



Anglican Parish of St. Paul, Nanaimo Parish Ministry Plan 2023-2024

This parish ministry plan is the culmination of 13 focus groups held in October, 2022, with the participation of 40 parishioners. A parish information meeting was held in November 2022 for parishioners to hear the feedback from the parish focus groups, to discuss our values and aspirations, and what excites us and gives us energy as a parish. Thirty members of the parish participated in the information meeting. This draft plan was presented to the parish at a meeting in January 2023 with 59 participants, and the final plan presented at our Annual Vestry Meeting in February 2023.

Our parish ministry plan provides a picture of our preferred future – of where we believe God is calling us to be as a parish. It gives us the ability to listen to the call that God is placing on the lives of individuals in our parish, the gifts God has given, and the passion to serve God's mission. All aspects of our ministry plan must align with our goals and aspirations. This plan is a living document which will change as things change in our community, in our lives and in God's call to us.

Our goals

- ✓ Collaboration – with each other, with community groups who use our space; with our neighbours, with the wider community; with surrounding Anglican parishes and parishes of other denominations.
- ✓ Creating Community – continuing to foster community amongst ourselves and with those in the wider community.
- ✓ Educating ourselves about ongoing spiritual formation; about being good stewards; about wider issues in the community and the world, and about ministry partners who align with our goals and aspirations.

Our aspirations

1. Working in collaboration with groups and individuals in our community who align with our goals and aspirations to offer services including the use of our space.
2. Providing genuine hospitality for our parish family, and for the wider community.
3. Creating a safe environment where all feel comfort, belonging and interconnected in our space.
4. Being strategic about how we market our facility in order to offset the costs of operating our Centre for Ministry and Community Service and achieve our goals and aspirations.

Our Values

- ✓ Tradition. We are steeped in it, but we are not mired in it.
- ✓ Hospitality and the importance of connection, with one another and with our surrounding community.
- ✓ Relationships, community, warmth, and respect for all.
- ✓ Having fun together.
- ✓ Being curious, open-minded, and continually educating ourselves about who we are and why we do what we do.
- ✓ Being disciples and witnesses to the gospel and being visible and accessible.

The purpose of our Centre for Ministry and Community Service is:

- To be a place of that facilitates open interaction between the church and the wider community
- To be a gathering place for the parish and for community groups who support our goals and aspirations.
- To help us partner with non-profit agencies so they can offer services out of our building and collaborate with us in our work of ministry.
- To be a connection between those living downtown (housed and unhoused) and Christ.
- To build intentional revenue for the parish by using our space in ways that contribute to the ministry of our parish.

Opportunities/Possibilities

The following items (in no particular order) are examples of ways in which we can do ministry that align with our goals and aspirations.

1. Collaboration

Continue our involvement with the Downtown Business Association as a way to foster relationships and connections and share what we do for the community.

Continue to build on our relationship with St. Philip, Cedar in order to support one another in joint ministry and worship.

Reach out to other parishes in our region to discuss how we might work together in joint ministry and worship.

Expand our relationships with non-profit groups including Nanaimo Foodshare, 7-10 Club Society, Nanaimo Family Life Association, and Snuneymuxw First Nation in order to do ministry together to help one another and downtown Nanaimo.

Join the Chamber of Commerce to make connections, raise our profile as a faith community and highlight the work we are doing in downtown Nanaimo.

2. Creating Community

Increase our number of fun events for the parish in order to feed our parish family and increase our sense of community.

Hold a yearly newcomers event for those who are new to the parish to officially welcome them, educate them about our work and ministries, and learn about them.

Continue to invite musical groups to hold events in the church to appeal to people who live downtown and who may be interested in learning more about who we are and what we do.

Start a youth choir which sings both secular and sacred music. Once a month have the youth participate in a church service in order to bring more people into the church to experience our faith and hospitality.

Hold events (e.g. book and thrift sales, bazaars where we rent out tables) in our hall to introduce ourselves and show our hospitality.

Invite the public to rent our hall for cultural/social events (e.g. poetry readings, writer's events, book launches, art classes, card tournaments) that appeal to those seeking community.

Hold a yearly special welcome service and invite those living down town. Have a social time afterwards and talk about what we do in the community (one-on-one chats).

Use our outdoor space for church services.

Unlock the front door whenever we have two people in the office.

3. Education

Offer regular faith education and formation opportunities for our parishioners, including Bible and book studies, theological education and Messy Church using our honorary assistants, priest, and parishioners skilled in things like Education for Ministry.

Invite community groups to come and speak to us after the Sunday service about the services they offer in the community (e.g. John Howard Society, Nanaimo Youth Services Association, Nanaimo and Area Resource Services for Families, United Way, Haven House, Women Helping Women) to see if we can collaborate on programming.

Hold a yearly stewardship campaign to educate ourselves about stewardship and how to become stewards of all things.

Continue to bear true witness to a journey of truth and reconciliation with our Indigenous neighbours by engaging with members of the Snuneymuxw (and other First Nations) to participate in their cultural activities and making connections with their programs as a way of strengthening relationships and educating ourselves.

What do we need in terms of volunteers, clergy, staff and facilities to realize our dream?

Clergy

- If we can ensure sufficient financial stability and substantially increase our revenue, a full-time priest who can provide theological and sacramental support (word and sacrament), spiritual leadership, congregational development, and pastoral care.

Staff

- If we can ensure sufficient financial stability and substantially increase our revenue, have a dedicated facility and community engagement coordinator to manage our Centre for Ministry and Community Service; increase the number of user groups in our facility; and engage in outreach and collaboration with the community and community groups who align with our goals and aspirations.
- A part-time parish administrator to ensure required daily administrative activities are maintained.
- A part-time verger on contract to keep our building clean.
- A part-time organist and a part-time music director, on contract to maintain the high level of our worship services.

Volunteers

- A strong team of lay volunteers to serve as leaders in the parish
- Trained and dedicated members of the parish to provide volunteer ministries (e.g. pastoral care, stewardship, lay Eucharistic ministers and assistants, greeters, altar guild, ACW, prayer shawl, choir)
- Members of the parish to provide parish hospitality (e.g. fundraising teas, and dinners)
- Trained members of the parish to provide administrative support in the parish office (e.g. answering phones and emails, preparing worship bulletins, mail outs).
- Members of the parish interested in working with the outreach/facility coordinator in fostering and expanding partnerships with community groups who support our goals and aspirations.
- Treasurer
- Building manager
- Gardens/Grounds keeping
- ... Any many other possibilities depending on the gifts we bring to the table!