

TO: First-St. Andrew's United Church Council
FROM: Ad Hoc Short and Long-Term Planning Committee
DATE: September 19, 2017

RE: Progress on defining the future of FSA

Over the summer the Planning Committee met twice, once in July and once in August. At these meetings details were developed involving our engagement with the music and arts community in London to participate in a Community Round Table on Music and the Arts. The idea of a Community Round Table comes to us from the United Church's Embracing the Spirit program. We are being assisted by Carla Leon, Manager of New Initiatives for EDGE - A Network for Ministry Renewal & Development, of The United Church of Canada.

Invitations have gone out to almost 50 people and to date we have close to 30 positive responses. Even those who cannot attend are very interested in what we are doing.

The Round Table will take place on Wednesday, October 4th from 10:00 am to 12 noon.

We are hopeful that out of this meeting new opportunities and perhaps partnerships will come forward that will allow FSA to be engaged with the arts community and help meet community needs in new and exciting ways.

The Committee will review the insights and input received on October 4th and will be developing specific recommendations for action to Council following these deliberations.

As noted in the Tidings article, this is the first of three Community Round Tables the Planning Committee will be hosting. The next ones will involve *Nurture spiritual growth and development through worship [Faith]; and, Work in service to others and build community through social action and partnerships [Service]*

In addition, throughout the summer the Committee received feedback on the initial statement regarding the emerging consensus statement on the future of FSA. The revised statement as well as some commentary was published in the fall issue of Tidings. Many thanks to the people who responded to the initial statement and to the Tidings Committee for giving us such an excellent profile.