



## CHRIST CHURCH, DARTMOUTH

A People United in Justice and Love

*Sitting on the ancestral and traditional lands of the Mi'kmaq people,  
Christ Church exercises its ministry within Downtown Dartmouth and the world*

61 Dundas Street, Dartmouth  
Nova Scotia, B2Y 4H5  
Canada  
902.466.4270

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“Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me.” Mark 9:37

Dear Friends in Christ,

This is a follow-up to my letter in August regarding Child, Youth and Family Ministry at Christ Church. I wish to share with you developments in Christian education and its continued importance in the life of Christ Church. As previously mentioned, our parish visioning process identified many critical elements to the life of our parish, including spiritual development and family ministry. Parish council has long endorsed developing a dynamic and live-giving Sunday school program for the whole family that seeks to meet our definition of Personal and Spiritual Development:

*As an affirming community, we are made to connect, respecting the dignity of every person.  
Through Christian education, small groups, prayer, discernment, we build up spiritual lives.  
We seek to equip people for all stages of life: both young and old, to engage joy and challenge  
in a meaningful and positive way.*

I want to share that we have successfully found someone to lead such an important ministry. I am pleased to announce that the Rev. Whitney Canning, our Coordinator of Pastoral Ministry, will increase her workload and take on the additional title of Christian Formation Coordinator. Rev. Whitney has an extensive background in Youth and Children’s ministry having previously served as Camping and Youth Consultant for the Presbyterian Synod of the Atlantic Provinces. Whitney will have a variety of responsibilities in this new role, which will be to nurture and grow our faith formation offerings for our children and families at Christ Church.

As we welcome Whitney into her new position, I want to take a moment to thank the many people who have made Sunday School and Youth Ministry their vocation in the past. It is recorded that in 1895, our parish Sunday School had over 450 students enrolled each week (*History of Christ Church: 1817-1917* CW Vernon, 160). Times have certainly changed, but people in the parish have made a difference over the years, particularly during the pandemic. I want to thank Vanessa Turner for her many years of service to the Sunday School programme and Heather Downey. Both have impacted the lives of many families at Christ Church. As Rev. Whitney begins her new position, we can take a great deal of wisdom from Vanessa and Heather, and with great gratitude.

As I close, I give thanks for the many talents that prevail in our beloved parish. Please keep Rev. Whitney and the many volunteers in prayer as we seek to build an inclusive Sunday School programme for downtown Dartmouth. We hope to announce the start date of this ministry programme very shortly!

Faithfully yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kyle Wagner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Rev. Dr. Kyle Wagner, Rector  
Christ Church, Dartmouth