



Committee on Shared Ministry

FALL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

OCTOBER 27, 2019

What is 'Shared Ministry'?

- ▶ The concept of Shared Ministry may be new, or perhaps a bit confusing to some. Here is the definition that's in the charter of the Committee on Shared Ministry:

“ Ministry is no longer an act provided only by those who are ordained or called to serve. Ministry happens wherever individuals embrace the belief that their good works, their volunteerism, their acts, can help serve the mission and vision of their congregation. Shared ministry requires a covenanted partnership. It acknowledges that ministry is always shared.”
- ▶ Creating a focus and capacity for 'Shared Ministry' within First U is an important strategy during a time of developmental ministry, to ensure FirstU is prepared when it comes time to select a settled minister.

Committee on Shared Ministry (CoSM)

- ▶ The CoSM is really a complement to the Board. While the Board focuses on our strategic directions and policies, the CosM gets to ask some important questions:
 - ▶ How are we doing in reaching our mission and vision?
 - ▶ Are we making progress in achieving those priorities? How do we know?
 - ▶ Are there gaps that need to be filled?
- ▶ Setting up the CoSM is a step towards helping our ministries, committees, working groups and teams to contribute even more to the greater vision and mission of FirstU.
- ▶ The CoSM will provide advice to the Board, the Minister and the congregation.

Who is on the CoSM?

- ▶ Eva Berringer (board liaison / co-chair as of Nov 1)
- ▶ Sharen Bowen
- ▶ Reverend Pat Haresch (ex-officio)
- ▶ Mary Ella Keblusek (co-chair)
- ▶ Doug Macdonald
- ▶ Barry Read
- ▶ Stephanie Woodend

Note that the CoSM charter specifies that the members of the CoSM cannot be chairs of existing Committees or Teams, nor can they be members of the Board during their term of office.

Summary of Activities to date

- ▶ First meeting on June 6, 2019 – meeting approx. monthly since August
- ▶ Exploring ways to measure how we are doing in achieving our priorities – working with the Larry Jones and the Stewardship Committee to collaborate on developing metrics and ways to get regular input from various parts of the congregation
- ▶ Looking at a specific focus on leadership development - how can we identify, grow and support our congregational leaders.
- ▶ Talking to other congregations to learn more about how they approach 'shared ministry'

Leadership Council Meetings

- ▶ One of the most important responsibilities of the CoSM is to co-convene the periodic Leadership Council meetings.
- ▶ The Leadership Council is made up of the leaders or other representatives of all our committees, teams and working groups. This is a large group, and meeting periodically is a way we can talk together, share information and almost more importantly, get the congregation's input on how things are going and how we can work more effectively together to achieve our mission and our priorities.
- ▶ The last Leadership Council meeting was in September, and the next Leadership Council meeting will be on January 13, 2020.

Additional Plans

- ▶ Explore how FirstU might become a '**Learning Community**' – which involves an intentional approach to capturing our learnings and improving our processes
- ▶ Collaborate with the **Right Relations** committee – which reports to CoSM – so that the work of both Right Relations and CoSM support our common goals

For more information

- ▶ Please feel free to talk to anyone on the CoSM with comments or questions,

OR

- ▶ Email CoSM@firstunitarianottawa.ca.

THANK YOU!