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*He called out to them, “Friends, haven’t you any fish?” “No,” they answered. He said, “Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.” When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.*

*John 21:5-6*

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*Send us your questions  
and comments to:*

**[changeleadership@presbyterian.ca](mailto:changeleadership@presbyterian.ca)**



# CHANGE LEADERSHIP TEAM | Special Commission

One year ago, the Change Leadership Team was appointed to implement the recommendations in the report on Narratives of Hope and Possibility, which **focus on equipping our denomination to reach new people for Jesus Christ**. We are a Special Commission with defined authority to accomplish these deliverables by next year's General Assembly:

- Design flexible models of ministry and lay training programs to utilize the gifts of all the church.
- Provide additional ministry support through regional leaders.
- Reduce administrative burden through Shared Resource Centres for Finance, HR, IT and Legal needs.
- Reimagine church structures for effectiveness and efficiency.

We have consulted widely across the church. We have studied internal and external data to discern trends, examine best practices, and analyze potential responses. Here, we provide an update on these deliverables and our findings. We give thanks for your continued prayer and support.



## Fishing on the Other Side

A summary of a recent meditation offered  
by the Rev. Dr. Richard Topping



Jesus appears to his disciples several times after his resurrection. For a moment only, he is a stranger before he is recognized, even when he comes to them unexpectedly. All the disciples know that it is the Lord.

He comes to energize, to calm, to commission, to accompany, to demonstrate that he is to be trusted. He brings delight to his service—a presence to the disciples' work and witness. And now, he comes to us in our time. He calls to us from unfamiliar and unexpected directions.

Our exhaustion has us paused, open and listening for advice we could never give ourselves.

We hear an invitation to fish on the other side, through Holy Scripture, through other denominations, through churches of the Global South, through the Indigenous churches, through the wise practices of innovators, through the daring of those who persist, and through congregations that are already fishing on the other side.

Newness is offered to those who have ears to hear and the humility to listen. We have much to learn about resources, relevance, and God! Fishing on the other side calls out to us.

The Rev. Dr. Richard Topping, President and Vice Chancellor of  
Vancouver School of Theology and St Andrew's Hall Professor  
of Studies in the Reformed Tradition.

## Key Updates

- A tool has been drafted to help congregations self-assess their strengths, weaknesses and opportunities.
- As congregations decline, some traditional ministry models are proving less effective. Yet, there is often resistance to implementing alternative models, which could stabilize and renew ministry. Together, we need to address this resistance.
- Existing training and worship resources to equip laity for ministry remain underused. Accessibility and communication are being improved.
- A generic job description for additional Regional Leaders has been drafted, with a funding model and built-in flexibility to reflect differing local needs.
- We are encouraged to recognize the distinct gifts, contributions and needs that Indigenous, ethnocultural, and LGBTQI2+ people and communities bring to the ministry of Christ. Through its recent Apology and earlier confessions, the church commits to a true change of heart and behaviour toward those it has excluded and harmed.
- Our recent survey of presbyteries has confirmed that every ministry situation is different, so solutions cannot be one-size-fits-all.
- A payroll service will be available nationally starting January 2027, easing the administrative burden at the local level.
- Additional resources to support local ministries in Finance and Human Resources will be introduced this summer.
- We remain confident that Jesus is showing up for the church and that there are many fish on the other side!