

February 21, 2006

Lakehead Unitarian Fellowship

The Way Forward

Your Board, the Trustees of Lakehead Unitarian Fellowship, is dedicated to the vision of LUF. We take our leadership roles seriously and are committed to leading with passion and integrity, with the ongoing mission of sustaining a religious community that is dynamic, nurturing, and growing. We believe that the message of Unitarianism, a message of love, human responsibility, acceptance and freedom, should be heard loud and clear in Northwestern Ontario.

We have been in conversation as the first step in a congregation-wide, fully transparent planning process that will guide the future of this community. It is our intention to facilitate a process that is grounded in a right relations covenant in order to engender understanding, cooperation, commitment and results. We have many opportunities in front of us: the potential for extending Julie's contract with us; the investigation of possible building and ministry options; the necessity for a capital campaign to create resources to put our visions into action; the suggestion to sell our building and rent more suitable space until a permanent new home can be located; the option of offering two services each week, and; the use of advice and counsel from the CUC and from other congregations who have gone through this process. The details will evolve and emerge as we all work together to discover the best way(s) for us to move forward.

With this vision in hand, we believe that a new building and professional ministry are both part of LUF's future. In this process, we will decide together which next steps are most desirable and most achievable. Taking that best next step, knowing that other steps lie ahead, will take patience and trust. It will mean that we must each evaluate our personal preferences in the light of 'the greater good' for the Fellowship. It will involve facing our fears and co-existing with change. It will mean that we must truly live the UU principle that affirms the use of the democratic process. Above all, it will take a commitment to get through this together, because this community, loving one another, is more important than any building or any minister.

The Board's first step is to nominate a special task force to research alternatives, to collect and analyze data, and to make recommendations as to building and ministry options that will best help to move LUF forward. In addition, we are working to propose an amended budget for 2006 that would include an extension of Julie's contract with us. There will be a meeting of the membership following the service on Sunday, April 2 to consider this proposal.

Your trust and your input are of the utmost value to us as we take action to create an intended future for Lakehead Unitarian Fellowship.