



**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA  
L'EGLISE UNIE DU CANADA**

**Community of Faith Profile**

for

**Scarboro United Church**

Chinook Winds Region 3

2019-05-28

134 Scarboro Avenue Calgary AB T3C 2H1

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Supporting Documents follow:

1. Demographic, Financial and Community Profile
2. Ministry and Mission Profile

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**Demographic, Financial, and Community Profile**

Note: For guidelines and strategies, please consult the BC Conference *Ministry Profile and Search Resource Package*.

**PART A: ABOUT OUR PEOPLE:**

**(Multi-point Local Ministry Units will complete Part A, B and C for each congregation)**

Number of congregations:     1     2     3     NA (e.g. for Outreach Ministries)

|                |  |                     |                                |
|----------------|--|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| Congregation A | Scarboro United Church<br>(Name of Congregation) | 255<br>( # on roll) | 78<br>(Avg. Sunday attendance) |
|----------------|--|---------------------|--------------------------------|

**We think of ourselves MAINLY as:**     Rural     Remote     Small town     Suburban  
 Urban     Inner City     Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Most of us live** (check only one):     In apartments     In single-family homes  
 In retirement homes     In long-term care homes  
 On working farms     On rural retirement properties  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

**The rest of us live** (check all that apply):     In apartments     In single-family homes  
 In retirement homes     In long-term care homes  
 On working farms     On rural retirement properties  
 Other condominiums

**Our congregation includes** (*these numbers don't need to be exact, rather it should give an approximation*)

Infants and pre-school: 3    Children (5-12): 6    Teens (13-19) 5    Young adults (20-30) 5

Adults (35-50): 9    Adults (51+): 50

Young retirees (51-64) \_\_\_\_\_    Older Retirees (65-70) \_\_\_\_\_    Seniors (over 70) \_\_\_\_\_

**Most of us...:** (choose one)

- Grew up in this area                       Moved to this area for work
- X Moved here to be close to family or other resources                       Moved here for other reasons

**Many of us work (or used to work) in the following industries or sectors:** (check all that apply)

- X Health or social services                      X Education     Manufacturing                      X Transportation
- Agriculture and food production                       Tourism/Hospitality                      X Retail
- X Environment                       Mining/Forestry                      X Information Technology
- X Government                      X Other (specify): Oil and Gas industry, Professional Services

**Our congregation is like:** (choose one that best applies)

- A big family where we all know each other;
- X A medium sized church where we recognize each other but may not know each other well;
- A big church with lots of staff, where small groups of people are close to one another based on common interests.
- Other description:

**Our heritage as a local ministry unit:** (check one that best applies):

X Has its roots as a Methodist/Congregationalist/Presbyterian/Local Union/Aboriginal congregation prior to Union in 1925;

OR, Began

- between 1925 and 1945.     between 1945 and 1965.     between 1965 and 2000.     After 2000.

**We think of our local ministry unit as in the following way:** (choose one that best applies):

- We have a new vision and are really excited; still working out how to live into that vision
- We are clear about our vision and purpose and have/are developing the skills and gifts to bring it about; we are excited and optimistic about our vision.

X Our congregation is changing and it is clear that we can no longer continue as we have been. We have some anxiety and either have a rough idea or don't know how to go forward. We believe that we have a future but can't quite see it.

We see that the ministry within this community is probably winding down after many positive and productive years of faithful ministry, mission and service; we want to celebrate what we have been as we intentionally and graciously end this ministry.

## **PART B: ABOUT OUR TANGIBLE ASSETS**

### **Governance structure:**

How many people are on your Governing Body? 14, including the Minister

How many are typically present at a meeting of your Governing Body? 11-12

### **Our Church Building(s):** (include information for each building if more than one)

We don't have a church building. (if you check this one, please comment briefly on where you worship and what other spaces you use for your ministry.)

Or

X We have 2 (how many) building(s), the church and a manse

Scarboro United Church and the manse next door received Heritage Designation Status from the Province of Alberta in 2014.

### **Our church building(s) are mostly:** (choose one that best applies):

Newly built in the last 10 years.

