

Summerland United Church

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Words of wisdom from Donald Schmidt

It's a little like when one of your kids gets married: there's a sadness, sure, because they're leaving home, or at least the focus of their life and love is now going to be different. But at the same time there's great excitement over the wonderful possibilities that await them.

That's how I'm feeling as I wind up my interim time with Summerland United. There's some sadness mixed with wondering how things will go in the future, but over and above all that is a profound excitement about the future of this church. You are going into new ministries with a new minister, and that promises all sorts of amazing possibilities!

I should note that I will not be completely "gone" as the Pacific Mountain Regional Council of the United Church has asked me to continue with you folks in a supervisory role because the new minister will not yet be ordained. This may seem a bit unusual, because usually when a minister leaves, they are actually off the scene for a while. But because I was a short-term interim, and I have a good working relationship with the church council and various committee, I'll still be around – albeit behind the scenes, attending the occasional meeting and such like.

During that time, should you bump into me, I'm happy to talk about generic things: weather, and how folks are doing. I'm even open to conversations about church business because I will still be working with the Council. But there are some topics that will be off the table. That would be any concerns about the new minister, or about how things are different than they were before, or about questions you have regarding the future of the church. Those are issues to discuss with Ministry and Personnel, or with someone on the church council – not with the ex-minister!

It goes without saying that I wish you well – of course I do! And I do so with the sure and certain confidence that the future will be an exciting one as you embark on new ministries that can bring the unconditional love of God to bear ever more fully in your community and by extension in the whole world.

It seems such a long time ago now that I started leading worship with Summerland and Westbank on Zoom during the early days of the pandemic. We've come a long way, and I'm happy to pass the torch to someone new. Thanks for the time we spent together!

Donald

Good news from the Search Committee

It is with a great deal of pleasure that I introduce to the congregation, our new Minister Anne Ellis. Anne will be joining us on October 23, 2022 from North Vancouver, where she has been an active member at Mt. Seymour United Church as the Children, Youth and Family Minister. Anne is married to Lorne and has a 19 year old son, Owen. Owen is very involved with the sound and power point presentations at Mount Seymour. For the past month Anne has been in Tanzania working as a volunteer at a children's school. Anne entered the Vancouver School of Theology in 2020 and is completing her Theology education at the Atlantic School of Theology by distance program. Anne comes to us as a student minister in the final stage of her education, which will be two years (2022-2024) in length. She will be able to perform the sacraments of communion and baptism. She will also be able to perform marriages and funerals. Our plan is to have a welcoming lunch for Anne after church on October 23.

This two year period of supervised ministry education (SME) is formalized by a Learning Covenant. Three parties are involved in SME: the candidate (Anne), a supervisor (from Pacific Mountain Region) and the Lay Supervision Team (from our congregation). Four or five members are required to be on this team. There is a very well laid out hand-book to guide the process to achieve the best outcome for all involved. At this time there are three people who have expressed interest in working on the Lay Supervision Team. We would welcome more interested people. Please contact Dixie Rosher (rosherdixielee@gmail.com), as soon as possible if you are interested.

It was a very special time and a privilege working with the Search Team. This team was composed of Frances Colussi, Sherri Lund, Lynn Basso, Charlotte Burley, Kathryn McLaughlin and Neal Vander Helm.. Everyone actively participated fully in all the meetings that they attended. Good decisions were made using a consensus approach. A sincere thank-you to each of you.

Respectfully submitted, Dixie Rosher Search Team Lead

Greetings from your Finance Committee.

The past several years have been quite a challenge due to COVID, not having a permanent Minister, & declining revenues. Having said that we have been able to manage expenses reasonably well without depleting our reserves and want to recognize the efforts of our worship leaders who have been incredibly generous with their time and talents.

Our future is looking much brighter than many churches & congregations are experiencing right now. Having said this we have lost several significant contributors over the past few years and encourage anyone who is able, to increase their monthly offering to help offset some of the additional expenses that we will be occurring.

We are welcoming our new Minister Anne Ellis on October 23rd. We have a very dedicated core group of individuals who have worked very hard on behalf of all of us to keep to the church operational and to them a big thank you.

Fundraising has been very challenging but with life returning to the new “normal” we are hoping to come up with some fresh ideas on how to supplement our revenue. If you have any ideas we might explore please let someone on the finance committee know. Meanwhile, you can help support the church by purchasing and using gift cards. Order forms for Save On and Nesters cards are enclosed. Summerland United receives a percentage of each card purchased. They can be used as gifts or for your personal shopping.

Fred Gartrell, Chair

A most heartfelt **thank you** to everyone who has helped at the 2 recent memorial services. We received wonderful donations of food, and all the volunteer help was amazing. This teamwork allowed us to provide a much-appreciated lunch after each of the services.

