

Horseshoe Falls Regional Council

Community of Faith: Living Faith Story Worksheet

PURPOSE: To provide information about the Community of Faith's understanding of their ministry and mission.

Who uses it: Communities of Faith in gathering their profile information for ChurchHub.

Community of Faith: Port Dover- Woodhouse Pastoral Charge

Regional Council: Horseshoe Falls

Date: Feb 13, 2020

Mission Statement:

We are a welcoming family of Christian faith, committed to living, learning, growing and sharing God's love; acting with acceptance, caring and joy, in our community and the world.

Our Community of the Port Dover - Woodhouse Pastoral Charge

Port Dover, Ontario is a picturesque town on the north coast of Lake Erie, with a population of 6,000 and growing. This fishing port is located in Norfolk County and is easily accessible to major centres and highways. Hamilton, Brantford, and Tillsonburg are less than an hour away. The City of Toronto, Niagara Falls and London are within two hours drive.

Port Dover/Woodhouse is a two point charge. Grace United Church is located on the corners of St. George and Chapman Streets, one block from the Main Street. Woodhouse United is a rural church located on Hwy 24 south, a main road to the town of Simcoe and lakeside destinations. This Charge enjoys good relationships with the Anglican, Presbyterian, and Roman Catholic churches in town. These congregations join together annually for the Christmas Advent Walk, Easter Sunrise Service on the beach, and Lenten Breakfasts and shared with the Knox Presbyterian Church.

Port Dover has all the characteristics of a small town. It is friendly, safe, and clean. It boasts a lovely beach, marinas, live theatre and many interesting festivals and activities to attend throughout the year. Many visitors come to the area for famous Lake Erie Perch or an Arbor Footlong Hotdog.

A large number of housing starts in the last few years have seen many new retirees moving into the Port Dover community. These starts include single family homes and new

condominiums. It is predicted that this community will continue to attract middle age and older residents within the next ten years.

Many retail and financial services are offered to the residents of Port Dover and area. The downtown core is a collection of standard retail outlets, including a post office and weekly newspaper. Many interesting boutiques help to attract a large number of visitors. A small plaza houses the local supermarket and is on the fringe of the downtown. A farmers market is held every Saturday in the Lions Club building at Silver Lake.

The local economy is driven by tourism, commercial fishing, dairy and general farming, growing fruit, vegetables, tobacco, ginseng, and peanuts. Major employers include: Imperial Oil, Stelco, a Toyotetsu plant in Simcoe, and small industry. Safety and security issues are handled by the OPP and a Volunteer Fire Department.

A Medical Centre houses 5 physicians and two pharmacies are located on Main st. Dover Cliffs is the local nursing home, and is located a block away from Grace United. Plans have been announced to expand its capacity.

Dentists , Chiropractors and holistic health care providers also have offices in Port Dover. Norfolk General Hospital is located in Simcoe, a short 10 minute drive away. For more serious illnesses, local patients are transferred to hospitals in London, Hamilton and Brantford. Travel to Brantford or Hamilton can take up to an hour and it is an hour and a half drive to London.

Lakewood Public School houses grades JK to 8 and hosts a full-time French immersion program. A state of the art public library is located in the former tech wing of the Lakewood Elementary school building. The Community Centre and Arena are located next door.

Students from Grades 9 through 12 are educated at Simcoe Composite School and Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Secondary School in Simcoe to which they are bused. The school board operates Turning Point, an alternative setting for obtaining high school credits.

Post-secondary education can be found locally at a satellite of Fanshawe College in Simcoe. Within a two hour radius one can attend: Mohawk College in Hamilton, Laurier University and, Nipissing College campuses in Brantford, McMaster University in Hamilton, Western University in London, University of Waterloo and Sir Wilfrid Laurier University in Kitchener-Waterloo, Brock University and Niagara College in St. Catharines, and University of Guelph in Guelph.

For those interested in health and fitness there is a Health and Fitness Centre in Port Dover. A number of exercise and yoga groups also operate in various venues throughout the town. A T.O.P.S. group, Tai Chi Club, and A.A. operate at Grace Church. A Scottish Country Dance group

meet at Knox Church, a winter indoor walking club at the Community Centre, there is a vibrant a run and walk club. For outdoor enthusiasts, there are many walking and cycling routes including the Lynn Valley Trail which has a starting point in Port Dover. Several golf courses are also close by. Tennis courts, a skateboard park, and outdoor ball hockey rink are new additions to the community centre. Minor sport groups include: Baseball, Softball, Hockey, Soccer, and Figure Skating. Scouts and Guides are active groups. The Guides meet at the Grace Church from September to June.

