



**St. Albert United Church**  
an Affirming Ministry within the United Church of Canada  
Telephone (780)458-8355 [www.stalbertunited.ca](http://www.stalbertunited.ca)

## Update from Council

August 31, 2023

The past several months at St Albert United Church have been full of change and transition. Over the last twelve months, we have been through a visioning process, we have seen the departure of our two ministers, and we have seen the creation of a path toward the next chapter in the evolution of our church.

Our search team is actively seeking to find our next full-time minister, and Council and the Ministry of Worship and Education, have been working to ensure that the needs of our congregation are being met while that search happens.

We are very excited that Pastor Anne Telford has agreed to accept a half-time position as our interim minister for the next four months. Pastor Telford will be preaching three Sundays per month, and our lay leadership team and other church groups will be presenting the services the other Sundays. Pastor Telford has also expressed a desire to connect with our members and to share her gifts of pastoral care and support.

We are also pleased to welcome Donna Graham into her new role as our Community Development Coordinator. During visioning, our members expressed a strong desire to re-ignite the community activities that our church has been known for over the years. Donna approached Council with a proposal to help restart these initiatives and to foster the fellowship and volunteerism that these activities can bring. Donna's position is for eight hours per week for the next six months, and her hope is that we will have a volunteer network in place to continue this important work after her contract ends.

Another area which our visioning process identified as needing attention, was our internal and external communications. Earlier this year, Margaret Ward-Jack and Stephen Fitzpatrick agreed to create a communications plan for SAUC, and their work has been thorough and exemplary. Council is working to determine the implementation strategy and timelines for their many excellent recommendations, and we are also hoping to apply for a grant from the national church to help facilitate this important communications plan.

Please stay tuned for more frequent future updates. Our church family at St Albert United Church, is a gift to each of us and we are very grateful for your continuing support as we start this new chapter together.

Blessings from your SAUC Council

*Our Mission:* As followers of Jesus, we cultivate spaces where everyone has room to grow; we share God's hope for the Earth.