

**THE SALVATION ARMY WOODROFFE COMMUNITY CHURCH  
IN BARRHAVEN**

November 1, 2009

Dear Friends:

Thank you for the good turnout last week at our congregational meeting last Sunday. We appreciated your input. Attached are the notes from that meeting. For your information, Mission Board has carefully reviewed your questions and concerns and incorporated them into our work plan for the next few months.

There are situations that will be dealt with immediately; for example:

- list of Mission Board members in the bulletin
- reactivating the Worship Coordinating Team to ensure a better flow to morning services
- reminding everyone that the parking out front is only for those drivers with limited mobility
- inserting space for newcomer information into the bulletin every week
- identifying people who need drives to Sunday morning worship and searching for drivers
- planning for the distribution of flyers to the neighbourhood for Christmas events.

By the end of December:

- there will be a review of leadership needs and active recruitment to fill vacancies
- next year's budget will be developed and explained to ministry leaders and to the congregation as a whole so there is a better understanding of our financial planning and management and your role in it

Longer term:

- the Integrated Ministry Model which is our strategic framework has now been updated
- Mission Board is now updating the implementation plan and will be working with the ministry leaders to develop their action plans for the next year or two
- developing a longer term communication plan, both internal and external using all media available.

There are a few copies of the Integrated Ministry Model on the back table and it is available on the web site [www.sawoodroffe.org](http://www.sawoodroffe.org) as are these notes and minutes of church meetings. Please note that each ministry in the Model has an outreach component to it.

We encourage feedback to any or all members of the Mission Board in person, via e-mail or telephone, whatever is easiest for you.

May God bless all of us as we strive to do His will in this, our community!

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**Congregational Meeting  
Sunday, October 25, 2009  
12:00 noon – 1:30 p.m.**

**Facilitator:** Connie Woloschuk

1. **Bob Samways opened with prayer**, reminding us of the timeliness of Major Bishop's message: that we are a team.
2. **Update** – Connie Woloschuk

Connie reminded us that we do have a vision:

*“a fellowship of believers living out Jesus' love in our community”*  
and that we had chosen Barrhaven as our community.

2.1 820 Woodroffe facility: all our programs and administration have to be out of Woodroffe by December 31, 2009; there is a search for temporary quarters for SLAM, Artisans, and the Sunshine Club; the admin office will now become a home office with the same phone number; we will be renting a mail box and will let you know about a mailing address.

2.2 Program Proposal: Connie showed a copy of the original Program Proposal, explaining that this kind of detailed document had to be prepared in 2008 in order to begin discussions with DHQ. An update went forward in March 2009 and another update last week. The Executive Summaries are available on the web site. Part of this is really a strategic framework for integrated ministries.

Our latest submission will be on the agenda of Divisional Executive Board on Tuesday, November 27. DHQ and our Area Commander, Major Doug Smith, have been very supportive and facilitative in this process. They are now encouraging us to move ahead as quickly as possible.

Note: the actual Integrated Ministry Model will be put on the web site ([www.sawoodroffe.org](http://www.sawoodroffe.org)) with a few paper copies available on the front table on Sundays.

3. **What is working well?**

In response to this question, various members of the congregation offered the following:

- 3.1 Sound system: there is a good mix of park equipment and the former Bells Corners equipment is working well; it takes four volunteers to bring

the equipment and set it up on Sunday mornings; definitely teamwork at its best

- 3.2 People mixing well: the space in the gym lends itself to more interaction with each other on Sunday morning.
- 3.3 Band: the band playing out front is inspirational and welcoming; also might attract others going by on the street.
- 3.4 Increase in small groups: there has been an increase in both the number of small groups and the number of individuals involved; this is significant as small groups are the 'glue' that will hold us together over the next several years.
- 3.5 No stairs: it is a relief not to be seeing tiny children climbing stairs to go to their Sunday School; could be a design element for planning a new building.
- 3.6 Greeters: recognition of the work of Major McInnes in organizing the greeter program and the placement of them on Sundays; good initial reaching out to newcomers.
- 3.7 Amalgamated practice night: having all the music units practicing on one night (Monday) has addressed the concern about overscheduling and also allows people time to participate in a small group.
- 3.8 Podium: having a podium up front helps focus people's attention and is easier to see the Officer or other leader up front.
- 3.9 Sunday School: it was noted that young people are well served in Sunday School; Kim Savage was recognized for the effort she has put into making sure that the curriculum has been organized and appropriate; she has also recruited good teachers.
- 3.10 Flu concerns: although there is a caution about a lot of physical contact because of H1N1 and other influenza concerns, it was suggested that people need handshaking, touching contact; that we should wash our hands and make use of the plentiful supply of sanitizers.
- 3.11 Fellowship lounge: thanks to Sandi van Gulik and now Donna Lohnes for setting up and continuing with the fellowship lounge; many volunteers make it work well; because of the kitchen location, volunteers do not miss part of the service and there seems to be more chatting after the service.
- 3.12 Hand to the Lord! He has opened the way and is with us now.
- 3.13 Loving churches grow; growing churches love: this reminder from Rick Warren's writings is reflected in the cooperative team work that we have

seen since moving; we must continue to show the love of Jesus Christ; then, He will bless us in this building.

