

Conference, 2010). In an effort to see our worship to God as something not only we do ourselves but also as an invitation to those not currently attending church, we seek a morning service that will complement our Reformed tradition. This means taking the best from our Reformed worship, including its order and content focus, and offering it in new ways (sometimes called *re-traditioning*, see Diana Butler-Bass, Ph.D. Duke University; more information on www.briarwoodpresbyterianchurch.ca click on “Study Materials” bottom of home page). The afternoon service at its non-traditional time is led by music groups with guitar and piano, in an informal atmosphere. We offer worship at 4:30 p.m. on Sundays for those households and individuals whose schedules make Sunday morning attendance difficult and those who prefer a more modern style.

Question: How can both our worship services at Briarwood best minister to you and those currently not attending any church?

Pastoral Comment: As elected by the congregation as leaders, the Session is striving to discern where God is calling us to invest time and energy in the ministry of Christ here at Briarwood. This is an ongoing process, and we value the conversations at each district meeting. Comments made will be fed back to the Session. Your input is especially valuable at this time!



Discussion Notes for District Meetings Autumn-Advent 2010

Schedule of District Meetings:

- **Jim & Rosemary Murray's districts:** Saturday, Nov. 20th at 2:30 pm at the Murrays' home (20026 Wilson Place, Baie d'Urfé)
- **Virginia Bell, Heather Butterfill & Dwight Huber's districts:** After church on Nov 28th at Virginia Bell's house (431 Halford Rd., Beaconsfield)
- **Heather Campbell, Jim MacKinnon, Grant Vissers & Debbie Williams districts:** After church on Nov 28th in the Music room
- **Barbara Douglas, Moira Robson & Lynne Skeie's districts:** After church on Nov. 28th in the West room
- **Jennifer Gibb, Robert Laflamme & Marilyn Scott's districts:** After church on Dec 12th in the West room

Directions for Briarwood as discerned by the Session

Background: Briarwood has offered Christian worship and education in Beaconsfield, Quebec for more than 50 years. Over the last 18 months, the Session has undertaken two day-long retreats to prayerfully consider God's call to us as a congregation today.

Part of this discernment was the visioning evening in November 2009, where the congregation listed children, families and youth as the most important area of ministry growth for Briarwood going forward. Recent attempts have been made to reach out to this demographic, including Messy Church for children and their families, a second Sunday service at 4:30 p.m., Kids' Christmas Eve Service and summer Vacation Bible Camp.

The congregation recently approved an application to the Presbytery of Montreal for \$60,000 to invest in outreach to families with children.

At its last retreat the Session developed a statement that describes the church we aim to be:

**an open community for all, invited by Christ
and inviting others to joyful worship and
loving action here and in the world.**

Along with this statement the Session adopted three directions for investment:

1. **Growing Spiritually** - We believe God is calling us to new growth spiritually. We will offer education and **spiritual growth** opportunities throughout the year for all ages. This means a focus on faith formation events and programs for children, youth, young adults college/university age, and adults.
Question: What opportunities are or would be most helpful in your own spiritual growth?
2. **Serving Locally, Giving Globally** - In addition to **mission** locally, nationally and internationally through strong support and promotion of Presbyterians Sharing and PWS&D, and weekly space sharing with two community groups, we will respond to one local need we, as a congregation, can meet in Beaconsfield.
Question: What do you think that need is?
3. **Worshipping Joyfully** - Briarwood's morning service is in the reformed tradition, with music led by choir, organ and musicians. Session has discussed the observation that organ music alone does not reach everyone in worship the same way it has in the past (Presbyterian Church in Canada Emmaus