

## **BEARING FAITHFUL PUBLIC WITNESS NETWORK**

The Bearing Faithful Public Witness Network is made up of the Chairs of the Presbytery Faithful Public Witness Committees (or its equivalent). The group meets primarily by Conference call and consults, networks and reviews the work with our Conference. As a group, this network also discusses and supports work around Conference and General Council proposals related to the work of the network. The network co-ordinates and encourages social and global justice work within Hamilton Conference. The group meets as needed throughout the year.

Contact and Staff Support:

Peter Hartmans  
Minister for Faithful Public Witness

## **CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRY NETWORK**

Network Members: Linda Clark, Adam Hanley, Kyla Riach, Miriam Spies, and Laurie White, with staff support from Lorna MacQueen.

The Children & Youth Ministry Network was formed in the fall of 2009. Membership is open to anyone in the Conference with an interest in ministry with children and youth. So please, be in touch with me if you think you would like to become part of this network. We know there are many of you out there who share our passion for this ministry, so don't be shy about approaching me or anyone else on the Network.

Since the rise of Conference in 2011, we have met three times, all meetings via video-conferencing. One of our major accomplishments was the finalizing of our Network Mandate, as follows:

1. To promote ways of nourishing the spirituality of children and youth.
2. To support those who are in leadership positions in ministry with children and youth.
3. To promote resources related to faith formation of children and youth.
4. To promote relevant events for children and youth both in and outside the Conference.

Another event that we celebrated was the success of the Conference GO Project team that saw a young person from each Presbytery attend the GO Project in Islington. We also provided support for the organizers of Rendez-vous 2011 ... the UCC youth conference held in Toronto last summer. Reports from both of these events were very positive, hopeful, and encouraging.

We continue to keep an eye out for relevant resources... all members of the network were invited to suggest children and youth resources to one another for consideration for posting on the Conference website.

As I write, the Network is planning an event intended to help our church lay leaders who work with children and youth with behavioural issues, e.g. ADHD, autism. The event is tentatively planned for this coming fall, so watch for notice of it.

Thank you to all the members of the Network for their enthusiasm and commitment and to Lorna for her energy, ideas and encouragement.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Clark, Chair

## **RESOURCE DISTRIBUTION NETWORK**

Hamilton Conference Resource Distribution Network has been active since 2002. We meet twice yearly to organize set-up and staffing for the Hamilton Conference Annual Meeting book display. We discuss our working relationship with United Church Resource Distribution, share our dreams and visions for our presbytery resource centres and support one another in our work. Members of the network include: Laurel Douma, Bruce Presbytery; Betty Coulthard-Roe, Waterloo Presbytery; Eleanor Evenden, Hamilton Presbytery; Ken Pettigrew, Niagara Presbytery; Jackie Childerhose, Erie Presbytery; Lorna MacQueen, Hamilton Conference Staff. Pat Gilmore and Esly Alvarez represent United Church Resource Distribution at our spring meeting.

Mission Statement: To provide the ministry of resource distribution to our presbyteries and network to provide an annual book display at Hamilton Conference Annual Meeting.

Action Taken:

- Meetings twice yearly to network, share resource centre concerns and business
- Plan staffing for Hamilton Conference Annual Meeting book display and brainstorm ideas for United Church Resource Distribution, who provide the inventory for the display
- Team approach to book reviews at annual meeting
- Support for each other in our work within our presbyteries
- Connecting with Hamilton Conference around book displays for Conference events

We are grateful for the support given each of us by our presbyteries, Lorna MacQueen and Hamilton Conference staff.

Submitted by  
Jackie Childerhose

## WEEK OF GUIDED PRAYER Network

### The purpose of our Network is...

† to enhance the prayer journey of the individual and their church community through WEEK OF GUIDED PRAYER retreats.

