

ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, HALIFAX MINISTRY PLAN

(adopted 2007 – revised 2012)

This Ministry Plan expresses a vision for a growing and vibrant Anglican Church ministry within areas of Halifax Mainland (Fairview, Clayton Park, Clayton Park West, Bedford South, Bedford West, Hammonds Plains East). Its purpose is both inspirational and practical. It takes the work we have done in visioning over the past years and hones it into mission, values, and strategy that can guide implementation and action.

It sets a longer-term vision and plan for ministry development, looking 3 to 5 years into the future.

It is inspirational, inviting people to build this ministry for the sake of those who are already committed to the church and for those who are still seeking a church home.

It builds on the deep desires of people to be part of a church that is committing resources to vital, meaningful, ministry programs more than to maintaining buildings.

It expresses the values and strategy that provide the basis for decisions about, for example, the size, shape, and uses of our buildings; staff and budgets.

The mission, values and ministries named in this Ministry Plan reflect what we as the congregation of St. John's have said to one another through the many visioning and needs assessment discussions held over the past years. These commitments are not new or ungrounded. They are rooted in our parish's history and current ministries of faithful and committed service, and they reveal hopes for the future.

OUR MISSION

We believe that living a Christ-centred life leads to healing and wholeness that is invaluable for people and society. Individually and together we are trying to figure out what it means to be Christ-centred in our day-to-day lives and in our church's ministries. We believe we are Christ-centred when our lives and ministries live out our baptismal promises:

- growing in faith and understanding of our relationships with God and with one another, and as Christians in the world today;
- living our faith in all aspects of our lives;
- acknowledging our brokenness and seeking reconciliation and healing for ourselves, our church, and our world;

- respecting the dignity of all people, striving for justice, and seeking to serve.

Our mission is to encourage other people to enter into relationship with God and with us as a community of Christians as we seek to be Christ-centred. Mission is expressed through

- the growth and development of ministries of worship
- programs of personal and community growth
- outreach ministries that build and support justice
- the stewardship of our talents and gifts.

Our commitment is to this mission and to our future.

OUR GUIDING VALUES

In each of the visioning conversations the following values were heard over and over again:

- to be a growing church
- to offer a ministry where more people can experience growth in faith and spirituality
- to offer small group ministries to support people's, and the church's, growth
- to have an effective way of identifying, inviting, and developing people's gifts for ministry
- to be a place of hospitality and generosity
- to be a place of compassion and justice.

A Growing Church

In our visioning conversations we told one another clearly that we have a strong desire to become a growing, vibrant church that speaks to the hearts and minds of seekers. This means our ministries must always be developing. Since we are curious about how God is working in the lives of both friends and strangers, we will continue to be open to learning the questions and challenges people bring to the church. Our church will develop its worship and programs to better bring people's questions and life experiences into dialogue with scripture, history, and tradition.

It will be important to continue to worship and meet together in ways that are most meaningful to our current congregation. However, it is accepted that these expressions do not often connect with seekers. So we embrace the task of offering a diversity of ways to worship, learn, and find fellowship, not expecting to convince anyone of the merits of "our ways" but rather allowing the church to grow and develop in new ways that speak to today's world.

Growth in Faith and Spirituality

People grow in their Christian faith and spirituality within a community of people whose hearts and minds yearn to live as followers of Christ. Our church offers such a place. Here people can find guidance, perspective, and support for applying faith to life's questions, challenges, and joys.

The path we offer invites people to share their stories. What is meaningful in their lives? What are their concerns and fears? For what are they thankful? These are then brought into dialogue with the scriptures, tradition, and history of our faith and our life of prayer and service.

This attentive listening and active engagement in faith underlies all we do in our ministries such as our preaching, our liturgies, our small groups, our children and youth ministries, and our adult education.

Small-Group Ministries

People can find community, relationships, intellectual nourishment, and a deepened spirituality through a program of small groups. Small groups will be the means by which our vision is lived, ministry is expressed, and programs are offered.

- In small groups people will be invited, encouraged and challenged to figure out what it means to be Christ-centred in our lives and ministries.
- Through small group ministries, people will be encouraged to identify and develop their God - given gifts.

People will be invited to participate in small group activities and gatherings based on topics and activities of interest. Topics and activities will arise from the skills and interests of people within the church and their desire to share and explore these with other people. Groups will meet in the church, in people's homes, and in public spaces. Many will include a shared meal.

