

CORNERSTONE

NOVEMBER 2014

KINCARDINE UNITED CHURCH

The Cornerstone will be e-mailed with a few hard copies at the back of the Church.

Please let the Church Office know of any e-mail problems: i.e. want to be added or removed from e-mail list.

The KUC website can be accessed by this address: <http://kincardineunitedchurch.com/>

Deadline for the December Cornerstone is Thursday, Nov. 20 @ 2 PM

From the desk of Don Harry

Lately I've been reading about the work of Neuro scientists. Neuro scientists record brain activity. According to their research, in any given day, about 95% of our decisions are subconscious. In other words, most everything, which we do, we've done so often, we don't actually have to consciously think about it. The prime example of this is driving our car from home to work, and never pausing to consider where we have to stop or turn. We done it so many times, that it has become imprinted on our brain – it's subconscious.

Who am I? There are number of answers to this question. One is that I am what I do. But what is the implication if 95% of what I do is subconscious? What is the implication, if 95% of what I do, is learned behaviour, which I no longer question, but just do?

Consider this. Suppose that I have been doing the same thing for ten years and because I've been doing the same thing for ten years, it is now subconscious behaviour. Also suppose that over this same time I have changed, but I have not taken the time to consciously think about why I still do what I do. If I do not consciously think about why I still do what I do, and ask the question "Who am I?" and answer "I am what I do", will it really be me? There might be a big disconnect between what I think and what I do, but I may not be aware of it. Unless I stop to consciously think about how I have changed and how it may have affected my thinking, I cannot be certain. Only, when I consciously consider it, will I know if what I still do, continues to define me.

For millennia, we, as humans, used violence and the threat of violence to settle differences between us as individuals and as groups. We did this and this is who we were. Then the War to End All Wars was fought from 1914 to 1918. Also known as the Great War and the First World War, it changed things. After the war, a consensus began to build that the cost in terms of human life, human dignity, and human morality was too great - that war is not worth it. A consensus also began to build that the loses, of this war, only made sense morally, if we remembered in perpetuity the horrible costs – the horrible sacrifices of those involved – and worked in every possible way to make certain war never happened again. At least two initiatives were taken in an attempt to achieve this end. One, the League of Nations was instituted, that conflicts between countries could be resolved through discussion and arbitration. Two, Remembrance Day was instituted. The War to End All Wars ceased at the 11th hour, on the 11th day of the 11th month. From this time forward, this moment each year was to be dedicated to remembering and honouring those whose sacrifices taught us war is not worth it.

As the human race, we have forgotten that lesson and have ended up fighting a Second World War and numerous wars since. That we continue to fight wars does not negate the lesson of the War to End All Wars. In truth, their costs only confirm it. War is still too costly in terms of human life, human dignity and human morality. The fact that we continue to fight wars only means we have failed and continue to fail to learn the lesson: war is destruction and death, gore and grief, suffering and sadness on an intolerable scale.

For a very short period of time, we - humanity – consciously thought about our subconscious choice to resort to violence and the threat of violence to solve our differences. For a very short period of time we consciously thought about it and thinking about it said, “No, this is not who I am, this is not we are.” This Remembrance Day, let us do what they did. Let us think about the cost of war - the sacrifice of life, dignity and morality. Let us understand its horror. Let us imagine what it might mean to become peace makers and teach our world to become peace makers.

At some point, as peace makers, we will have to begin to teach those who would initiate violence – the bullies of the world, the Adolph Hitlers, the Vladimir Putins, the Jihadists who fight for the Islamic State in Syria, the child who terrorizes the other children - that it is not in their interest to do so. At some point we will have to teach them to work for peace.

As Christians we are called to the work of making peace. Jesus said, “Blessed are the peace makers, for they will be called the children of God.” Amen.

THE GENERAL COUNCIL AND THE COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW

Recently, our church received two letters. One is from our Moderator, Gary Paterson, and describes the work of our upcoming General Council in Newfoundland this summer, in discussing the Comprehensive Review, which our church has been engaged in for the past couple of years. The second is from Roy West, the General Council Planning Chair, and Nora Sanders, the General Secretary of the General Council. It talks about how any of us, who would like to be visitors to the General Council, will be accommodated. The letters are printed below.