### Our current theme is “Living in the Presence” . . .

*Our theme this year is an invitation to attend to how God is present to me on a daily basis. I am asked to practise stillness as a means of opening myself to awareness of Presence. Remembering to whom I belong, as well as God's loving intention for me revealed in Christ can be an empowering gift. By actively praying to be attentive, I open myself to greater awareness of the power behind all creation and to what belonging can mean for my growth. The greater my attentiveness the more I want to choose to be present to God as God is present to me. It is then that I see more clearly areas for gratitude and rejoicing. Living deeply rooted in the Presence, I am given the courage to do what I am called to do.*



### Goals to be achieved this year were...

- † to provide printed resources for congregations holding WEEK OF GUIDED PRAYER retreats;
- † to offer leadership to facilitate WEEK OF GUIDED PRAYER retreats;
- † to provide ongoing support for companions through a day long retreat, as well as new and experienced companion training.

As a network, we partner with churches within our Conference and across conference boundaries within the United Church of Canada, as well as with three Presbyterian congregations. Working each year to meet our goals, we trust that as individuals grow through prayer and personal reflection their relationship with God deepens and they are better equipped to contribute to the health of their Congregations and Presbyteries, offer effective leadership and faithful public witness.

### The theological rationale for our ministry is...

The rhythm of prayer and ministry, exemplified by Jesus, is our model to be followed. As Jesus accompanied disciples in their prayer experience and offered support for the spiritual journey, so we are encouraged to support one another. Lay people and clergy, with specific training companion Retreatants in their prayer experience. This is not spiritual direction or counseling.

### How we achieved our goals...

Our Network meets monthly at Conference Office and in members' homes to pray and to facilitate this ministry. We prepare the theme materials; publicity and organizational resources; and co-ordinators' packets for each church. We also make prayer labyrinths available to congregations who have the space to use them.

As of writing this report, 22 churches have held or will be holding a Week of Guided Prayer in this conference year. For the 2010-2011 season, our theme was "In the Light of God". 21

retreats were held. 14 churches reported a total of 330 participants. The actual number of participants could be as high as 500.

A copy of our Manual may be purchased for \$50.00 by contacting the Conference Office.

We provided three training sessions for new companions, two at Appleby in Burlington and one at Grace United in Hanover. Thanks to Jan McCormick for co-ordinating these events and to Jan, Brenda Cummings, Joan King, and Heather Leffler for offering leadership. We will hold a New Companion Training in your church, if you have a minimum of six participants. Contact Jan at [training@weekofguidedprayer.ca](mailto:training@weekofguidedprayer.ca). The next scheduled trainings are planned for November 2012 and January 2013, contact Anne Murdoch for the date and location.

Thanks to John Buttars for leading our annual Retreat Day at Lowville United Church on May 7, 2011 to nurture companions and co-ordinators in their ministry at Lowville United Church. John's theme was "Paradox and Ambiguity."

### **Website**

We are grateful to Wayne Irwin for designing and maintaining our new website which offers history, sample materials, contact information and the possibility for churches to download some of their materials electronically. Visit [www.weekofguidedprayer.ca](http://www.weekofguidedprayer.ca) to learn more about our Network or to contact us.

### **Retreatants comment on their experience...**

- † wonderful theme. . . excellent materials. . . meaningful scripture
- † I can't find the words to share how special this time was.
- † It is lovely, in the midst of a busy life to take the time and use this week to intentionally focus on my spiritual journey.

### **With thanks...**

I am grateful for each member of our Network – Arthur Hills, Joan King, Jan McCormick, Anne Murdoch, Jack Nield, Sandra Parker-Foley, Bruce Seebach and Linda Wheler. Thanks to Lorna MacQueen for her active, prayerful participation in our work and to Barbara Hampson and other members of Conference Staff and Support Staff for their ongoing support.

Prayerfully submitted by,  
Heather Leffler, Chairperson  
[networkchair@weekofguidedprayer.ca](mailto:networkchair@weekofguidedprayer.ca)

**If you or your church is interested in a WEEK OF GUIDED PRAYER, you may call Anne Murdoch at 905-842-0275 or email her at [contact@weekofguidedprayer.ca](mailto:contact@weekofguidedprayer.ca).**