



## **Visions of Ministry May 13-14, 2011**

### **Pre-Retreat Survey Responses: A Snapshot of the Church of the Redeemer**

The following summary highlights themes that emerged in the pre-retreat survey responses regarding a vision for the Church of the Redeemer. On Saturday morning, you will hear a more detailed presentation of the results and have an opportunity to discuss them. The responses are a window into what is valued and what directions we should consider for the future.

#### **Who are we? Profile of the community**

- Survey responses reflect a community where almost half grew up outside the Anglican tradition; a community that is largely in the 40s-plus range; and parishioners who attend church regularly.
- Approximately two thirds are involved to some extent in parish life. A small core (8%) feel stretched thin but about one third are not involved but would be interested in doing so.
- Involvement in church life starts with being invited to participate. Family commitments and health concerns are the major barriers for people.
- Liturgy, music, preaching, and Christian education are examples of areas that most supported people over the past few years

#### **Where is God calling us in the next 3-5 years?**

- Ministry areas include those related to the Redeemer community and those beyond our walls.
- Outreach and social justice issues continue to be important, particularly out of concern for increased need (e.g., growing poverty and homelessness). The need to welcome newcomers and reach out to others in an inclusive way is regarded as important.
- The need to use the many talents within our diverse community was seen as essential in addressing current and emerging areas of ministry within our church (e.g., children and youth and the increasing ageing population).

#### **The most important steps to take in moving toward that call and strengths we can draw upon:**

- Intergenerational opportunities that bring together different age groups and make best use of the diverse and many talents of the community need to occur.
- We need to carefully consider the *process or way* of carrying out ministry out of concern for stretching staff and volunteers too thin. We need to dream and be bold but be mindful of our capacity.

- Leadership at all levels (liturgy, music, clergy and staff, lay community) and great diversity of talents and skills within the Redeemer are tremendous resources in whatever we undertake.

### **Challenges ahead as we chart a course for the future:**

- The community is changing as we grow larger and that can impact how we relate to each other. The ageing population has implications for our work and how we support each other.
- Financial issues are a concern to many and need to be addressed. This means looking carefully at our financial picture and seeking innovative ways to carry out ministry areas.
- Staff and volunteers are over extended. We need to find ways to address and prevent this.
- Changes to the external environment (increased poverty and cutbacks) will likely put greater demands on our outreach ministry. This may have implications for the lunch program.

### **Summary**

- Ours is a diverse community - rich in talents, leadership, and creativity.
- While there is concern about overextended staff and volunteers, there is a core of parishioners who would welcome the opportunity to be more involved in ministry and who could bring a new and dynamic energy to the Redeemer.
- We are blessed with wonderful clergy and staff who inspire and lead and extraordinary volunteers who are committed to building community and carrying out ministry both within and beyond the Redeemer.
- In going forward we need to be mindful of how we manage change and seek new ways and means to address issues such as limited resources; the external environment; and the changing profile of the Redeemer community, while keeping what is important: good liturgy, music, programs for children and youth.
- In considering where we have come and in going forward, there is a strong sense of gratitude for the many gifts in our midst. Let us use them!