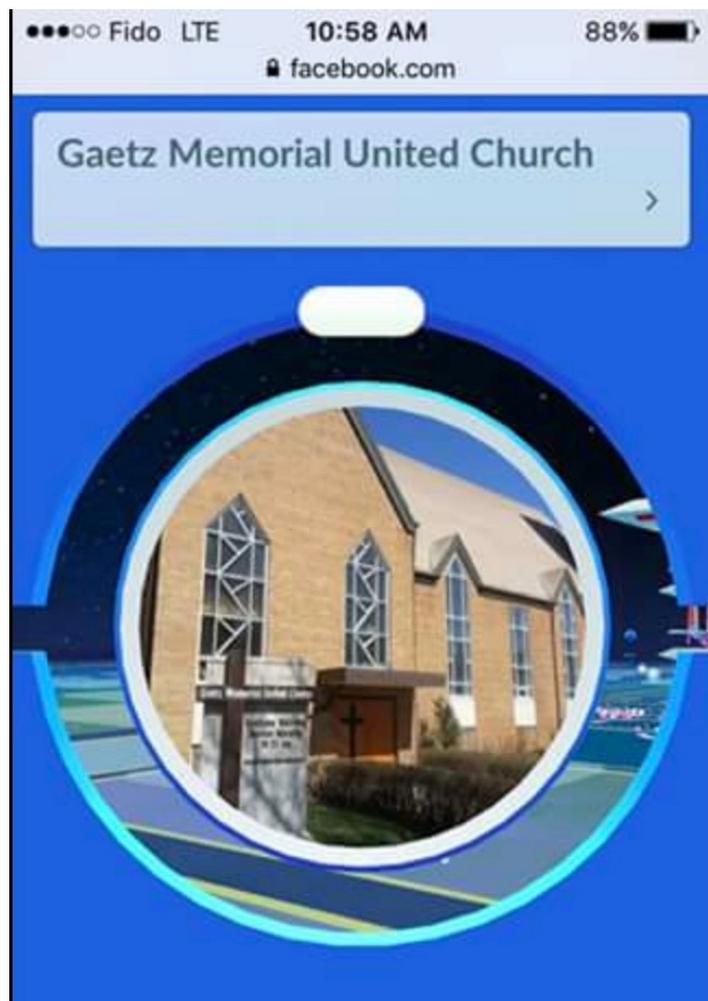




## News below:

- Churches are likely Pokémon Go stops
- What happens next with Executive Secretary position
- Join the United Church's Global Pilgrimage: Kenya 2017.

# Churches likely Pokémon Go stops



Churches across Alberta and Northwest Conference and around the world are finding that their buildings are stops or 'gyms' for the augmented reality game called Pokémon Go. Pokémon Go is a game that requires players to actually go to physical locations with their mobile phones to get supplies or catch fairy-tale like creatures called 'Pokémon.'

Pokémon developers used Google Maps to help them set up locations and church locations ended up on the games' list of locations because they are regular landmarks in urban areas.

United Churches that find themselves as a Pokémon location are being good sports about their inclusion. One example

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mobile phones to get supplies or catch fairy-tale like creatures called 'Pokémon.'" Pokémon developers used Google Maps to help them set up locations and church locations ended up on the games' list of locations because they are regular landmarks in urban areas.

United Churches that find themselves as a Pokémon location are being good sports about their inclusion. One example is Red Deer's Gaetz Memorial United Church which posted these words on its Facebook page: "We are delighted that Gaetz Memorial United Church is a Pokestop in Pokemon GO! You are welcome to get what you need around our church grounds and are welcome to come inside and charge your smartphones too. Office hours are 9am-noon in summer months. Happy hunting! #GottaCatchThemAll".

**A few interesting statistics on the Pokémon phenomena:** Within 19 days of the app's release on July 6, 50 million people world-wide had downloaded it. Approximately 78 per cent of players are between the ages of 18 to 34 and the largest demographic of players are males between the ages of 21 to 28. ([Craig Smith: Expanded Ramblings](#))

