

Future planning and Focus areas
for
Seagrave United Church

To: Brooke Acton & Keith Puckrin
Co-chairs of the Congregational Board

Subject: Final report re future planning

In the congregation's Feb 2024 Annual Meeting, a small committee (Betty & Brad) was formed to examine ideas for the future, recognizing the pattern of recurring deficits and declining membership.

After the arrival of our new Minister and new Director of Music, we held two focus groups in November 2024. In both sessions we recognized the things we did pre-pandemic, the things we're doing now that continue to support our work and mission in our community, and we brainstormed things we might undertake that would allow the congregation to continue to flourish. There was some overlap of ideas between the two sessions, and a consolidated list of over 30 items was developed, and posted on the pastoral charge's website.

Through December and January, we have been refining that list with the assistance of Rev Ian Wilgus, Rev Torri Mullin, Congregational Growth Animator for Eastern Ontario and Rev Roger Janes, Stewardship Resource Minister for our region.

The attached resulting focus areas, goals and initiatives were endorsed by Seagrave's Committee of Stewards in their January 2025 meeting with the provision that exact timing and responsibility for each item would be considered if the congregation accepted these recommendations.

We are hereby submitting them to you for discussion and approval in the Feb 19, 2025 Annual Meeting of the congregation.

Recommended Strategic focus areas for 2025 and 2026

- A) Community Engagement
- B) Broadly-based Congregational Stewardship

Proposed Goals for each Strategic focus area:

- A) ___ events per year ___ new members per year
- B) to reduce the \$10,000 per year operating deficit by 50% (\$5,000 per year) in each of 2025 and 2026, leading to a balanced budget in 2027.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Somerville & Brad Sinclair

Feb 5, 2024

Strategic Focus Area:

Community Engagement

Proposed Goals:

2025 ___ events per year ___ new members per year
 2026 ___ events per year ___ new members per year
 2027 and onward to continue to flourish as a family of God in this community

	Recommended Actions	Responsibility	Beginning	Target Completion
1	Provide Congregational approval in principle for rentals of the church hall to allow liquor licences. - details and policies to be finalized	Betty/Brooke/Keith	April 2025	
2	Resume soup lunches - quarterly?			
3	Host a few Community outreach programs - one evening event per quarter - offer our facilities to LGBTQ community as a safe space			
4	Membership drive - Approach/invite/re-engage previous church members still living in the community - New members/special service or event	Session		
5	Enhanced communication/publication of church activities - social media - Port Perry print - Sign on Simcoe St			
6	Leverage our music program and resources	Seagrave Choir & Director of Music, Linda Hunter		

Strategic Focus Area:

Broadly-based Congregational Stewardship

Proposed Goals:

2025	reduce Operating deficit by \$5,000 per year
2026	reduce Operating Deficit by further \$5,000 per year
2027 and onward	balanced Operating budget

	Recommended Actions	Responsibility	Beginning	Target Completion
1	Participate in cash card (Fundscrip or other) purchase program in conjunction with Greenbank United	Project Team – Sinclairs + Taylors	March 2, 2025	
2	Investigate available grants for church programs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - VIBE - After school - Community fellowship 	Stewardship committee		
3	Undertake the Congregational Stewardship program "Called to be the Church" from United Church of Canada. Using program resources, prepare and conduct an every member Visitation to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify personal gifts to share with the church family - Discuss community engagement as per previous page - Possible pledge cards for 2026 	Steering committee, Rev R Janes	March 11 2025 1:30 pm webinar	Fall 2025
4	Provide regular communication regarding status of the operating budget throughout the year	Carol		
5	Continue looking for ways to share expenses and resources with Greenbank United	Board Chairs		
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