- 3.14 Set up crew: Recognition of the hard work of at least half a dozen people are at the school by 9:00 a.m. on Sundays to set up: powerpoint system, sound system, Sunday School, musical units, coffee pot.
- 3.15 Leaving 820: Recognition of the hard work going on at 820 Woodroffe, especially by Carl Merkel and Sharon Dean to make sure we have tidied up all the loose ends at that site, while doing all the usual work that has to be done.
- 3.16 **Transportation ministry**: Mient and Harriet Timmermans are recognized for having been faithful in picking up people for Sunday morning services.

#### 4. **What are the challenges? Personally and as a church family?**

- 4.1 Length of Sunday morning service: If we want to grow, we need to be sensitive to the length of the Sunday morning services, especially for newcomers.

Suggestion from congregation: a moderate length of time with consistency from week to week would be helpful.

- 4.2 'Kiss and Drop' Zone outside: this strip of parking in front of the school is meant for drop-off, not for parking except for people who have difficulty walking from the parking lot.

Suggestion from congregation: if you are dropping off items, go back out and move your car so that there is room to safely drop off people coming to the meeting.

- 4.3 Volunteers for transportation: there is a need for volunteer drivers to transport congregants to the Sunday morning service. There are people attending 820 who would like to join us but need a drive. It was noted that this ministry is a real blessing for the drivers as you get to know people in a much more relaxed but intimate setting.

Suggestion from congregation: we need an aggressive volunteer recruitment for this ministry.

- 4.4 Newcomers: do we know how many newcomers have joined us in Barrhaven? What kind of follow-up is being done? There are about 12-15 newcomers; they are being contacted.

Suggestion from congregation: more organized greeting and follow up;

- o have cards for newcomers to complete with addresses and phone number for follow up, if they agree; need commitment from a group of people to do so; this is something that Mission Board can discuss with coordinators of Greeters and Shepherds
- o have a board with name tags for all of us, including newcomers; then, it would be easier to keep track of people who are not attending for even a couple of Sundays
- o have a welcome package; offer rides immediately if newcomers need it
- o university students, in particular, need rides; what about a bus that swings by Carleton and University of Ottawa?

4.5 Financial challenges: There were several questions/comments about finances:

Question/comment: it was noted that, in order to develop an organization, you have to be prepared to invest resources in order to see results

Carl Merkel responded:

- o we cannot do deficit funding of programs/services
- o we are developing a realistic budget but, as was noted as the business meeting in September, there is a deficit for the senior corps although Sunshine Club, Artisans and YP Corps are doing well.
- o capital funding/reserves cannot be used for ongoing operations
- o traditionally, giving was divided into programs on cartridge envelopes; it is better for congregants to put into general giving and allow the Mission Board to budget realistically and manage the money.

Question/comment: can the YP Corps, including Sunday School, ‘donate’ their funds for general use?

Response:

- o Yes, if Mission Board approves it.

Question/comment: why can’t we be specific about giving money for what we need?

Response:

- o we do well when we do have a project for a specific need; however, if you do that every week, you are tying the hands of Mission Board to use money where it is most needed at that time; also, many people

simply divide up their usual giving into projects, instead of giving to the project in addition to their regular giving. This does not help Mission Board pay the monthly bills

- o we would not be in deficit if everyone gave another \$5-6 per week

Suggestion from congregation:

- o the concept of giving to the general fund to be used as needed has to be explained more clearly to the congregation

Question/comment: are our expenses lower since moving to Barrhaven?

Response:

- o Expenses are reduced by virtue of having moved out of the building. These include the costs of running and maintaining the building and the associated salary costs. However, there is significant cost to vacate the building, including costs of terminating some contracts. These costs along with the correction to our budget to recognize the actual level of giving for this year will leave us with a deficit.

Question/comment: the Lord only asks us for 10%

Response:

- o our average giving is \$20 per cartridge per week

Question/comment: what about community services money?

Response:

- o this funding has very strict conditions attached to it
- o is currently used for community service expenditures
- o not for general operating funds

Question/comment: can we have fundraising projects to improve general cash flow?

Carl Merkel's response:

- o we can engage in fundraising projects for specific needs, but this must be coordinated with our regular giving and the fundraising we are undertaking for the new building

Susan Snider's response:

- o our fundraising working group has a specific mandate to focus on the capital campaign for the new building. That being said, they will not be looking at fundraising in isolation of the broader issue of stewardship. The capital campaign will give our congregation a platform to discuss the issue of tithing, which can sometimes be a difficult subject to address. The working group is looking at what approach to fundraising will best work for our congregation and they will be submitting a proposed work plan to RSC for Mission Board in January.

