



April 25, 2006

An Open Letter to all members of BCCC:

I would like to invite you to be part of a research project that I am conducting on behalf of Bragg Creek Community Church of God. This project is part of the requirement for a Master's Degree in Leadership and Training at Royal Roads University, Victoria, B.C. My name is Carol Scarratt and my credentials with Royal Roads University can be established by calling my project supervisor Dr. David Reagan at (250) 652-5712.

The objective of my research project is to ask what members of Bragg Creek Community Church of God (BCCC) need to do in order to fulfill the church's mission. This qualitative study of all voting members of the church and youth members from 15 years of age, will use an action research approach with an appreciative perspective to develop a shared vision to help BCCC determine future initiatives.

In addition to submitting my final report to Royal Roads University in partial fulfillment for a Master's Degree in Leadership and Training, I will be sharing my research findings and recommendations with the BCCC Pastoral Team, Council, the Elders, the Research Team and all members of the congregation.

A copy of the final report will be housed at Royal Roads University and to benefit similar organizations requiring information or research material on this topic, a copy will also be publicly accessible via the National Library of Canada.

The project, **Building Shared Vision Through Appreciative Inquiry:
A Congregational Journey**

will include an Open Space event for data collection from 30-60 people, a survey with two open-ended questions administered anonymously to all members of BCCC and four focus groups of eight people drawn from four main categories of congregants: youth aged 15 to 25, young families, families with adult children and semi-retired/retired members.

Depending upon your level of participation, time dedicated to the project will likely require a minimum of 0.5 hours and a maximum of 6 hours. To accommodate the summer break, I anticipate all research events will be held and data collected by the end of June. Final submission of my report to my RRU faculty supervisor will be October 1st, 2006.

The foreseen questions to be addressed are as follows - the main research question:

What unified direction and strategy can the BCCC take to fulfill God's mission?

Sub questions:

1. **What qualities, values and goals do BCCC community members possess?**
 - a) **What BCCC qualities influence you most in being a partner with BCCC?**



b) What makes you feel valued as a partner with BCCC?

- 2. What are the qualities that unify us?**
- 3. Given these unifying factors, what do we think God would want BCCC to be in 5 years?**
- 4. What should our priorities be during the next 12 months and what role are you willing to play?**
- 5. What could our Church do to protect and promote the loving community of our Church?**

All voting members of BCCC and youth 15 and over are invited to participate in this project. Information will be used solely for the purposes of the project and will be recorded in hand-written and/or audio-recorded format and, where appropriate summarized, in anonymous format, in the body of the final report.

At no time will any specific comments be attributed to any individual unless your specific agreement has been obtained beforehand. All documentation will be kept strictly confidential in secured storage in a locked filing cabinet and will be destroyed twelve months after my convocation in July 2007.

Following finalization of the Project Report I will give a group presentation of my findings to all members of BCCC. The date and time will be publicized during regular church announcements.

During the project I will be assisted by my daughter Elizabeth (Liz) Scarratt, a University of Calgary and University of Dalhousie Alumnus and another Royal Roads University graduate learner Cindy Athey. Both Cindy and Liz are not members of BCCC and do not live in the area. They have no vested interest in the outcome of this project and as with other members of the research team will sign a confidentiality agreement. Their work will be completely transparent and subject to the same review by me and other members of the research team as all other aspects of the project. The research team will be comprised of volunteers from a cross-section of BCCC's voting membership.

Participation in this research project is voluntary. If you choose to participate, you are free to withdraw at any time without prejudice and any data collected will be destroyed. Similarly, if you choose not to participate in this research project, this information will also be maintained in confidence.

If you would like to participate in any aspect of the research project or have any questions, please contact me at: (403)949-2238 or via email at: wmtcab@telus.net Sincerely, Carol Scarratt.