article is being posted on the FSA web site. This will continue for the next four months at least.

Barrie Evans, a committee member has met with the God Squad and parents of the Sing for your Supper group to get their perspectives on FSA and its future.

We are in the initial steps of organizing a second congregational survey to gain a better understanding of the FSA community – almost like a census we'll try and capture some of the same information that was collected in the 2009 Joint Needs Assessment Committee (JNAC) report.

We are also planning a spring retreat to bring people together to talk about future priorities and directions.

It's our hope that by the spring we'll have a discussion paper prepared and before summer a decision can be made about what our future may look like. On that note one approach I'd personally like to see the congregation engaged in is exploring possible future scenarios - there are always different options and alternatives to consider – so let's do so openly and constructively.

As part of our deliberations we're in the process of reaching out to a person named David Ewart from British Columbia – some of you may know him from his articles in the Observer. His is of particular interest to us because he has spent a lot of time and energy looking at the United Church and how it has changes over the last 50 years. We think he has some important insights to share and we hope to be able to share a You Tube video he has made. Here is the link to the video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=usppi9KoxJI>

As a direct follow-up to the survey report, we're very interested in getting direct feedback from FSA committees which you lead – not only the ones specifically noted in the report. I should note that the Communications and Marketing Committee has given us a very through response – which was very helpful and informative. In order to keep the planning process moving ahead we'll need these responses within the next month.