



*Our Mission, Our Ministry,
Our Life*

a

Ministry Plan for 2018-2022

*I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work
among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.*

Philippians 1:6

Our Mission

At St. Mark's by the Lake we do not have a mission statement because we take our lead from Jesus, who gave us the mission to love God, love our neighbours, and to go and make disciples of all nations. The two Great Commandments and the Great Commission are more than adequate to direct our efforts and shape our mission and ministry as a parish. These teachings of Jesus help to direct the church's calling to participate in the broader mission of God. Because of that reality, these teachings naturally find expression throughout our common life in the way that we use and share the rich blessings that God has given us in gifts and talents, in time and resources. God is good and has given us so much love that we cannot help but return it to God and share it with the world.

This Document

This Ministry Plan is an attempt to shape the life of our parish for the next five years and direct our efforts towards vibrancy and faithfulness in our participation in God's mission in the world. It is meant to help us be intentional about our calling, to encourage us to try new things for the sake of the Gospel, and to reflect on and assess the effectiveness of our efforts. It is not the sum total of all that we are as a faith community, but it will provide some direction for living into our calling according to the gifts and abilities that God has uniquely blessed St. Mark's by the Lake with.

There are 10 areas of church life that are part of this plan. Under each heading there a number of activities listed and some timeline details. We have not listed all of the work that is already being done, but instead have concentrated on new initiatives and initiatives that are renewed or changed annually.

Evangelism

- In Spring 2018 we will promote and participate in an evangelism training event with the Deanery of Essex.
- 2018-19 We will establish an evangelism committee and an evangelism plan for St. Mark's.
- We have identified 2 groups of people to reach – Single Seniors, grieving members of the community.
- Future Evangelism Activities – 2 events
 - All Souls service – invitations sent to all families whose loved one has been given Christian burial by clergy associated with St. Mark's to participate in a memorial service around the feast of All Souls in November. (An already established practice.)
 - Dinner Church at local apartment common or party room (meal, music, proclamation, prayer) – First and second tries 2019.
 - Following implementation we will assess the event and adjust it.
- If dinner church is successful, perhaps we will continue it as a monthly Fresh Expression of our church life.

Discipleship

- We will continue to offer an annual Lenten Series that inspires and builds people in their faith.
- Bible Study will remain a Thursday morning fixture.
- We will look at adding an evening bible study in 2018.
- Baptismal preparation is undertaken by the rector, but a new requirement will be considered, that families attend for a period of time before the consideration of a date and time for baptism.
- As the life of the congregation warrants it, we will run the Christian Foundations course (Christian basics for new members).
- We will continue to encourage people to participate in Canterbury College lay leadership courses.
- We will seek to discern and develop new leaders to share in offering discipleship programming (bible study, book study, etc.).

Service

- We will continue our weekly collection and distribution of food to local food banks.
- We will continue to support local charitable service organisations and reach out to them to determine their needs and how we can better support their work through the Outreach for Justice Team.
- We will conduct an annual review of our outreach efforts in mid June starting 2018 through the Outreach for Justice Team.

Transforming Society

- Jeannine Renaud-St. Louis will be our contact for PWRDF.
- Carolynne Mastelotto will be our contact for Kairos Canada.
- The Outreach for Justice team will contact the local Synagogue, Mosque, and Sikh temple for open house times and make information available to members of the congregation by end of 2018.

Safeguarding and Renewing the Earth

- We will undertake a green assessment of our building.
- We will continue to promote proper use of recycling at the church.
- We will pay attention to electrical use and remind people to turn things off when not in use.
- We will keep the building in good repair to prevent waste.
- We will develop a garden committee and seek to establish a pollinator garden on the south side of the church.
- We will research green projects in the community and seek to participate in them by 2020.

Ministry and Leadership

- Effective Communications will continue through the bulletin, newsletter, email list, facebook, website, and verbal announcements.
- We will continue to have an agenda item devoted to Deanery and Diocesan life in which teaching takes place.
- We will continue to participate in the councils of the church (Parish Council, Deanery Council, and Diocesan Synod).
- The wardens will form the nominating committee annually.
- Leadership regeneration will take place through wardens cycling out of that ministry as usual and new members will be added to parish council as spaces open up.
- Volunteer Ministry fair will happen in fall 2018.
- We will be open to ministry opportunities with Good Shepherd parish and deanery parishes similar to our refugee work from 2016.
- Anually, we will work with New Song church at Christmas to assist an impoverished area of Windsor in celebrating the season.
- We will work with the parishes of our deanery to provide assistance to a northern indigenous community through Operation Point North.
- On an ongoing basis we will keep our eyes open for parishioners who could be raised up for ministries such as Licensed Lay Readers, Deacons, and Priests encouraging those we recognize to participate in diocesan discernment processes.

Congregational Health

- We will continue to keep our Safe Church process up to date and will share the necessary policies and procedures with the parish.
- Decisions are consistently made in consultation with Rector, Wardens, Parish Council, and other parish organisations.
- We will commit to having conversations in person, on the phone, or through video chat, and use email for general sharing or setting dates and times for conversation.
- We will continue with Coffee Hour, BBQ's and other fellowship activities.
- We will continue to welcome and make space for new members to fully participate in and contribute to parish ministry.
- We will research the systems approach to handling and resolving conflict in 2018 and seek to incorporate relevant practices in our common life in the future.
- The Rector will read up on Adaptive Leadership – share relevant information with wardens in 2018.
- We will plan a Parish retreat at Holy Family retreat centre or other suitable location in 2019.

Buildings

- We will continue to monitor the property and building and update our Property Condition Matrix annually through the Finance Property committee.
- The Finance Property committee will make recommendations to address any deficiencies that arise.
- With recent renovations we do not see any major items in the short term (5 years). The parking lot will require repair next (patching is resolving immediate

issues) and there are still probably 20 years left in the life of the roof.

- We will seek a cost estimate on the parking lot to begin saving.
- We will remain open to others joining us at this site.

Finance

- We will continue to have a balanced budget paying our apportionment and clergy costs.
- We have a capital reserve fund in place and will look to add to that in 2020
- In fall 2017 we implemented the Joyful Giving stewardship programme and will make it a regular part of our parish life in subsequent fall seasons.
- Upon appropriate reduction in the parish's debt we will consider going the “Extra Mile” with our apportionment.

Long-term Future

- We will run and participate in the Reimagining Church course in the fall of 2018



Special Vestry

November 26, 2016

Following the 10:30 am service.

The motion under consideration will be as follows:

Moved:

Seconded:

That this vestry accept the 5 year Mission and Ministry Plan for St. Mark's by the Lake outlined in this pamphlet.