

# Bay of Quinte Conference

The United Church of Canada

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“A divine messenger appeared to Joseph in a dream and said: “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for what is conceived in her is through the Holy Spirit.” ”

## Message from Bill Steadman, Interim Executive Secretary

As we move into Advent, we come to a special time of the Christian year. We are reminded of the way in which “movements” characterized the Christian experience throughout its history.

In ancient times, and for some still in modern times, a sense of “pilgrimage” captures a spiritual journey where the individual is on a trek to new awareness, new awakenings, and new spiritual experiences. The very word “mission” in our Christian witness, too often laden with hurtful images of cultural imperialism that we wish to expunge the term, at its healthiest core holds a reminder that we are “sent” to share good news, and to be present with others. True “pilgrims” and “mission-oriented people” are people who are ready to move beyond themselves to new awareness, and new understanding. “Moving” fills the early life of Jesus and his family, and portrays Jesus’ years of ministry.

Fourteen months ago, I moved to Frankford. I have appreciated the opportunity to be among the people of Bay of Quinte Conference as your Interim Executive Secretary. As we await a decision on a new Executive Secretary, I prepare for a new ministry at First United Church, Waterloo as of January 1, 2012. Another move. Another journey. Another opportunity to travel with God’s people within a new home, in what (until now) has been a strange land for me.

We as a staff offer our prayers and thoughts for the journey of the people and congregations of The Bay of Quinte Conference this special time of year. I personally thank the staff and the members of the Conference for your support and encouragement over the past year. We all are pilgrims on a journey, and may we, like Joseph and Mary, find that our journey is blessed as we open ourselves to God’s presence.



## Upcoming Events and Workshops:

### Message from Settlement Committee:

*Deadline for Applications for Settlement*

- to Presbyteries by Feb. 1, 2012
- to Conference Settlement Committee by March 15, 2012

*Deadline for Provisional Call Forms*

- to Conference Settlement Committee by April 20, 2012.

**Something New for the gift giving season** - watch for **GIFTS with VISION**, A Giving Catalogue from The United Church of Canada. It will be distributed with the November issue of your *United Church Observer* magazine. Purchases from this catalogue will support special projects with our Mission and Service Partners.



We will be holding a **Ministry of Supervision Course** within our Conference. It will be two weeks in duration from May 7th - 11th and May 14th - 18th. There will also be a Ministry of Supervision Refresher Course offered over three days, May 15th -17th. Location TBA. These courses will cover on-site and off-site supervision along with working with the Learning Outcomes. If you are interested in participating in the course please let us know by emailing Victoria at [stewardship.moa@bayofquinteconference.ca](mailto:stewardship.moa@bayofquinteconference.ca) or Wendy at [wbull@sympatico.ca](mailto:wbull@sympatico.ca)

**Remember to renew your video licencing** for 2012! The form will be available for download in the “Forms” section of our website, [www.bayofquinteconference.ca](http://www.bayofquinteconference.ca), on December 2, 2011.

**Accessibility Standards** - Compliance with Customer Service Standards by January 1st, 2012 A Word Document template for a policy is available on the conference website [www.bayofquinteconference.ca](http://www.bayofquinteconference.ca)

Watch for the Conference mailing, being sent out the first week of December!