**Len Grinke - Board Elections**

The key thing to consider is that a church is a community of faith. Through many metrics, Lynn Valley United Church is on a growth trajectory, the most significant one is the growth of the membership in this faith community. In fact, this last month alone we welcomed 10 new confirmed members into our church - particularly impressive when you consider that out of all the United Church congregations, there are only 306, or 14%, that are growing. (stats taken from an article in the May/June 2020 edition of Broadview.)

As a member of the board over that last 2 years, and a member of the congregation over the last several years, it has been my primary objective to build a community where faith can nurture and grow. In these unprecedented times, it has become more and more difficult to create and run programs that are there to support and grow this community of faith. But, it is imperative that we face our situation head on and continue to support our community, creating an environment that supports and nurtures our faith and allows us to drive forward our goals and our mission.

I believe that the work of building our faith organization is now harder than it has ever been before. It will take original ideas, it will take trusting our faith, it will take believing that we will be stronger and better by taking positive actions that will continue to move us forward.

I know that some may be scared. But, I believe that with a lot of reflection about what it means to be church, continuing to build our culture of invitation, old fashioned hard work. and strong leadership, we will make it through stronger and better than we ever have been. Now is not the time to cut back, now is not the time give way to your fears, now is not the time to give up. Now is the time to drive harder than we ever knew that we could.

As a member of the board, I will use the skills I have gained through my accounting background, my 30+ years as a serial entrepreneur, and my faith teachings to help insure that the great work that we do is not sidetracked or derailed and that we continues to grow as a community of faith.

It takes a lot of reflection about what it means to be church, a culture of invitation, old fashioned work.