Identification and Development of Gifts for Ministry

In a world that so often tells people they are not needed or that their gifts are not important enough, our ministries offer something completely different. Where our church leaders are identified as volunteers and too often overburdened with tasks and expectations, our ministries will develop a different way of sharing in the responsibilities and work of ministry.

We are a church that believes that recognizing and encouraging people's God-given gifts and abilities is key to nurturing a healthy spiritual and community life. Growing churches have a talent for developing leaders of all ages. People are encouraged to share and develop their strengths in both what is done (in program and administration) and how it is done. As we

worship, learn, and find fellowship in community, we attentively come to know one another. As we meet newcomers, we are curious about what new perspectives and talents God has sent to our congregation.

Hospitality and Generosity

Our church is called to live a spendthrift hospitality. We pay attention to making our church community as welcoming and easy to feel comfortable in as possible. We make it easy for people to learn what our church has to offer. We actively help people make connections with other people in the community, through worship, programs, and opportunities to serve.

We are aware of our neighbourhood and show an unexpected hospitality to our neighbours. We intend to be as lavish with love for other people as God is toward us.

We appreciate that table fellowship - eating together - is central to community building and ministry growth. As Christ instructed at the end of John's gospel, "Feed my sheep" and "Follow me." We make many opportunities to express our generosity and hospitality through ministries of food and fellowship that also feeds souls.

Compassion and Justice – Outreach in Action

Our program of outreach to and action in the community around us is our expression of Christ's love for humankind. This outreach will be evaluated solely in terms of how closely we approximate Christ's love in the world, not by measurable outcomes or numbers of recruits.

We are driven not only by the spirit of charity, but also by a hunger for social justice. Compassion for the poor and suffering is not enough: we care deeply about how and why poverty and suffering persist in a society of wealth and abundance.

MINISTRY STRATEGIES

The strategies described in this section build on our parishes' traditional and current ministries, on what our parishioners said to one another during the visioning processes, and on the best practices of growing churches. They are strategies of

Community Welcome
Community Development
Community Action

Community Welcome

This is a crucial and top priority ministry. Our congregation will express hospitality as a tangible sign of the living faith present within the church. From first impressions through a shepherding program, we will facilitate newcomers' entry into the church community and its activities. We also will share our commitment to hospitality with our neighbours.

First Impressions

Making a good first impression is the responsibility of all within the church. It involves being friendly and warm (in ways that feel right to the personality of the congregation), a good and consistent practice of greeting, bulletins that are easy to follow, and a well designed and inviting facility (from the street to the seat).

People who participate in ministries of greeting and hospitality will be part of an on-going learning, discussion and training process about the best ways to express this ministry. New greeters will be trained and prepared for their tasks.

Ongoing education for the whole congregation will help us become comfortable with showing our warmth and hospitality to strangers.

Material and media can be produced to introduce people to who we are, what they can expect from our church, and how to reach us for particular questions and needs. These will focus on people, worship, our community life, and our acts of service and outreach.

The website is up to date and is clear to follow.

Newcomer Shepherding

Newcomers to the church who are interested in exploring membership will become part of a shepherding program, where they will be matched with members who will help them make relationships within the congregation, become comfortable with the particular practices of the church (e.g. liturgies, stewardship) and find meaningful connections with church programs.

Newcomer events will be hosted so that new members can meet one another, and hear about parish programs and upcoming events.

Hospitality to Our Neighbours

The church will be an active presence that contributes helpfully to the quality of life within the neighbourhood. By building bridges between itself and the neighbourhood around it, the congregation can build relationships that make a difference in people's lives within the church and its neighbourhood. Building bridges can include

- having space available for community groups and programs
- being open 5+ days a week with appropriate staffing (reception, custodial, pastoral)
- hosting a number of fun events and activities throughout the year for the neighbourhood (barbeques, movies, holiday parties, vacation and school break programming. At each event, include a short prayer for the neighbourhood as well as some introduction to the church, its people and programs.
- invitations to the neighbourhood and specific neighbourhood people for special worship services.

Community Development

Worship

The church is committed to being a Eucharistic community. It is a place of regular and continuous worship that praises God in ways that touch people's hearts and minds and feed their souls. We are committed to offering a variety of styles of worship that, when taken together, will speak to the spiritual questions and instincts of people of all ages. Worship will

- express the best of our Anglican traditions both old and new
- introduce people to new forms and expressions of Anglican worship
- communicate the timely gift of God's grace for the world to people unfamiliar with our church language.

