

MEETING OUR MISSION

Port Nelson United Church (PNUC)
Action Plan for 2011 to 2014

Approved by PNUC Council January 11, 2012

MISSION STATEMENT

To reach out to one another and our world as we grow spiritually in a caring, inclusive, Christian community enriched by meaningful worship.

VISION STATEMENT

Our Vision for the next three years is to fulfill the mission of PNUC by meeting the needs of the congregation and community in a physically accessible space and in an atmosphere of inclusion supported by some alternate of formats of worship within which members of all ages and stages are encouraged to use their gifts.

ACTION PLAN

This Action Plan is intended to guide the ministry of the congregation for the next three years as we seek to live out our mission and respond to what God is calling us to and why we are called to do it.

Current strengths are identified for each of our church family values showing that the value is being enacted. However, specific goals, actions and evaluation strategies have been discerned for three of the six values: a Sense of Community, Being Inclusive and Meaningful Worship. These values were repeatedly identified as strengths and priorities by our church family in several venues (town hall meetings, completion of "footprints" and "handprints" during worship, congregational survey, Council retreats led by Paul Ivany and Kennon Callahan). This does not mean that the other three values are being ignored. All values are of equal importance.

VALUE: A Sense of Community

Community was fundamental to early Christians and to the development of the early church. So it is at Port Nelson. A strong sense of community permeates Port Nelson. Jesus said, "Where two or three come together in my name, there I am with them." (Matthew 18:20) In the many ways in which we gather in community, Christ is present with us. At Port Nelson we believe that everyone has gifts to share. "There are different kinds of gifts, but the same spirit." (1 Corinthians 12:4) Using our gifts demonstrates the Spirit of God at work and contributes to a sense of community.

Examples of Current Strengths

- Lively interaction before and after worship
- Summer GLEE Camp served over 60 children, mostly from the local neighborhood.
- Shared meals e.g. Consecration Sunday
- Participation in activities of Mistletoe Mart
- Small groups: Men in Aprons, Women's groups, choir

GOAL: to identify community needs, consistent with our mission and values, that may not be met currently.

Action Steps:

1. Analyze the Environics™ data by April 2012.
2. Expand the strength of GLEE Camp for summer 2012.
3. Conduct at least one Professional Development (PD) Day program for children in 2012.
4. Identify and implement program(s) consistent with our mission and values if warranted by 2014.

Evaluation:

1. Environics™ data is analyzed and continues to inform program planning when applicable.
2. GLEE is strengthened by summer 2012.
3. A program for PD day(s) is implemented in 2012.
4. New programs consistent with our mission and values are identified and implemented if warranted by 2014.

VALUE: Being Inclusive

At Port Nelson we welcome everyone to participate fully in the life of the community, no matter their age, race, gender, culture, belief, ability or sexual orientation. As followers of Jesus we believe that we are part of the body of Christ. The apostle Paul said that "the body does not consist of one member but of many" and all are indispensable. (1 Corinthians 12: 14, 22-26)

N.B. All areas of inclusion are of equal importance. However, two goals have been chosen based on congregational input, legal requirements, and the priorities of the United Church of Canada.

Examples of Current Strengths:

- A warm, welcoming worship space
- An open and accepting atmosphere
- Use of inclusive and expansive language
- Some accessibility for persons with disabilities in the worship space, upper and lower narthex and O'Brien Room
- Pastoral care to shut-ins and seniors
- Leadership program for youth in grades 6 to 12
- Seniors lunch

GOAL: Every person is able to physically access every space in our building independently.

Action Steps:

1. Decide about appropriate physical space (i.e. restore or rebuild) to meet the current and future needs of both the congregation and community groups by spring 2012 e.g.
 - gathering before and following worship for the whole community
 - meals served from a kitchen that meets health and safety standards
 - small group gatherings both quiet and active
 - adequate parking
 - fully accessible and adequate number of toilets.
2. Develop a plan to comply with current legal accessibility standards by Spring 2012.

