

Our gifts to Brechin United support our wonderful ministries - to our congregation and to the local community. During the Hallelujah Moment on the 3rd Sunday of the month, we recognize these various ministries. Today we recognize the ministry of the Presbytery Representative.

In the current four court structure of the United Church of Canada, Presbyteries have an important purpose. They are intended to inspire, inform and support congregations and ministries, as well as fulfill Manual responsibilities.

Presbyteries are made up of clergy and lay delegates. Over the years, many individuals have faithfully served as representatives for our congregation and our current representative is Val Neilson. Having a Presbytery rep means having a voice, and a vote, on important issues. Some of the representative's duties include: attending Presbytery wide meetings, attending BC Conference general meetings, serving as a member of Brechin Council and providing a monthly report, learning and sharing current policy changes, collecting and sharing input from the congregation as requested by Conference and National, ensuring information is shared regarding educational opportunities, workshops and availability of financial assistance.

This summer General Council 43 approved the changes to our structure that will eliminate Presbyteries as of January 1, 2019. While some are mourning this as a loss, others are seeing it as an opportunity for something new. It is hoped that Communities of Faith will seek relationship and partnership with each other based on commonalities other than geography.

On November 17th, there will be an opportunity to celebrate Comox Nanaimo Presbytery and give thanks to the many who have given of their time and skills to serve on your behalf. There are details in the announcement section of the bulletin.