

**Invitation:**  
**Building a Healthy Congregation Workshops**

Three Sundays, 11:20 – 12:40

March 15, March 29, April 19

*(One of these dates may need to be changed depending on the work of the Joint Search Committee)*

**All the people of Valois United are invited.**  
**All Committee members are strongly encouraged to attend as many sessions as possible.**

As an individual, being as healthy as possible takes time and effort. To be a healthy congregation takes time and effort. A healthy congregation cannot be measured in dollars and numbers of people – it must be measured in the relationships, the sense of cohesiveness, the sense of mutual trust, the sense of worth, and much more. When a congregation is healthy, it has more strength to focus on its concerns - which in the case of Valois include numbers of people and finances.

These workshops provide a framework where, together, healthy ways of being will be discovered and affirmed.

**Further details**

Congregations in today's world are often finding it more and more difficult to have good conversations that can lead to good decisions.

In the face of a context where the people of any congregation come from generations with starkly differing perspectives and where congregations are not homogenous in background, culture and experience, and in a society where the norms for behaviour are not clear, it becomes difficult to have open in-depth discussions.

And yet today's culture invites questioning and reflection on fundamental issues which often have a deep emotional impact, making discussions even more sensitive. But if the discussions are stifled, or if the discussions are not healthy, the results can be devastating to committees, boards, or even a whole congregation.

And so it becomes important for congregations, including Valois United, to come together and set its own course so that the leadership and whole congregation might be in as good a relationship as possible.

The exact content of the three workshops is under development. Areas which may be considered include: the social context over the last sixty years; behaviours that we recognize as helpful-unhelpful; notable experiences of healthy conversation; a Covenant for the future. These workshops will flourish with the contributions of all.