The Right Rev. Gary Paterson

Moderator Introduces 42nd General Council

30 September 2014



Greetings to the Saints of your Congregation,

A strange salutation, perhaps, and yet Biblical and honest – a recognition that together, all of us in The United Church of Canada have begun a pilgrimage to Corner Brook, Newfoundland, where the 42nd General Council will be held next August. I want to share the primary business, the theme, logo and logistics for this meeting with you.

Every General Council is important in the life of the church, and this one is no exception. This is where we will receive, discuss and act upon the Report from the Comprehensive Review Task Group. This report will offer various recommendations for change in how we are “church.” It will look at vision, mission, ministry, models, structure, organization, finances... you name it – “everything is on the table” has been their mantra.

The members of the Task Group are hard at work this fall, listening carefully and faithfully to all the feedback they have received from you, the wider church... from the 600 plus congregational consultations; the engagement with all 86 of the Presbyteries; and the various conversations at the Annual General Meetings of the Conferences. The Task Group will be presenting a first draft of its recommendations to the November meeting of the Executive of General Council, and then hopes to release the final Report before the spring of next year. You are invited, when that happens, to enter into a time of prayer and conversation about the Report and the directions where God’s Spirit is calling the United Church. The wisdom of the whole church is needed at a time like this.

This is a challenging time for the United Church – perhaps a bit scary, but also very exciting. It’s probably no coincidence that the theme that has emerged for the 42nd General Council comes from the last few pages of the Biblical story, Revelation 21:5. The text – **“Behold, I make all things new!”** is a reminder that all creation is in a constant process of change; that the church is always being reformed, called into new ways of being; and that God is at the very heart of this transformation. We are not alone.



The Logo for the 42nd General Council says pretty clearly that we're meeting in Newfoundland, but let your imagination play with the symbols – think of:

God's circle of love that holds us;
of the currents and waves that carry us forward, through storm and in calm;
and of the fish, Jesus Christ, who is in our midst, who is on the move,
and who invites us to put down our nets into the deep,
to fish on the other side;
to follow him... even when it means stepping out of the boat!

Many of the Commissioners who will gather at Corner Brook next August have already been elected, and this spring the remainder will be elected at the Annual General Meetings of Conferences. Perhaps because people recognize the importance of this General Council (and perhaps because Newfoundland is such a beautiful province to visit for a holiday) there have been a number of inquiries about attending the 42nd General Council as an observer or a visitor. And the answer is "Yes!" The bad news is that visitors will be responsible for their own expenses – travel, lodging and meals. The good news is that we will be very intentional in including observers in the Council meeting. They will not be stuck "in the bleachers," but can be part of "on-the-floor" table groups. They won't be able to speak at the microphones or vote, but will be able to participate in worship; presentations; and, with fellow visitors in table groups, they will have opportunity for rich conversation and discussion. Note that visitors/observers will need to register – so please check out the [accompanying letter](#) from the General Secretary, Nora Sanders and the 42nd General Council Planning Committee Chair, Roy West for more details.

Now, obviously, not everyone will be able to make their way to Newfoundland; however, I am inviting everyone in the United Church to participate in a pilgrimage to Corner Brook through prayer, joint worship on for the opening worship service on Sunday, August 9 which will be live-streamed and by using worship resources based on key themes which will be available. Watch for more information in the months ahead.

Enough ... we do still have eleven months. I hope you catch a sense of my excitement about all that will be happening at Corner Brook next August; and my dream that this really will be a moment when the whole church can hear God's promise, "Behold! I make all things new." – and together we will say, "Amen!"

The Right Rev. Gary Paterson
Moderator
The United Church of Canada

Following is the accompanying letter.

A Message from the 42nd General Council Planning Committee

1 October 2014

Greetings to Members and Friends of The United Church of Canada,

We are writing to share some important details about the 42nd General Council which is to be held August 8 to 15, 2015, at Grenfell Campus of Memorial University in Corner Brook, Newfoundland.

The 42nd General Council Planning Committee is working with an extremely excited and energetic group of local volunteers to plan this event. We hope to welcome to “the rock” those who love the church: Commissioners, youth forum delegates, global and ecumenical partners, visitors, volunteers, staff to the venue and others by live streaming. Please mark your calendars and plan to be with us in whatever way you can.

