

**ST. JOHN'S RESPONSES PROPOSED FROM THE MOVING FORWARD
CONSULTATIONS WITH MINISTRIES AND INDIVIDUALS.**

Theme #1:

Living the Word – We are a God-centred community, celebrating the divine presence within and among us, and living our faith consistently in all we do.

- Research and offer education about discipleship as being part of family (members of parish) with responsibilities, including financial responsibilities
- Host speakers on stewardship
- Become more welcoming during Sunday service in various ways: opening, offertory, invitation to coffee
- Look at “Alternative Rhythms and Christian belief” (a book)
- Rethink statement on inclusivity
- Establish small group workshops led by St John’s artistic talent for artistic expression and spiritual reflection (maybe offer to outside community too)
- Consider a more fully developed theology of inclusion for children and youth, especially with regard to worship
- Expand present Sunday school curriculum

Theme #2:

Going Inside - We nurture spirituality by offering a wide variety of worship and devotional programs at different times during the week and in different location. We encourage new forms of worship and devotion, but we also celebrate the strength of our Anglican tradition.

- As the Pastoral Care committee, communicate with other committees to identify needs
- Offer workshops on issues arising from experiences in the parish or to raise awareness

- Seek new members for Altar Guild
- Support new incumbent and adapt as needed
- Better reach and reflect wide range of interests and ages when developing adult education programs
- Tap into parish and community talent for adult ed, understanding that Christian education reaches “outside” as well as “inside”
- Develop a more formal system of (Sunday) greeters
- Continue with variety of musical styles, open/ interesting and high profile of music, traditional and new
- Continue relationships with musicians, teachers, students, guest artists
- Restore music budget
- Engage in thoughtful reading and consultation as staffing for the Christian education position, including both Sunday school and youth ministry is considered
- Offer worship opportunity to seniors followed by tea/fellowship
- Provide more upbeat music
- Offer a forum for discussion of worship, exploring and promoting various alternative and experimental forms
- Identify and respond to special needs during worship (hearing, sight)
- Focus on logistical matters related to worship
- Consider worship space – how it works, could work; connect with others on this
- Maintain records of worship experiences
- Foster sense of community/fellowship, deepening relationships with new comers
- Welcome all kinds of people to worship

Theme #3:

Leadership – Our church demonstrates leadership and courage in decisions and actions. We are effective by being entrepreneurial and adaptable. Our strength is rooted in shared values and self-awareness

- Pay attention to all aspects of volunteer involvement, possibly introducing a Volunteer Covenant, including but not limited to the Shop, Pastoral Care, Sunday School, Terrific Tuesday; think about succession as well
- Engage in thoughtful discussion about the ongoing need for and sustainability of various ministries
- Pay attention to internal and external communications, including website
- Provide leadership that facilitates change, is not authoritarian
- Learn how to be more welcoming
- Develop capacity of parish to support new comers over the long term
- Offer training in non-violent intervention
- Examine administrative efficiencies and procedures

Theme #4:

Going Outside – We are an engaged church, renowned for our social action and prophetic voice. Our work is outcome-based and transformative, and all that we do is rooted in compassion

- Plan new refugee sponsorships following evaluation and decision about proceeding on own or with partners
- Resume RAG dinners and special events
- Look into ways and means of supporting newcomers find work that will progress beyond minimum wage, part-time work

- Directly help individuals (from St J) who need housing through advice, co-signing etc)
- Partner with Multifaith Housing Initiative in buying a townhouse
- Explore social investing/finance as a tool for accessing capital by hosting a workshop
- Learn about other neighbourhood services such as The Well's plan for health services
- Make connections among ministries at St J (Foot clinic, affordable housing, RAG etc)
- Extend invitations to those beyond St J to attend Pastoral Care workshops
- Support directly and indirectly Thursday Fellowship
- Form a social justice committee for education / advocacy / linkages
- Continue with letters/petitions to government
- Maintain active interest in aboriginal affairs
- Focus on relationships/collaborations with other faiths/cultures to help set priorities
- Offer lecture series on social justice with good opportunity for small group discussion.
- Re-evaluate current needs and how best to serve
- Create a wide circle of caring as appropriate
- Increase our external visibility in the neighbourhood – marketing, advertising and signs

Theme #5:

All Kinds of People – We are a welcoming and inclusive church, offering hospitality and nurture to people of all ages, ethnicities, abilities and sexual orientations. Our programs are innovative and extend beyond the walls of the church, using small groups when appropriate. They include activities that are appealing to youth and young adults and adapted to the needs and lifestyles of young families with children.

- Offer daytime meetings/events so seniors can participate
- Learn from other parishes about best practices in hospitality
- Clarify purpose of Shop
- Increase donations to the Community Shop to better serve growing need/population
- Work with referring agencies to better understand who/how Shop serves
- Consider expanding scope and services of the Foot Clinic
- Hold Terrific Tuesday year round
- Consider scope of AIDS reach
- Partner with MHI to provide housing for those in need

Theme #6:

Community Neighbourhood Involvement – St John's is a vibrant downtown hub, reaching out to the community with our ministries, and drawing people in with our reputation as a spiritual centre. We are proactive and collaborative in our marketing and outreach to targeted groups

- Establish a planning committee to determine feasibility of phased improvement addressing image on Elgin and Somerset Streets
- Become a prime mover in fledgling Business Association for Elgin Street

- Continue to engage seniors from St Theresa's and Knox in Thursday Fellowship
- Maintain the garden for the neighbourhood to enjoy

Theme #7: Sanctuary – We offer a physically and psychologically safe space for all people. We honour a community rule of honest, respectful and compassionate behaviour toward each other, and we provide a mechanism for truth and reconciliation that allows us to speak truth to each other and share pains and hurts in a safe manner

- Consider focus of AIDS ministry
- Keep grounds peaceful, well kept, inviting
- Include focus on internal worship space in larger long range planning focus

Theme #8: Greening (revitalizing) Sacred Space – We do not yet have a consensus on what we should do with our building. Some are ready to consider the option of letting go of the building, or sharing facilities with other downtown churches. Others believe we should focus on revitalizing our sacred space and finding ways of making our building more financially sustainable

- Long term planning committee drawing together other ministries
- Establish a committee to oversee promotion of a responsible environment
- Change Elgin Street doors to make space more welcome and use space better
- Find ways to make building financially sustainable conveying the message of abundance
- Form a committee on sustainability (limited duration and specific mandate)
- Develop a policy about being greener