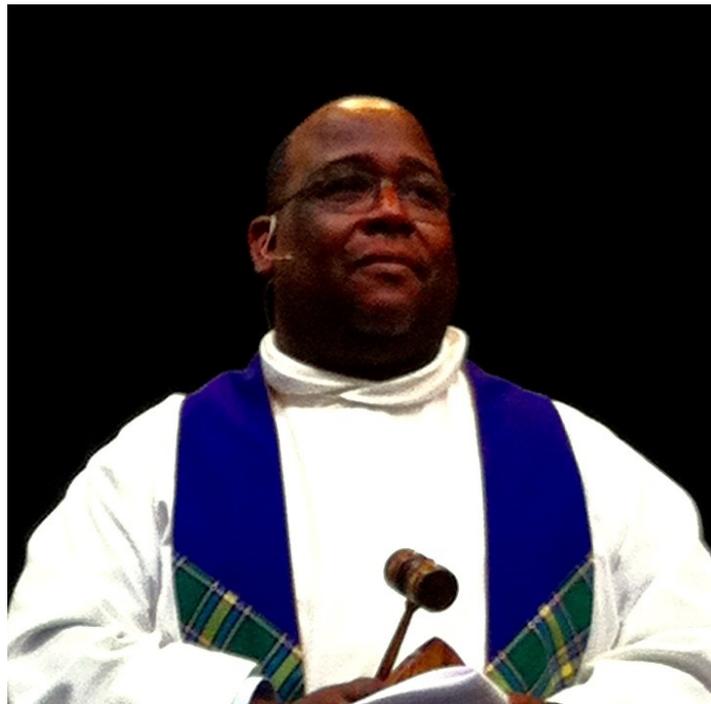
**Some Helpful Resources:**

- [The Best Way for Churches to 'Capitalize' on Pokémon Go? Play It in \*Christianity Today\*](#)
- [Top 10 Do's and Don'ts when your church is a Pokemon Go Stop in \*Children's Illustrated Ministry\*](#)

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## TRANSITIONS

# What happens next with the Executive Secretary position



***A letter to Conference members from Rev. Paul Walfall, President of ANW Conference.***

In May I asked Presbyteries of ANW Conference for their input into a needs assessment about a new Executive Secretary. Following receipt of the Presbyteries' opinions, the Conference Executive agreed on June 4 that we would pursue sharing the services of Executive Secretaries with other Conferences.

Given the decision made, the Conference Executive is aware that every effort be made for Pastoral Charges and Presbyteries to be effectively supported through the impending transitions that are to come. The changes that are to come, whether Remits pass or not, will challenge us to do things differently, while ensuring that there is minimal reduction of efficiency. For this to come to fruition, we need to work together, even in learning new

approaches to do the work.

Representatives from our Conference have been in active discussions with representatives from the General Council Office and the Saskatchewan and Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario Conferences. Discussions have proven to be fruitful. It is our hope that we will soon finalize a Memorandum of Understanding with these Conferences, in time for the start of September 2016. [Read more of Paul's letter on ANW Conference's website.](#)

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## ***Other News and items of interest***

### **Mission & Service Global Pilgrimage: Kenya 2017** **March 25–April 4, 2017**

**From Carolyn Woodall, Chair, ANW Conference Stewardship and Mission Education Committee:**

*We would like to draw attention to an exciting opportunity that has become available through Mission and Service. One Mission Enthusiast from each of our Conferences will be chosen to participate in a MISSION EDUCATION TOUR IN KENYA. Details below. PLEASE apply as ASAP to be considered for this one in a lifetime trip!*

Are you passionate about Mission & Service? Interested in witnessing the joys and challenges of life in Kenya? Ready to be a pilgrim moving into and through experiences with an open mind and open heart?

Join the United Church's Mission & Service Global Pilgrimage: Kenya 2017. Mission & Service global partner, the National Council of Church of Kenya will host and coordinate the visit, which will include meetings, field visits and encounter with these Mission & Service global partners:

- All Africa Conference of Churches (ecumenical organization bringing churches and councils of churches across the continent together for peace, justice, and dignity in Africa)
- Kenya Alliance for the Advancement of Children's Rights (protecting, promoting, and advocating for children's rights)
- Organization of African Instituted Churches (council of Indigenous African Churches working in Kenya and across the continent)
- Pembizo Christian Council (ecumenical organization)
- Programme for Christian-Muslim Relations in Africa (PROCMURA) (interfaith work in Kenya and across the continent)

There is room for one Mission & Service Enthusiast from each Conference, one UCW representative and a Conference staff person.

**More information:** [united-church.ca/opportunities/mission-service-global-pilgrimage-kenya-2017](http://united-church.ca/opportunities/mission-service-global-pilgrimage-kenya-2017)

**Apply online by October 28, 2016:**

[unitedchurch.formstack.com/forms/kenya2017](http://unitedchurch.formstack.com/forms/kenya2017)

# How to Be Faithful in a Time of Great Change

## Intercultural Ministry Committee

September 29 to October 1, 2016

### 2016 Annual Meeting and Educational Event

Registration at 4 pm, Thursday ... Closing with Lunch on Saturday

Providence Renewal Centre, Edmonton, Alberta

With the Rev. Sandy Ferguson, Ministry Personnel, Strathearn United Church, Edmonton and the Rev. Paul Douglas Walfall, Conference President, Ministry Personnel, First United Church, Fort Saskatchewan.

Featuring an Intercultural Potluck Dinner and Entertainment Dinner at 6 pm. Entertainment at 7 pm on Friday, September 30, 2016, Riverbend United Church, Everyone Welcome !

An Opportunity to Explore Change in the Church through an Intercultural Lens!

For more information, please contact the Conference Office, 780-435-3995,

[kjackson@anwconf.com](mailto:kjackson@anwconf.com)

## A Visit to Fort McMurray

# Healing, Resiliency, Determination

*ANW Conference President Paul Walfall's report on visiting the Fort McMurray Pastoral Charge: [Click here to read the report.](#)*



## Lynn Maki: “Contagious with Hope!”

*We wish Executive Secretary Rev. Lynn Maki Godspeed on her retirement at the end of August. [Read more on the Conference website.](#)*



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