

## **NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION FROM THE SEARCH COMMITTEE**

**September 2009**

It's hard to believe that September is already here. The Search Committee has only been meeting once every two weeks during the summer, but now it's back to weekly meetings and a full agenda, so that we can have our information packet to attract suitable candidates ready by the end of November. Then we start the recruiting process, including pre-candidating meetings during February/March, leading to the presentation of our recommended candidate to the congregation in the May/June timeframe. So there is lots of work to be done!

### **THE SURVEY**

The congregation has been very helpful in providing input through our monthly circle meetings and the survey. But we want to make sure we hear from everyone. If you haven't yet completed the online survey, please do so by visiting **ADDRESS**. If you don't have internet access, let Beverly Horton know and she will be happy to provide you with a hard copy. **The deadline for completion is SEPTEMBER 1.**

Some households with multiple church members have discovered that only one respondent per computer can complete the survey, because Survey Monkey knows that someone at that IP address has already completed it. If you are having this problem, try using a different computer to complete the survey. If you are still having problems, contact Beverly Horton and she will assist you.

### **SEPTEMBER CIRCLE MEETING**

At our next circle meeting on September 13<sup>th</sup>, we will be providing a sneak preview of the survey results and our initial analysis, and will be seeking comments. This meeting will take place on Ingathering Sunday, immediately after the Ingathering Luncheon. Because you will be well fed, we will be extending the length of the circle meeting to 90 minutes, so that we can have a fulsome discussion about our congregation's profile. Please note that babysitting will be available for anyone who needs it during the circle meeting.

### **LETTERS FROM COMMITTEES**

Just before the summer, Ed Canning sent a request to all committees to provide a letter to the Search Committee pertaining to the committee's relationship to a new minister. He requested receipt of this information by September 1, so this is a gentle reminder to get your letter into Ed as soon as possible. Ed's personal reminder after September 1 will not be so gentle! J

### **DVD PROJECT FOR OUR INFORMATION PACKET**

Help us pique the interest of ministerial candidates and distinguish our congregation from other "searching congregations" by contributing your ideas, time, and talents to our Ministerial Search Package DVD. To help "spice up" our package we're hoping to include a "Speakers' Corner"; a video presentation of the Hamilton area's "must sees," as well as

short, fun, and creative skits presenting the results of our congregational survey. We need YOUR help to pull this off. We need "Speakers' Corner" participants; folks to offer Hamilton "must see" suggestions; skit performers, costume, prop and set "designers"; video editors. We need you all!

If you recognize these gifts in yourself, please don't be shy. Introduce yourself to a member of the Ministerial Search Committee. (He or she will be wearing one of those attention-seeking neon green name tags). Tell him or her about your talent, offer your help or, better yet, both. Thanks in advance for helping introduce ministerial candidates to our wonderfully- creative and talented congregation.

(You could also contact a member of the Ministerial Search Committee via email: [search@firstunitarianhamilton.org](mailto:search@firstunitarianhamilton.org) OR [hamsearch2009@yahoo.ca](mailto:hamsearch2009@yahoo.ca)).