
Appendix C**Care for Clergy And Lay Ministers**

I am writing to you ahead of tomorrow's meeting to share with you an idea that is in development concerning care for clergy and lay ministers. My hope is that you can at least have a brief moment to give thought to my request before our conversation tomorrow morning.

My initial consultations with active ordained ministers, and now with retired ministers, has lifted up several concerns and needs, and has concretised in the requests for some specific forms of support and on-going fellowship and continuing learning opportunities.

Already, Les Ministères en français has been holding weekly on-line support gatherings for ministers serving en français. They also have instituted a Fall retreat with this group of ministers .

My hope is to offer similar support to ministers who are not connected to the MeF network, and are seeking various forms of support.

I would see this unfolding in a few phases:

Phase 1 – Survey of all clergy, seeking to better define needs and hopes for supportive gatherings and learning opportunities

Phase 2 - Very soon, begin on-line support opportunities with time for prayer & reflection, shared learning and resources, and for smaller-group personal support and sharing. Some day, these could be in-person on occasion.

Phase 3 – When circumstances allow, and in collaboration with Éric Hébert-Daly and Les Ministères en français, planning a retreat with both groups, allowing for reflection and learning in both languages. Éric and I have only just begun to explore this phase.

With the uncertainty of COVID-19, we cannot yet ascertain if an in-person event will be possible this Fall. Conversations and explorations are on-going.

Given the added pressures and stresses that COVID-19 has placed on ministers, my hope is to begin Phase 1 in the next week, and begin to offer on-line support before the end of the month to respond to the numerous requests that have been voiced for these services.

In the shorter term, and until we can clearly determine the possibilities of a Fall retreat, I would anticipate a budget of

1 500\$ to cover costs for resources, any consultants and on-line workshop facilitators and speakers who are from outside the UCC circles, and some technical expenses where needed.

Once the collaborations with les Ministères en français have had time to take shape, and once we are clearer on the options of a possible Fall retreat, I will re-consult with you concerning further budget anticipations for the eventual retreat, in what-ever form it takes place.

Phase 4 - My hope for the rest of this year is to also consult with the Lay ministry leadership in our region to work towards a similar support offering, with a hope of some combined-learning opportunities in the future.

Thank you for considering my proposal idea, and I will look forward to hearing your thoughts and questions concerning this effort to meet needs that are being concretely expressed by ministry in the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council.

Santé à toutes et à tous, plus que jamais,
David-Roger