

# Priorities 2010

We commit to the following priorities for our life together as a congregation in the next year:

## 1. Spiritual Nurture

Recognizing the need for each person to be nourished spiritually,

- provide opportunities for people to explore a variety of forms of prayer and spiritual practice from within the Christian tradition as well as from other traditions in order to nurture their relationship with God.
- invite people from the broader community to join us in these opportunities
- provide opportunities for theological study.

## 2. Stewardship of Resources

Recognizing the need to provide sufficient financial resources for the ministry of the congregation as well as the paying of the mortgage, we will

- develop strategies, practices and communication to enhance good stewardship within the congregation.
- broaden our understanding of resources to include the wise use of people's time and talents.
- share information about the purpose of and ways to contribute to the Memorial and Special Gifts Funds.
- adopt and implement the "Six Best Practices" of congregational stewardship as outlined in the United Church pamphlet of that name: Operational Management, Stewardship Integration in Worship, Stewardship Formation, Stewardship Leadership, Spiritual Nurture Opportunities and Engagement in Social Justice Concerns.

## 3. Live with Respect in Creation

Following the leadership of the High River United Church Women and the direction of General Council, we will

- work together as a congregation, and encourage all groups within the congregation, to embrace practices that care for the earth (go green) and show justice for others (fair trade).
- involve ourselves in theological reflection about living in relationship with all creation.
- explore how attentiveness to respect for creation impacts our worship, spiritually and physically.

## 4. Outreach

Recognizing the outreach ministries that are already part of the ministry of our congregation, we will

- establish an Outreach & Community Care Team to coordinate and support our many outreach ministries.
- encourage and support the Gift of Music program series as part of our outreach to the community.
- create opportunities to connect with the Muslim community that prays in our building.
- continue to be conscious of the needs in our community, country and world and how we can be part of addressing those needs.

## **5 . Children & Youth Ministry**

Recognizing the work already accomplished in the areas of Children & Youth ministry, we will

- continue to build and grow our ministry with children and youth.
- develop a Youth Dream Team to support the work of our Youth Minister.
- establish a partnership between the Youth Dream Team and Children's Worship Dream Team in coordinating ministry with our children and youth.
- explore the constituency of children and youth that we can invite to be part of our programs.

## **6. Congregational Care**

Recognizing the need that each of us has to find support, care and compassion in our life journeys, we will

- continue to build the variety of ways we offer care within the congregation through the work of our Congregational Care Team such as the addition of Medicine Tree Place visiting, Emergent Care and Phone Team.
- give our support to already existing care ministries such as the Welcoming Team, Hospital Visitors, Healing Ministry, Prayer Circle, Buzzum Buddies, Prayer Shawls, and TLC (Teaching, Learning, Creating).
- develop the ways that we communicate the need for support with each other.