On-line registration will open early in 2015. The registration must be completed by all who are attending the meeting in person.

General Council will open with worship with a service of communion on Saturday evening, August 8th. We hope that most people will arrive on Saturday afternoon, August 8th. The meeting will run until closing worship on Friday evening, August 14th, with travel home commencing on Saturday morning, August 15th.

For Visitors: There will be a limited number of on-site accommodations available. There will also be other local places to stay. Visitors will be able to purchase meal plans. Travel and accommodations are at your own expense.

For Commissioners: your travel and accommodation will be paid for by General Council providing you book through our travel agent and use the most economical option. This may include charters so please leave time in your calendar from August 7 to August 15th for travel.

For Volunteers: you may register as a visitor to stay on campus at your own expense. Your meals will be paid for by General Council. Travel is also at your own expense. A call for Stewards will be launched early in the new year.

Programming for Young Teens and Children will be offered. The details will be part of the registration package.

We hope that most of you are able to bring a laptop or tablet. Charging stations will be available in the plenary and commission spaces. The workbook will be posted on line as the work is received. For those who require paper copies, they will be mailed by mid-July.

Many United Church people in Newfoundland and Labrador are eagerly looking forward to making your time in Newfoundland as rewarding as possible.

There will be many more details to come in the days ahead. We are looking forward to having “a-time” and welcoming many of you to Corner Brook.

Blessings,

Roy West
42nd General Council Planning Committee Chair

Nora Sanders, General Secretary
The United Church of Canada



Hamilton Conference
The United Church of Canada

For the latest HAMILton PACKAge click on: <http://hamconf.org/conf-events/hampack-october-2014/>

Sexton Duties - 1897, By Rod Coates

A recent visit to the United Church Archives (40 Oak St, Toronto), and browse-through of some 19th century records for Kincardine Methodist Church, uncovered the following.

From the *Minutes of the Trustee Meeting Princes St M(ethodist) Church*, 1897, Pages 181 & 182:

Sexton Duties

- 1st Have the church properly heated for all services in basement or body of Church
- 2nd The Church to be well swept & furniture dusted at least once a week or more often if necessary
- 3rd The matting to be taken up & thoroughly cleaned outside of Church each week and the cushions at least twice a year
- 4th Lamps to be kept well cleaned and when in need of oil Sexton to notify Property Committee who can purchase same by the Bble (Ed. Note: "barrel")
- 5th Basement of Church including classrooms to be scrubbed three times per year and body of church twice
- 6th Sexton to furnish his own brooms and all necessary articles for scrubbing
- 7th Sexton to make all trivial repairs without charge for same material excepted
- 8th Sidewalk in front & side of Church to be kept clean summer & winter
- 9th Sexton to be in attendance at all services & meetings
- 10th Sexton to get stall in S. East corner of shed fixed to keep wood under lock & key

The report re Sexton duties was adopted.

The Sexton's salary was fixed at \$135 one hundred & thirty five dollars to date from Dec 1/97 on Motion of Bros Carrick & Washburn. Carried

Church Maintenance

Ongoing Repairs

Repairs were needed to the building as surveys indicate a preference to stay here rather than build and move to a new building.

Roof Joint between New and Old building

The joint has been repaired several times but still leaked. This summer Karn's Roofing made repairs by cutting into the brick and installing metal flashing and caulking. This will prevent water from running behind flashing and damaging the ceiling of the Learning Centre. Cost about \$1750.

Eave Trough

The wood work under the eave trough was last painted during brick pointing in 2006 – wood in some places was gray. Without repair the wood eventually rots leading to structural damage.

The eave trough and white fascia were replaced in Aug. by the contractor "Under Construction" with pre-painted white steel to protect the wood – similar to metal roof. It should last many years. The eave trough now has fewer joints so there are fewer potential leak spots. Cost was about \$20,000 and both north and south side were completed. During this repair there were several spots where the bees were entering under the wood. The nests were removed. Pressure treated wood was placed behind the eave trough, so water running off the roof would not overshoot the eave trough. Underneath the

white fascia Typar fabric was installed to prevent the pressure treated wood from contacting the steel fascia which could result in chemical corrosion.

