



OUR MISSION:

To share God's love by living the teachings of Jesus: showing mercy, promoting justice, offering forgiveness, acceptance and hope.

2020 Community of Faith Profile

LIVING FAITH STORY submitted by:

James O'Connell

Judy Hayes

Lisa Pick

John Murphy

Scott Martin

Donna Ashton-Ward

JOB DESCRIPTIONS submitted by:

James O'Connell

Henry Ellsworth

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Vanessa Voerman

Caroline Gallop

Rainie Murphy

LIVING FAITH STORY:

Faith Filled and Spirit Led

Knox United Church sits in the center of the vibrant and expanding community of Sackville approximately 20 minutes outside of Halifax, capital city of Nova Scotia. The sub-communities of Sackville and feeder communities to Knox are Lower Sackville, Middle Sackville, Upper Sackville and Beaver Bank. Knox has been an important part of this community for 125 years and is striving for another 125 years of viability. Community engagement is vital to the longevity of our church and is an area of focus for development over the next five years. Recognizing the busy lifestyle of today, reconnecting with young families and encouraging their participation and involvement with our faith offerings is a top priority.

Knox is on a journey of revitalization and has spent the last two years looking inwards and discussing with our congregation how we live the word of Jesus Christ in our community, how we deliver the word through our programs, and the importance of outreach within our faith and community to share his love and good news.

It should be noted that reality is much different today than it was a year ago. Efforts have been made to keep Knox running as closely to its mission statement as possible, but regular operations had to be changed due to policies. Services were moved to Facebook, meetings moved to Zoom. Programs couldn't use the facilities due to gathering limits, and bake sales became bakeless bake sales. Pastoral Care took on other means of connecting - such as phone calls and socially distanced visits where needed. If one thing could be said, it's that Knox continues to put it's best foot forward through these challenging and uncertain times.

The cornerstone of our church and the foundation of everything we do is the love and call of Jesus Christ. Our belief in His Word, and the doctrines of the United Church of Canada, provide direction to how we celebrate our faith. We have recently become an affirming congregation, fully accepting all who wish to share fellowship and worship.

Music ministry is a highlight of our faith ministry and provides us with celebration, solace, and inspiration in a busy week of service to God and worship. Our faith in action is directed both internally, to those who worship and participate within our church walls, and externally, to the greater community.

We have a very active Pastoral Care team whose members continue to reach out in faith to those who are suffering in any way – illness, loss, uncertainty, loneliness, etc.

A crucial factor in sustainability is sharing the Word of God through education, special events, and community engagement. Educational programs include Sunday School, Bible study, and youth group, on a regular basis, and confirmation classes, marriage classes, etc on an as needed basis.

Knox has recognized food insecurity as a critical need in our community. Freedom Kitchen has been an overwhelming success – providing a free weekly meal every Monday to those in need. Some of these individuals are homeless and lack warm clothing and so Freedom Closet has been established to receive second hand winter clothing to be redistributed.

We have (until the onset of Covid restrictions) offered a monthly Community Outreach Meal Event, in conjunction with other local congregations, providing a free meal to anyone who wishes to attend. Our hope is to restart this initiative when restrictions are over. We also share fellowship at our annual turkey dinner, by providing take out lunches to office workers, by celebrating Breakfast with the Clauses, etc.

Knox has a strong history of hosting exceptional events which provide a way to engage with our community at the same time as providing a source of income. From our own dinner theatre, to hosting community bands and choirs, to selling out concerts of talented Nova Scotia groups, such as Men of the Deeps, these events are an integral part of the arts culture within our community. Knox provides a home for multiple community service groups such as Gamblers Anonymous, Girl Guides, as well as the Sackville Nursery School.

Our strategic location and the passionate and committed congregation provide many opportunities to demonstrate our faith in action. Addendum Our team has been hard at work. We spoke with Region 15, and they typically recommend 1 minister per 100 congregants. When we went to the Pastoral Care Committee, they reported 350 names on our Role.

TEAM SUMMATION:

Our team has been hard at work. We spoke with Region 15, and they typically recommend 1 minister per 100 congregants. When we went to the Pastoral Care Committee, they reported 350 names on our Role. After polling the congregation, we believe that Knox's spiritual needs can be met with the minimum of a 60 hour work week. This would maintain our current strengths, and help us achieve our vision of the future.

This breakdown outlines how our ministry team(s) hours could be spent:

Maintain:

12hrs: Worship
8hrs: Pastoral Care
14hrs: Administration
4hrs: Education

Future:

2hrs: More Education
10hrs: Program Development Directed to Young Families
10hrs: Program Development Directed to Community Engagement/Outreach

New areas would require implementation and evaluation. That time has been included in the breakdown.

The above Living Faith Story and Team Summation was submitted by:

*James O'Connell Judy Hayes
Lisa Pick John Murphy
Scott Martin Donna Ashton-Ward*

This document was reviewed and accepted by Knox Council on 11/24/20.

At that time, a second team was appointed to take this recommendation and develop job description(s) that would represent the responsibilities and focus of our Ministry Team.

The Ministerial Team job descriptions were prepared by the second team of:

*James O'Connell Henry Ellsworth
Scott Martin Vanessa Voerman
Caroline Gallop Rainie Murphy*

The Ministerial job descriptions were reviewed and accepted by Knox Council on 02/09/21.

