

Toronto Southeast Presbytery Conversation about report on the review of the ministry of Gretta Vosper

This is the first opportunity the Presbytery has had to be part of the review process, and is a response from the Executive (not the full Presbytery).

We were positively impressed with the report of the CIC – its thoroughness, and respectful tone, and in particular its clarity.

On the recommendations, there was a range of opinions within the Executive.

Concerns were raised that implementing the recommendation to place GV on the Discontinued Service list will do further damage to the church – expense, time, spiritual and psychic cost, bad publicity.

But on balance the view of the Executive is that the recommendations are the right ones and should be implemented, based on our confidence in the report of the CIC. Concern was expressed that having gone to the trouble of conducting the review and preparing the report, it would be disrespectful of our own processes not to follow up.

On the third recommendation, having to do with providing support to Gretta Vosper and the congregation, the Presbytery will be alert to the difficult position both the minister and the congregation are in over the coming months and years if and as the DSL process unfolds. We will remain in contact, and will offer assistance to the congregation as they discern their own future.

(nb a congregation cannot leave the church, it can disband or close as a United Church congregation, and then re-form in some other identity.)