

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

Community of Faith: Demographics Worksheet

PURPOSE: To provide information about the Community of Faith’s ministry and community.

Who uses it: Communities of Faith in preparing their Living Faith Story. Copies are sent to the Regional Council in digital form.

Community of Faith: New Vision United Church

Address: 24 Main St West, Hamilton ON

Pastoral Charge: New Vision Pastoral Charge

Regional Council: Horseshoe Falls Regional Council

Date: 7 August, 2023

1. Are you part of a multi-point pastoral charge or Collaborative Agreement

If yes, with whom? _____ No _____

2. Number of Resident Members _____ 59 _____

3. Average Sunday Attendance: _____ 32 in-person, 16 online _____

4. We think of ourselves MAINLY as: Rural Remote Small town Suburban
 Urban Inner City Other

5. Our congregation includes (approx. number in each group)

Infants and pre-school	_____	Children (5-12)	_____ 1 _____	Teens (13-19)	_____ 2 _____
Young adults (20-30)	_____	Adults (31-40)	_____	Adults (41-50)	_____ 4 _____
			Second largest		Third largest
Adults (51-64)	_____ Largest group _____	Adults (65-70)	_____ largest group _____	Adults (71+)	_____ Third largest group _____

6. The proximity of our members to the church are (approx. number in each group)

We have participants who walk to church, some who take the city bus, and some who drive in. We also have participants who join us online exclusively – some are local, some are international.

0-5 km _____ 5-10 km _____ 10-15 km _____
 15-20 km _____ over 20 km _____

7. Our congregation is like: (choose one that best applies)

- A big family where we all know each other;
- A medium sized church where we recognize each other but may not know each other well;
- A big church with lots of staff, where small groups of people are close to one another based on common interests.

X Other description: a mid-sized group of somewhat diverse individuals drawn together based on a generally shared commitment to the need for a progressive Christian presence in downtown Hamilton.

8. In our Community of Faith we have gifts/skills/passions in the following areas:

Gifts	Description
<input type="checkbox"/> Education	We have several theologically-trained Threshold Partners
<input type="checkbox"/> Artistic	
<input type="checkbox"/> Worship	Many Threshold Partners contribute to worship and the Lectio Divina group
<input type="checkbox"/> Compassion	We have a very active Pastoral Care committee
<input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality	We have a very dedicated cookie baker
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	Refugee sponsorship, newcomer support, Affirming Spirituality group
Skills	Description
<input type="checkbox"/> Play musical instruments/Sing	Our music leader and choir are fundamental to the NV worship experience
<input type="checkbox"/> Teaching	
<input type="checkbox"/> Organizing	Affirming Churches Pride booth
<input type="checkbox"/> Social Media	One Threshold Partner help supdate the Facebook page
<input type="checkbox"/> Health Care	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cooking/Baking	
<input type="checkbox"/> Listening	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	
Passions	Description
<input type="checkbox"/> Poverty	Poverty is a lived experience for a number of

	participants and Threshold Partners. It is a social violence about which our congregation is acutely aware.
<input type="checkbox"/> Affirming Ministry	Very important to our past, present, and future.
<input type="checkbox"/> Building Community	
<input type="checkbox"/> Climate Change	
<input type="checkbox"/> Health Care	
<input type="checkbox"/> World hunger	
<input type="checkbox"/> Refugee support	Sponsorship previously; now newcomer support
<input type="checkbox"/> Social Justice	Various Threshold Partners have shown solidarity with undocumented workers, houseless people, and BLM
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	Supporting LGBTQIA+ people in east Africa

9. We think of our Community of Faith as in the following way: (choose one that best applies):

- We have a new vision and are really excited; maybe not as organized as we will be but really excited; maybe even a bit unrealistic at times.
- We are clear about our vision and purpose and are developing the skills and gifts to bring it about; we are excited and optimistic in who we are.
- We are clear about our vision and purpose; we have the skills, gifts and confidence to move toward our vision.
- We know we are changing; we haven't yet come to terms with it; we have some anxiety about the future, but we are still confident in who we are. **We know who we are; we need our plans for revenue streams to come to fruition. In the meantime, we have to adapt to further financial uncertainty.**
- Our congregation is changing rapidly and it is clear that we can no longer continue as we have been; we don't know, though, how to go forward; we have some anxiety. We believe that we have a future, but we can't yet see it.
- We see that the ministry within this community is probably winding down after many positive and productive years of faithful ministry, mission and service; we want to celebrate what we have been as we intentionally and graciously end this ministry.

10. Governance structure:

How many people are on your Governing Body? 7

How many are typically present at a meeting of your Governing Body? 7

11. Our Church Building(s): (include information for each building if more than one)

- a. We don't have a church building. Where do you worship? _____ In the basement of the former Centenary United Church _____

- b. How many people does the sanctuary hold? The basement holds up to about 100.
- c. What is the seating/set up in the sanctuary (pews, chairs, choir loft, etc.) We arrange chairs in a circle.
- d. Is the sanctuary used other than for Sunday worship? Yes No *if Yes, how?*
We rent out the basement for various events. The old sanctuary is now The Music Hall.
- e. Are there meeting rooms? Yes No *if Yes, for what are they used?*
There is one room that could be rented out for meetings.
- f. Is there a nursery? Yes No
- g. Are there activity rooms? (i.e. quilting, gym, library) Yes No *if yes, please describe.*
Click or tap here to enter text.
- h. Is there an approved Kitchen? Yes No
Click or tap here to enter text.
- i. Are there groups leasing or using space in your building?
Yes.
- j. Is internet provided at the church? No Yes *if yes* High Speed Dial-up
- k. Is your church set up for online worship? No Yes *if yes, how?*
We have been using Zoom for online worship since March 2020. Now, we have a hybrid style of service.
- l. Is the church accessible? No Yes Tell us how:
2 accessible doors, 2 accessible washrooms
- m. What other measures of accessibility do you provide? (e.g. Assistive hearing device, large print, etc.)
We provide snacks and drinks before and throughout the service. We try to make the space informal so that participants feel able to move around as needed, and to express themselves.

12. ABOUT OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

- a. Our relationship with our neighbours and community is:
- Strong, we know them well and work together
- Good, we have some connections with our neighbours and know about local concerns
- Poor, we don't know people in the area around the church and have no knowledge of local projects or concerns.

Improving, we are getting to know people and are learning about the neighbourhood

b. Identify the following about your neighbourhood/community:

Strengths:

Fairly densely populated; reasonably diverse; decent transit availability

Challenges:

Limited green space; gentrification; lack of affordable housing

c. Name some ideas where your gifts/skills/passions might be welcome in the community

Supporting LGBTQIA+ newcomers; developing solidarity connections with grassroots groups that support houseless people

d. We have close ties with the following groups/organizations/faith communities:

We collaborate with the other Affirming Hamilton churches; we continue to support Wesley Urban Ministries; the Trustees work closely with the developing Music Hall Alliance