

Richmond Hill United Church Mission action plan (M.A.P.) for 2018 & beyond

RHUC's Mission Action Plan (M.A.P.) for 2018 and beyond is the culmination of extensive consultations with the congregation over the past year. M.A.P. sets out a vision of ministry for RHUC, of being a centre for community in Richmond Hill, and contains values and intentions that we named that will help guide us to achieve this vision.

The full document was sent out to members of the congregation and is available at the church office. Below is a summary of the intentions and their related projects as well as the consensus statements to guide us as we move forward. In reading the document, please reflect upon which of the described Intentions you may want to be involved in.

When we gather on April 29th for our final Consensus Circle there will be three sections to our Conversation.

1) A brief overview of the MAP. 2) Time for people to indicate their interest in helping with various Projects. 3) Coming to consensus about the way forward

INTENTIONS and their PROJECTS

1: Be a Culture of Welcome, Respect and Safety Where We Honour One Another and Respect Diversity

Project 1A: Strengthen a Sense of Community within the Congregation

Project 1B: Create a Culture of Hospitality

2: Engage With the Community in Our Neighbourhood

Project 2A: Reaching Out To Neighbourhood Partners: Engaging With Community Groups and Organizations to See If There Is Any Interest in Partnering Together In Our Building

Project 2B: Listening To the Neighbourhood: Engaging In Conversations with Our Neighbours to Discern Needs and Possible Responses

Project 2C: Being Open to Our Neighbours: Discern Ways We Can Be More Welcoming To People in Our Community

3: Ensure Our Facilities Align With Our Values, Identity and Purpose

Project 3A: Establish a Facilities & Finance Assessment Team to Provide the Information Required For the Congregation at RHUC to Make Decisions Regarding the Future of Our Facilities

Project 3B: Space Usage In The Midst Of Transition

Project 3C: Exploring Community Interest In Development Of A 'Centre For Community' Responsive To the Needs of the Community, That Could Include Meeting, Office and Performance Space

Project 3D: Create Clear Internal Signage to Allow For Easy Routing Throughout the Building

Project 3E: Create a Parking Strategy

4: Develop Intentional Opportunities For People to Gather To Build Relationships,

Nourish Spiritual Wellness and Engage In Justice

Project 4A: Small Group/Circle Ministry: Safe Conversations and Creation of Programming Led by Lay People

Project 4B: Develop Intergenerational Justice Projects to Include Participation from the Wider Community

5: Create Dynamic, Engaging and Meaningful Worship

Project 5A: Create Worship Experiences That Engage All Ages and Cultures

Project 5B: Provide Worship/Prayer Opportunities At Times Other than Sunday Morning

Project 5C: Create Meditative Space and Opportunities

6: Reach Out With Care to People At All Stages Of Life

Project 6A: Evaluate and Strengthen Children and Youth Programs

Project 6B: Explore Program/Interests for Young Adults

Project 6C: Creation of Programs for Increasing Seniors Population

Project 6D: Pastoral Care Initiatives

7: Communicate Our Story Both Within and Beyond the Congregation

Project 7A: Create and Ensure Maintenance of Strong Communication Tools

Project 7B: Recognize and Celebrate RHUC through Storytelling

8: Be Good Stewards Of Our Finances and Our Facilities

Project: Establish a Facilities & Finance Assessment Team to Provide the Information Required For the Congregation at RHUC to Make Decisions Regarding the Future of Our Facilities (see Project 3A)

Project 8A: Develop Ways for People In and Beyond the Church to Contribute to Finances Beyond Sunday Offering and Par

Project 8B: Identify External Funding Sources to Support Additional Staffing, Capital Projects and New Initiatives

9: Foster and Value Leaders and Volunteers

Project 9A: Review Governance and Leadership Structure

Project 9B: Develop Volunteer Management Process

The following are the areas the Planning Team suggests you consider as Statements of Agreement:

