



Christ Church Parish

Visioning Update

A LETTER FROM THE MINISTRY VISION SUB-COMMITTEE
OF PARISH COUNCIL

June 2, 2021

To: Parishioners of Christ Church Dartmouth,

From: Ministry Vision Sub-Committee

Re: Vision 2020 Update.

The committee has been reviewing and working through the survey results from last October and the input we have gotten from our Lenten parish meetings to discuss and further understand the findings. The review revealed themes for a renewed vision for Christ Church:

Theme 1 – *clarifying the purpose for Christ Church* that included attracting and servicing families and newcomers, provide healing ministries, community ministry partnerships, and providing spiritual formation and education for all stages of life.

Theme 2 – *shift to an external focus of our community* to be of service and so that the church is more relevant and communications savvy.

Theme 3 – *flexibility to deliver programs and worship* that are more relevant to youth and young adults.

Theme 4 – *ensure that decision making is transparent*, and communications are clear between all.

Given what the committee heard from you we have developed a visioning framework describing a renewed vision for Christ Church which you will find below. **Please take some time to read and digest these new statements of Motto, Vision, Mission and Values for our community.** We intend to hold another parish meeting via **Zoom** to discuss this new framework on Sunday June 13th at 11:00 am and look forward to your input. Here is the Zoom

Link for the meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87877178382?pwd=YWooUWJMoJvaTZTQ3ZGVlgycGJVUTog>

If you would like to send us comment or further input on the new Vision and Mission, feel free to email johnmacdonald.stl@gmail.com with your content. **Please have your thoughts to us by June 13th so all insights can be processed before our next Parish Council meeting where we will formally adopt these new Vision/Mission statements for Christ Church.**

The committee also is recommending to Parish Council that the following projects be undertaken to start movement to this new future for Christ Church.

Re-imagining Worship – explore the needs of youth and young families regarding church/worship and develop a viable offering for launch this fall. Review our current 10 am service to ensure our current worship is as relevant and welcoming as it should be for today's new church seeker.

Service for our Community – explore the social justice/healing needs of the Dartmouth community and create a portfolio of solutions and possible partnerships to deliver given our ability, commitment, and resources.

Community Outreach – explore creating space that is for the community to experience Christ Church - an arts space, a meeting space, a social justice space, a community space where people can meet and experience the community and its work.

Christian Education and Formation – In the long term explore opportunities for every age and every stage of life to support people's need for purpose and support. Short term leadership development support for current Christ Church leaders to form a strong base as we move forward with a new vision and mission.

Internal Communications - Implement a comprehensive internal communication system to ensure members are aware of current and future decisions and can be heard on their issues.

External Communications - Create a marketing communications strategy to ensure Christ Church and its programs, social outreach and community outreach opportunities are exposed to the maximum audience in the Dartmouth community.

We look forward to announcing these task force initiatives and recruiting teams from the parish to help in this work.

The projects above and the vision and mission statements below all have come from the survey and the discussions around growing Christ Church and a need to turn our selves outward to our community, become more relevant to a modern world and be servants to that community. If you would like to view the content captured during our discussions and the content that was presented you can find it all on the Christ Church website.

A four session **Leadership Enrichment Program** began May 25th as alluded to in the Christian Ed and Formation section above. If you have received an invitation, please consider attending as this is our first activity to engineer our new future and informed leaders are vital in that activity.

In our conversations there appeared to be many looking for a way for Christ Church to become more relevant to their children and grand children. The next parish book reading sessions will be a reading of **Brian McLaren's "The Great Spiritual Migration"** which explores how Christians are moving towards powerful new understandings that are reshaping the church. Moving away from defining themselves by lists of beliefs and toward a way of life defined by love, rejecting the image of God as a violent Supreme Being and embracing the image of God as the renewing Spirit at work in our world for the common good and identifying less with organized religion and more with **organizing religion** — spiritual activists dedicated to healing the planet, building peace, overcoming poverty and injustice, and collaborating with other faiths to ensure a better future for all of us. Look for these sessions coming soon.

Again, *thank you for participating in the parish survey and our review meetings.* Please read our new draft vision and mission document below and **attend the parish meeting on Sunday, June 13th at 11:00 a.m.**

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87877178382?pwd=YW00UUVjMoJvaTZTQ3ZGVlgycGJVUTo9>

Regards,

The Ministry Visioning Sub- Committee

Christ Church, Dartmouth: Our Vision, Mission, and Values:

Motto

“A people united for Justice and Love.”

Vision Statement:

We are called to be a radically inclusive, just, and loving community that seeks to love our neighbour through prayer, worship, action, and advocacy.

Mission Statement:

Sitting on the traditional lands of the Mi 'Maki people, Christ Church exercises its ministry within Downtown Dartmouth and the world through:

1. **Worship and Community:** Worshiping in the Anglican tradition, we are bound by unity and diversity as a center of worship and activity for all. Our ways of praising God and Jesus Christ are varied, dynamic, and experiences rooted in excellence to inspire, engage and enrich our spiritual lives.
2. **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.
3. **Standing for Justice:** Through Christian service, advocacy and political engagement, we serve the community, particularly in social, economic and environmental justice.
4. **Community Outreach:** We offer ourselves to Dartmouth as a place of gathering. Not only do we provide refuge, pastoral care and support for all, but we offer our campus as a hub for the downtown, for non-profit and other organizations. We seek growth in human creativity, valuing the dramatic, visual, and musical arts by offering our space to others.

Our Core Values

- **Inclusion of all:** all genders and orientations, all abilities and challenges, all seekers and questioners of various perspectives, all travellers on the journey of faith. Diversity is essential to who we are as a community.
- **Faith and Relationship:** We connect faith in God to everyday life through authentic relationships, the teachings of the Bible in heart and mind. Our leaders listen and

make courageous decisions with open hearts and good intentions and we resolve conflicts in ways that are respectful and restorative.

- **Gifts:** All are encouraged to participate and offer the gifts which God has so richly blessed you. Our goal is that all understand the significance of their life and are supported in fulfilling their purpose.

Our Current Ministries:

- Operate a community Food and Clothing Bank
- Personal Wellness programmes for Food Bank clients
- Christmas Hamper programme,
- Support and Serve Margaret's House: *Feeding Others of Dartmouth (F.O.O.D.) Society*
- Support Local and Global social and environmental initiatives: PWRDF, KIAROS, Peace and Reconciliation with Indigenous people, Back to School Supply Drive, Elizabeth Fry Society and Coverdale, Senior's Care, etc.
- Programs for young families, adults and the aged.
- Scouting and Guiding groups

Ministries We Aspire To:

- Emergency Shelter and outreach to the homeless
- Serve as a place for artistic gatherings: Musicals, Community Concerts
- A center for healing ministries to the community