

WOODCLIFF UNITED CHURCH OUTREACH COMMITTEE

*Speak out on behalf of the voiceless,
and for the rights of all who are vulnerable.
Speak out in order to judge with righteousness
and to defend the needy and the poor.*
Proverbs 31:8-9

The Outreach Committee (Committee) of Woodcliff United Church (WUC) helps the Congregation respond to the call to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world. In Jesus' words, "Whenever you did it for any of my people, no matter how unimportant they seemed, you did it for me." (Matthew 25: 40). The work of the Committee focuses on local, national, and international projects that address social justice issues and are managed by not for profit organizations. Projects are chosen according to availability of Committee members to lead the project, and whether or not the Committee believes it can have significant impact. The Committee is a standing committee of the WUC Council (Council).

Tasks

The tasks of the Committee include:

- becoming familiar with and staying informed about social service needs in the local and global community
- creating awareness within the Congregation of a variety of local and global issues which may be of concern or interest
- being open to and encouraging suggestions from the Congregation and groups within the Church of areas they would like to have addressed
- serving as a resource for local, national, and international outreach of the WUC Congregation and The United Church of Canada (UCC)
- creating and developing opportunities to educate the Congregation, including children and youth, on outreach matters
- planning and conducting at least one outreach focused worship service each year
- inviting and encouraging everyone to meaningfully respond to outreach concerns and activities through prayer, action, and giving
- collaborating with the Minister, the Children's Ministry Coordinator, Youth Ministry Coordinator, and other groups as appropriate to achieve outreach goals
- encouraging the Congregation's participation in supporting The UCC's Mission and Service (M & S) Fund
- taking responsibility as individual Committee members for leading one or more of the ongoing projects
- 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 volunteers who contribute to the activities and programs of the Committee are recognized
- holding an annual planning session in May or June to review each project to ensure it remains relevant to WUC and meets the objectives of the Committee, and to identify priorities and set goals for the coming year
- doing ongoing evaluation of the activities and projects of the Committee
- preparing a report of the Committee's activities for the WUC Annual Report
- overseeing the work of diverse outreach ministries and projects such as:
 - Food Banks, Calgary Interfaith and Veterans
 - Woodcliff Food Cupboard – a food program for individuals who come to WUC for immediate assistance
 - Brenda's House – a short term shelter for families facing homelessness
 - Sonshine Centre – a second stage shelter for women and their children fleeing domestic violence
 - Southern Alberta Habitat for Humanity
 - Calgary Drop Inn and Rehab Centre – a facility which shelters the homeless and provides a variety of other services to many who call the street home
 - Project Ploughshares (PP) – a nongovernmental organization which advances policies and actions to prevent war and armed conflict in an effort to build peace
 - The UCC Emergency Relief Fund - keeping the Congregation apprised of efforts being made through The UCC in times of natural disasters with information on ways to respond individually
 - Congregational Lunches to celebrate and lift up a variety of projects or events
 - Refugee Sponsorship
 - Advent Project - to provide opportunities for the Congregation to share tangible gifts with others in need
 - Lenten Project - to provide opportunities for the Congregation to share tangible gifts with others in need
 - Annual Global Festival – highlights fair trade organizations and groups, especially Ten Thousand Villages

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 regarding Committee matters shall occur throughout the year using methods such as:

- the Woodcliff Messenger
- the WUC website

- service bulletins
- bulletin boards
- a brochure outlining the goals and work of the Committee
- other printed materials provided by the Committee or The UCC
- information offered during the Sunday morning services
- occasional rental of mobile signs
- notices placed in community newsletters
- posters in appropriate places in the communities served by WUC

Human Resources

The membership of the Committee shall include a Chair, a Treasurer, the Minister, and at least four (4) 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 Christian Development, Worship, Stewardship, and Congregational Life.

Committee members should possess a passion for faith in action in the world. They should be deeply committed to, or desire to learn about, a wide range of issues surrounding social justice. Other desired skills and attributes of Committee members include: the ability to generate enthusiasm in others about the outreach work of the church; communication, including public speaking; team work; collaboration; planning; organization; networking; and willingness to engage the children and Youth of WUC in outreach matters.

Financial Resources

The Committee's budget shall be examined on a yearly basis and submitted to Council as part of the WUC budgeting process. Budget items include:

- Calgary Interfaith Foodbank
- Habitat for Humanity
- contributions to other Outreach supported agencies
- cost of fundraising and other activities

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

Last revision: _____