



Dear friends,

Through September and October your Church Board asked for input from the congregation concerning your experience with, and thoughts about and learnings from the time of Karen's **Sabbatical Leave**. We also asked for feedback about what we are experiencing of the **Communication and Neighbourhood Engagement** initiative from the first year.

We gathered together your submissions and we had a time of table conversation at our Congregational Meeting on October 14, 2018.

As promised, a diverse team from the congregation gathered to review the results and are happy to report:

Sabbatical Learnings

The team is grateful for the congregation's contribution to our learning through both the paper survey and the round table discussions. It is clear that we are a diverse community with varying needs and that we are open to new opportunities for our neighbours to engage in spiritual practices and events that may or may not be our own experience of what church is for us. While nurturing growth in new areas, many in the congregation want to make sure that we don't dilute the strength of our existing worship opportunities. New initiatives can be part of a "Both And" ethos, not an "either or".

There will be ongoing communication with the congregation about next steps in the process as they emerge and anyone wishing to be involved with a team imagining next steps is encouraged to talk to Karen Dickey or Cheryl Caldwell.

Communication and Neighbourhood Engagement Initiative (CNEI)

The congregation's response to year one of the CNEI was mainly enthusiastic and positive in both written submissions and at our table conversations during the congregational meeting. The JBUC Board would like everyone to know how much the feedback and encouragement and thoughtful suggestions are appreciated.

Some important themes emerged from the congregation's responses. And coupled with our work on the Weird Church concepts in Beth Ann Estock's book and workshops, we are now paying attention to how:

- deepening relationships inside and outside the congregation are important to our ability to discern faithfully our next steps
- some new initiatives can be carried out as experiments that run concurrently with existing programming.
- in the coming year there could be more opportunities for individuals in the congregation to participate in the imagining, planning and leadership of new Neighbourhood Engagement initiatives. (In the first year, the congregation participated primarily in support roles and as attendees.)

To keep yourself up-to-date and informed about our ways forward please continue to:

- read your congregational emails faithfully
- check your Sunday bulletins for inserts and announcements
- join in activities that promote the deepening of relationships within your family of faith here at James Bay United

And if you have questions or suggestions about the future work of the Communication and Neighbourhood Engagement initiative, please reach out to:

Gordon Miller:

phone or text at: 250-213-1948,

or email: communication.jbuc@gmail.com

or [Messenger](#)