

VISION 20/20

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS 2015-2020

St. James United Church • 221 Romaine Street • Peterborough, ON



St. James United Church

Living fully, intentionally and compassionately...

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Dear Friend of St. James:

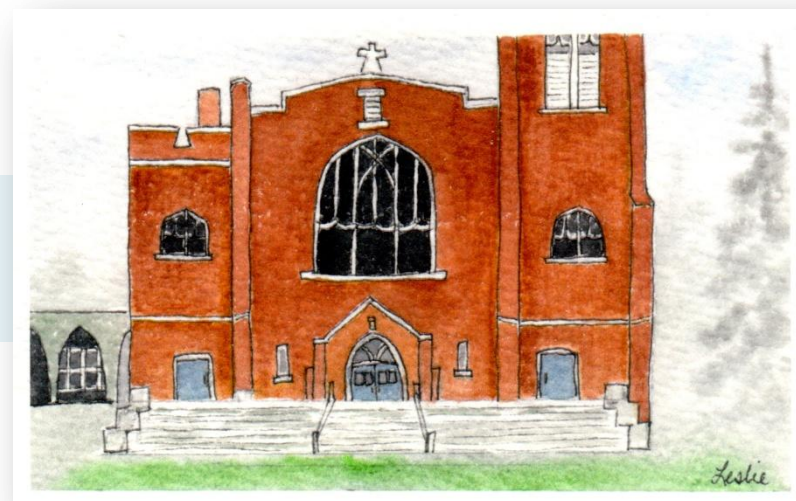
Our vision for the next five years was created as a result of the hard work, dedication and discernment of all of you. It is our hope and prayer that the different components of this vision will be realized, and that St. James and our broader community will experience the joys of opportunity, growth and new life.

As you read through our hopes and dreams for the next five years you will learn about our vision, mission and values, the research that has made this document possible, our four ministries that name who we are and what we do, and what we'd like to accomplish in the coming years. This document celebrates our vibrant past and it also marks the beginning of a new journey for us as followers of Jesus. We are honoured to be making it together!

Sincerely,

Ruth Dwyer
Chair, Official Board

Julie van Haaften
Minister



Illustrated by in-house artiste Leslie Gutsole-Floyd



We are a genuinely welcoming community, striving to articulate and live out what it means to be a hope-filled, loving and compassionate community in this time and place...

”

OUR VISION:
Where We're Going ...

Open hearts, open minds

OUR MISSION:
What We Do ...

Living fully, intentionally and compassionately as we journey with people of every age, gender, race, sexual orientation and gender identity, differing abilities, economic or cultural backgrounds to be a hope-filled, faith community.

OUR VALUES:
Guiding Principles to Inspire ...

Our values guide our daily life:

- Spiritual Nourishment & Growth
- Being One with Creation
- Caring for Others
- Worship
- Building Community
- Supporting our Vision through Financial Health

AN OVERVIEW OF OUR VISIONING PROCESS: A Brief Summary

The Visioning Committee began meeting in May 2014 to begin the visioning process for St. James United Church in order to determine the direction of the church over the next five years.

In September 2014, the Visioning Committee prepared a visioning survey, which was distributed to all members of the congregation to elicit their prayerful thoughts on where they would like St. James to concentrate its efforts. Throughout the fall and winter of 2014, individual members from the Visioning Committee also met with each of the Committees of the Official Board to discuss and explore the strengths and opportunities of St. James. The results from both the survey and board consultation are outlined here; highlights are provided.

From this work, the Visioning Committee created a 20-page Visioning Document which was presented to the Board in September 2015. Annual action plans will be developed for each of the categories outlined in our Vision 20/20.

VISIONING COMMITTEE: Team Members

- **JoAnne Rorke**
- **Ron Horton**
- **George James**
- **Susan Weaver**
- **Dale Noble- Valentine**
- **Leslie Gutsole-Floyd**
- **Rev. Julie van Haaften**



HIGHLIGHTS ... from our Visioning Survey

In 2014, the members of St. James completed visioning questionnaire indicating their priorities and dreams for St. James. Highlights are included for each of our four ministries.

WORSHIP & GIVING

OUR STRENGTHS:

- We have outstanding leadership and ministerial guidance with a music program that is second to none!

OUR OPPORTUNITIES:

- Keep making church fun, meaningful and engaging.
- Continue reaching out to members and growing our membership.
- Improve our worship spaces; continue worshipping in a variety of locations (joint worship, Abraham Festival).
- Invite more artists and speakers to participate in our worship services.

LEARNING

OUR STRENGTHS:

- St. James currently offers a variety of educational and interesting study groups and learning programs for members of all ages; our children's programs

OUR OPPORTUNITIES:

- Continue offering bible, moral and ethical studies for people of all ages (e.g. Living the Questions).
- Continue offering Sunday School, Youth Group and VBS Camps for children and youth.

