

VISION 20-25

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS 2020-2025

St. James United Church : An Affirming Ministry • 221 Romaine Street • Peterborough, ON



St. James United Church

Living fully, intentionally and compassionately...

221 Romaine Street
Peterborough, Ontario
K9J 2C3
info@stjamesunitedchurch.ca
705.742.2222
www.stjamesunitedchurch.ca



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Dear Friends of St. James:

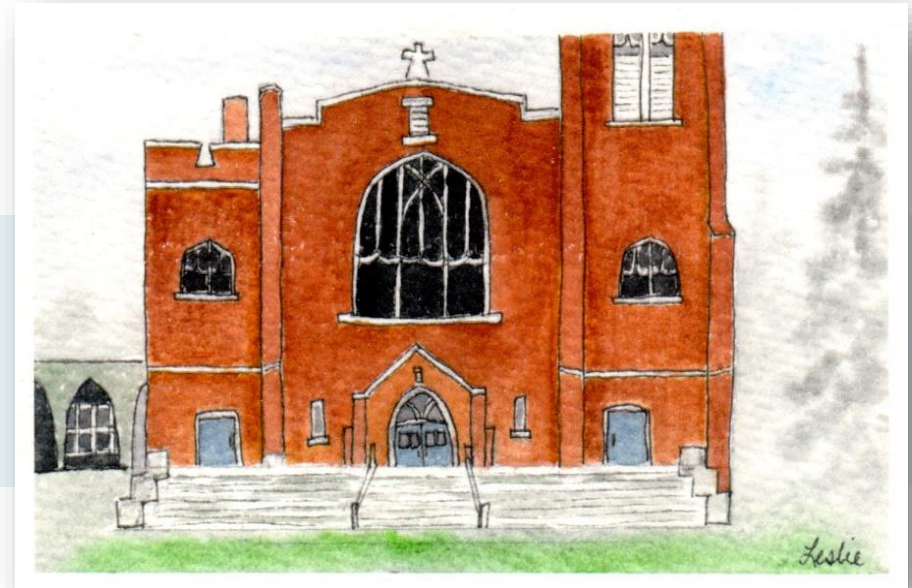
Our vision for the next five years was created as a result of the hard work, dedication and discernment of all of you. It is our hope and prayer that the different components of this vision will be realized, and that St. James and our broader community will experience the joys of welcome, opportunity,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

Susan Weaver
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 Official Board began discussing and reviewing the life and ministry of St. James United Church in early 2019 in order to help determine the direction of the church over the next five years.

Following this discussion, the Official Board Executive met with their committee/group members to discuss and explore the strengths and opportunities of St. James. At the same time, congregational members were each given a copy of the Vision 20/20 document and were invited and encouraged to write down and submit their hopes and dreams for the next five years of our life and ministry. The results were printed and reviewed by the Official Board. Final edits were made and this document was created.

Annual action plans will be developed for each of the categories outlined in our Vision 20-25.

VISION TEAM MEMBERS:

- **Official Board**
- **St. James Committees/Groups**
- **St. James Congregation**
- **St. James Staff**



HIGHLIGHTS ... from our 2019 conversations & feedback

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 meaningful and engaging, and relevant.
- Continue reaching out to members and growing our membership with improved communication.
- Renovate the sanctuary to meet accessibility standards by 2025
- Continue worshipping in a variety of locations (other United Churches, Abraham Festival, Large Auditorium).
- Continue to invite a variety of guest speakers to participate in our worship services.

LEARNING

OUR STRENGTHS:

- St. James currently offers a variety of educational learning programs and workshops for members of all ages; we have an active Kidventure Program and Summer Camp.

OUR OPPORTUNITIES:

- Continue offering educational programming relating to health and spirituality for people of all ages.
- Continue offering Kidventure, Summer Camps, Jitterbugs 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 welcome, 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 Summer Camp, to the New Canadians Centre and the 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.
- Connect with other faith groups and non-profits.



