

Notes from Pacific Mountain Region - Town Hall Weekly Meeting, September 23, 2020
Meeting was held via ZOOM conferencing – 97 participants.

Guest: Rev. Michael Blair, newly appointed General Secretary, United Church of Canada.

Treana Duncan, Executive Minister, Pacific Mountain Regional Council – welcome.

Rev. Blair Odney, President of Pacific Mountain Regional Council – opening reflection and prayer.

Treana Duncan: general discussion.

THRIFT – General guidelines of WorkSafe BC – Retail are to be observed. Quarantine of perishable items for a minimum of 24 hours. Clothing items should not be “tried on” in the store. Managed customer flow. Prescribed numbers according to the Community of Faith guidelines should be observed. Face masks are strongly suggested.

REOPENING – Communities of Faith. Still observing of general Stage 1 United Church guidelines. Some churches have opened their doors to renters, others to an in-house service. General consensus is that congregational services are not meeting the expectations of the church. The lack of social networking is missing. Churches need to review their ventilation of their individual buildings to maximize air flow.

Treana Duncan introduced Rev. Blair.



Rev. Blair was born in Jamaica and introduced to the church through his parents in the Anglican Church. Moved to Canada at age 20. Admits to being a “self-styled evangelical founded in the United Church theology”.

His (and the continuing direction) for the United Church is around Church in Mission.

- Church in Partnership – over 100 agencies and group globally supported by the United Church.
 - People in Partnership – giving support to learning, justice and advocacy (eg LGBTQ2S, climate justice) for international partners.
 - Discipleship and Witness
 - Refugee support to international agencies – currently about migrations and “safe” living support.
 - Faith Foundation and Mission
 - Ministries in French
 - EDGE - those willing to take a leap into the promise; God breaking open the church, breaking into the world. EDGE is a living web of new and renewing ministries and leaders in the power of the Spirit,
- UCC, Call to Purpose – Listening. Inclusivity, Partnership (ecumenical interfaith, private and public partnerships), ministry to the Whole People of God – understanding directions.

- The United Church is committed to the continuing of developing Right Relations with our indigenous communities.
- National staff reductions – working toward continued shared responsibilities. This will be an ongoing new reality for the UCC as we move forward. The UCC is alive both nationally and internationally.
- CoVid reality – local and regional councils and communities are driving the UCC guidelines. General Council has become a “sharing” space to bring new ideas and commitments to the UCC Communities of Faith.