

Antler River Watershed; Horseshoe Falls; Western Ontario Waterways Regional Councils

Community of Faith: Living Faith Story Worksheet

PURPOSE: To provide information about the Community of Faith's understanding of their ministry and mission.

Who uses it: Communities of Faith in regularly assessing their ministry and in gathering their profile information for ChurchHub.

Community of Faith: Linden Park Community United Church

Address: 484 East 16th Hamilton ON L9A 4K8

Pastoral Charge: _____

Regional Council: Horseshoe Falls

Date: _____

Mission Statement:	With God's help, we are a People called by God To Live the GOOD NEWS of Jesus In our CHURCH, community And the surrounding WORLD Through LOVE, JUSTICE and HUMILITY
Values:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Country friendly church in the city 2. Inviting and friendly, welcoming, busy, social, community and family oriented church 3. Local outreach into community to Wesley Centre, Neighbour to Neighbour, The Healing Oasis, Scouting and Guiding and global outreach through SOCKS Canada.
Summary of your community of faith	The congregation now known as Linden Park was founded in 1865 in Hamilton (lower city). As the residential profile of the inner city changed, Linden Park responded to the call of " <i>Telling the Good News on the Mountain!</i> " where phenomenal growth was taking place. The site chosen was part of a new survey, which included lots set aside for a high school and public school. The church was opened in November 1955. During the next five years, tremendous growth took place and an education wing was added and opened in 1960.

		<p>Linden Park, a former Evangelical United Brethren congregation, was admitted into the United Church of Canada in 1968, along with other Canada Conference churches. A further addition, including an elevator, to make the building accessible to all, was added in 1992.</p> <p>Linden Park has had strong and dedicated leaders. Since 1955, there have been nine clergy serve the church: Rev. William Brown, Rev. Bruce Seebach, Rev. James Bechtel, Rev. Robert Brawn, Rev. Wayne Reed, Rev. Brian Howell, Rev. Ross Hibberd, Dr. Rev. Jane Beers and Karen Willis, Recognized DLM. Ministerial sons and daughters of Linden Park include James Weller, Nadene Grieve, Gregory Brawn, Alison Nicholson and Dan Franklin. Our Voluntary Associate Minister is Dr. Rev. Francis Chisholm.</p> <p>The congregation of Linden Park comes from various parts of the city, but the majority live within eight to ten blocks of the church, or on the escarpment. Throughout our past and currently, a wide range of occupations are represented in the membership, many of whom are now retired. As one might expect, many have worked in steel or related industries. Business people have been well represented as have workers in the health fields, education, communications, and technology, etc. One would likely describe the membership as “middle income workers”.</p>
	Ministry Category	Definition of Current Ministry
	Administration	We have an Official Board, Trustees, Stewards, Session, Friends in Faith, Outreach Committee, Ministry & Personnel, Office Administrator, Music Director and Treasurer.
	Community Outreach & Social Justice	We support Neighbour to Neighbour through food and essential supplies throughout the year. We support Wesley Centre through Case for Kids Walk, Toonie Soup Sunday, Christmas Store. We support the outreach of The Healing Oasis. We have Scouting and Guiding within our church. We host Breakfast with Santa, Cake Walk and a Strawberry Barbeque annually as fundraisers and as outreach into the community. Our knitting group makes prayer shawls for the prayer shawl ministry as well as lap blankets and caps for cancer patients.

	Continuing Education	We encourage the minister to take courses and maintain their education through seminars, workshops etc.
	Denomination & Communities	Our minister is actively involved in the life of the Regional Council and is supportive of our community outreach initiatives.
	Faith Formation & Christian Education	We have previously enjoyed Soup and Scripture during Advent and Lent for bible study. We also have Bible Ace which is our Sunday School for children.
	Leadership	Our minister leads worship weekly either online or “in person” in coordination with the office administrator and music director. Our online services are posted to our website and to Facebook. They are encouraged to accommodate guest speakers from time to time. Themed-Sundays during previous years have been for example Scouting Sunday, Humour Sunday, International Children’s Day, World Wide Day of Prayer, World Wide Communion, Reconciliation & Social Justice, etc. During in person services lay scripture readers and candle lighters are often selected from the congregation. We are open to new ideas as well.
	Pastoral Care	Due to our current demographics, Pastoral Care and regular communication with congregants, those in nursing and retirement homes, shut-ins and those hospitalized / convalescing, is a high priority. This is especially important during the pandemic that people don’t feel alone. Our prayer shawl ministry is an important part of our pastoral care.
	Self-care	We expect our staff to maintain a work life balance and take care of their health both physical and mental health.
	Worship	We are a music oriented church with two active choirs, a senior choir that sings 3-4 Sundays a month and Take 5, a more contemporary choir singing once a month. We appreciate a minister with life experiences who can provide us with practical spiritual and theological reflections that are relevant to everyday lives.