X Significantly renovated and

X Is doing pretty well given that it has served us for many years. Some repairs may need to be done, but nothing major.

Is in need of significant work or repairs in order to be used in the coming years.

Sanctuary holds 500 people

Are there meeting rooms? X Yes  No

What are they used for? Congregational support, arts groups, self help groups

Is there a nursery?  Yes  No

Are the nursery toys/furniture compliant with current safety standards?  Yes  No

Are there Sunday Schools rooms?  Yes  No

How many? 4 Are they also multipurpose use?  Yes  No

Are there activity rooms? (ie quilting, gym, library)  Yes  No

Brief descriptions: Large Hall, Library, Meditation Room, Chapel

Where is the office located for the minister? On the middle level of the church.

Describe it: Comfortable and open, good lighting with good visual access for security and tender trust.

Is the building used by outside groups as well as ministry activities?  Yes  No

Brief descriptions (tenants, occasional rentals, frequency of use) Our church hall is used nightly for Arts rehearsals/workshops for non-profit groups. Twelve different 12-step meetings weekly and monthly district meetings. Weekly art lesson, monthly arts performances and occasional choir workshops.

Is there a photocopier in the church?  Yes  No

Is internet provided at the church?  Yes  No *if yes*  High Speed  Dial-up

Is the church accessible (including for those with disabilities)?  Yes Tell us how: Ramps to main entrances on all levels; wheelchair lift between the main and middle floors; wheelchair accessible washrooms on the main and middle floors; hearing assistance device in the sanctuary and portable to other locations; gender-inclusive, accessible washrooms on main and middle levels.  No

### **Administrative Support:**

Is there support for administrative tasks (e.g. bulletin, scheduling, reception)?

Yes  No

If yes, how many hours per week? 40

If yes, is this  paid or  volunteer or  other (please specify)?

**Ministry and Personnel Committee:**

How many members? 1

How often does the committee meet? Reports to the Board monthly

Has one or more of the committee members attended a M&P Committee Training event in the last three years?  Yes  No

Who takes the service when your minister is away on holidays or study leave? Lay people, guest speakers or ministers in training who are paid an honorarium

**PART C: ABOUT OUR FINANCES**

**The word or phrase that best describes our current financial situation is:**

- Abundant  Adequate  Not meeting expenses but optimistic
- Not meeting expenses and relying on bequests and reserves to fund operating budget.
- Other (describe)

**Our Revenue Sources** are (please indicate approximate percentage of your current operating budget that comes from each source:

Congregational givings 75% Congregational Fundraising Activities 5%

Rental of building/services 20% Bequests/Reserves/Investments \_\_\_\_\_

Other (please briefly describe):

**Our Financial Reserves:**

We have sufficient reserves in the bank that we could cover three months of expenses if we had an emergency.  Yes  No

**Our Financial Accountability:**

Our financial statements are reviewed by an external person each year:

- Yes: a formal third-party review.

X No: (describe) Audit is conducted by a congregation member who is financially literate and independent of the Board and finance function

Our financial statements from the last three years are available upon request.

X Yes       No, but available on our website       No

Our Statistics from the last five years of submissions to the United Church of Canada show:

|  | Line # in the Yearbook | Current year | One year ago | Two years ago | Three years ago | Four years ago |
|--|------------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|
| # attending Sunday worship                 | 20                     | 78           | 86           | 79            | 79              | 90             |
| # of regular givers                        | 18                     | 146          | 125          | 134           | 167             | 162            |
| \$ expended for pastoral charge operations | 140                    |              |              |               |                 |                |
| # households under pastoral care           | 5                      | 154          | 175          | 133           | 184             | 175            |

#### **PART D: ABOUT OUR COMMUNITY**

This is what we love about our community. This is what makes it unique.