Liturgies offered affirm the importance and richness of our traditions, the need for a consistent and clear approach, and incorporate a strategy for new developments and expressions.

Regular, weekly, family worship that is meaningful and comfortable for younger adults, children, and youth is essential to building a growing church. The language, music, sermon, and opportunities to participate will be designed specially to speak to seekers, families, children, and youth in meaningful ways. This is a key opportunity for creative development that can be based on our current strengths and what we can learn from best practices of growing churches. Weekly traditional worship that is familiar also is essential to honour some people's needs and preferences. We intend to continue to offer that which is familiar while also offering seeker – friendly worship consistently every week.

Along with Sunday morning liturgies, regular midweek services will be offered. It is also expected from time to time, other liturgies will be offered at different times during the week. These may include youth led services, those celebrating special days in our liturgical calendar, and other liturgies designed to fit into family or spiritual development programs.

All forms of worship will be well planned and well presented: leaders well prepared for their roles. To build comfort and confidence, each style of liturgy should be consistent. The 'Anglican stew' approach, where at a particular time on Sunday morning we provide a different service each week of the month, is confusing to newcomers. It runs the risk of putting them off if one week their children are welcome and comfortable, and the next they have trouble understanding the language. Resources such as bulletins and other audio-visuals will be designed to facilitate easy and comfortable participation of regular worshippers and newcomers alike. The liturgical year and other important days and events will be celebrated within our weekly liturgies.

Pastoral Care and Fellowship

The church will continue to offer and develop diverse programs of inreach such as

- visitation and caring ministries
- shepherding
- home communion
- transportation
- men's fellowship
- women's fellowship
- seniors' friendship
- personal support
- social activities.

The church will expand the formal organization of the ministries of visitation, shepherding the congregation, and caring. A pastoral ministry coordinator will equip and support a team of lay volunteers who will provide a variety of helping ministries. These activities will range from regularly touching base with parishioners through phone calls and emails to home and hospital visits. All volunteers will be trained so that the ministries can be provided with appropriate knowledge and sensitivity.

The purpose of fellowship groups will be to focus on building community and personal support among parishioners and neighbours. Functioning as small group ministries, they will be responsive to the spiritual, fellowship, and learning needs of their members. Some may wish to contribute to the program of the parish by bringing in speakers or hosting events. Others may be working groups who help out at parish functions providing hospitality. Still other groups may form around awareness and fund raising events to serve the church and/or community groups.

Children's Program

The mission of the children's program is to provide a comfortable environment where children can learn about God through fun activities, games, and stories of our faith. In addition to a children's program on Sunday mornings, the church also will offer family events to help celebrate special occasions throughout the liturgical year.

The children's ministry will be well resourced with audio-visual equipment, DVDs, and CDs. The space will be bright, clean, and child-friendly.

Opportunities to participate in wider diocesan and Christian programs such as summer camps will be developed.

Children and their families will be offered many opportunities to be involved in the church's outreach and advocacy programs. Special attention will be paid to connecting children's existing values for environmental issues with the Christian stories and ministries of stewardship.

Youth Program

Youth are attracted to churches that

- live their beliefs in ways that are active and tangible
- take them seriously, recognizing their gifts as compassionate and caring people wanting to make a difference to the church and the world
- provide space, separate from their parents, to explore their questions doubts, convictions, and beliefs
- make possible meaningful relationships between youth, children, and the adults within the congregation.

It is accepted that our church currently does not have the expertise necessary to build a vibrant and growing youth ministry program. We need a youth minister or youth worker who can direct us in this endeavor; not as a distinct program of the church with only tenuous connections to the adult community, but as a fully integrated, priority ministry of our church. This way, current youth programs such as youth group, outings, participation in diocesan activities, outreach activities, and the server's guild will be expanded and enriched.

Perhaps most importantly we realize that there are significant challenges in developing a successful youth program as long as there is a sizable gap between what we say we believe and what we actually do. Throughout the visioning we discussed how our church could better demonstrate faith in action through a stronger program of outreach and social justice. By continuing and expanding our commitment to outreach we will develop opportunities for youth to live their faith in ways that make a difference to people's lives.

Adult Learning and Spirituality

Regular adult learning opportunities will be offered ranging from single sessions to ongoing commitments. Current programs of baptism, confirmation, and marriage preparation will be offered as needed.