Continued ...

CARING & CONNECTING

OUR STRENGTHS:

- We genuinely care for and support one another in all of the blessings and challenges of life.

OUR OPPORTUNITIES:

- Improve our building and access so that we can continue to nurture, love and grow together.
- Find ways to support our members who may be unable to attend church regularly.
- Support the efforts and needs of the Board by creating new working committees.
- Continue developing social activities and support networks that build community and create fellowship.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION & ENGAGEMENT

OUR STRENGTHS:

- We are an active, caring community-minded church leading, participating and partnering in many community programs, from the Breakfast Club and Jitterbugs (with the NCC) to the fabulous St. James Players.

OUR OPPORTUNITIES:

- Continue relationship-building with potential community partners; nurture and enhance existing partnerships.
- Find additional ways to share our building and become an integral part of our neighbourhood/community.
- Take a lead role in local United Church initiatives; and connect with other faith groups and non-profits.



VISION 20/20

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS 2015-2020

Branching Out: Reaching New Heights While Honouring Our Roots

St. James is committing to a five-year visioning plan. The directions of our “vision” will offer a framework for the development of annual action plans with measurable goals and objectives. These plans will be implemented by the Official Board and its committees, and will ensure that the strategic directions of our vision are incorporated into the ministries at St. James. Our ministries are:

■ WORSHIP & GIVING ■ LEARNING ■ CARING & CONNECTING ■ COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION & ENGAGEMENT

WORSHIP & GIVING

WE CELEBRATE, WORSHIP AND EXPERIENCE THE SACRED IN MEANINGFUL COMMUNITY

OUR CONGREGATIONAL LIFE: How We Worship at St. James

At St. James, we pride ourselves on being a fun-filled, energetic group of friends who come together in celebration of our faith. We gather to reflect, sing, pray and experience fellowship. Our minister, staff and volunteers work to prepare lively and inspirational worship services, whether it's for our Sunday morning service or one of our family-friendly "Messy Church" nights! We welcome everyone to worship with us. Simply come as you are! We will be glad to meet you ...



I always leave church with “food for thought.” People are so friendly and welcoming, and truly interested and engaged in worship.

”



Over the next five years, we commit to continuing to find ways to create and experience meaningful worship opportunities - drawing on our rich traditions and ever exploring and implementing "fresh expressions" of worship.

OUR STRATEGIC VISION FOR WORSHIP & GIVING: **A VIBRANT, WELCOMING SPACE WHERE EVERYONE CAN WORSHIP**

- Continue reaching out to members and growing our membership.
- Improve our worship space so that it is multifunctional and accessible. If a new worship space is not viable, improve and transform our current worship space. Priorities include: purchase a new organ and sound system, improve video access, remove pews and add chairs, install better lighting and air conditioning, redesign front of sanctuary to look more like a stage, etc.
- Fully realize the potential of our music program by recruiting members to the choir and incorporating a greater variety of musical instruments during worship.
- Offer additional alternative and innovative worship services (e.g. Fresh Expressions, Drama Team for worship, themed services).
- Continue worshipping in a variety of locations (e.g. joint worship with other downtown United Churches, Shining Waters Festival, Abraham Festival, etc.).
- Invite more artists and speakers to participate in our worship services.

OUR PRIORITIES: **WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO US ...**

- Space for Worship
- Ministry & Leadership
- Choir & Music
- Worship Resources & Technology
- Holiday & Special Services
- Weddings, Baptisms, Funerals
- Messy Church
- Worship Volunteers & Leaders
- The Worship Committee

LEARNING

WE DISCOVER WHAT IT MEANS TO BE CALLED BY THE SPIRIT TO BE FOLLOWERS OF JESUS

MAKING THE MOST OF OUR MINDS: How We Learn at St. James

We provide an exciting variety of programs for people of all ages – Children's and youth programs, bible camps, adult studies, and discussion groups. Asking questions and learning together is an important part of our Christian journey. The Youth Program Coordinator, Minister and Christian Education Committee (along with passionate volunteers) lead and facilitate our Learning Ministry!



I love that my son is participating in Youth Group! It's safe and fun ... and he feels comfortable discussing life issues from a progressive Christian perspective.

”

Over the next five years, we commit to deepen our faith and understanding through learning with one another, and with our sisters and brothers from other United Churches and faith traditions.

OUR STRATEGIC VISION FOR LEARNING:

A PLACE TO CELEBRATE FAITH, ASK QUESTIONS AND LEARN TOGETHER

- Continue offering adult study programs and explore new ways of learning. Invite others to participate in our learning opportunities and share in theirs as well.
- Continue to offer programs geared to the specific needs of our congregation.
- Keep our children's programs vital; partner with other churches and organizations to meet the needs of local youth.
- Become more actively involved in initiatives that promote inclusivity as well as a better understanding of other faiths and lifestyles; work towards becoming an Affirming Congregation.
- Use available tools, programs and resources to actively engage in determining the future direction and financial health of our church (e.g. EDGE, Narrative Budget, etc.).
- Support learning opportunities for all members of our church and staff.

