

“Our shock, our sadness, our grief at Jeff's death are very real. So too is our thanks. For part of God's gift to us was this big, strong, wonderful man. The Lord giveth, the Lord taketh away. Blessed be the name of the Lord.”

-From the Homily by
The Rev. Ian Fraser
at the Memorial Service



View the funeral service on Livestream.com

A funeral service of Thanksgiving for the life of the Reverend Jeff Veenstra was held at the Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul on Saturday, May 9, 2015, at 2:00. It can be viewed at

www.livestream.com/standrewstpaul

The Jeff Veenstra Funeral is there among other recorded services.

Send Us Your Ideas for *InsideOut*

If you have ideas for future issues, please submit them for consideration. If you have a question about your Church and how it works, or if you have a question or comment about the Christian faith, we want to hear about it. Submit your ideas, articles, photos or comments to sue.m.stevenson@gmail.com. Submissions should be no more than 500 words. Digital and scanned photos should be about a 1MB jpg file.

Pastoral Letter

A Message from the Interim Moderator and Clerk of Session

Dear Members and Friends,

The Presbytery has once again appointed me as interim moderator of the Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul. I am, of course, more than happy to assist the congregation in this way. The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul has a vital role to play within our Presbytery, the city of Montreal and beyond and I will seek to assist you in the capacity of interim moderator as best I can.

While it is only natural that we continue to grieve the loss of a friend, colleague and minister, it is also necessary that we take the steps required for the future ministry of St. Andrew and St. Paul. One of those steps will be to acquire the assistance of at least a half-time minister who can assist the Rev. Dr. Diviney in the work of the congregation. A general job description has been drafted. It will be adjusted and revised as necessary but it lays out key areas that will need to be considered.

While these appointments typically go through the Presbytery, the congregation, by way of Session, can and should have a voice in what happens. The Session has already formed a small committee of six people: Don Walcot, Judy Mowat, Bruce Bolton, Rhonda McClure, Kay Diviney and Dale Woods. This committee would interview any potential candidates, giving both the committee and the candidates an opportunity to see if there is a good fit. It is also possible to invite the candidate to preach for one Sunday so that the Session as a whole can get a sense of the candidate's abilities. The committee would then bring a recommendation to the Session and then through the Session to the Presbytery. Our hope is to complete this task by the end of June should we be able to find a suitable candidate. St. Andrew and St. Paul is not a 'one minister' congregation and we need to ensure that we provide the proper help that will enable the Rev. Dr. Diviney to continue her effective ministry.

We will also ensure that pulpit supply is covered for the months of June, July, August and September. The Rev. Dr. Diviney, in consultation with the interim moderator, has already been working on this and we hope to have all of the Sunday's filled to the end of September in the next little while.

In September we will need to establish a search committee for a lead minister. The bylaws of St. Andrew and St. Paul provide a clear structure for the establishment of a search committee and we will be following the procedure required by the bylaws. In September we will also advertise in suitable magazines letting people know that we are in search of a lead minister.

None of these are easy steps to take. It all seems too soon. But there will never be a 'right' time. We go forward continuing to thank God for Jeff's friendship and ministry. We go forward, believing that one way to honour his ministry is to ensure that it carries on with the same level of excellence that Jeff brought to it.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact your elder, the Rev. Dr. Diviney, the interim moderator or the Clerk of Session. And let us continue to lift up one another in prayer.

Yours sincerely,

The Rev. Dr. Dale Woods
Interim Moderator

Donald Walcot
Clerk of Session