



## **THE BIG SIX?**

As you know, Mount Seymour United is considering embarking on a major stewardship campaign this fall. As a lead-in to this process, we want to make sure that we can clearly express what we believe God is calling us to at this time in our church life

Why? We want this campaign to be about God's vision for us, not about money. We want each of our financial contributions to simply be means to these ends. We want people to know and believe in the campaign, because they know and believe in the vision.

Our Church has done much work over the past few years identifying our dreams. Rather than have more meetings (we know how disappointed you are about that!), we have gone back and reviewed all the hard work and effort from our congregational meetings and retreats, and have synthesized it into what we are calling "The Big Six".

Before we go further, Council would like to have the comfort that we have general consensus that these do represent our vision. Without further ado, and in no particular order, drum roll please....

Over the next few years, we believe God is calling Mount Seymour United to focus its energies on....

### **1. MINISTRY WITH YOUTH**

We want to ensure that our children and youth have a safe place to ponder life's big questions in our changing world. We want them to feel welcome throughout their teenage years. We want them to be part of our services and participate in our church family. Wade's hiring is a big part of this vision, and we want to be able to sustain that position financially over the long term so that we can continue to build a strong youth presence in our church

## **2. A GROWING MUSIC PROGRAM**

We are seeking a vibrant music ministry. We dream of building on the strong musical foundation we have established through strengthening our congregational singing and expanding our music program.

## **3. A FUNCTIONING SACRED SPACE FOR THE LONG TERM**

We know that as buildings age, they become more expensive to operate. We want to ensure that we are ready for this inevitable process. We would like to have enough funds set aside to be able to replace the roof when that day comes, and to deal with any other unseen eventualities.

## **5. COMMUNICATING OUR MESSAGE**

We know from the studies done for *Emerging Spirit/Wondercafe*, that when most people hear what the United Church actually stands for (1) they love our theology, and (2) they want to learn more. God seems to be calling us to have a more visible presence in our community to share the good news of Mount Seymour United Church. With a strong communication plan, we will be able to tell our story and invite others in.

## **6. SEEKING JUSTICE FOR PEOPLE AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

We want to “walk the walk”. We want to make the sacrifices and incur the expenses needed to:

- a. decrease our environmental “footprint”;
- b. increase our helping handprint around our community and around the world.

## **NEXT STEPS**

Do we have it close to right?

Come to our congregational meeting on June 24 and let us know. At this meeting, we will also have a presentation from Rob Waller, who is a campaign facilitator who has worked with many other churches (including Rev. Nancy’s old congregation). He will tell us about the two stages of work he does (the planning study, and the actual campaign).

Then on July 8, we’ll have a final vote on whether to hire Rob to help us out. We appreciate that many of you may be on holidays, so we’ll happily allow proxy votes. Just drop your vote off at the Church office.

We look forward to hearing from you.

*The Council of Mount Seymour United Church*