

Report for Synod Creative Ministries Committee August 2017

Re: Messy Church at Lucknow Presbyterian Ministry Initiative

Our Messy Church Committee is grateful that the Synod Creative Ministries Committee (CMC) approved our application for funding. We received the cheque on July 31, 2017. The CMC requested a report by the end of August 2017 on how the ministry initiative is coming along, how the funds are being used, and how the CMC has been and could be supportive.

Messy Church at Lucknow Presbyterian was held for the first time on July 5, 2017. There were 16 volunteers, 17 guests and the Interim Moderator in attendance. The youngest was a baby and the eldest was over 80 years old. There was a family with four generations in attendance. A lady who lives in long term care told us that she has a poster in her room and has been inviting staff to come and bring their families. Volunteers came from Lucknow Presbyterian and Lucknow United Church. Abraham was the theme for the session. There were 10 different activities, many involving stars or sand, related to the theme.

The second Messy Church at Lucknow Presbyterian was held on August 2, 2017. The theme was Joseph. The activities related to the story of Joseph revolved around colour, Egypt (camels and pyramids) and dreams. Camp Kintail loaned us their colourful parachute for parachute games. The worship portion is called the Celebration and is held in the sanctuary. It included songs and the story of Joseph told by three volunteers.

There were 15 volunteers who included members of Lucknow United, Lucknow Presbyterian, South Kinloss Presbyterian, an exchange student from Italy and an exchange student from Brazil. There were 40 guests including a Mom and her two sons who came on the invitation of the lady who lives in Long Term Care. There were two families who had three generations in attendance. The youngest in attendance was almost 1 year old and the eldest was over eighty.

Reminding us of the story of the "Loaves and Fishes", Dayle who provides leadership for the meal, fed about 20 more guests than were anticipated. Since the weather was lovely for both sessions, we were able to eat the meal together on the front lawn of the church.

We advertise in the local paper, with posters and by word of mouth. "Summer people" who live in cities and cottage or vacation in this area have seen the advertising and come to Messy Church. We had one vacationing family at each session.

We have passports at each session that include Bible verses and questions to go with the activities. The participants get a sticker on their passport at each of the activity stations they attend. Our walk with God and our faith development is a journey and the passport symbolizes this journey.

We are in the midst of becoming more organized. This includes setting a regular meeting time, likely the Wednesday after each Messy Church to plan for the next session. We've developed a standing agenda and will have a recorder for each meeting.

We are intentional on finding a variety of activities to appeal to people of all ages and intentional in having the Celebration portion share the story in an interactive, understandable fashion.

Two people have registered for the Messy Church National Conference that will be held in Toronto in October. This used \$260.00 of the \$500.00 that was approved for the Conference. The \$400.00 that was approved for supplies will be used for upcoming Messy Church sessions.

The CMC has been supportive by approving our grant application. The CMC can be supportive by remembering Messy Church at Lucknow Presbyterian in their prayers. We also would appreciate benefiting from any experience you have with storytelling and intergenerational worship. We have a student minister for the summer months. He leaves us at the beginning of September. Our pulpit is vacant and we may wish to consult the CMC for mentoring if that is an option.

You are most welcome to visit Messy Church at Lucknow Presbyterian. The next session is August 30, 2017 from 4:45 p.m. to 7 p.m. The theme for that session is "Moses".

This report describes how the Messy Church at Lucknow Presbyterian initiative is coming along, how the funds are being used and how the CMC has been and could be supportive.

The verse below speaks to the fact that the Messy Church at Lucknow Presbyterian Committee is hoping and praying that God will use us to share His word and the mystery of Christ with others in our community.

"At the same time pray for us as well that God will open to us a door for the word, that we may declare the mystery of Christ..." Colossians 4:3