

Whitehorse United Church E-News, Week of September 10, 2018

Upcoming Activities & Events (Also, check out the website [Church Calendar](#))

Date	Time / Location	Details
Ongoing		
Sundays	9:30 am, Sanctuary	Toddlers' Service – short service of songs stories and snacks for little ones and their families.
Tuesdays	2:30 pm, Upper Room	Bible study
Wednesdays	Noon, Sanctuary	Worship Service
Wednesdays	7:30-9 p.m.	Choir Practice
Thursdays	7:15–8:00 am Upper Room	Early Morning Bible Study
September		
Tuesday, 11	Noon	Property Committee meeting
Tuesday, 11	5 pm, Choir Room	WUC in the World Committee meeting
Sunday, 16	6:30-9:00 pm	Taize worship service
Tuesday, 18	5:15 pm, Choir Room	Braeburn Board meeting
Tuesday, 18	7 pm, Upper Room	Council Meeting
Friday, 21	6:30 pm, Boston Pizza	YOUTH GROUP WILL MEET - For youth grades 7 and up. Conversation, food, and planning for a possible trip to Evolve later in the fall. All young people are welcome.
Sunday, 23	12:30 pm	Ukulele group gathers for music making – bring your instrument!
Wednesday, 26	4:30 pm, Lewis Hall	Interfaith Potluck supper
Thursday, 27	5 pm, Lewis Hall	ASKANDY meeting (see notice)
Friday, 28	5:30 pm, Upper Room	Writers' Group
October		
Sunday, 7		Communion
Sunday, 21	6:30-9:00 pm	Taize worship service

Meet your new moderator: Rt. Rev. Richard Bott

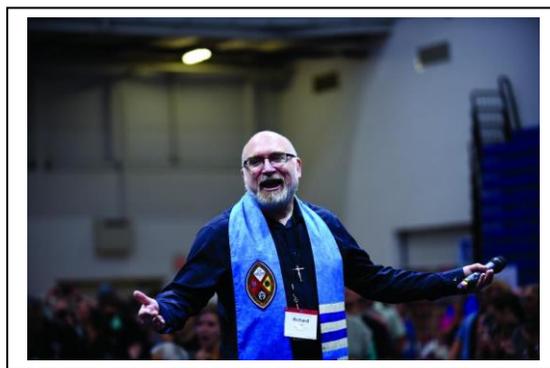
By Christopher White

"He is one of the people who can actually build up a church."

It was a delicate moment in the life of the United Church when Rt. Rev. Richard Bott, the new moderator, stood up to preach late on a Friday evening in July.

Just hours before his installation service, an extraordinary shift had happened at General Council. What was supposed to be a fairly straightforward final afternoon of passing

motions was completely transformed and made sacred as people approached the microphones to share their personal experiences of racism and exclusion in the church.



Due to unfortunate timing, the moderator-elect was not in the court to hear it. He was in his residence room finishing his sermon for that evening. After learning what had happened, he quickly revised his notes. Bott's opening words went to the heart of the matter.

"I stand before you tonight as a person who has exactly one set of lenses: I am a white, middle-class, university-educated, able-bodied, middle-aged, cis-male settler who grew up and lives on unceded territory of the people of this land. I am the epitome of privilege."

With those words, the tension in the room eased, and there was a sense among the commissioners that they had elected a person who understood what was needed for the next three years.

Bott lives in Vancouver. He is divorced, and co-parents a 15-year-old daughter. The eldest of three children, he grew up in Marathon, Ont., a small town perched on the shores of Lake Superior. His parents, George and Joy, raised all their kids to have a strong sense of service to others. They say they weren't surprised when their son, now age 50, entered the ministry and was ordained in 1994.

"We had a good, strong suspicion that this was the direction his life was going to take," his father says. "He went through a whole period of hearing the knocking on the door and ignoring it." His mother emphasizes his skills as a listener: "He

has gifts of communication and connecting with people he knows and those he doesn't. He creates community pretty quickly." They both agree that his deep personal faith and his belief in the importance of discipleship are two elements that will support him over the next three years.

Bott has served as a minister in both Ontario and British Columbia. Rev. Dave Anderson, lead pastor at Eagle Ridge United in Coquitlam, B.C., met him in 2003. "I don't know anyone with more integrity," Anderson says. "He oozes integrity."

Anderson has long admired his friend and colleague's ability to help congregations thrive. "Here on the West Coast, we are in the secular world," he says. "It's very tough to keep a church going, and Richard builds churches. He is one of the people who can actually build up a church."