The focus is on spiritual nurture and growth in faith for those who want to go deeper than what Sunday morning services can offer. An open and inviting approach will encourage people to share their interests and questions in ways that can gather other people into a learning group. This can be done using a bulletin board, a web-based bulletin board, and/or in the announcements on Sunday morning.

Guided by lay people with training in facilitating adult Christian learning, these groups may be book or film based: faith and Bible studies, programs on church practices, Christianity 101 sessions, Alpha, and sessions exploring the difficult faith-in-daily life questions. Retreat days and experiences such as Cursillo also may be offered.

Potential group facilitators will be identified and invited to share their gifts. Programs of orientation, training, and support will be identified or established to develop this ministry.

Stewardship

Much was said during the visioning sessions about the stewardship of people's time and talents. The values that underlie the Ministry Plan and its strategies take very seriously the need for the church to take an active role in

- helping people identify their gifts and talents as God given,
- inviting people to express their gifts in ministry and in leadership.

Indeed, the identification of people's skills and gifts for ministry is a core value for Anglican ministry in the church's catchment area. Through this stewardship approach, people can find ways to give to the church that are life-giving and spiritually nourishing. This is very different from our familiar practice – where we think of each other as volunteers and potential volunteers, and think of our ministries as jobs.

Little was said during the visioning or needs assessment about the need for ongoing financial stewardship education and practice within the church. However, it is highly recommended that this be considered and developed as part of an integrated spiritual and practical discipline of the church.

Community Action

Outreach

Outreach will be focused upon what is needed in the community and will develop as the community continues to let us know of its need. Our initial assessment based on consultation with local experts, is that residents in Halifax Mainland and area have many needs:

- social networks and care support for isolated seniors
- social networks and care support for isolated young mothers
- after-school programs for young people, especially in the junior high years
- ESL program that includes a daycare component for immigrants, and immigrant women in particular
- meeting space for various community groups beyond what the library and the big grocery stores can offer

The vision, then, is of the church as a resource centre, in much the same way as a Family Resource Centre on a military base works: connecting individuals with other people, providing information and referrals to services, offering space where groups and services can operate, and allowing programs to develop as needs are identified and resources found. To some, this will seem an almost secular project – but “they will know we are Christians by our love.”

The community outreach will not be limited to activities that take place within the church. The need for a food bank for some residents of our area is not likely to go away in the near future, but we do not think we will need to house a food depot on our premises, other locations being more convenient for clients of the food bank. Supporting the food bank financially and by volunteer contributions will continue to be part of our service.

It is not anticipated programs such as these could be run entirely by church volunteers but in partnership with social service and healthcare organizations. The church can provide attractive, accessible, and well-equipped facilities and volunteer assistance.

ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, HALIFAX MINISTRY PLAN

PLAN IN ACTION (adopted 2012)

Prologue

In the five years since the development of St. John's original Ministry Plan, we have painstakingly searched and negotiated the purchase of a parcel of land on which to construct a new parish complex. We have had many ups and downs with several failed lease deals for temporary facilities and several failed agreements for the purchase of parcels of land. Finally, we have settled in at our long-term temporary facilities graciously made available by J.A. Snow Funeral Home and have purchased four acres of suitable land. This land, located at 787 Kearney Lake Road in the West Bedford development area, is HRM-zoned and approved for church use.

After significant discussion and many meetings, we developed an initial ministry plan and a building design that responds to that plan. Our architect, Mr. Foster MacKenzie of Harvey and MacKenzie Architects, has been a godsend. Being an active member of a Christian community, he has a unique understanding and a keen ear to our journey and vision.

Our congregation has a special history, with a vibrant culture of volunteerism, a strong can-do ethic, and a deep sense of social justice and Christian fellowship. This is a congregation that acts on its dreams. Part of our strength has been the willingness to join together, advocate for what is important to us, and respectfully resolve differences. The experience of journeying towards the building of our spiritual home has contributed profoundly to our vitality, connection, and sense of community. Even through heated discussions and disappointments, we have grown and thrived. This *esprit de corps* continues to enliven the congregation and inspire other people. We wish to foster and expand this spirit, not just for ourselves, but for the greater community and the world in which we live.

As we prepare to move to our new location, we set for ourselves tasks we believe will assist us in establishing our presence in the community, in welcoming those who may arrive at our door or whom we may encounter in the community, and in preparing to realize the potential for growth in numbers, activities, and our communal life in Christ.