Suggestion from congregation:

- o try tithing; it is amazing what it will do for you;
- o if you can't handle 10%, start with 5% and increase it; the point is to be consistent

- 4.6 No sense of mission for this church: programs are going in all directions but not sure what God is calling this church to be in Barrhaven. We need to answer this in order to decide where our money goes and to give direction to program leaders. How and when is this going to get answered? People are leaving and going to other churches. We have to know why we are here and what we are doing to make our mission known.

Response:

- o there is a strategic framework in the integrated ministry model but it has to be turned into an action plan; this is what Mission Board will be discussing but it is not the Mission Board who is doing all the work; it has to be a church effort.

- 4.7 What is going on with property?

Response:

- o there is an active search going on for property in Barrhaven
- o property out here is scarce and expensive; however, there are several possibilities that are being explored through Terilynn Anderson.

4.8 Are there community resources for SLAM?

Response:

- o there was an encouraging consultation with youth pastors and other youth service providers in Barrhaven last spring; they are expecting follow up
- o can share information and plan joint activities; there might even be space available for our activities.

4.9 Who is responsible for planning for outreach? People want to do outreach but want to be told what to do.

Response:

- o Mission Board will be discussing the larger initiative
- o meanwhile, there will be a plan developed for informing the community about Christmas activities over the next few weeks
- o there will be work for everyone to do

4.10 Why didn't Mission Board meet first so they would have answers?10

Response:

- o Mission Board needed to hear what you all had to say before moving to an action plan

4.11 Is there someone on Mission Board representing the youth sector?

Response:

- o the position was that of the Youth Director; that position is currently vacant
- o Stephan Savage is Director of Programs for all sectors

**5. Questions previously submitted:**

Question 1: Are we utilizing the signs in the best way to advertise our Sunday Services? Concerns about timing and location of placement of stand up signs.

Response: thanks for this info we'll add it to an immediate list to discuss at our meeting this week. I probably better tell you, though, that these signs are illegal to start with, except the one out front.

On a positive note, there is a notice in the community newspaper. And, it's getting near time to do another pre-Christmas blitz around the

neighbourhood. Perhaps you could let us know if there community bulletins where we could post notices.

Question 2: Are we going to replace the Youth Director?

Response: we know that there is a concern at this point about not having a youth director. Mission Board shares that concern. Unfortunately, we lost Ryan Gideon who had really strengthened the youth activities at the Corps. And, we have been very grateful to Miriam Paul for stepping in with the youth group and its Bible Study. There is still a hiring freeze under headquarters directives. But, when that's lifted and our finances have stabilized, the plan is to recruit a full time youth director.

Question 3: What is happening with the three groups still at 820 Woodroffe Avenue?

Response: these groups are Artisans, the Sunshine Club and SLAM (youth and sports). They will continue to meet at 820 until December. Then, we will have to find a meeting place for them until Bethany Hope Centre's renovations are complete. The groups are still part of our church's outreach ministry with a commitment to resource them the same as we do any of our other ministry units.

I would want to add that maintaining these three groups does not stop us from starting similar groups and activities here in Barrhaven. This will all be part of the implementation of our strategic plan.

## 6. Next Steps

Notes of meeting will be distributed next week, both hard copy and on web site.

Please note that ongoing feedback would be appreciated. A list of Mission Board members and how to contact them will be distributed next week.

If there are suggestions for fundraising, speak to the Fundraising Working Group. Their names and contact info will be distributed next week.

Mission Board is meeting on October 27 to determine:

- o what should be addressed immediately; e.g. signage, transportation
- o next steps for action plan to implement the integrated ministry model
- o how to provide feedback to the congregation

## 7. Leadership message

Major Doug Smith, Area Commander for Divisional Headquarters (DHQ):

- o he was pleased to hear all the positive comments at the beginning of the meeting
- o he would encourage having this kind of congregational meeting twice a year
- o a corps retreat would probably be useful to discuss Mission and action to be taken
- o DHQ is not the enemy; exists to support the church family; they want us to be successful
- o it was already announced that Captain Simon and Allison Downey will not be returning as our Corps Officer; they will be in Ottawa until next June working in interim positions; we are encouraged to contact them to support them
- o meanwhile, Major Smith is acting as our Corps Officer for business matters and other decision making
- o he is working with DHQ and THQ to appoint a retired officer as our interim pastor until June; we are hoping to have word on that within the week
- o Major Smith will be having discussions with the congregation through Mission Board about the kind of Corps Officer would work best in our church (gifts, experience, etc.) for an appointment next June, not forgetting that God is leading the entire process

Major Smith closed the meeting in prayer.