

What? So What? Now What?
Changing Times and the Future of the Church
Presented by Rev. Peter Coutts

This is a three-evening program that will look at the impact our rapidly changing society is having on Canadian congregations, why it is happening and how congregations are responding. Over the three evenings we will reflect on the question, “What does it mean to be the church in this time and place?” This program will help participants gain greater insight into the social realities that affect congregations today, be a place for faithful reflection on the nature of the church and perhaps be a moment to hear God’s call to what faith communities might be in the future. Each evening will have about a one-hour presentation followed by a time for questions and discussion. The capstone for this program will be the weekend event April 30 – May 1 with Rev. Dr Tim Dickau from The Centre for Missional Leadership at our St. Andrew’s Hall, UBC. Too early to tell for sure whether this series will be wholly online, or a hybrid mix of online and in-person participation. If you wish to attend, please contact the office and let us know if you wish to participate in person or on-line.

Session #1: “What?” Wednesday 13 April at 7 PM

Rapid societal change over the past 60 years has left its mark on Canadian congregations. We will look at what is changing, why it is changing and the implications for congregations. This evening we will draw from the observations of the social sciences. Our focusing scriptural text will be the Parable of the Talents in Matthew 25.

Session #2: “So What?” Wednesday 20 April at 7 PM

The past 25 years has seen much discussion about the nature of the church. People are asking, “Does the church have to change if the society around it has changed?” This evening will be more theological as we look at the emerging ideas about church. Our focusing scriptural text will be the Book of Jonah.

Session #3: “Now What?” Wednesday 27 April at 7 PM

We may not be aware of it but new forms of faith community are all around us. What do they look like? This evening may spark the imagination of participants about what is possible for their own congregation. Our focusing scriptural text will be Isaiah 43.