As we are known, and become better known, in the community the community's needs will become known to us. We will respond to those needs as we are able, motivated by our mission to follow "our Lord Jesus Christ into every walk of life, together serving him in his mission to the world."

MINISTRY STRATEGIES

We regard the ministry strategies of community welcome, development, and action described in the original Plan as key to the growth of our congregation. The structures to carry out those strategies are in place and functioning effectively. Each committee or task group will assume responsibility for particular aspects of the ongoing life of the parish and the tasks related to the establishment of the parish in its new location. The following standing and ad hoc committees comprise five to seven members.

Committees and Task Groups

Spiritual Development Committee

A standing committee responsible for the discernment and implementation of appropriate programs and events as spiritual development opportunities for people of the parish and surrounding community.

Pastoral Committee

A standing committee responsible for the discernment and implementation of appropriate programs and events for the care of people of the parish and surrounding community.

Ministry Task Group

A task group responsible for identifying the people in the area to which we are relocating and their needs. When needs are identified and the group has discerned those to which we can and should respond, recommendations will be made to appropriate committees or task groups to implement action. As well, this task group is responsible for implementing the means (media, events, meetings, etc.) by which our parish's profile is raised within the community to which we are relocating.

Development Task Group

A task group that works in conjunction with our architect and construction project manager, Foster MacKenzie, to direct the design and construction of the new parish complex so it responds appropriately to our parish's vision, needs, and means.

Worship Space Aesthetics Task Group

A task group that makes recommendations for the aesthetic aspects of the new worship spaces within our new parish complex so they are recognizably Anglican and conducive to the communal worship of God and the administration of the sacraments.

Capital Campaign Task Group

A task group that has responsibility for the staging of the campaign to seek out and secure gifts and pledges to provide needed additional funds for the project.

Executive Plus Committee

A committee of our parish, which is comprised of the executive members of Parish Council and two additional members of council selected for their particular gifts. This committee makes recommendations to Parish Council and oversees the tasks relating to the overall relocation and development project with special attention to the financial aspects of the project.

The actions through which we will welcome newcomers and minister to their needs, develop the new community, and take action in and for it will enable us to become a significant Christian presence and a viable parish in our new location.

Community Welcome

The following activities/actions that present the parish as a welcoming community have been completed:

- Designed a community centre/place of worship that will be a place where people want to be: accessible, comfortable, aesthetically pleasing with worship space that is meaningfully beautiful and conducive to worship. The building will be a gathering place for the wider community and a venue for community events. See Appendix A for description of the facility.
- Re-designed the parish website, describing who we are, what we value, and what we do.
- Erected a site sign.
- Met with representatives of neighbouring Anglican Churches (All Saints, St. Peter's, St. Nicholas).
- Met with the new incumbent of Trinity.
- Met with representatives of other local faith communities.
- Met and conversed with local politicians.
- Met/conversed with board members of local ratepayers associations.
- Attended local ratepayers meetings.
- Met and conversed with Parks of West Bedford representative.
- Met and conversed with Ivany House Recreation Coordinator.
- Met and conversed with local community leaders.
- Initiated media coverage of sod turning ceremony.
- Have trained greeters and “shepherds” who are active in the parish. Refresher training will be provided.

The following tasks are to be completed:

- Initiate conversation with members of the local static and performing arts communities.
- Prepare rack card for distribution.
- Prepare and launch on-line survey to help identify the needs of the community.
- Prepare and post parish advertisement in local establishments.
- Prepare and distribute media releases.

- Stage community meet and greet events. *Plans are underway to invite our new community to such an event near our new site in late October. Refreshments will follow a Jazz Vespers worship service.*
- Prepare direct mailing to greater community area.
- Do door-to-door canvassing of specific local areas.
- Our colonnade and other areas will exhibit the works of local artists, and our hall and sanctuary will regularly host music and other programs of the performing arts.

Community Development

The following activities that will contribute to the development of our community have been completed or are in process:

Demographic Study

- Contacted HRM Planning to determine housing development numbers, types, and location.
- Reviewed Statistics Canada's most recent data for the area (age, education, ethnicity, religion).
- Contacted other local groups or institutions that may have done demographic studies of the area (i.e. Snows, School Board, Sobeys, NSLC, other churches).
- Repeatedly drive the local area to view what is happening regarding development (i.e. schools, commercial, recreation, other churches, housing numbers and types, long-term care facilities).

The following tasks will be completed at the appropriate times.

