



Dear Christ First Friends,

What does Christ First look like, feel like and what is it doing in five years? On November 3rd, we held a Visioning Session to engage our congregation in shaping the vision of our newly created pastoral charge. With the help of our facilitator, Chris Govern, we were guided through a structured agenda that ensured everyone's ideas were heard in a collaborative atmosphere. What was so impressive about this gathering, was the willingness of more than 90 people who cared enough to take ownership in developing a shared vision for Christ First, and, to openly share their constructive ideas. Together and with much thoughtful input, we generated over 150 ideas in answer to the question **"what does Christ First look like, feel like and what is it doing in five years?"** On behalf of your Council, I wish to extend a sincere thank you to everyone who attended. We can all be proud of the significant progress we have made to create a positive, inclusive and forward-looking vision for our church community.

Following the Visioning Session, your Council recently attended a half-day retreat for the purpose of confirming the shared vision for Christ First and exploring next steps. With Chris Govern's guidance once again, Council acknowledged that the results from the Visioning Session were, in all material respects, found to be consistent with the Vision for Christ First as described in the draft Constitution created by the Joint Amalgamation Committee in the Fall of 2018. The results also provided living examples that align with the Three Pillars of **Spiritual Engagement, Strong Connection with Members and Community Involvement**, which were initially developed by the Future Planning Group earlier in 2018.

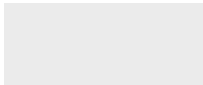
We are delighted to see that our congregation has a shared vision that aligns with the foregoing work of various groups which have drawn their representation from our founding congregations.

As one of several defined follow-up actions, Council members will be examining and prioritizing the visioning session ideas over the next several weeks, in order to align their budget submissions for the coming year with our congregation's collective vision. Please stay tuned for an update at the upcoming semi-annual congregational meeting on **February 9th**.

Your on-going engagement, energy and positive ideas are vital as we move forward, in joyful celebration of...

Christ First
Spiritually Engaged, Community Focused
Learn, Live, Love, Lead

Sincerely,



Steve Shaver - Chair of Council



Re: Notes from the Visioning Session

Facilitator: Chris Govern
Volunteer Consultant with Management Advisor Service (MAS)

Date: November 3, 2109

Background: Members of the congregation were invited to participate in a visioning session as part of a process to review the future activity and governance structure of the church. The session was designed, facilitated and documented by Chris Govern, a volunteer consultant with MAS. This document is the output from that session.

Approximately 90 members took part in the session.

The session asked people to contemplate this focus questions: “What does Christ First look like, feel like, what is it doing in 5 years?” The participants first did a silent brainstorm and made note of their responses to the question. These ideas were then shared around tables. Following that discussion, participants put their ideas on papers which were displayed on a wall and grouped by all of the participants. The participants then named the category headings which are the elements of the vision.

Result: The resulting vision (answer to the question “What does Christ First look like, feel like, what is it doing in 5 years?”) is the following:

In 5 years, Christ First UC has/is:

- Varied worship experience
- Strong spiritual leadership
- Dynamic fellowship
- Personal caring & support
- Vibrant music program for all
- Relevant programs
- Effective governance
- Community resource
- Optimize our physical space
- Strong community brand

All of the responses to the question are captured on the following pages.

CHRIST FIRST UNITED CHURCH - Visioning Session - Nov 3, 2019

Responses the question: "What does Christ First UC look like, feel like, what is it doing in 5yrs?"

