

## Transition Team

Members of the Transition Team continued to meet throughout 2018 to address the four goals of the interim period set forth by the Pastoral Oversight Committee of Hamilton Presbytery in 2015. The four goals are:

- Helping to bring healing to the congregation
- Helping to restore morale within the congregation
- Helping to establish good governance behaviour within the congregation
- Working with the whole congregation to establish common mission and values.

Considerable progress was made prior to 2018 to meet the first three of the goals (for example, we adopted a “Holy Manners” covenant of congregational behaviour and also worked to bring the governance structure at Melrose in line with its current reality). The major piece of work addressed by the team in this past year was the fourth goal: establishing common mission and values. Using the Rev. John Pentland’s recent book *Fishing Tips* as a focus for discussion, the Transition Team and the Official Board met in retreat on Palm Sunday weekend to consider mission and values and to brainstorm ideas for moving into the congregation’s future. With the Official Board’s input as a foundation, the Transition Team held a congregational meeting in June to widen the “mission and values” conversation. All of this information was distilled over the summer and the Transition Team presented its report to the congregation at a congregational meeting held last October (copies of the Transition Team report are available from the church office). The Official Board continues to gather information as the period of Intentional Interim Ministry winds down and as the Board works with the new Horseshoe Falls Region (Region #9) with the hope of extending a call to a new minister later in 2019.

Two more pieces of work await the Transition Team in 2019. On February 20<sup>th</sup> we will sponsor a Liturgy of Healing to be facilitated by Judith Johnson (a former member of the Hamilton Conference ministry staff) in order to provide an opportunity for any in the Melrose congregation who may continue to experience feelings of disquiet about the end period of the pastoral relationship with the Rev. Liz Mackenzie. In addition, the Team is working on the reports and evaluations that must be submitted to the region about the interim period and the interim minister.

The Team is grateful for the support of the congregation over the past four years and invites your continued prayer as it winds up its work in 2019.

Respectfully submitted: Robert Brunner, Michael Clase, Dianne Coons, Rev. Philip Gardner, Rev. Lynn Godfrey, Kathy Ross.