There are Probus Clubs, Newcomers groups, a bridge group and several book clubs offered in Port Dover. There is also a very active Horticultural Society and community garden program. Service clubs such as Lions, Lioness, Kinsmen, Masonic Lodge, Knights of Columbus, and Legion provide many community services. A Local Food bank operates weekly.

As mentioned, one of the major economic drivers of the community is tourism. The following list is a sample of the festivals and events staged each year.

- New Year's Day Polar Bear Dip
- Perch Derby
- Lighthouse Festival Theatre
- Summer Concerts in Powell Park
- Canada Day Celebrations
- Summer Festival's Art in the Park
- Beer stock
- South Coast Jazz Festival
- Show & Shine Car Shows
- Christmas Fest and Santa Claus Parade
- Friday the 13th Biker Bash
- Norfolk Studio Tour

Port Dover is also the home of the Harbour Museum where our rich fishing industry and heritage is celebrated. Divers can explore sunken shipwrecks a few kilometres from shore. Close by, you will find Turkey Point and the world famous Long Point Biosphere Reserve and Bird Sanctuary.

Other activities include swimming classes and pool therapy at the Simcoe pool, library events, a River Rider tour, the Harbour Marina, Yacht Club, several local wineries and breweries, one of the most desirable beaches in Southern Ontario, and Long Point Bay for sport fishing and boating.

Our Pastoral Charge & Ministry

Our Pastoral Charge: Rural + Urban

The Port Dover/Woodhouse Pastoral Charge has a history richly steeped in the Methodist Church. Since 1853, Woodhouse Wesleyan Methodist Church, the country church, and Grace Methodist Church, the town church, were paired together as a two-point pastoral charge.

In 1925, both congregations became part of the United Church of Canada. Relations between the two churches have remained friendly and supportive. Both churches have members that are loyal, dedicated to their various projects, and services that the United Church has established, and are instrumental in participating in worship and spreading the word of the gospel.

How we work together:

Woodhouse and Grace share: A Secretary, Traditional Order of Service, Hymns- Voices United, More Voices, and Shared Choirs for special services, Manse Committee, Mission and Outreach Committee, Ministry and Personnel Committee, a Finance Committee, Pastoral Care Committee and a Pastoral Charge Board. The Pastoral Charge Board meets 4 times per year.

Joint services and Fellowship between Woodhouse & Grace Churches:

- Lenten Breakfasts
- Meals celebrating various events such as Shrove Tuesday and St. Patrick's Day
- Lift Up Your Spirit Woman's Day (April)
- Easter Sunrise Service at the beach (interdenominational)
- Memorial Hymn Sing
- Woodhouse closes during July and joins with Grace for the month
- Decoration Day at Woodhouse (second Sunday in August)
- Woodhouse Anniversary Sunday (third Sunday in October)
- Anniversary Supper at Grace
- Grace Anniversary Sunday (fourth Sunday in October)
- Advent Walk (interdenominational)
- Christmas Candlelight services (Woodhouse - a Sunday Evening in December, Grace- Christmas Eve - 2 services)

Projects that both churches support:

- Collecting stamps for Mission
- Coins for Lent

- Food Bank
- Collecting milk bags and can tabs for charitable groups

Mission and Outreach donations are directed towards: Ryerson Beach Camp, Caribbean Workers Outreach Project, Canadian Food Grains Bank, Lakewood Elementary School, Port Dover Lifeline Food bank, Nations Uniting, Indwell low income housing and our local Ministers benevolence fund. We also operate local outreach projects including Seniors Helping Seniors, and support the local churches Refugee Resettlement Committee.

Total Membership for the Pastoral Charge:

The membership roll for the Port Dover Pastoral Charge as of September 2018

Woodhouse: 37 Active members (average Sunday attendance 35)

Grace: 127 Active members (average Sunday attendance 75)

Total: **154 Active members**

Our Demographic Profile:

It is important to note that the majority (70%) of our members are considered to be senior citizens. There are ministry needs for pastoral care which includes hospital and nursing home visits, funeral support and grief counselling.