Varied Worship Experience	Strong Spiritual Leadership	Dynamic Fellowship
Vibrant worship	Handpick topnotch minister!!	Men's Group
Two worship services	Strong preaching	Fellowship in our church & the community of Clarkson
Restructure worship (symbols, contemplation, creative)	Strong spiritual leadership	Keep UCW strong
Mix contemporary with traditional service	Progressive Christian outlook	Fellowship
Strong varied music element to worship	Strong preacher in the pulpit	Bring in younger crowds
Spiritually based (foundation)	Lead/facilitate spiritual growth initiatives	Community fellowship sharing love
Less traditional worship	Minister appropriate for both services	Fellowship
2 worship services - variety		Knitting club
No blended service - 9:02&10:30	Vibrant Music Program for all Ages	Nice friendly group - grow 5 yrs
Blended congregation	Larger choir & bell choirs	Book club
Spiritual meeting & development place	Fellowship gatherings	Men's group C.R.E.A.M.
Preaching of the word to get answers to our questions	Band camp	Attract more young people
Include traditions	Music/programs with singing, bells and instruments	Relevant programs
Inter-denomination sharing	Music for youth - choirs, band camp, etc	Keep Spring Thing
Multi-media worship & other services	Youth choir	Keep Christmas marketplace
Offer progressive & traditional service	Strong music program	Affordable events for all ages
Dynamic - less traditional worship	Continue good music program	Church dances
Renew bible study		Good neighbours
Bible studies		Bring back 'Time Out' during week
Personal Caring & Emotional Support	Effective Governance	Young family programming

Organize care for each other	Maintain member collaboration (on projects)	
Healing circles - small & big	Maintain good committee structure	
Safe place for mild cognitively impaired	Have clear vision of our mission & implement	
Congregation support re: pastoral care	% of budget for leadership development	
Hire support person for senior events	Good managerial leadership	
Call to shut-ins	Create a 5 yr plan	
Support those less fortunate	Structure empowers action of members (less control/management)	
Shuttle bus service	Empower leaders & simplify our structure	
Support for aging church families	Prioritize functions to be served	
Small group support systems	Be accountable to vision & each other	
Advocate for those in need	Encourage leadership	
Personal crisis support	Another amalgamation	
Community Resource		
Become a community centre	Senior stay at home support	Utilize P.C. campus for greater outreach
Community centre	Sharing church's love with outreach community	Engage in 'go' project for youth
A resource centre for health & welfare	Plugged into neighbourhood	Out of the Cold program
Educate re: CCV	Multi-congregational support for mission projects	Community mission work
Involve community more	Specific programs for different groups	Develop strong ties/relationships to multi-faith organizations
Bringing generations together	Actively strengthening neighbourhood (everyone!)	Professional advice programs
Enhance use of both campuses	Welcoming hub for Clarkson area	Minute for mission
Community hub for social justice	Be a hub for community support / involvement	Support COMPASS
Strengthen our outreach	Unite others "do" service & advocacy	Interaction with other congregations
Housing advocacy	Nursery service to welcome young families	Parish nurse on staff

Church-centered community centre	Counselling services- psychologist	Mission & service education
More community involvement with youth	Use property for outreach	Use PC campus for community outreach
Accessibility every day		
Community nurse	Plugged into community resources	Strong Community Brand
Collaboration for outreach services	Affordable housing for seniors?	Clear, live-able mission known by all
		Unique brand in community
Optimize our Physical Space		Advertising (signage)
Renovate small kitchen		Community demographic study
Resolve real estate plan for Port Credit & Clarkson campus		Be a grateful & welcoming church
Brighten up auditorium to make it more inviting		Emphasis: less church, more community
Port Credit church organ and concerts		Newcomers feel welcome
Good stewardship of property - affordable housing		Uphold church values
Renovate chancel and sanctuary		Forecast demographics
Utilize organ of First United		Street signs to reach community
Update Mazo kitchens		Hoping for more younger families
Redesign chancel area		Open & welcoming to all
Accessibility every day		Recognized by community around us
Consider building new church		Intentional communication about role in society
Reconfigure Clarkson; rebuild; accessibility		Visible to the community
No pews; no gowns		Known for compassion
Accessible building		Visibly multicultural within congregation
Upgrade technology		We are here
Improved accessibility (building)		Friendly
Hearing accessibility		Everyone knows all are welcome
Sell Port Credit campus		