



Beach United Church

Ministry in Progress

A working definition

Our Purpose

Why are we (Beach United Church) here? What is God calling us (as a community) to do?

To provide a Spiritually-based community of faith:

- That offers the possibility of personal transformation
- Where people are discovering new ways of looking at and understanding their faith
- That offers worship and study opportunities that engage both emotions and intellect
- In which people are encouraged to translate their personal faith into action
- That acknowledges a foundation in the life and teachings of Jesus
- That provides exposure to other religious practices, multiple theologies, biblical interpretations, lived experiences
- That approaches life's deepest issues with respect for personal freedom and choice

To value and support personal relationships and the connectedness of community:

- That offers a place to build deep personal relationships
- That builds relationships between people – those of different faith traditions and cultures, lifestyles
- That welcome, respects and celebrates families of all types
- That values the presence and contribution of all ages – children, youth, young adults, middle age, older adults.

To give care and support:

- To care for the world
- To care for others – both family and strangers
- To be mindful of how we communicate and its impact on others
- To demonstrate our faith by showing respect for all people
- To reach out to those in the local community who need help
- To work with the poor and oppressed to find ways to improve their situation
- To help people with day-to-day issues
- To respectfully accept diverse gifts

To work for change and social justice:

- To demonstrate our faith by showing respect for the earth and environment
- To care for the earth and its resources, creation and all living creatures
- To work together for change and social justice in the world
- To thirst for justice
- To be a spirit of hope for change

Our Operating Principles

In order to achieve our purpose, we will strive to be:

Relevant

- Committed to building an understanding of the needs of our neighbours – in our congregation, in our neighbourhood, in our city, on our planet
- Willing to engage our neighbours in building this understanding
- Being an active and visible presence in the life and work of the community
- Making a meaningful contribution and a difference in the world
- Relating to “real” issues that are current and priority

Adaptive

- Open to changing the way things are done
- Welcoming and taking creative and innovative approaches
- Open to understanding, accepting, respecting and celebrating other points of view, lifestyle choices and differences
- Open to questioning of accepted rituals and practices
- Willing and able to learn
- Responsible for our own learning and change, both individually and as a church community
- Understanding of the need for change, the impact of change and positive ways of responding

Sustainable

- Providing a ministry presence in the community for now and for the future
- Financially sustainable - Ensuring we have the financial resources to be a continuing presence in the community
- Environmentally sustainable – Committed to respecting, preserving and restoring the environment

Authentic

- Supportive of respectful questioning, exploration and debate
- Confronting issues with open and direct dialogue
- Intentionally considering our actions in light of our stated purpose