The Rural partner: Woodhouse United Church: 9:30 a.m. Service

Woodhouse Church had its first gatherings in 1800. As the land known as Upper Canada was surveyed and opened up for development, Woodhouse became a spiritual and community centre for the early settlers of the area. The Sanctuary, Sunday school room and kitchen facilities continue to provide a gathering place for local families and organizations. The UCW also uses the space for meetings and events.

The focal point in the Sanctuary is a painting by local artist, the late Edgar Cantelon entitled, "Come Unto Me." A historically significant cemetery is part of the property and is managed by an independent cemetery board.

The congregation at Woodhouse can be described as small in number but mighty in spirit! Thirty five worshippers, on average, gather each Sunday at 9:30 am. for the morning service. Many of the members have had ties to Woodhouse for generations. A dedicated volunteer organist and occasional pianist provide inspirational music each week. An IN focus Projector

and Power Point program are in place and used during the worship services. On the first and third Sundays of the month a coffee and fellowship time is held following the worship service. The average age of worshippers at Woodhouse is seventy plus. In the past 2 years, several key leaders have "Passed on to Glory". However, when one member leaves, it seems as another appears to take their place. In 2017 the Woodhouse congregation accepted 7 new members into their church family. The Regular Sunday school has not been provided in the last twenty years however there is an activity table with Sunday school materials set up in the sanctuary for children to enjoy. A UCW continues to meet on a regular basis. Visitors to Woodhouse and past ministers have described the congregation as friendly, kind and caring. Members at Woodhouse described themselves as "being like a family", "we share, support and love each other...and sometimes we disagree."

In the year 2000, Woodhouse celebrated their 200th anniversary. The year was marked with many successful projects including:

- writing and publishing a book entitled: Old Woodhouse Church, the Cradle of Methodism, In the Long Point Settlement
- replacement and dedication of the stained glass windows,
- Holding a Homecoming weekend of entertainment, good food, fellowship and worship.

Since that anniversary, Woodhouse United church has been recognized by the United Empire Loyalists Society as a cornerstone in the early development of Upper Canada. Strong family roots are still evident in the resident roll.

The Board at Woodhouse is formed from elders and stewards and meets as a committee of the whole. Meetings are upbeat and productive. The Board Meetings are held 3 times per year at 10:30 a.m. (April, September and November). Maintenance for the grounds and church buildings is contracted out. Secretarial duties for the churches are shared with Grace and the office is centralized in Port Dover.

The buildings and grounds at Woodhouse have been well cared for by a dedicated group of Trustees. A new furnace, stained glass windows, basement/foundation repairs; soffits and windows have been completed and paid for in the past 10 years. In the spring of 2018, the washrooms were renovated and are now fully accessible and a new well was dug. The next project that the Woodhouse Board would like to tackle is renovating the kitchen so it meets the standards set by the local Health Unit.

The top three reasons why members enjoy Woodhouse United Church were tabulated from a survey completed in the fall of 2018. They are:

1. Woodhouse offers a **welcoming and friendly atmosphere** for all who attend worship. People are caring, non-judgmental and truly support all members of the congregation.
2. The **church service** is described as sharing a meaningful message that is relevant for living a Christian life. The earlier time of the service at 9:30 a.m. is valued.
3. The **music** included during worship is uplifting. A dedicated choir provides an anthem each week and helps to lead the church members in singing hymns with an uplifting spirit.

The Urban Partner: Grace United Church: 11 am. Service

Grace United Church also has strong roots in Methodism. In 1847, a large frame building was erected on the corner of Chapman and St. George Streets. This building later became the Sunday School Wing of our current church. A Christian Education Wing was built in its place in 1962. The present Sanctuary will seat 300. It has many beautiful stained-glass windows and is architecturally pleasing. An electronic pipe organ captures your attention and is a focal point of the sanctuary. Upgrades to the sanctuary include: a Grand Piano, new sound system, projector and screen, new lights and the rebuilding of the large stained glass window at the back of the church. We also have installed a audio- visual system in the community hall.

A history of the church entitled 150 years of Grace was published in 1996 to celebrate 150 years of service. The membership at Grace over the last 5 years has been changing. Fewer families with young children attend. Long-time family members are represented along with new retirees to Port Dover. Approximately 75 people attend the worship service. Grace membership does reflect the eclectic resident roll of a more urban centre.

Sunday school is held during church time for those children in attendance, under the leadership of the Christian Education Committee. A monthly Messy Church program has proved quite successful. It is held once a month from 5 - 7 pm. The program includes songs; drama; crafts and a meal are provided for children and their parents.

