



PACIFIC SPIRIT UNITED CHURCH

Living lives of meaning...

STRATEGIC MINISTRY PLAN

December 2018

Our Commitment

Pacific Spirit United Church, a Christian community:

Living lives of meaning, through faith, service and God's love.

In God's ever re-creating world, we are formed anew, open to possibilities.

We trust God is leading us.

A Christian community, welcoming seekers, questioners and believers;

A Diverse, Affirming and Reconciling congregation.

We find expressions of Jesus' love in

The wisdom of our children;

The elders who hold a rich heritage;

The grace of those in between;

Action, compassion and caring;

Attentiveness to Creation;

Hearts open to the Divine.

We draw closer to the Holy through

Worship that transforms;

Spiritual practices that deepen faith;

Hands and hearts offered in justice, responding to the world;

Scripture and study that lead us to radical wonder;

Music that opens us to awe;

The Arts as an expression of the Sacred.

Many ways to enter; many ways to engage; many ways to respond to the Spirit's call.

Pacific Spirit United Church:

Living lives of meaning...

Strategic Ministry Plan for Pacific Spirit United Church

These are the guiding principles that shape this Strategic Ministry Plan (SMP):

The SMP is grounded by the Commitment Statement (“Commitment”). It is the practical expression of what we will do to live out our Commitment.

The time frame for this SMP is 3 years (until December 31, 2021). Council is responsible for initiating its review and redesign.

Having successfully amalgamated, this SMP aims to build on what has been working well, while growing those ministries not yet fully developed. It represents a balance between aspiration and realism, acknowledging our staffing, volunteer and financial capacities.

The SMP is not intended to be directive, but sets priorities and goals within key ministries for the next 3 years.

Many ministries are interconnected and the work of any ministry may appear in more than one category. (Arts and music for example are both in and outside of worship). The ministries and their priorities are included in this document in no particular order.

The following key ministries have been identified:

- Worship (including Music in Worship)
- In Reach (including Hospitality, Local Community and Community Building)
- Children, Youth and Families
- Spiritual Nurture and Small Group Ministries (Including Pastoral Care and Healing Ministries)
- Outreach (including the Environment and Social Justice)
- The Arts as an expression of the Sacred (including Music in other contexts)

All key ministries share responsibility for incorporating the following themes in their work:

- Reconciliation
- Affirm
- Reaching out to neighbours and our community (multi-faith and intercultural)

Worship (including Music in Worship) *Hearts open to the Divine; We draw closer to the Holy through worship that transforms; Spiritual practices that deepen faith; Scripture and study that lead us to radical wonder; Music that opens us to awe; The Arts as an expression of the Sacred¹.*

Worship's aim is to deepen our relationship with God, our neighbours and ourselves: engaging, comforting, provocative. Children take active roles in worship. Music is an important component of all worship.

- a. Sunday worship.
- b. Mid-week worship.
- c. Weekly sung service²- a meditative, music focussed service.
- d. Accessibility for those with visual, auditory and mobility issues.

In Reach (including Hospitality, Local Community and Community Building) - *Welcoming seekers, questioners and believers; Open to possibilities; Many ways to enter; many ways to engage; many ways to respond to the Spirit's call.*

- a. Intentional welcome.
 - In worship, our space and activities, offering Jesus' love to all with trained hosts (e.g. Sunday greeters and weekday hosts) following up and connecting with visitors and those missing from the pews.
 - With ministry support, help newcomers find their place in their first two years.
- b. The spaces are accessible: spiritually, physically and emotionally.
 - Areas are welcoming and uncluttered and provide information on who we are and what we offer.
- c. Development of an intercultural ministry with language resources and activities to greater reflect the ethnic diversity of our neighbours, led by ministry staff.
 - ELL learning and Bible study.

¹ *The words in italics below the ministry heading are phrases from the Commitment statement, which is the foundation of this Strategic Ministry Plan.*

² Has not been developed as yet.

Children, Youth and Families - *The wisdom of our children; the grace of those in between; Hearts open to the Divine.*

- a. Children take an active, participatory and leadership role in worship and congregational life.
- b. Children's Sunday faith formation programs (Nursery to Youth) provided by volunteer and paid leaders.
- c. Mid-week programming and ministry for children, youth and young adults.

Spiritual Nurture and Small Group Ministries - *Spiritual practices that deepen faith; Scripture and study that lead us to radical wonder; The elders who hold a rich heritage; the grace of those in between; welcoming seekers, questioners and believers; Many ways to enter; many ways to engage; many ways to respond to the Spirit's call.*

- a. Pastoral Care including Healing Ministries provided by a pastoral Working Group³.
 - Education in the spiritual gift of pastoral care.
 - Pastoral Care visiting the elderly, ill and homebound.
 - Healing as the foundation of sustainable Pastoral Care.
 - Healing Pathways.
- b. Programs of study for all levels offered in short and long term formats.
 - Including introductory faith formation, tools for spiritual development (e.g. Meditation and Centering Prayer), and in-depth bible study.
- c. Development of Stewardship as a Spiritual Practice.
- d. Library.
- e. Connecting, building and sustaining relationships through Small Group Ministries.
 - Faith-based gatherings of mutual interest, providing prayer and nurture.

³ Pastoral care was previously part of In Reach but is now in Spiritual Nurture

Outreach, Environment and Social Justice – *Diverse, Affirming and Reconciling; Attentiveness to Creation; Action, compassion and caring; Hands and hearts offered in justice, responding to the world.*

- a. Become an accredited AFFIRM congregation.
- b. Work towards our reconciliation with First Nations.
 - Acknowledgement of the land, programs in line with Truth and Reconciliation recommendations, and resources about Aboriginal history, colonization and the role of the United Church. Offering Witness, listening and prayer.
- c. Focus on protecting the environment as an aspect of our spirituality and commitment to God's Creation.
 - Educational events focusing on climate change, taking inventory of our own environmental practices and committing to reducing waste from buildings.
- d. Work with other agencies to provide assistance based on mutual relationships.
- e. Reach out to Refugees.
 - Providing sponsorship for refugee families and sustaining our expertise in refugee sponsorship and settlement.
- f. Build inter-faith relationships.

The Arts as an Expression of the Sacred (and Music in other Contexts) – *Arts as an expression of the Sacred; Music that opens us to awe; Many ways to enter; many ways to engage; many ways to respond to the Spirit's call*

- a. Arts integrated into worship, including drama, dance, poetry, storytelling and visual.
- b. Opportunities to create and display examples of artistic expression.
- c. Community engagement through the Arts.