



## **Invitation to Wider Ministries Initiatives**

***Interested in new ways to put our faith into action at BUC?***

***Consider joining our Wider Ministries Exploration Team***

### ***Why Wider Ministries Initiatives?***

As part of our decision to sell one property and renovate the other, we committed 10% of our net sale proceeds to wider ministries to reach out beyond our doors, an amount over \$400,000.

Our statement of purpose, Ministry in Progress, describes what kind of church BUC is and will be – a place where we:

- encourage people to translate their personal faith into action
- develop relationships between people of different faith traditions, cultures, and lifestyles
- demonstrate our faith by showing respect for all people
- care for others, both family and strangers
- care for the earth and its resources, creation and all living creatures
- work for change and social justice in the world

Before amalgamation we stated consistently that our new church will only be sustainable if it reaches beyond the sum of the two founding congregations by engaging with our larger Beach community in innovative ways.

We believe our church will become more engaging to others when we turn our statements of purpose into firm action in our surrounding communities. Actions will always speak louder than words.

### ***What Are Some Wider Ministries Possibilities?***

Ministry in Progress will guide our explorations.

Some examples:

*“To work with the poor and oppressed to find ways to improve their situation”* might lead us into a partnership activity with one or more of the many agencies and non-governmental organizations that are already working in this area and could use our energy and resources to achieve a bigger impact.

*“To be sustainable by ensuring we have the financial resources to be a continuing presence in the community”* could take us into including solar-electric panels on the roof of the renovated building and selling electricity to the Ontario power grid.

*“To be relevant by making a meaningful contribution and a difference in the world”* suggests that we get involved in programs and projects beyond ourselves that will make real, significant and lasting changes for the better.

The exact final form of our wider ministries won't be known until we complete an exploration of the possibilities and present some options to the congregation.

### ***How do we select our Wider Ministry Initiatives?***

We've already started in a small way.

In May, two guest speakers, Wayne Roberts and Greig Clark, talked about their work in the wider community, Wayne in providing locally grown food at reasonable prices to surrounding communities, and Greig through Christian Resource Center's involvement in the revitalization of the Regent Park community - two glimpses of possible engagement in wider ministries. Throughout the coming year we will learn about more possibilities.

Along with hearing about such community work, we will explore ministry directions through our Wider Ministries Exploration Team, as mentioned above. Our team will research, identify, and report back to our congregation on a wide range of options for ministry beyond ourselves. Beginning with a few organizing meetings, smaller teams will explore specific possibilities and prepare reports with suggested recommendations for presentation to Council and Congregation. All this intriguing work will begin in September.

As a congregation, we will learn more about future possibilities, and then decide on those areas of engagement that best fit our talents and resources.

Interested in this exploration? Contact one of these council members:

Ron Fitton  
Chris Bell  
Tom Steele  
Barry Truscott

**beach**  
unitedchurch