We have a paid music leader to provide music for the choir and inspirational pieces to complement the morning worship.

A church council comprised of representatives from committees meets monthly. Subcommittees for Finance, Stewardship and Visioning, Music and Worship, Buildings and Grounds, Trustee Committee and Christian Education are in place. Pastoral charge committees for Mission and Outreach; Finance, Ministry and Personnel, and the Manse are all functioning well.

Other Programs being offered:

Bible Study in daytime for the pastoral charge

Lift Up Your Spirit – women’s group for the pastoral charge

UCW

Spirit Journey lecture series each fall

Weekly Prayer Service

Coffee time at 10 a.m. before the worship service

Grace members feel one of their strengths is supporting projects that include the entire congregation. Annual events that successfully raise friends and funds include:

The Fall Affair

Fall Supper and Irish Stew Dinner

Spring Rummage Sale

Friday 13th - food and souvenir sales

The top three reasons why members enjoy Grace United Church were tabulated from a survey completed in the fall of 2018. They are:

1. The **church service** is described as being inclusive, spiritual, uplifting and focussed upon Christian renewal and growth. The congregation supports a bible based message that strengthens their belief.
2. Grace Church offers a feeling of **fellowship**. Members are welcoming and provide a caring atmosphere to all who attend.
3. The **music** provided during worship allows people to sing and expand their worship experience.

Our Resources

Woodhouse United Church

- current building is 158 years old and is located 6 km from Port Dover
- Seating in the Sanctuary for 150 including the balcony. The main entrance is barrier free
- A piano and organ are in the Sanctuary and a piano is in the Sunday School Room
- A fully stocked Kitchen, washrooms, and Sunday School Room that will seat 60 are attached to the Sanctuary
- An accessible washroom project was completed in 2018
- Many aesthetic upgrades have been completed in the last few years including painting, soffit repairs, exterior caulking, ramp and safety railing and canopy over the Sunday School entrance
- ½ acre is available for a parking lot
- Eleven acres adjoins the property and is in use as a cemetery.
- The Cemetery Board operates independently of the Church board but maintains regular two-way communication

Grace United Church

- Present Sanctuary was built in 1898. A Christian Education wing was added in 1962.
- Seating in the Sanctuary for 300 is barrier free
- A sound system, screen, organ, and acoustic Grand Piano are available in the Sanctuary
- Hearing assistive devices
- Grace also contains an air-conditioned Community Hall with stage and a full kitchen. New windows, wall insulation, and new paint renovations in 2017
- Two meeting rooms, a nursery, and the office for the Pastoral Charge on lower level
- The lowest level, the Grace Room, has been fully renovated in 2017.
- Regular groups using Grace include: Tai Chi, Girl Guides, T.O.P.S. weight loss group, Alcoholics Anonymous, Dover Uke Heads ukulele group, The Horticultural Society, Stonebridge adult fitness, Tolle Meditation group, Hand and Foot Card group and the U.C.W. Many other groups and individuals rent space for various events as well.
- In 2014, an addition housing a 3 level lift was completed. Accessible washrooms put in on two levels, and a manual lift to the lowest level installed.

- An electronic sign has replaced the old outdoor sign and announces many church and community messages and activities.
- The Lift Up Your Spirit Group created the “The Growing Place” in one of the meeting rooms; it includes a library, relaxing chairs, and Sunday school resources.
- Grace congregation replaced the lighting in the sanctuary and fixed the large stained-glass window in 2011-12.
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Office and Minister’s Study

- Both are located at Grace United, on the lower level of the Christian Education wing. The office is equipped with desks, computers, copier, telephones, and internet access. The office is open from 9 am. 11:30 am with quiet work time until 1:00 pm. Monday to Thursday. There is a Pastoral Charge Secretary available during those times.

Manse

A Manse is available for the Minister to live in if desired. It is located on St. George Street beside the Grace United Sanctuary in Port Dover.

- The home is air conditioned
- All the windows (except 2 basement) have been recently replaced.
- A new 2 piece powder room has been added to the main floor in 2017.
- Four bedrooms are located on the second level.
- An attic has been renovated for an additional living/work space.
- One bathroom is located on the second floor
- In July 2013 the property was severed from the church
- A Manse Committee with members from both churches is responsible for the upkeep and financial needs of the Manse.

Financial Status

The pastoral charge is financially stable with a surplus budget adequate to support our full time minister and part time secretary.