1. Agree that we will move forward with the Projects identified that are based on our values and our mission intentions recognizing that start dates may spread out over a year or two or even three as each Project will require people who are passionate and available which indicates they can't all begin at the same time.
2. Agree that it will be the responsibility of Project Teams to add to and complete any info about their project such as costs, timeline, steps, evaluation where they are not currently established.
3. Agree that the timelines proposed for the time-sensitive issues be our targets to enable us to move forward with decision-making about our facilities and our finances and engaging our neighbourhood.
4. Agree that Projects Teams will not function as Committees of the Council and that the Council will ensure that they stay updated on Projects through people's involvement or through the Coordinating Team.
5. Agree that the Circle Planning Team become the nucleus of the new Mission Action Plan Coordinating Team based on the description of their work in the "Understanding your MAP Guide" knowing that more people will be required to do this work.
6. Agree that the way we will work on these projects together will be rooted in our values that declare that we will honour one another, celebrate and encourage each other's gifts, listen for the purpose of understanding, and seek to create a sense of working together rooted in being a healthy life-giving community.
7. Agree that everyone in the congregation of RHUC is invited to find ways that they can support these Projects, trusting that their input, connections, resources and expertise will be appreciated while knowing that it is the wisdom amongst us all that will guide us.
8. Agree that we will return often to our values to evaluate how well we are living them and return at least annually to the projects and intentions to ensure that they are being addressed in a timely manner and to ascertain if particular support is required for a project.
9. Agree that we will honour this year worth of work and allow it to guide us as we make decisions, evaluate our process regularly and create new Teams for the various steps of our work.
10. Agree that we will move forward prayerfully with a sense of enthusiasm based in trusting that we are being Spirit led.

This week at a glance

Sunday, April 29 – Consensus Circle Sunday

10:30 a.m. Service – Sanctuary
11:30 a.m. Consensus Circle – Centennial Hall
12:00 p.m. Youth Choir practice – Common room

Monday, April 30

9:30 a.m. Shalom Seekers – Chapel
7:00 p.m. H.A.I.R. – Chapel
7:00 p.m. Cubs - gym

Tuesday, May 1

7:00 p.m. Tai Chi – Garden room
7:00 p.m. Beavers – gym

Wednesday, May 2

9:30 a.m. UCW – Centennial Hall
7:00 p.m. Scouts/Venturers – gym
7:00 p.m. Worship Committee - Chapel

Thursday, May 3

6:15 p.m. Bible Study - Chapel
7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir – Common Room

Saturday, May 5

3:30 p.m. Djembe drumming –Garden Room

WORSHIPPING TOGETHER

Worship

Sunday, April 29: We reflect together on John 15:1-8, as Jesus uses the image of vine and branches to describe our relationship with him, and therefore who we are with each other. Following worship, we will gather in Centennial Hall for our Consensus Circle. We will begin at 11:30 am after some time to get food (and choir concert tickets).

Sunday, May 6: We reflect upon John 15:9-17 in which Jesus invites us to love one another in the same way he has loved us. We will celebrate Anniversary Sunday.

Upcoming Forest Church: On May 6 at 2 pm. A time of prayerful walking and meditation with the trees. We will gather in the parking lot of Elgin West Community Centre for an initial teaching about different trees and then take time for personal reflection. We will conclude with a sharing of refreshments.

Prayer Shawls

We have 15 beautiful new prayer shawls to add to our collection thanks to the caring work of the following ladies: Barb Cooper, Jacky Dedlow, Verna Fast, Linda Lindberg, Ruth Perratt, Ann Whittingham, Daphne Woodger and Donna Smith. Most met on Thursday evenings during Lent to knit and crochet these shawls as gifts from our faith community to people who are unwell or grieving to let them know our prayers are with them and to those who are baptized or confirmed into the faith to celebrate with them. If you are interested in sharing your time and skill in this ministry, you don't have to wait till next Lent - we are grateful to receive shawls throughout the year. Please speak to a knitter/crocheter. This year we added a new idea, picked up from another church - a Twiddlemuff which is designed to provide a stimulation activity for the restless hands of patients with dementia. If you know of someone who might receive comfort with one, please let me know. *Coordinator Donna Smith*

Minister's Message

On Monday the unfathomable news of a van attack broke and the joy and sociability of a beautiful Spring day was forever shattered. As the names of those killed are made public it still feels impossible. We want answers. We want to know how anyone can hate that much. And yet answers won't bring back the dead or heal injuries. Seeking answers keeps us in our heads but what has happened is soul-wounding. We feel unsure of others. We wonder if someone else might suddenly snap. All the more reason for us not to isolate ourselves but instead reach out and strengthen the connections torn on Monday. The makeshift memorial on Yonge St. is a reminder of just that, a visible sign that relationships matter and being in community heals. As we slowly come to terms with Monday's tragedy, may we continue turning to one another in loving support and friendship.

