



# CENTRAL UNITED CHURCH



## OUTREACH AND JUSTICE TEAM

*He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you,  
but to do justice and to love kindness, and walk humbly with your God?  
Micah 6:8 (NRSV)*

*Speak out on behalf of the voiceless, and for the rights of all who are vulnerable.  
Proverbs 31:8 (NRSV)*

*Whenever you did it for any of my people, no matter how  
unimportant they seemed, you did it for me.  
Matthew 25:40 (NRSV)*

*Charity is no substitute for justice withheld. Saint Augustine*

### THEOLOGICAL RATIONALE

The Outreach and Justice Team (Team) of Central United Church (Central) encourages the congregation to serve as the hands, feet and voice of Christ in the world. The Team operates on the "imago Dei" principle, proclaiming that all people are made in the image of God and worthy of our love and care. The Team also embraces the belief that throughout the Bible, God upheld justice and equity for the downtrodden and marginalized as essential to living out a prophetic faith, further exemplified through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. The Team focuses on local, national and international projects and initiatives which address social injustice, striving to understand and live in solidarity with the marginalized in our world.

Because we are a downtown church, located in the heart of the city, our outreach and justice mandate embrace the Biblical instruction to "bloom where we are planted". We seek to serve the needs of the thousands of people who congregate, work or live in the downtown core. The Team has and will continue to address issues surrounding addiction and its impact on the lives of the addicted and their families, as well as the repercussions of such addictions on society as a whole.

The Team will also encourage the congregation to embark on a journey towards restorative justice by providing educational opportunities and taking action on the pressing issues in our society such as Truth and Reconciliation, racial equity, climate justice and income inequality. In addition, the Team will encourage the church to live into being an intercultural church which embraces, affirms and celebrates diversity.

The Team will build capacity for these tasks through connecting with people and building genuine, non-reactive, reciprocal relationships with non-profit community organizations, ecumenical and inter-faith



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partners, as well as with other United Church of Canada (UCC) congregations. The Team believes that these relationships can create opportunities to experience diversity through educational and social events. We also bring to the attention of the congregation the wider mission of the UCC through its Mission and Service Fund (M&S).

## TASKS

The tasks of the Team include:

### **1. Supporting the work of the Celebrate Life Recovery Gathering and continuing Central's tradition of ministering to people in need**

- Attending Calgary Drug Treatment Court to offer support to recovering addicts.
- Ensuring that space is provided for Recovery groups to meet in our church, working in collaboration with the Property Team and the Office Administrator.
- Providing oversight for the following two programs, both of which will have their own organizing groups.
  - The Annual Stampede Breakfast
  - The monthly sandwich-making outreach program for the Drop-In Centre

### **2. Engaging in projects that will bring an awareness of the need for prophetic faith in the world through solidarity with the marginalized, affirming unity in diversity and choosing to engage in specific social justice initiatives**

- (a) Receiving suggestions from the congregation about new outreach and justice initiatives.
- (b) Deciding which outreach projects, the church will become involved with and support.
- (c) Encouraging inter-faith and ecumenical dialogue, both inside and outside of Central to connect with the multi-faith world in which we live.
- (d) Exploring and implementing programs that support the intercultural nature of our congregation, as well as the need to connect to our Indigenous siblings.
- (e) Creating relationships and engaging with local organizations (e.g., the Calgary Alliance for the Common Good, Action Dignity).
- (f) Creating and developing opportunities to educate the congregation, including children and youth, about outreach programs and initiatives of the UCC through its M&S Fund.
- (g) Encouraging congregational support of the M&S Fund as part of its Annual Stewardship Campaign.

### **3. Connecting with Calgary's downtown core**

- (a) Becoming familiar with and staying informed about the needs of the people and organizations in the downtown core (e.g., the homeless, the addicted, those struggling with mental health issues, the lonely and isolated, the business community, other outreach agencies).

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#### OUR MISSION

To create a safe and vibrant community, in which God's unconditional love is demonstrated by people who choose to follow the teachings of Jesus, led by the Holy Spirit.



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- (b) Creating relationships and engaging with social service agencies and other organizations to explore new possibilities for connection, making good use of our resources as a faith community.

#### **4. Completing administrative tasks**

- (a) Ensuring that any Police Information Checks (PIC) required by the Duty of Care Policy and Procedures are obtained.
- (b) Ensuring that volunteers and paid staff who contribute to the activities and programs of the Team are recognized.
- (c) Preparing a report for the Annual Report.
- (d) Evaluating the work of the Team on a yearly basis, using the following guidelines:
- Setting goals for the Team (e.g., using one Team meeting to set goals and another Team meeting for evaluation)
  - Setting goals for Team members (e.g., Development of leadership skills)
  - Developing questions/surveys/feedback opportunities that target and evaluate outcomes
  - Celebrating achieved goals, both Team and Team members
  - Deliberating on areas of concern and providing positive solutions

#### **ACCOUNTABILITY**

- The Team is accountable to the Board and shall report to the Board as required.
- The Chair of the Team is a Voting Member of the Board.
- The Team shall meet monthly, except during July and August.
- The Team shall submit a written report of their activities to the Board whenever the Board meets. Such reports shall be attached to the Board minutes.
- Approved minutes of Team meetings shall be submitted to the Office Administrator to be housed in the Church Office and made available to the congregation and other church bodies upon request.

#### **HUMAN RESOURCES**

The membership of the Team shall include a Chair, a Recording Secretary, the Minister(s) and at least two (2) other people.

#### **FINANCIAL RESOURCES**

The budget of the Team shall be prepared on a yearly basis, submitted to and examined by the Finance Team as part of Central's budgeting process.

Budget items may include:

- Expenses, excluding salaries, incurred for the Celebrate Life Recovery Service
- Sandwich-making costs
- Guest speakers

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- Seminars/Workshops
- Print materials
- Annual Stampede Breakfast

This document is a living document that can be changed or revised with the approval of the Board.

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