3. Comply with the functional imperative that all are able to participate in the activities held in the building e.g.
 - barrier free church school and mid week activities
 - accessible chancel area
 - additional and larger space in sanctuary for wheelchairs, walkers and strollers.

Evaluation:

The building is fully accessible by 2014.

GOAL: To be known as a safe place for all members, regardless of sexual orientation.

Action Steps:

1. Complete a study of the United Church educational document *Open Hearts (2011)* by the end of 2013.
2. Compile a list of community resources for persons in the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgendered Queer (LGBTQ) community by Spring 2012.
3. Identify opportunities for partnership or new initiatives by Fall 2012.

Evaluation:

1. Complete study by the end of 2013
2. List of resources is completed by Spring 2012
3. Opportunities are identified by the Fall of 2012

VALUE: Meaningful Worship

“Sing to the Lord a new song... Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music; make music to the Lord.” (Psalm 98) Worship is important! At Port Nelson worship is more than a Core Value. It is a way of life. Through inspiring word, uplifting music, thoughtful prayer, and poignant silence and in other ways we experience the Spirit of God in our midst.

Examples of Current Strengths:

- Strong preaching
- Strong choral program
- Occasional use of instrumental musicians e.g. brass ensemble at Easter
- Taize prayer services
- Some use of different worship formats e.g. Jazz
- Communion services using other formats e.g. intinction

GOAL: To maintain and enhance the existing strengths in worship.

Action Steps:

1. Include the gifts of the church family in worship participation (i.e. instrumental music, dance, drama, reading, prayers) and in worship planning.
2. Encourage the participation in worship of people of all ages, stages and abilities.
3. Establish a children's choral opportunity by September 2012.

Evaluation:

1. Members of the church family, of all ages, stages and abilities, regularly participate in a variety of ways in worship and in worship planning.
2. A children's choral opportunity is established by September 2012.

GOAL: To research the need for and the feasibility of an additional worship opportunity other than Sunday morning.

Action Steps:

1. Investigate possible constituencies, times, formats and styles of additional worship opportunities by December 2012.
2. Experiment with and evaluate different worship possibilities.

Evaluation:

1. Constituencies for and times, formats, and styles of worship have been investigated by December 2012.
2. Different worship opportunities are implemented and evaluated.

VALUE: Reaching Out

Jesus encouraged his followers to “Feed my sheep.” (John 21:17) Since its beginning, Port Nelson has been reaching out, giving resources, time, money, and skills to support those in need. We strive to follow the words in 1 John 3:18 that we should “not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.” We are ready to discover, encourage, and support new ways of sharing God’s love.

Examples of Current Strengths:

- Continue and build upon community partnerships concerning food access (e.g. food bank support, community suppers, breakfast programs)
- Continue and enhance weekly food voucher program
- Travel crafts (weekly handicraft/social workshop for adults with special needs)
- Support for community initiatives through Endowment Fund

VALUE: Caring

Caring for one another is important and vital at Port Nelson. We seek to follow Jesus’ encouragement to “Do to others as you would have them do to you.” (Luke 6:31). We also follow the direction in 1 John 4:11 that, “Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.” The realization that we are loved inspires us to love one another. We are blessed. We share this blessing with others in the way we care.

Examples of Current Strengths

- Teleministry and pastoral care initiatives
- Monthly seniors’ lunch
- Reflection group etc.
- Travel crafts (weekly handicraft/social workshop for adults with special needs)
- Men in Aprons
- Support of Partnership West Food Bank

VALUE: Growing Spiritually

We recognize at Port Nelson that each one of us is on a journey through life and that many people have a deep desire to grow spiritually. We believe that this growth happens in many ways through worship, prayer, study, service, action and more. The prophet Isaiah said, "See I am doing a new thing!" (Isaiah 43:19) With eagerness we continue to anticipate many new ways that we can help one another grow spiritually.

Examples of Current Strengths

- An overall "questing" theology
- Regular Bible study groups
- Church School
- Confirmation group
- Reflection group
- Women's book studies and retreat