

WOODCLIFF UNITED CHURCH CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The heart of the discerning acquires knowledge; the ears of the wise seek it out.

Proverbs 18:15

Teach children how they should live, and they will remember it all their life.

Proverbs 22:6

Faith is not merely a belief in creedal statements, but a philosophy of life, based on the message of Jesus. This faith is grounded deeply within us and causes us to celebrate God's presence through teaching, guiding, and inspiring all members of our faith community.

The Christian Development Committee (Committee) is a standing committee of the Woodcliff United Church Council (Council) that is responsible for providing leadership, direction, encouragement, and oversight for all Christian education and development programs within the Woodcliff United Church (WUC) community. The Committee devotes itself to the Christian nurture and development of faith in all members of the Congregation. It takes the initiative of implementing new ideas and creating meaningful ways of living out our Christian faith in an evolving world.

Tasks

The tasks of the Committee include:

- planning and implementing, in collaboration with the Children's Ministry Coordinator, an engaging, scripturally-based program for all children (approx. 3-12 years of age)
- planning and implementing, in collaboration with the Youth Ministry Coordinator, an engaging, scripturally-based program for all youth (approx. 13-18 years of age)
- ensuring that children and youth are full participants in the Sacrament of Holy Communion
- conducting family gatherings such as movie nights and games nights in collaboration with the Congregational Life Committee
- equipping and operating the nursery and caring for and maintaining the nursery equipment
- ensuring, in collaboration with the Minister, that Confirmation classes are offered to the youth of WUC as needed
- ensuring, in collaboration with the Minister, that Adult Full Membership classes are offered as needed
- conducting young adult programming
- conducting adult education programming
- developing and training congregants in educational leadership
- maintaining the Church Library including acquiring new material and culling the collection on a regular basis

- developing guidelines and protocols for the conduct of Christian education programs
- purchasing supplies and resources (both print and digital) to meet programming needs
- planning and implementing, in collaboration with the Children's Ministry Coordinator, an annual Vacation Bible School
- meeting with the Children's Ministry Coordinator on a regular basis to provide support and oversight of the children's programming
- meeting with the Youth Ministry Coordinator on a regular basis to provide support and oversight of the youth programming
- ensuring, with the assistance of the Duty of Care Committee, that all Committee activities adhere to the WUC Duty of Care Policy and Guidelines
- ensuring that a variety of Christian education programs are offered to the Congregation
- engaging the wider community in Christian development programs such as Religion in Life courses for Scouts and Cubs and interfaith dialogue with other faith groups and promoting educational opportunities initiated by the wider community that reflect our commitment to social justice and caring for the environment
- promoting The United Church Observer
- administering the WUC Bursary Fund which supports continuing education
- collaborating with the Ministry and Personnel Committee in recruiting and selecting the Children's Ministry Coordinator and Youth Ministry Coordinator when vacancies occur
- ensuring that volunteers who contribute to the activities and programs of the Committee are recognized
- preparing a report of the Committee's activities for the Annual Report of WUC
- ensuring that the annual statistical report for WUC is submitted to The United Church of Canada
- conducting an annual review of the effectiveness of the Committee

Accountability and Communication

The Committee is accountable to Council. The Committee Chair or a delegate shall be a member of Council. The Committee shall usually meet on a monthly basis, excluding July and August. Minutes of Committee meetings shall be provided to Council and staff, made available to the Congregation upon request, and archived in the Church Office.

Communication with the Congregation and the wider community regarding Committee matters shall occur throughout the year using methods such as:

- social media
- the Woodcliff Messenger
- other email correspondence
- the WUC website
- service bulletins
- bulletin boards
- printed materials and brochures provided by the church
- information offered during the Sunday morning worship services
- occasional rental of mobile signs

Human Resources

The membership of the Committee shall include a Chair, the Minister, the Children's Ministry Coordinator, the Youth Ministry Coordinator, and at least three (3) other people. One of the members of the Committee will act as the recording secretary for each Committee meeting.

In fulfilling its responsibilities, the Committee shall collaborate with other committees as needed, particularly the Committees of Worship, Outreach, Duty of Care, Congregational Life, Property, and Stewardship.

Members of the Committee should possess a special interest in the nurture and education of children and youth. In addition, a working knowledge of teaching methodologies and practices would be an asset. Creativity, enthusiasm for teaching and learning, and skills in communication, planning, organizing, coordination, team work, and collaboration facilitate the work of the Committee.

Financial Resources

The budget of the Committee shall be examined on a yearly basis and submitted to Council as part of the WUC budgeting process.

Budget items include:

- curriculum
- craft supplies
- workshop materials
- books/videos
- music resources
- Youth Ministry costs
- educational seminars/workshops for non-ministerial staff and laity

The Christian Development Committee portion of the WUC Committee Structures document was originally approved by Council on December 13, 2016.

Last revision: _____