HOSPITALITY & WORKING FOR JUSTICE

Truth and Reconciliation Committee

Truth and Reconciliation Committee: The Truth and Reconciliation Committees report included Calls to Action for churches. One of these requested churches to begin to educate their constituencies about the United Nations Declaration on the rights of Indigenous Peoples (affectionately known as DRIPS), with the goal to ensure we are complying with the declaration. Over the course of this year, the Living in Right Relations committee will be sharing the articles in DRIPS. Once a month, the first article from a section will be read during the Worship Service. The remaining articles from the section will be included weekly in RHUC online.

Article 37

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to the recognition, observance and enforcement of treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements concluded with States or their successors and to have States honour and respect such treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements.

2. Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as diminishing or eliminating the rights of indigenous peoples contained in treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements.

Article 38

States, in consultation and cooperation with indigenous peoples, shall take the appropriate measures, including legislative measures, to achieve the ends of this Declaration.

Minute for Mission *Called to be the Church*

Our gifts for Mission & Service support theological education and support systems for the vocation of ministry. Let's hear this interview with Alana Martin, a candidate for diaconal ministry. When did you know you were called to ministry? I started to feel a sense of a call when I was a teenager, but didn't start discerning what that really meant for me until I was a young adult. Growing up, my mom was studying to be a diaconal minister and through that exposure I felt a strong connection to that type of ministry. What is it about diaconal ministry that spoke to your call? Education, service, and pastoral care—I feel so called to the ministries diaconal ministers are commissioned to. I also know my ministry will benefit greatly from the diaconal training program. What are you most excited about in your training for ministry? The hands-on practicality of the program, the intense learning circles, and being in the program with other students across The United Church of Canada sharing in community together. What would you like to say to the people who give to Mission & Service? Because of your generous donations, students at the Centre for Christian Studies are able to deepen their theological study and ministry gifts. I am truly grateful for your support and your endorsement of us to become and continue to be leaders within the church. Our gifts to Mission & Service support theological schools across the country and people studying to enter ministry in the United Church.

ENGAGING, CHALLENGING & GROWING OUR FAITH

RHUC Book club

For the second year in a row, the RHUC Book Club will be taking part in the One Book/One Aurora (OBOA) Program offered through the Aurora Public Library. Please join us on **Wednesday, May 30th at 7 p.m.** in the Chapel to discuss the OBOA book for 2018: ***Strangers with the Same Dream*** by Toronto author Alison Pick.

A "Meet the Author" event is scheduled for Saturday, November 3rd at the Aurora Library and tickets can be booked on-line through the library starting August 1st. Here is a short synopsis of the book: "This beautifully written, shocking and timely novel whisks us back to 1921, when a band of young Jewish pioneers set out to realize a dream: the founding of a settlement on a patch of land that would, twenty-five years later, become Israel."

For more information about the book club, please speak to Sandra Loughton or call the church office at 905.884.1301 Ext. 5.

Page 4 of 6

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Special Occasions

While we include in our prayers, the names of people who are ill or mourning, we are not always aware of the special occasions which give rise to rejoicing. Please let us know to add any special occasions that are coming up.

Congratulations to **Lyn May** for being nominated for an Arthur Award on CBC Radio's Cross Country Checkup on the Sunday, April 22nd program. You can listen to the podcast on-line to hear about Lyn's work with refugees, Out of the Cold, and the Breakfast Club, and see why one of her friends thinks she deserves an Arthur Award. Go to the 1 hour, 18 minute mark if you'd like to hear the segment about Lyn with a shout-out to RHUC! Here is the link: <https://podcast-a.akamaihd.net/mp3/podcasts/checkup-CbQ5Ay1r-20180422.mp3>

United Church Women

UCW will hold the next meeting on **Wednesday, May 2 at 9:30 a.m.** in Centennial Hall. Theme: "Spring into Hope".

