

May 5 2022

To the threshold partners of New Vision United Church,

I have been asked by your Council to facilitate a discussion on updating your *Living Faith Story*. A Living Faith Story is a description of a Community of Faith's life and mission. The Horseshoe Falls Regional Council provides a worksheet for creating and updating such a profile.

You will find the worksheet below. I have begun filling it in using information from your current Living Faith Story, i.e. "New Vision in Many Voices (2019), your "Covenant with Horseshoe Falls Regional Council", the 2021 Annual Report and information from New Vision's website.

This only a first draft — a way of providing us some basis for our discussions on May 15th.

I invite you to look over what I have put into the document.

- Are there items that I have misunderstood?
- What is missing?
- What else needs to be included so that this document more fully reflects your story?

Following worship on May 15th, we shall work together for about 90 minutes to discern together the work that the Holy Spirit is doing in and through the New Vision community.

Please bring the sheets below, marked up with your input.

I look forward to being with you once more!

Christine Jerrett

First DRAFT

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: New Vision United Church

Address: 24 Main Street West, Hamilton, Ontario

Pastoral Charge: New Vision United Church

Regional Council: Horseshoe Fall Regional Council

Date: May 15 2022

1. Mission Statement:

New Vision United Church is an inclusive, diverse community of Christian faith that encourages the gifts and graces of all people. We are committed to pursuing our ministry through loving God and actively sharing with our neighbours.

2. Values:

- a multi-generational congregation feeding the spiritual needs of the people
- a church responsible in stewardship, spending energy and dollars on ministry instead of buildings
- honouring and growing from congregational identities and usable history
- committed to offering social justice and outreach ministry seven days a week...creating a tipping point for an inclusive and affirming *ministry*

3. Describe how you currently live out your unique mission:

We are a committed group of United Church Hamiltonians gathered together to be a church in the urban core that is inclusive and diverse, celebrating the identities of those most exposed to social marginalization.

We think Hamilton can be like this. We aspire to be a part of a Hamilton that is like this.

This is New Vision's opportunity as a new church.

Our fundamental thesis about ourselves as a community of faith is that new community is going to emerge from the margins, as a diverse set of marginalizations and privileges

intersect in a fruitful and integrative way. We believe that change for the better in the church will occur from the bottom, where we are.

Currently, this mission largely finds expression in two ways:

a. Property as Mission

i. Holton Site

At the end of 2021, New Vision entered into a partnership with the United Property Resource Corporation (UPRC) to build new rental housing on the Holton Ave site.

In November, New Vision's lawyer and the UPRC lawyer, with agreement from the UCC and the HFRC, the Board of Trustees agreed to an agreement that pays off the New Vision Line of Credit with the UCC by providing future shares in the Limited Partnership at Holton. The UPRC recommitted to pay all costs of carrying the Holton Property from April 1, 2021, to the date of the signing of the final transfer of the property to the UPRC.

New Vision remains committed to just housing for the community.

ii. Main Street Site

The pandemic has slowed the redevelopment of our 24 Main W property as a concert hall and at the same time we have shifted our relationship with Cobalt Connects from a business consulting relationship to a partnership relationship

New Vision has now positioned itself to be seen and to be engaged in its property redevelopment as a partner with other entities that are qualified to work with us so that together we can reach the "social enterprise accounting framework goals" for the redevelopments.

There is in place an agreement with UPRC and HFRC to get a significant start on raising funds to renovate 24 Main Street West. The *Do Well By Hamilton* capital campaign for the Music Hall is beginning to pay for some of the renovations.

Renovations have continued in the Music Hall, including moving the organ console and removing the remaining carpet and linoleum on the main floor.

Tax specialist Joseph Monaco is designing a lease structure for the Music Hall that will not compromise New Vision's charitable status.

Crystal Clear Business Solutions will manage the day-to-day banking

New Vision will purchase a \$300,000 share in the Limited Partnership at Holton in support of the Music all.

b. Deepening New Vision's Commitment to being an Affirming and Intercultural Ministry

- **Roots to Justice**
The Caremongers group has reorganized under the name Roots to Justice. They continue to use space in the New Vision church hall as a base for storing and delivering food to those with difficulties obtaining food, especially during the Covid 19 pandemic. This is a worthwhile component of our commitment to mutual aid.
- **Outreach Group**
Our Thursday morning Outreach Program has halted with the Covid 19 pandemic. Group members plan to meet to discuss what different form our program may take. This will be informed in part by the work of the Intercultural Relationship Currency Design Project.
- **Refugee Sponsorship**
After many years of planning and waiting, the Al-Zahra's, **our Syrian refugee family is finally arriving!** They are landing in Toronto at 4:20 pm on Tuesday May 10!
- **Intercultural Relationship Currency Design Project**
Special worship services and events throughout the year: two workshops on Conflict Resolution and Introducing Intercultural Ministry

4. What are your goals for the next year that might enhance your current ministry or begin something new?

a. Property as Mission

i. Holton Site

Property Issues:

— Establish the value of the Holton property. This will determine New Vision's position in the Limited partnership. New Vision's lawyer, Jack Restivo, will oversee the process in establishing this value.

Mission Issues:

continue developing partnerships with UPRC, Horseshoe Falls Regional Council, United Church of Canada Mission through Finance

continue to monitor and assess quadruple bottom-line impacts (spiritual, environmental, social, and economic)

ii. Main Street Site

Property Issues:

negotiate long-term lease for the Music Hall

Mission Issues:

continue developing partnerships with City of Hamilton, Cobalt Connects

b. Affirming and Intercultural Ministry

Through the Intercultural Relationship Currency Design Project we are strengthening and deepening our effectiveness as a participant in Hamilton's diverse communities' efforts toward diversity, inclusivity and equity. The project's objectives are key New Vision goals for 2021:

The desired outcomes/impact for the initiative:

- develop intersectional lens on marginalization of people and unmerited privilege of others for New Vision Affirming and Intercultural ministry.
- strengthen Hamilton community work on cultural benefits memoranda and mutual aid initiatives
- set the Music Hall social enterprise on a path to long-term success within a "just intercultural framework"
- solidify the profile and reputation of New Vision as a leading edge agent of social justice for marginalized people in the Hamilton region.
- Improve New Vision's fiscal position

c. Other initiatives/goals/hopes/dreams