



CHRIST FIRST
THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

October 23, 2023

Dear Christ First Friends:

On October 1, our long-awaited Vision Workshop was held in the auditorium at Clarkson Campus following the worship service. The event, with 54 people in attendance, was facilitated by Mark Ellwood, Volunteer Consultant with Management Advisory Service (MAS).

Without a doubt, all participants brought their passion for what it means to be church. There was engagement, listening and collaboration, and new connections were made. Thoughtful questions were posed, norms were challenged and many ideas were generated around living out our vision more boldly in the future.

For those of you unable to attend, here is a brief summary of how the Workshop proceeded. Participants were first asked to consider the 10 vision themes highlighted in the [2019 Vision Session Summary](#), and to vote for their top four choices.

Participants worked in breakout groups to develop goals corresponding to each of these four themes:

- Varied Worship Experience / Vibrant Music for all Ages
- Community Resource / Personal Caring & Emotional Support
- Optimize our Physical Space
- Strong Community Brand

Strategies were then developed by breakout groups for the goals arising from the four themes. The strategies were presented to the wider group for discussion and then organized under descriptive headings.

For more information about the goals and strategies that came out of the Workshop discussions, please see the [Summary of Output from Vision Workshop – October 1, 2023](#).

On behalf of Council, I would like to thank all who attended the Workshop, as well as those who supported this event in countless ways. This was a very important conversation for Christ First, and the conversations will continue. The output from this session will be discussed at the Council Retreat on November 4 with a view to developing a strategic plan for the future. We look forward to sharing next steps with you at a later date.

Sincerely,

Carol Wilson, Chair of Council