

FIRST WITH THE NEWS . . . December 2020

A Torch is Passed

...Frederick Ako-Nai Accepts Lead Role in First Church's "3P" Committee as John Williams Retires

John Williams, a retired member of the Canadian Parliament (he represented Edmonton-St. Albert from 1993-2008) has announced another retirement, after chairing FPC's "3P" Committee for 8 years, *ie.*, from its formation in 2012 to now. John has guided this administrative committee as it focused on the coordination of plans, policies, and procedures.

In this leadership role, John reviewed promotional and marketing plans, aimed at stimulating FPC growth, during an era of rapid growth downtown. Edmonton's downtown population has risen to 14,000 and growth continues (*eg*, 12 residential floors of Stantec Tower have been converted from condos to rental suites). There are also a high number of residential suites for sale as the fabric of the downtown continues to change. New residents may be younger and more households may have children.

Growing a congregation and the Fight to End Polio Now... and

John's skills have been invaluable to FPC. One approach that recently interested John was used by the Rotary as they strove to end polio world-wide (<https://www.rotary.org/en/rotarys-fight-end-polio-now>). Since 1985, the Rotary (a service club found world-wide) has led the battle against polio, using consultants, such as Mark Dixon, and "on-line" marketing. Worldwide cases have plummeted from 350,000 per year to several hundred. India went off the list of endemic countries in 2012, and the world took one more step toward eradicating a human disease from the earth. The first eradicated was smallpox.

Frederick Ako-Nai has agreed to lead 3P. He is one of the handful of original 3P members. He has also served as FPC webmaster since 2012. He recently completed a number of revisions to the FPC website that have earned many compliments.

Frederick holds a Master of Science degree in Information Systems, obtained after he moved to Canada in 2000 to obtain post-secondary studies. He was baptized and confirmed in the Presbyterian Church of Ghana, where he was an active member until he left to further his schooling. He works in Edmonton as a DevOps Specialist and is happy to call FPC his home church. He says he is also a keen sports fan and enjoys music.

The church building will be closed through the holidays (December 25-Jan 3).