

October 4, 2017

Synod Report-Creative Ministries Grant for St Giles, Sarnia

What We've Done:

We organized and hosted a **Leadership Exploration And Development (LEAD)** workshop. The workshop was held at St Giles on March 25, 2017. Our workshop, led by Jim Smith, helped to create and foster a **Servant Leader Culture** at our church as well as other churches in our area. What is Servant Leadership? Jesus is our example of perfect servant leadership. We follow Jesus by vigorously pursuing our St Giles mission to Love God and Love Others. Our workshop's goal was to encourage individuals and organizations to discover servant leadership in order to create a more just and caring world the Jesus way. The workshop engaged 5 guest speakers; Rev. Dr. Christine O'Reilly, Rev. Allan Farris, Judith Farris, Rev. Janine Dekker, and Rev. Becky Roushorne-Lau. Because we feel that children are the church's future we engaged one of the guest speakers, Reverend Becky Roushorne-Lau, to specifically focus on and engage youth. The workshop was attended by 40 plus attendees from various churches, with 75% being from St Giles.

Jim Smith was passionate that the workshop not end on March 25th. Jim believed, and we fully supported him, that to be effective we must follow up our workshop with another workshop. We anticipated the next workshop to be in the fall of 2017 when we had a new minister in place. The purpose of the follow up workshop is to re-affirm our commitment to servant leadership and encourage more people to embrace servant leadership.

All this was done while our pulpit was vacant and our Search Committee was actively seeking a new minister.

What We Are Doing:

Following the March 25th workshop we decided to maintain our momentum by offering an 8 week Andy Stanley Starting Point Program kicking off on Sunday September 17, 2017. The plan involved using the first video as 'the sermon' to kick off the series and encourage participation. The Series is running 8 weeks and started Wednesday, September 20. It's a potluck, video, discussion, and prayer time evening. As is quite often the case with the Holy Spirit, things unfolded a little differently than we had planned. Rebecca Roushorne-Lau preached for and received the call to St Giles. Presbytery

decided that Becky's first Sunday in the pulpit was to be September 17th. As it turns out, Becky is a supporter of the Andy Stanley Starting Point Series, so we have a supportive minister in place as the series unfolds. Mysterious ways indeed!

Our Wednesday evening session has about 40 people signed up. A request was put forward to Rev. Becky to also run a day session. 8 are now meeting on Tuesday mornings.

What We Will Do:

As mentioned, Jim Smith our leader is passionate that the workshops not end on March 25th. The next workshop is Saturday November 18, 2017. Our new minister, Rev. Rebecca Roushorne-Lau is now in place and a keen proponent of the initiative. The purpose of the follow up workshop is to re-affirm our commitment to servant leadership and encourage more people to embrace servant leadership. Our goal is to make 'the old old storey', 2017 fresh!

We believe the follow up workshop is critical to the success of our servant leader initiative. The church must move forward and we as the servant leaders cheerfully tasked to follow Jesus where he leads us.

Expenses to Date (Estimate):

\$659.79 Marketing and workshop materials

\$434.16 Food and drinks

\$625.00 Speaker/worship/music Honorariums

\$600.00 Guide books

\$2318.95 Total to date