

## Christ Church Church School.... May 1<sup>st</sup> 2016

### 1) Priorities:

- a. Church School should be *enjoyable*, for everyone, yet provide "food" for the journey
- b. Church School is about *relationships*. This is why we do church school, why a number of us love it.

### 2) Aims:

- a. Making sure all volunteers adults are "tuned in to the purposes" and readings being explored
- b. Having consistent "faces" to the program
- c. Acknowledging the challenge of a smaller pool of volunteers and children
- d. Re-thinking the Christmas Pageant in regards to c.
- e. Continuing to provide Outreach/Service experiences for kids & adults
- f. "Thinking out of the box" during Winter Term when the hockey season impacts attendance
- g. Simplifying communication
- h. Using Church First Sundays more effectively

### 3) Suggestions:

- 1) One paid **Director** as the "face" of the program, provide continuity, be the "go to" for newer parishioners; provide a one-room "classroom" based on the readings we're doing in church (Feasting on the Word); the year will be planned (with help) and posted weekly. **Volunteers** will be expected to have a sense of the Sunday lesson as well as provide some behavioral support.
- 2) There will be an applicable "**Take Away**" every week BUT we will also encourage questions and "wondering" which will keep us in sync with the **Godly Play** program. It's less about "giving answers" and more about asking good questions.
- 3) **Organizing: Church School Volunteer Teams.** 16-20 or more adults in 4-5 different teams so that, for instance, "North Team" would be scheduled for 3- 4 weeks and 3 or 4 volunteers would be available each Sunday. Then "South Team" for 3-4 weeks, etc. **Godly Play** could be organized somewhat differently. (This will provide much more support to the Director and the program)
- 4) **Special Events/Outreach:** the Pageant, Heifer Project, the Eggstravaganza always needs more "hands on deck". Even paying someone for 2-3 weeks for each might make sense OR we could go to the different Teams (North and South Team on the Pageant & Youth Sunday; East and West are the Eggstravaganza & Heifer).
- 5) **Christmas Pageant:** Maybe we do a less-involved pageant inside the church *every other year*. For instance, we could invite the oldest group of the church school to write and act in a new (modern) pageant every other year, on the "pilgrimage year" just before they become Rite-13ers.
- 6) **Sunday Winter Program:** Now that Hockey is so popular it might be wise to "change up" the January through March Term. There are fewer kids and we can be more creative.
- 7) **Communication:** the Director won't be asked to do an article for the Courier; The Reminder article will become more "automatic" and based on planning done before the academic year starts.
- 8) **Worship:** Church First Sundays can be an opportunity to engage our kids in learning liturgy and in helping run the service. The Church School liturgy can focus more on kids interests and concerns.