UCW Bus Trip is ready for boarding! **Wed. June 13th, 2018 Cost: \$60.00** (including gratuities). Please meet Elgin Barrow Arena Parking Lot **by 8:15 Leaving at 8:30 a.m.** Return: 5:30 - 6:00 p.m

We will visit the **Whetung Ojibwa Centre** at Curve Lake, **Lunch with a UCW group** in Peterborough, a stop at the famous **Peterborough Lift Locks** and visit the **Canadian Canoe Museum and Gift Shop**.

H.A.I.R.

The Monday evening study group is discussing the book **THE GOD WE NEVER KNEW** by Marcus Borg on Mondays from 7:00-8:30 in the chapel. Borg famously asked people who said they doubted the existence of God to tell him about the God they did not believe in, because chances are he did not believe in that kind of God either. In this book Borg reviews various understandings of God, and offers his interpretation of a way to reconcile faith in God with science, history, critical thought and reason. Please join us.

Women's Spirituality

Women's Spirituality will take place this **Saturday April 28th** at 9:45 a.m. in the Garden Room. Program: "SBNR Henry Thoreau".

Bible Study

No need to have been before. Come once. Or every week. Or drop in every so often. We will look at the reading for the upcoming Sunday. See you in the chapel!

Shalom Seekers

Please join us on Monday, April 30th in the Chapel from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. to continue the discussion of Marcus Borg's book **DAYS OF AWE & WONDER: How to Be a Christian in the 21st Century**. For this week, please read **Chapter 6: Awe, Wonder, and Jesus**. (pages 89 -110) New members are welcome at any time even if you haven't read the chapter. Please speak to Dawn Moon, Peg Hiscoke or Sandra Loughton for more details about the group.

CREATING AND NURTURING COMMUNITY

Spring Concert – May 6 @ 7:00 p.m.

"A Choral Retrospective" – favourite anthems old and new!

When: **Sunday, May 6, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.**

Who: RHUC Chancel Choir Accompanist: Stillman Matheson Music Director: Barry Peters

Tickets: Seniors: \$15 Students (13-19): \$15 Adults - \$20 Child (6-12): \$7.50

Children under 6: Free Family (2 Adults/2 children (6-12)) - \$50

Tickets available from the Chancel Choir, church office and <https://richmondhill.snapd.com/events/view/1146148>.

RHUC Golf Tournament



The 20th annual RHUC golf fun day is **Saturday, May 26** at Bathurst Glen GC with tee times [starting at noon](#). Same scramble format as the last couple of decades and just a fun day! Anyone can win and skill is not a requirement - smile! All participants WILL have fun....

The cost is an astonishing \$55 per person including a BBQ and friendly banter after the golf. We have spots for 24 players so please sign up early.

To sign up, please let George Moon know you are coming at georgemoon@gmail.com or in person.

Cash Cards

If you would like to put an order in please have it to the office by **Wed. May 2**. Thank you!

Music Workshop

"Trends in Christian Music in the GTA: A workshop on discovery and diversity. We are people from around the globe, how does music shape who we are today?"

Sunday, May 6, 2- 4 p.m. With Dr. Swee Hong Lim, from Emmanuel College. Thornhill United Church, 25 Elgin St. Freewill offering.

Special presentation



Special Presentation – Hosted by 14th Willowdale Scouts Group

All Welcome!: Scouting Youth, Families, Friends, Churches, You!

When: **Thursday April 28th, 2018 ~ 7:00pm – 8:30pm**

Where: 53 Cummer Ave, Willowdale, N of Finch, E of Yonge (**Cummer Avenue United Church**)

Special Guests: Willowdale MPP Honourable David Zimmer,

Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation and John Currie, Executive Director of HIP (Honouring Indigenous People)

Learn what it's like to serve as an MPP, a Minister and Cabinet Member, and about topics related to good citizenship, advocacy, government, and service to society. A great chance to learn about recent achievements, challenges, partnerships, and opportunities related to our friends in and from Ontario Indigenous communities. Questions? Scouter Kathy 647-458-2717 kathryn.mcbeey@gmail.com

We look forward to seeing everyone next Thursday @ 53 Cummer Avenue! Accessible meeting room.

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