VISION 20-25

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS 2020-2025

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 meaningful worship services, whether it's for our Sunday morning service or one of our family-friendly "Messy Church" services! As an Affirming ministry, 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 by utilizing social media, “Dial My Calls”, and supporting the Communications Committee.
- Improve our worship space so that it is multifunctional and accessible and meets 2025 federal accessibility standards.
Priorities: making the chancel (stage) accessible, one level and much larger, and add curtains for theatre, dance, etc.
Secondary Priorities: updating lighting, sound, electrical, paint sanctuary, install air conditioning.
- * Continue to enhance our music program by inviting guest musicians on a regular basis.
- 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, Abraham Festival, The Oasis, etc.).
- Invite more artists and speakers to participate in our worship services.

OUR PRIORITIES:

WHAT’S IMPORTANT TO US ...

- Accessible Space for Worship
- Ministry & Leadership
- Choir & Music
- Worship Resources & Technology
- Holiday & Special Services
- Life & Faith Milestones
- Messy Church
- Worship Volunteers & Leaders
- The Worship Committee
- Affirm Speakers

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, summer camps, adult support and education events, and discussion groups. Asking questions and learning together is an important part of our Christian journey. The Kidventure leader, Minister, Music Director and Christian Education Committee (along with gifted volunteers) lead and facilitate our Learning Ministry!



St. James' summer camp gave my daughter the opportunity to participate in a fun, safe, caring, affordable camp experience. She'll be back next summer!



Over the next five years, we commit to deepen our faith and understanding through learning with one another, with our sisters and brothers from other United Churches, faith traditions and not-for-profit organizations that promote health and wholeness.

OUR STRATEGIC VISION FOR LEARNING:

A PLACE TO CELEBRATE FAITH, ASK QUESTIONS AND LEARN TOGETHER

- * Continue to offer programs geared to the specific needs of our congregation.
- 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.
- Keep our children's programs vital; partner with other organizations to meet the needs of local youth.
- Become more actively involved in initiatives that promote welcome as well as a better understanding of other faiths and ways of being; remain dedicated to our ongoing Affirm journey.
- Use available tools, programs and resources to actively engage in determining the future direction and financial health of our church
- Support learning opportunities for all members of our church and staff.

OUR PRIORITIES:

WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO US ...

- Ongoing Affirm journey
- Working with ECORC and UCC National Office
- Children & Youth Programs
- Continuing Education
- Our Visioning Process
- Learn from and with our community partners

CARING & CONNECTING

WE STRIVE TO BE A COMMUNITY WHERE PEOPLE CARE FOR ONE ANOTHER 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 in all of the blessings and challenges of life. We genuinely care for one another and we have fun as a community!



I live alone and am so grateful for our fellowship time after church. It's wonderful to catch up with old friends and meet new ones over a cup of coffee!



Over the next five years, we re-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 and maintain active groups, 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.
- Continue to 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 ...**

- Accessible Building
- Care of Finances & Property
- Social Gatherings
- Church Groups & Committees
- Benevolent Fund
- Celebrating Milestone Events
- Connections to UCC
- Pastoral Care Team
- Loss & Transition Support
- Communication Tools
(newsletters, posters,
website, Facebook, etc.)

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 free, subsidized and rental space to faith groups, community groups and not-for-profit groups and organizations. We have meaningful community partnerships. 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 am so grateful to have a safe, welcoming place to come
for Friday Jumma Prayers.

~Oasis Participant



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 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 be open to new partnerships to show that we are living out our Affirm call and commitment.

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

- Sharing Space & Programs with NCC, The Oasis, & Abraham Festival
- 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. Each year, beginning in 2020, the Official Board, in consultation with the congregation will develop specific steps required to carry out our strategic vision. We will do this under the guidelines and policies of ECORC and the United Church of Canada.

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.

Thank you for all of the time and hard work you put into creating our next five year vision plan. With the guidance of the Spirit great things will indeed happen!



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

~ Vaclav Havel

A large, stylized white cross is centered on the right side of the page. The cross is composed of two thick, white, chevron-like shapes that meet at the center, creating a modern, geometric design. The background is a solid orange color.

Vision 20-25

St. James United Church

221 Romaine Street
Peterborough, ON K9J 2C3

P: 705.742.2222

F: 705.742.2212

E: info@stjamesunitedchurch.ca

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