Elevator Upgrade

At this time we are not required to renovate our elevator. Our elevator maintenance contractors, Savaria, through communication with the Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA) have come to the conclusion that our elevator does not fall into the group requiring upgrades. Had upgrades been required the cost would have been about \$14,000.

Nursery Floor

In the near future a new hard surface flooring will be installed in the nursery. This will allow the floor to be more easily cleaned.

We hope some volunteers will help with this project.

Submitted by: Ron Smith

A United Church of Canada backgrounder *Copied from United Church website.*

The Extent of the Ebola Crisis

The World Health Organization (WHO) reports that over 5,000 people, some of them front-line medical personnel, have been infected by the Ebola virus. Half of those infected have died. When added to those who have not made it to health centres, the numbers of infected could be much higher. The West African countries currently affected are Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea, Senegal, and Nigeria. Last week, the WHO projected that as many as 20,000 people could be infected over the next three months in Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea.

Ebun James-DeKam, General Secretary of the Council of Churches in Sierra Leone (CCSL), emphasizes the importance of education to fight the virus and prevent panic, saying, “We need to increase the sensitization and awareness messages that result in empowering individuals and communities to rigorously implement the full range of Ebola prevention strategies, leading to a decrease in the number of newly infected persons.”

Dr. Joanne Liu, International President of Doctors Without Borders, [warned the United Nations earlier this month](#) that, unless swift action is taken, the consequences could be felt around the world. “To curb the epidemic” Liu called on states to “immediately deploy civilian and military assets with expertise in biohazard containment.” Liu went on to passionately issue a challenge, calling upon member states of the UN to dispatch their disaster response teams, “backed by the full weight of [their] logistical capabilities.”

ACT Alliance stepping up its focus on Liberia

ACT has chosen to focus its efforts on Liberia because the outbreak there is escalating. As this is the first time the Ebola virus has affected people in Liberia, the population is not aware of its nature, effects, symptoms, and means of prevention. People are therefore very much at risk, and more awareness needs to be raised.

ACT also notes that the capacity of various health centres in the country is very limited. Doctors Without Borders told the UN Security Council that it has had to turn infected Liberians away. MSF is trying to treat as many people as they can, he explained, but “there are not nearly enough treatment centers and patient beds. We have to turn people away. And they are dying at our front door,” [says Dr. Jackson K.P. Niamah](#), team leader with the MSF treatment centre in Monrovia, Liberia’s capital city. In addition to awareness campaigns and the building of an isolation centre for the Phebe hospital in Monrovia, ACT will now also provide psychosocial support, food and non-food items, and risk benefits to health workers.

Deadline for the December Cornerstone is Thursday, Nov. 20 @ 2 PM



DONATIONS OF NEW OR OLD CHRISTMAS CARDS WANTED

The cards will be used by the Sunday School children to make up Christmas cards for shut-ins. The congregation can leave the cards on the Sunday School table in the Fellowship hall.

Below a few more church bulletin bloopers submitted by Barry Schmidt

1. A worm welcome to all who have come today.
2. Barbara remains in the hospital and needs blood donors for more transfusions. She is also having trouble sleeping and requests tapes of Pastor Nelson's sermons.
3. During the absence of our pastor, we enjoyed the rare privilege of hearing a good sermon when J.F. Stubbs supplied our pulpit.
4. Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.
5. The ushers will come forward and take our ties and offerings.



BOSTON PIZZA... Just a reminder to keep bringing in your Sunday receipts and place them in the jar on the table in the Narthex or drop them directly into our new receipt box in the restaurant. Our Church receives 10% of Sunday sales – any time of day on any Sunday!



Our Dailey Bread devotional booklets are available for free in the Narthex and in the hallway across from the office.

For computer users, here are some Important and interesting United Church websites: click or Ctrl+click on any of the links below.



United Church web site: <http://www.united-church.ca/>
KUC web site: <http://kincardineunitedchurch.com/>

There are 2 web sites from Hamilton Conference with useful information:
Conference information: <http://www.hamconf.org/>
HamPack information: <http://hamconf.org/conf-events/hampack-october-2014/>

Added by your Cornerstone publisher: <http://www.ucobserver.org>
<http://www.youtube.com/unitedchurchofcanada>