

President's Welcome

On behalf of the volunteers and staff that serve the Antler River Watershed Region, I welcome you to our Fall Gathering. "Seasons" is the focus of our time together and gives us an opportunity to reflect on where we are. For me, I'm in the "autumn" of my teaching career, still actively involved with tutoring students and part-time teaching at Western University. The seeds I sowed throughout my career, are bearing fruit in allowing me to educate the new teachers of tomorrow. As far as my work with ARW, I am in my "spring." While new in my role as President, I have served as chair of the Discipleship & Justice Commission. I learn from each new experience and try to incorporate those learnings into my next challenge. Which season fits for your circumstances? Are you game to begin anew, in "spring" and volunteer for one of our Commissions or at your own church?

We all lead busy lives with demands of family, work, leisure, and I would encourage you to breathe deeply, acknowledging all that you have accomplished, and looking forward to all that you can accomplish when you heed God's call. Whether it is assisting with a charity, volunteering at church, or doing something as simple as doing God's work in the community (e.g., having a cheery disposition with the grocery store clerk, paying for someone's order in the drive through, shovelling a sidewalk, donating your time, talent or treasure), these acts go a long way in being God's love in action.

While we all have a favourite season, I try to look at the positives in each. Spring flowers, summer vacations, fall colours and the beauty of fresh fallen snow. Are there parts that are less enjoyable? Certainly. But I try to put a positive spin on all circumstances and embrace all life has to offer. We all have challenges in our lives, but I am constantly reminded that someone else probably has it worse off than me.

Regardless of the season, we all have a role to play in God's world. Heed the call and get involved.

Richard Auckland

President, Antler River Watershed Region
of the United Church of Canada