With laughter in his voice, Anderson adds that Bott "is a church geek. He's the Manual go-to guy, and he has a deep appreciation of the wisdom of those who came before us."

Together, Bott and Anderson created Immersion, a curriculum for people new to the United Church. Soon to be widely available, it is not only informational but experiential, with a commitment to both communal and individual spiritual practices. It reflects Bott's belief that Christianity is a deeply lived, transformative experience.

The new moderator has a lifelong grounding in faith, a long practice of ministry and genuine hope for the future of the church. He is well placed to lead the United Church through the major denominational restructuring of the next three years.

To read more of the September edition of the United Church Observer, please use this link.

<http://www.ucobserver.org/>

NOTICES:

NO FAMILY IN WHITEHORSE? Maybe **ASKANDY** is for you.

ASKANDY (Alive and Still Kicking And Not Dead Yet) is several groups of seniors who don't have family in Whitehorse and who agree to serve as "local family" for each other. In each group we share information about:

- whom to call if one of us needs serious help.
- where important papers are.
- where we are (if away).
- how to contact our families.
- how to take care of our homes if one of us is hospitalized.

There are currently 18 members in 3 groups. Most of us are single women but there are two couples.

ASKANDY will have an information meeting on September 27, 5 PM in Lewis Hall (basement), Whitehorse United Church. We came out of discussions at Whitehorse United Church but there is no expectation for church connection or interest.

For more information, contact Colin Graham at [867] 634-5344 or by email, ccgraham [at] northwstel [dot] net.

Join us after church on September 16th for an afternoon of art and exploration as we engage with Jesus' question: "Who do you say that I am?" No experience necessary. We will share a simple meal (provided) before we begin. For more information contact Shannon: shannonmeekins@hotmail.com.

UKULELE GROUP will begin after church Sunday Sept 23rd at 12:30. At that time anyone who is interested, please gather. We'll figure out our schedules and when our best time to meet will be. Please bring your ukulele. You'll learn to tune it and a chord or two that first session.

As you will know from our annual report, we have a small fund called the "**benevolent fund**" and we use it to help people out, usually on a one-time basis, for emergencies.

We've used it quite a lot of it lately, and that's both something to be sad about because it's sad to know people need it, but it's something to celebrate too because we have the funds to do it. THANKS TO YOU.

The fund balance is down a bit at present and if you feel you could contribute (without taking away from your normal offering) that would be wonderful.

Money for back to school supplies will be needed shortly, if past years are any indication. (Or the back to school supplies themselves would be welcome too of course)

Please pray about this and respond as you are led.

Photo Release Approval – please let us know!

Often, at church activities, we have people taking pictures of the events, and then some of those pictures get posted on Facebook. We are planning to have a church Instagram account, where pictures are also posted.

IF YOU WOULD RATHER NOT HAVE PICTURES OF YOU POSTED IN THIS WAY, PLEASE LET US KNOW. Silence will be assumed to mean consent.

Asking for Need help with Opportunities

Can you help?

ANNOUNCEMENT: A long time Yukoner who has lived outside of town for years is in need of a place to stay in town for the winter. He is an independent carpenter. If you know of any opportunities, please contact him directly at 332-6841 – his name is Remhard Waschilowski.

(First posted: Aug. 20, 2018)

Notice from the Sound Board Techs: Anyone who has an event coming up and needs microphones/sound board use, please contact Susan Clark at 334-6119 or susan@stuandsusan.ca.

Birthday, Anniversary Cards

Community Life is looking for people to help write birthday and anniversary cards. You don't have to buy anything. All of the cards and stamps are in the office. If you would like to help please contact Dianne at the office. 667-2989

Prayer Chain

Did you know that we have a prayer chain? It's simply a group of people who have agreed to be there to pray for people when asked to do so. No meetings, just a willingness to pray. Would you like to be part of this ministry? Let Bev know.

Poster Distribution Service

Mallory's Postering Service - available for poster distribution. Contact Mallory at 334-6816.

Wahl Music Training Fund

Do you want to attend a music camp, take music lessons, have your children or grandchildren take music lessons or bring a music clinician to Whitehorse? You can do that by applying to the Wahl Music Training Fund.

The fund is available to anyone who is a member or adherent of Whitehorse United Church. Applications are available on the Whitehorse United Church website.

For more information contact Jennifer at: jennifermoorlag@gmail.com