

**Discussion paper on Faith Development and Learning – Next steps
Transition Team - February 2010**

The congregation has discerned God's call to KUC for an intentional focus on Faith Development and Learning at this time and in this place. We will nurture and explore our own faith and provide leadership in reaching out to others in our community.

The purpose of this paper is to invite the Board to consider further steps that might be taken in the short term as it deepens its ownership of the congregation's decision for an intentional focus on Faith Development and Learning (FD&L). This paper also invites the Board to consider how to engage the congregation on FD&L over the next few months, prior to the arrival of our new Ministry staff. The mandate of the Transition Team will conclude by July 31, 2010, with the completion of Angela's appointment as Interim Minister at KUC.

Your Transition Team offers the following thoughts to generate discussion and decisions.

A. What does Faith Development and Learning mean for KUC?

The intentional focus on exploring and developing our spiritual faith will strengthen KUC as a community of faith, provide a more specific sense of identity over time and deepen our foundation for a more visible leadership role in the community as a place of spiritual exploration and learning.

FD&L can be described at this stage as having two broad objectives for KUC:

1. KUC will build a more integrated perspective and approach to the life and work of the church that reinforces our sense of FD&L i.e. learning and experiencing how the different parts of whom we are and what we do contribute to and are part of our faith development.

Examples of how connections are being made:

- activities were developed involving Worship, Children's Worship and the Fall '09 FD&L event to reinforce the importance of the Dead Sea scrolls to our religious traditions and understanding of the Bible;
- the link between our Advent worship and the efforts of our children and Outreach Committee to support the Food Cupboard as an expression of our Faith in action.
- during Lent 2010, Outreach and Children's Worship will connect their separate fundraising thru worship – African theme.
- Eileen's Bible Study on the prophet Amos will connect with Sunday Supper and Sharing with talks on the prophet Ezekiel and how this speaks to us today.

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2. KUC will support initiatives, programs and activities that reinforce our focus on FD&L, including opportunities for partnership with others and providing leadership in reaching out to the broader community.

Examples:

- Identify and support opportunities for nurturing our spiritual lay leadership as we explore and fulfill God's calling
 - Support CD Committee's decision to be more visible and active in supporting individual youth and adult faith development opportunities such as Jason Winter's participation in Future Quest.
- Connections with Glen Cairn UC are being renewed to share worship during Holy Week which hopefully will lead to other sharing of studies/events. Other congregations can be drawn in with time.
- Maintain an ongoing dialogue with Presbytery's CD Committee which can help identify opportunities for partnership and reaching a broader community.

Does the Board agree with these broad objectives as stated? Does the Board have other ways to express what FD&L means for KUC? What other opportunities exist to make connections related to FD&L such as during Lent; the Book sale

B. Opportunities for Board action on FD&L in the short-term:

- *Review each Committee's stated FD&L priorities as presented during the recent annual budget exercise. This could lead to refining goal as appropriate, fostering cooperation across Committees and help identify implementation plans. Such a discussion would become part of an annual priority setting exercise and provide an opportunity to consider possible connections across programs and/or Committees.*
- *Discuss/generate ideas and support the Transition Team in launching planning for a Fall 2010 FD&L event. This would be done in consultation with CD but draw on the existing informal group for implementation, including outreach to the broader community (new staff will arrive too late to input into this).*

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Angela has offered to conduct a session related to interfaith dialogue this Spring in response to interest expressed by our Women's Groups. The Transition Team suggests it would be appropriate to build on this by using *Interfaith Dialogue* as the theme for planning a Fall 2010 event.

- *Continue to improve, update, make visible and use Stewardship's calendar* to enhance its utility as a mechanism to identify or reinforce FD&L linkages across the life and work of KUC.
- *Consider* the feasibility of creating a more *narrative budget* to tell the story of KUC's life and work using the lens of FD&L and consider if/how the *Annual Report* and *Newsletters* might be strengthened to tell the narrative, the story of the congregation's faith journey, reflecting the focus on FD&L.
- *Take action on the secondary recommendations from JNAC* in support of CD; Pastoral Care and M&P.
- *Consider* organizing an *Oasis retreat in the Spring 2011* to develop and gain agreement on more specific statements of longer-term goals, objectives and strategies for FD&L at KUC

C. Opportunities to engage the congregation:

The Transition Team considers it important to keep the issue of FD&L in front of the congregation even as attention shifts to the selection and arrival of the new Ministerial staff. Keeping FD&L visible within the congregation and generating ideas and enthusiasm will provide the new Ministerial staff with an even sounder foundation from which to launch their roles in the congregation. ***Does the Board agree? If yes, then the Board should:***

- Provide leadership for, and active participation in FD&L related activities and events as evidence of the new focus - the congregation will learn and respond by our taking action
- Be open to opportunities during the next few months to elicit feedback from the congregation on what FD&L means to them as individuals and as a congregation and/or what would they suggest as possible new initiatives or changes at KUC that would give concrete expression to the intentional focus on FD&L.

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Transition Team - February 2010**

Examples:

- encourage some small group or Committee discussions as Angela has done recently with the Women's Groups;
 - use the HfH trip as an opportunity for informal discussions (especially with youth) as to what FD&L means, what topics/approaches are of interest and provide feedback, via a blog and/or testimonials during Worship
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- Support Stewardship's Every Person Visitation (EPV) in the Fall 2010 which will be useful in eliciting the congregation's further views on FD&L.
 - Build interest and excitement at KUC through other changes e.g. our reaching out in faith to our community as a spiritual learning center and as a community generating outreach funds (e.g. Book Fair) calls for a new outside sign and parking lot lighting; new web site; improved communications; etc