

Dear Friends,

In this newsletter you will find information regarding the First 'Biennial' Meeting of the Region, which will be held Thursday, September 20 through Saturday September 22.

One of the special speakers this year is Rev. Dr. John Pentland. Dr. Pentland is the lead pastor of Hillhurst United Church in Calgary, Alberta.

Numbers don't say everything, but look at some of the changes between 2004 and 2015 at Hillhurst United Church:

	<u>2004 Statistics</u>	<u>2015 Statistics</u>
Sunday Attendance	80 – 100	350-400
Sunday School	<10	100
Demographics	Mostly elderly	Variety of ages/family focus
Services	1 every Sunday	2 services plus
Monthly Offering	\$2400	\$26,000
Community	120 families	435 families
Staff	Traditional model	28 paid staff / 100s volunteers

Clearly, Dr. Pentland has something to share, which many of our churches need to hear.

Thursday evening is a Plenary Talk, our gift to the community. Friday is a workshop for pastors and church leaders, registration and fee required.

Our hope is that churches of the region will avail themselves for this special opportunity.

Blessings,

Alan G. Newton