OUR PRIORITIES:

WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO US ...

- Affirm Discernment
- Working with EDGE
- Children & Youth Programs
- Continuing Education
- Narrative Budget
- Our Visioning Process

CARING & CONNECTING

WE STRIVE TO BE A COMMUNITY WHERE PEOPLE COME TO KNOW EACH OTHER DEEPLY

CELEBRATING TOGETHER: How We Care for One Another at St. James

At St. James we celebrate and mourn together, prepare meals and eat together, visit one another and offer support to one another in all of the blessings and challenges of life. We genuinely care for one another and we have fun as a community!



I am so appreciative to be able to stay for a hearty lunch after church. It's great to be able to catch up with my friends!

”

Over the next five years, we commit to being a place where rich and meaningful relationships are created and nurtured.

OUR STRATEGIC VISION FOR CARING & CONNECTING:

CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER IN ALL THAT WE DO

- Improve our building so that we can continue to celebrate our faith together in a fully accessible and accommodating space.
- Create active teams, positions and committees to help us welcome, nurture, support and care for one another.
- Continue to organize and host events, activities and programs in which we can socialize and strengthen our relationships.
- Create and/or take advantage of resources to help better connect us.
- Take good care of our property and finances so that we can realize a surplus at the end of each fiscal year.
- To have continued good leadership and to care well for our staff.

OUR PRIORITIES:

WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO US ...

- New or Modernized Building
- Care of Finances & Property
- Social Gatherings
- Church Groups & Committees
- Benevolent Fund
- Celebrating Milestone Events
- Connections to UCC
- Visiting Team
- Loss & Transition Support
- Communication Tools
(weekly/seasonal newsletters,
posters, website, etc.)

VISION 20/20 – COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION & ENGAGEMENT

Community **PARTICIPATION & ENGAGEMENT**

AS FOLLOWERS OF JESUS, WE JOURNEY WITH ALL PEOPLE AND ALL OF CREATION

CELEBRATING TOGETHER: How We Reach Out to Others at St. James

We offer both free and subsidized space to community and not-for-profit groups and organizations. We feed hungry children and adults, offer drama, musical and camp experiences; and we contribute to United Church ministries across Canada and throughout the world.



I would like to thank the St. James volunteers for the Breakfast Program at Keith Wightman Public School. ~ Principal

”

Over the next five years, we commit to making deeper and more intentional connections with our current community partners, as well as creating new partnerships in our neighbourhood and beyond.

OUR STRATEGIC VISION FOR COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION: **LIVING AS CHRISTIANS WITHIN AND BEYOND OUR FOUR WALLS**

- Actively seek out ways to replace, restore and/or improve our building and space so that we can continue to grow, prosper, worship and share with others.
- Reach out to the local community to learn more about their needs.
- Continue to make connections with other United Churches and faith groups.
- Continue to nurture current community partnerships, and create new ones to show that we care and are living active lives of faith.
- Continue to live as Christians within and beyond the four walls of our building.

OUR PRIORITIES: **WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO US ...**

- Sharing Space & Programs with NCC
- Men's Club Breakfast Program
- Hosting Milestone Services & Events
- Free Space for Community Partners
- Having Rental Space Available
- St. James Players
- Contributing to Kawartha Food Share
- Supporting the Mission & Service Fund
- Working with other United Churches to Promote Feelings of Celebration and Unity

NEXT STEPS

DEVELOPING AN ACTION PLAN

Now that we have developed our strategic vision for the next five years, it is important that we create a plan for this vision. In the fall of 2015, the Visioning Committee will hold a planning session with the Official Board, committee members and congregation, with the aim of developing specific steps required to carry out our strategic vision. We will do this in conjunction with EDGE missional and property consultants.

As part of this process, the Official Board will develop annual “action plans” that include measurable goals for each of our vision statements in order to ensure that we are working in alignment with our strategic directions.



A FEW FINAL WORDS

REACHING NEW HEIGHTS ... TOGETHER

The theme for our 2014 Annual Report was “Reaching New Heights While Honouring Our Roots.” This theme was chosen to reflect the long and proud heritage – as well as the future hopes and vision – of our loving and dedicated church family here at St James.

We are a congregation that has shown time and time again that we can rise to any occasion. Arm in arm, we have stood together and faced our challenges with determination, hard work and a whole lot of faith. Our strong roots have weathered many storms. And as we reach for new heights, like us, our roots will remain steadfast and true.

The future looks bright indeed.

Vision is not enough. It must be combined with venture. ”

A large, stylized white geometric logo, resembling a cross or a series of nested triangles, is positioned on the right side of the page against a solid orange background.

Vision 20/20

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