

Mission Overview for Metropolitan United Church “200 Years and Beyond”

MISSION STATEMENT FOR METROPOLITAN UNITED CHURCH

As believers in God and followers of Jesus Christ, we are committed to emulating His example by teaching, healing, serving and inspiring in a diverse city and a changing world.

We do so by loving and valuing all and through effective stewardship of our resources and heritage, so that our community may be a place of encounter with God’s transforming presence.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

On November 8, 1818, Metropolitan United Church (MET) was founded as a Methodist congregation. Adding to its history, the founding of the United Church of Canada took place at Metropolitan United Church in 1925, with the progressive union of Methodist, Presbyterian and Congregational denominations.

From 1938 -1950, the ministry of the Very Reverend Peter Bryce added a social service outreach component to MET’s identity as he worked to establish this church as “an anchor” for the denomination. His Christian values guided the initial statement of our Mission: *“Greatness of worship that lifts people to the heights. Kindness of the human hand that gives people the warmth of the human heart.”*

Through the years, other versions of MET’s Mission have been written as the congregation has grown and changed.

MISSION RENEWAL

As MET approaches its 200th anniversary, there is a need to renew and restate our Mission to reflect today’s worshippers and to align with the current statements of our denominational beliefs: the United Church Creed and the Song of Faith.

MISSION INTO ACTION

MET is “A *downtown church for a diverse city.*” It welcomes all and is an affirming congregation for those who feel marginalized in any sense. Putting our Mission into action involves the following four areas of programming and congregational commitment:

In Spiritual Learning for Life, MET strives to:

- provide a rich worship experience that addresses the spiritual needs of the congregation and the surrounding urban communities
- provide an engaging faith formation and education ministry that responds to the needs and interests of all ages and life stages, and respects cultural differences

In Congregational Care, MET reaches out to:

- engage children, teens, young families and adults of all ages, responding to their individual needs in worship and care
- provide holistic congregational care that includes: spiritual nurturing, social engagement, overall health, membership development, and ongoing support

In Outreach, MET aims to:

- connect to the broader community with compassion and commitment
- form partnerships to enable optimal care for our inner city community, but with particular regard for those who are vulnerable through local and global stresses

In **Ministry Through the Arts**, MET continues to:

- nurture a strong ministry of music that benefits our congregation and the wider community
- engage people of all ages through the creative power of the arts for building self-expression, spiritual uplift, mental and emotional healing and for enhancing overall well-being

STEWARDSHIP AND HERITAGE PRESERVATION

MET has a congregational story that spans 200 years. We also strive to:

- exercise wise stewardship of resources
- hold in trust and preserve the heritage of the property, contents and archival elements that will ensure continuity with generations to come