

Communication/Intro (Shawn)

Hello Celebration, hope you all had a great summer! Nico, Lisa, and I would like to provide a quick update on what has been happening over the past few months, what is currently underway, and a few things we are looking forward to over the next several months.

First of all, thank you for your participation in the Congregational Survey this summer. We were able to gain some really valuable feedback on a variety of topics. We value all the input and one of our goals today is to clarify a few items in our ongoing effort to be transparent and open as we continue to explore this relationship with Via Apostolica and Celebration Church. As we navigate this exploration process we understand that everyone is at a different point along this journey. We have tried to be clear in our communication but acknowledge that there are still many questions to be answered about the process. We are all learning as we walk in this exploration and as things evolve we will keep you all informed as best we can. Please continue to be in prayer for this process. I will pass the mic onto Lisa to talk about what has been happening over the past few months.

What have we done? (Lisa)

Over the spring and summer months of 2021, a series of videos were created and published on the Celebration website to help inform the congregation as the exploration of Via Apostolica continued.

In the first video, Pastor Nico discussed biblical discernment and what we were taught to do when faced with difficult decisions, and how this should inform our discernment and decision making today in our personal lives and as a church body.

The next video featured Pastor Nico and Bishop Todd Atkinson from, Via Lethbridge, speaking about the heart of Via Apostolica and their focuses and core understandings.

In the third video, Bishop Todd was with us again, that time explaining the crest of Via Apostolica, which highlights the key focuses of Via, and he also delves into the understanding of the Three streams (the historical, charismatic, and evangelical church).

In the next video, Todd described the journey that took Via Apostolica from an independent to a denominational church, and in the final video Bishop Todd explained some of the leadership roles within Via, including bishops, priests, and deacons.

So those videos were posted on Celebration's website over the summer months and can still be found there if you have not yet had a chance to view them.

Along with the informational videos about Via Apostolica, the leadership team at Celebration has been intentional with providing opportunities to the people of Celebration to experience other leaders within Via across Canada.

In May during an outbreak in our church we encouraged our community to join a live-stream of Via Lethbridge in order to get a taste of a Via church service. When Bishop Todd came to Regina in June, he met with the board and staff, as well as preached to the congregation during a Sunday service.

Chad Block, a priest from Via Langley, came to Regina at the end of summer to preach on a Sunday, as well as spent time with the board and staff. Our staff connected with various leaders of Via across Canada via Zoom in order to gain a deeper understanding of the practise and different expressions of individual congregations.

There have also been intentional opportunity(ies) to experience the sacrament of communion in a more historical/Via expression.

The staff have also read and discussed the book called The Anglican Way, by Thomas Mckenzie.

A congregational survey went out to the people of Celebration in July, to get a sense of how people within Celebration are doing in their spiritual journeys, especially in these trying times during a pandemic. The survey also asked questions about engagement and clarity throughout Celebration's exploration process of Via Apostolica.

What are we doing? (Nico)

Thank you so much Lisa. In this last season the goal was for our community to experience a broad exposure to Via.

In this season we have realized that it is important to go about this journey in an intentional way, tackling some of the questions that require deeper insight.

For this reason we have started a process with our board in September that works towards the goal we have set out in the beginning, bringing clarity of what Via Apostolica is like and what an affiliation would mean for Celebration church.

At the moment we are working on a **Board Clarity Process Chart**.

- We are looking at important questions that we have received from the congregation and the board with the sole intention of bringing clarity. The goal at this point is not agreement but clarity. Staff and elders identify the clarity they have (green, yellow, red) and working on being able to answer all the questions that are still unclear.

Just this week we have spent time mapping out in a more detailed way **what has been done** so far, **what we are doing** and **what is to come**. Our goal is to make this document available to you soon so that you are able to see in one document the process as well as links to some of the resources that have already been brought to you and still are coming.

Further we have offered a Foundations of our Faith class (Catechism) in order to help our people hear and understand what the essential beliefs of the whole church are that Via is committed to uphold and focus on.

As mission is of great value to Via, and should be to the whole church, we have started an Alpha course that has been a great program to invite Non-believers to, as well as for believers to gain a solid foundation of our faith. Alpha is a multidenominational program developed by the Anglican church with a focus on missions.

The staff have read through the book: 'The Anglican Way' and the board is now working through it at the moment and will have some discussions on its content.

Lastly, we have been reaching out to individuals of ACNA, which is the wider Anglican church community that Via is a part of. The staff had a call with Bishop Quigg and in our next Elders meeting we are connecting with him as well in order to hear more about what it would mean for Celebration to be part of the broader Anglican community.

What is going to happen? (Shawn)

So, there are a few things that we are looking forward to over the coming months. Our Annual General Meeting is scheduled for Sunday November 28 after the service so please mark that in your calendars. We will be reviewing the Audited Financial Statements for 2020-2021 fiscal year, conducting some general business functions, providing a report from the board and the staff, and reviewing the Board Clarity Process Chart that Nico was describing. We will also allow time for a congregational meeting to discuss any items that are brought forward.

We are about 10 months into our exploration process with Via Apostolica. Back in January when we announced Nico as our interim lead pastor, we discussed that we are allowing a time frame of 1 - 2 years to explore this opportunity in great detail in order for the congregation to make an informed decision on the direction of the church. At that time we also announced that there would be a call committee formed. However, we clarified in the spring that as this congregation fully explores this relationship with Via Apostolica, there will not be a need for a call committee at this time. Once we have the vote, regardless of the outcome, a call committee will be formed in order to bring a recommendation to the church of a permanent lead pastor.

In the congregational survey there were a few comments that the affiliation with Via Apostolica is a done deal. This is definitely not the case. The congregation has to vote to ratify that decision. So what will the vote look like? There will be a series of two votes - the first will be to decide if Celebration becomes a member congregation of Via Apostolica. If the result of the vote is Yes, then the call committee will be formed as discussed to make a recommendation for the lead pastor. A subsequent vote by the congregation will be made for the selection of the permanent lead pastor. If the result of the vote for affiliation with Via Apostolica is No, then we would move into the call committee process to develop the next steps in our search for our permanent lead pastor. I hope that provides a bit more clarity on the process moving forward.

We are planning a congregational meeting in January or February of 2022 to provide some dedicated time to discuss the exploration process with Via Apostolica and go through our advancements in the Board Clarity Process Chart.

The final item I would like to address is the investigation against Bishop Todd concerning allegations of misconduct. As this point we are committed to receiving the results of the investigation before there is any vote on an affiliation with Via Apostolica. Even though we are not following a person, we want to wait for the results of the investigation and any implications that may have with his position and the future of Via Apostolica. Please continue to be in prayer for this entire process, that God's light will be in that situation and healing will occur to those that need it.

Closing (Nico)

Everyone is at different points on the exploration and discernment journey - new members, others who enjoy the journey, and some maybe concerned or even suspicious about the potential changes - our website is continually updated. We want to give you permission to go through your process in your own pace and hope you can do it on the hand of Jesus. Some of us at times might get triggered,

might feel concerned or afraid, excited and curious, hopeful and impatient, foreign or might feel it is just plain wrong that we are discerning affiliation with Via. As a leadership team we want to encourage you to not deny those feelings, but bring them to the Lord and stay engaged.

Your voice matters and our desire is to see God's kingdom established in and through Celebration Church.

God's dream in the midst of all the challenges of life is to see a glorious church emerge, that reflects His beauty and majesty, a church that looks like Jesus and carries His marks and mandate. A church that walks in His mission and according to His ways.

Eph. 4: 4

Continue to pray and follow Jesus.