

## President's Message – October 2015

We are entering into an exciting time for our church. We are moving into our final year of the interim and preparing to settle our next called minister. As we work toward that end goal, we are still working to wrap up loose ends and make the church as ready as possible for our next minister. The Board, and Rev. Benjamin, have been working diligently over the past year to establish a sound basis for the church to work from. This largely involved updating and adding to policies and setting in place volunteer teams and committees that fill needs that we were previously not overtly addressing. With those additions in place, the Trustees and Rev. Benjamin independently completed a 1-year appraisal of our progress and found agreement that we were heading in the right direction as a church. Moving forward Rev. Benjamin has identified a couple of areas for all of us to carefully consider (I will let him expand on those in due time). The Board will be engaging in a leadership retreat toward the end of November to review and update our Vision statements as well.

Related to the long term vision for the church when we moved into our current facility, the Board has been in the process of negotiating to bring a preschool operation into our building that would serve the surrounding community. Most recently in this endeavor, church officers have been attempting to come to a mutually agreeable arrangement with Parkwood Day School to fill this need in our community. Through our negotiations over the past year, it has become apparent that the church would not be able to reliably support having Parkwood day School operate out of our building. Unfortunately, our church simply has too much difficulty meeting our own operational needs at this time to expect to be able to fairly support Parkwood's tenancy in our building. As such, the Board recently voted to discontinue negotiations with Parkwood Day School for the time being. The Board greatly appreciated the opportunity Parkwood presented, and regrets that the church isn't in a position to achieve this goal for the congregation at this time.

This relates to one of the key underlying recurring issues that we face as a congregation: Stewardship. Soon the Board will begin discussing the proposed budget for the next church year. We have struggled over the past several years to meet the needs of our church. In addition to our typical annual needs that the Board addresses through the budgeting process, we have several arising facility related costs that we will need to address in the next few years including parking lot repairs, repairs to the roof and replacement of the HVAC roof-top units. Rather than address those needs through the budget over the next year or two, it is likely that we will need to address these issues separately through a capital campaign. As the annual auction draws closer, and the pledge drive follows closely behind, all of us need to thoughtfully consider our contributions of time, talent and capital over the long haul. We will need to make meaningful investments of all three as individuals if we hope to see our church rise to meet the needs we perceive in our community, and support the mission of our church.

Please begin to consider not only what you can do for the near term, but possible contributions you can make for an extended period to help the church gain some momentum for the settled minister to work with.

It will take a concentrated effort by all of us together to achieve our goals, and I have every faith that we are capable of achieving them.

Zach Irwin  
Board President