

October 2009



Daring Discipleship

A HamPack mailing from Lorna MacQueen,
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resources, workshops, and opportunities

Thinking Pandemic

The Pandemic is now a part of our daily news and an international reality. Panic is not helpful, but good strategy is.

How is your church adapting to this reality? Have you established a plan of action?

The United Church website has a number of resources to help us to think about how we can respond responsibly in this situation: <http://www.unitedchurch.ca/local/duty/emergency>

How can we best continue in ministry & as communities while minimizing the risk of infection?

Some things to think about:

- How to do social times with as little risk as possible
- Responsible visitation

Seek an alternative to some common practices:

- Shaking hands (including the passing of the peace)
- Common cup or loaf at communion
- Communion distribution—minimal element contact by congregants.
(Disinfecting of the hands of those officiating and serving the elements can be incorporated into the liturgy. The piece of bread would then be handed to the individual personally)

Your church may want to:

- Have alcohol-based sanitizers available at the doors, in the sanctuary (by communion table and font) and Sunday School rooms.

Resources:

Last Child in the Woods saving our children from Nature Deficit disorder by Richard Louv is a thought provoking and important book. Related is the 'Children and Nature Network': www.childrenandnature.org

Explorefaith.org - 'Spiritual guidance for anyone seeking a path to God.' Committed to ongoing spiritual formation for people from diverse backgrounds and denominations, their statement is: *We believe in an embracing, forgiving and merciful God whose chief characteristic is*

- have tissues and waste baskets readily available
- abide by restrictions of hospitals and nursing homes concerning visitation
- visit by phone
- be diligent around food and drink preparation & handling
- refrain from hugging
- encourage the practice excellent personal hygiene
- STAY HOME IF YOU ARE SICK
- be creative:

"...2006 was a time of widespread flu in Edmonton. McDougall's worship leadership was concerned about protecting the health of worshippers. So, the weekly "Passing of the Peace" was renamed "Passing the peace, but not the Germs." Clergy announced..."If you want to share the gift of hope, put your hand above your eyes and look beyond the here and now to the hope of tomorrow. If you want to share the spiritual gift of peace, make the peace sign (V). If you want to share the gift of joy, do a high five, shouting "yes" but not touching. ...Remember, you can be verbal, but no handshakes and no hugging." The result was an explosion of Spirit, laughter, and joy as doing the "old things in the context of a new time and circumstance" gave rebirth to the Spirit and involvement in worshipping God in and through community."

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love. We believe God is constantly reaching out to us and that we can experience the heart of God through Jesus Christ. We believe that Christ bridges the chasms that separate us from God, and we seek to follow Christ's teachings in faith and action. <http://explorefaith.com>

Spirituality and Practice: Resources for Spiritual Journeys - <http://www.spiritualityandpractice.com>

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Resources Cont'd

With an inter-faith focus, it offers a number of resources including very reasonably priced e-courses, online retreats and spiritual practices.

A Liberating Lament: Spiritual Practice for Vital Ministry (United Church Resource Distribution) is offered as "... a gift for local faith communities

navigating their way through the turbulent seas of change. " Addressed in this resource: Why lament? Barriers to lament and change, four calls to lament and a liturgy of lament.

The Lewis Center for Church Leadership 'seeks to advance the under-

standing of Christian leadership and promote the effective and faithful practice of Christian leadership in the church and the world... serves as a resource for clergy and lay leaders, congregations, and denominational leaders...
www.churchleadership.com

COPYRIGHT

We own the DVD/Video, and bought it fair and square so we can show it to the Sunday School right? Wrong! Not without a license.

We own the hymnbooks, so we can print the hymns in the bulletin and take them to the Cemetery Service right? Wrong! Unless all the hymns you are using are public domain, you need permission.

We video taped our Cantata and are going to make some money by selling copies to the congregation. Wrong! Assuming you bought the scores and did not already break copyright by using photocopies, you still need to check out the mechanical rights involved.

Copyright is complicated... check out...

Copyright Guide for Congregations- <http://www.united-church.ca/local/copyright>

Video Licensing is available through the Conference Office- contact Barbara Hampson

Music Licensing – these companies offer comprehensive licenses. Check out which one meets your needs and register with them: www.licensingonline.org, www.printandpraise.com, www.onelicense.net, www.ccli.com

Programs:

"Introductory Course in Hospital Pastoral Visitation" by Bob Bond (Niagara Health System): Welland Hospital late January: 902-378-4647

Ministry of Supervision Event: Feb 9-18 2010 Calling Lakes Centre, Fort Qu'Appelle SK., **Registration deadline November 16.** Ministry Personnel need a letter of reference from Jenny Stephens, Personnel Minister. For more information regarding this event, please contact Jenny: jstephens@hamconf.org

Traumatic Loss: New Understandings, New Directions: Hincks-dellcrest Centre, Toronto or phone 416-972-1935 x 3233, Nov. 2-3: www.hincksdellcrest.org/gai-trauma

Navigating Stress: Caring for Oneself While Serving Others: The Hincks-Dellcrest Centre, Toronto phone 416-972-1935 x 3233 Nov. 30: www.hincksdellcrest.org/gai-trauma

Faith and Wisdom: Life Long learning opportunities for people of faith. <http://www.faithandwisdom.org/default.asp> **This site is a helpful tool for those seeking Life Long Learning opportunities. For Nov. they identified the following for ON:**

- **Body Mind Spirit** Nov. 20-21, 2009_Five Oaks Centre, Parmjit Singh restorative gentle yoga and pranayama.; info@fiveoaks.on.ca
- **Doing Theology in a World Church:** Thinking About Faith Amidst Diversity and Plurality Nov. 18, 2009 Emmanuel College, Toronto, Peter Phan. Free (416)585-4539 ; ec.office@utoronto.ca
- **Making the Most of Retirement** Nov. 4th-6th, 2009 Crieff Hills Community, R.R. #2, Puslinch, ON. Mary Helen Garvin and Peter Scott- For clergy and spouses approaching retirement or recently retired. The Centre for Clergy Care and Cong.

Health, Toronto, ON Canada (416)978-7799; clergy.care@utoronto.ca

- **Saving Paradise: A Life-Affirming Christianity of Beauty, Ethics, & Justice** Nov. 2-4. Five Oaks Centre Paris, ON. Rita Nakashima Brock- Understanding creation and paradise in early Christianity, in theology, biblical commentary, visual images, poetry, and liturgical texts: www.fiveoaks.on.ca
- **The Waiting Heart: A Pre-Advent Retreat for Ministers** Nov. 16, 2009 Emmanuel College, Toronto Anne Simmonds www.vicu.utoronto.ca/emmanuel/coned.htm
- **This is NOT Sunday School:** Transforming Your Children's Ministry. Nov. 2, Burton Ave United Church, Barrie, Ontario, ON L4N 2R3 Andrea Wheaton. A workshop to help you transform your program to meet the needs of children and their families; www.vicu.utoronto.ca/emmanuel/coned.htm

International Day of Climate Action: October 24th, 2009. Initiated by "350.org", calls for reducing Greenhouse Gas in the atmosphere to 350 parts per million which is determined to be the maximum level for safety. Above this catastrophic climate events will take place. The current level is close to 390 (ppm). Urgent international action is needed NOW. In December world leaders will meet in Copenhagen, to sign the 'post-Kyoto' climate change treaty. For more info, see www.350.org and/or www.eco-justice.org (then click "Join the 350 Movement"). See KAIROS resource - 'Week of Action' (October 17-23) - August Infopac.