Congregation Preparation

- Update parish census.
- Identify parish gifts.
- Identify new or former ministries that will be required in new location (sanctuary guild, A/V techs, sexton, janitor, facilities booking, event door monitors, etc.)
- Stage or identify training events (welcoming, shepherding, small group facilitation, specific pastoral ministries, worship ministries, fresh expressions, A/V program and equipment use, etc.)
- Create or identify opportunities for exposure to varying forms of worship.

Fund Raising

- Encourage percentage giving as regular offering.
- Encourage annual increases in regular offering.
- Continue to encourage pre-authorized remittance (PAR) of regular offering.
- Continue receiving capital campaign gifts and pledges.

- Encourage fund raising programs and events as part of good Christian stewardship, and acknowledge such should be infrequent so not to consume excessive time and energies of individuals or the congregation as a whole
- Identify appropriate fund raising programs and events.
- Stage appropriate fund raising programs and events, and evaluate them.

Stewardship

- Acknowledge and teach stewardship is a way of life.
- Acknowledge and teach stewardship involves and includes time, talent, and treasure.
- Stage stewardship programs and events.

Programs and Events

- Identify parish and community programming needs.
- Continually consider potential programs and review appropriate resources for them. The Spiritual Development Committee has begun this task and has chosen two programs for small group discussion this fall: specific segments of the *Nooma* series and *Living the Questions* (both video based). The Committee has agreed both programs would be suitable choices for re-offering early after our relocation. Each program will be facilitated by a member of the Committee. The Committee has also agreed the new *Alpha* is the program of choice for newcomers whose background we do not know. Identify program and event leaders. Twelve parishioners who have the experience and skills to organize and present an *Alpha* have been identified.
- Stage or identify training events for program and event leaders. Three parishioners recently attended an *Alpha* training session offered by Saint Benedict parish.
- Identify program and event locations.
- Continue to offer a successful Lunch and Learn series.
- Arrange cultural events that will bring the performing arts to our area of HRM.
- Make our labyrinth available to specific community groups and to the community at large. A labyrinth committee will develop ways to provide instruction in the use of a labyrinth and help to organize events and liturgies.

Community Action

We will have greater ability to serve a social justice mission. We will:

- Be a resource for volunteers and facilities for community and social action groups.
- Provide facilities for fund-raising, for speakers and programs,
- Provide meals and shelter for those in need through a well-equipped kitchen and adequate space.
- Provide space that is accessible to people with disabilities

Appendix A

Creating a Community Centre — a Place of Worship

In response to our vision, the design of our building is conducive to its becoming a community centre — a place for people of the community to gather, not only for Anglican worship, but for community events and programs. Our building will be open to the community to use or rent for many functions including faith-based ministries and programs. Our desire to show Christ's love to the world calls us to invite the community in.

The grounds and outside appearance of the building will be inviting and accessible. All aspects of the building from the large parking lot, to the entryway, to all corridors and facilities within the building will be easily accessible. As all the public spaces of the building are at ground level, no one will be restricted in movement. Other than the stairs leading to the control room, the only stairs are the four going up to the sanctuary platform; however, a ramp access also is provided. The washrooms are constructed with an 'S' entryway so no doors hinder access. There are other outside entryways provided for security, privacy, and for individual or small group entry when another event is going on in the main areas of the complex. Both the sanctuary and the main worship space will be multi-functional with the chairs and all other furniture being moveable.

At the entrance to the building, is a welcoming large foyer or streetscape — a large open colonnade that stretches from one end of the building to the other, book ended by the glass doorways and the fully windowed wall on the other end. Above are several skylights. The colonnade, with natural trees, casual seating, and a built-in refreshment (coffee) bar, can be a gathering place. To the right of the entrance, is an open and welcoming reception desk, which fronts a meeting room and staff offices. To the left of the entrance are a sitting lounge and then a nursery, which front a corridor containing washrooms, showers, meeting rooms, and classrooms. Further down the colonnade is the entry to the worship space on the right and the community hall — with a well-equipped modern kitchen — and small chapel on the left. The walls of the colonnade at the worship space and hall are entirely glass so there is no obstruction to seeing into these spaces. The glass wall of the worship space can be rolled away to open the worship space into the colonnade. This allows the space to expand for large events that require significantly more seating capacity than what the worship space does on its own (290 excluding platform).

To reiterate, the design is such that the building will be a tool for the ministries we wish to be about, which reinforces our focus on community outreach, community welcome, development, and action.