- There's a feeling of family – people are not afraid of others' pain
- Welcoming/accepting of differences:
  - Accepted in spite/because of quirks/idiosyncrasies
  - Accepted in spite of doubts/questions
- Music program!
- Inclusive/affirming/safe haven – United in Diversity
- Open to change
- Sharing makes us stronger
- Casual yet respectful – come as you are
- Heritage building with a modern message

The three economic, demographic or political challenges or characteristics facing our area are:

- “Hidden” location makes us physically difficult to access. Perception of the district of Scarboro as a higher-end community leaves some people with the idea that the church might be inaccessible to them, when in reality we represent a significant mix of economics and demographics
- Ageing population with the resultant decline in giving coupled with too few young families makes it difficult to sustain and grow the congregation
- Difficult to balance our priorities as we serve a wide range of inner-city communities with diverse interests and needs

Here are two or three websites that offer detailed information about our community:

[www.scarborocommunity.com](http://www.scarborocommunity.com) Scarboro Community Association

[www.sunalta.net](http://www.sunalta.net) Sunalta Community Association

[www.bankview.org](http://www.bankview.org) Bankview Community Association

[www.calgarycommunities.com](http://www.calgarycommunities.com) Federation of Calgary Communities

[www.calgary.ca](http://www.calgary.ca) City of Calgary

Other faith communities represented in our community/region are:

- Sacred Heart Catholic
- Grace Presbyterian
- St. Stephen’s Anglican
- Calgary Full Gospel
- Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Stake Centre

We have close ties with the following faith communities:

- St. Matthew’s United (mainly at least 10 years in the past)
- Knox United (music- related, including joint choir trips to Carnegie Hall and Canada 150 in Ottawa)
- Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Stake Centre (annual spring multi-faith choir concert)
- Periodic interfaith services with Jewish/Muslim brethren
- Joint Good Friday Service with Knox, Centre, Chinese United Churches





## Ministry and Mission Profile

**Website Address of Local Ministry Unit:** [www.scarborounited.org](http://www.scarborounited.org)

**Brief Description of Local Ministry** (three sentences):

Scarboro ministers to a congregation that is drawn from both the immediately surrounding community and communities across the city through weekly church services, church-sponsored events, and pastoral care. We minister to the wider community through outreach activities and events. We provide a low-cost venue rental to various community groups. In recent years we have become popular with people discerning their call to ministry.

**Our Worship Style** (three sentences):

We are an affirming congregation that believes in community outreach and social justice and that there is room for all. This is reflected in our worship style – a relevant, progressive message within a very traditional looking building. Scarboro is committed to supporting Indigenous issues and learning about Indigenous Culture as set out in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Music is an integral part of our worship services, with our commitment to the arts embedded in our Vision and Mission Statement. We are blessed with strong music leaders and a high-quality choir family.

Children are part of the larger congregation for the early portion of the service before going out to their Sunday School spaces with song and the light of our diversity candle.

**Vision and Mission Statement** (it's fine if you don't have one):

To be:

- A church that offers spiritual sustenance and that others see as *welcoming, diverse* and *inclusive*
- A church that is committed to *social justice* and fully engaged in *local outreach*
- An *arts-based* "destination" church

| Category Title                               | This is who we are as a Local Ministry Unit:  |
|--|---|
| <b>Community Outreach and Social Justice</b> | <p>We are currently doing the following in community outreach and social justice:</p> <p>Established in 2013, the Welcoming and Supporting our Community Mission Team has both an outward focus in community outreach and social justice, and an inward focus on the church community and local neighbourhood.</p> <p>This Team's purpose is to support Scarboro's congregation and establish meaningful connections with our neighbours in the local and wider communities, for the higher purpose of loving and serving others, living into our call as a community, and building the body of Christ. The Team includes the complementary areas of pastoral care, membership and fellowship, Affirming Ministry, being a good neighbour, supporting the</p> |

regional church, and local and global outreach. On behalf of Scarboro, it is the mandate of this Ministry Team to effectively communicate Scarboro's mission. Close to 40 individuals contributed to the activities of the Team in 2018.

Scarboro is committed to connect with and serve our neighbours and the wider community. With a social justice and outreach focus, Scarboro maintains intentional relationships with, among others, three Community Associations, the University of Calgary chaplaincy, Bankview House and the Naramata Centre. Scarboro contributes volunteer and financial resources to organizations such as the Drop-In Centre, the Interfaith Food Bank, CUPS and Closer to Home Family Services.

Special projects in the last eighteen months included collaborating with three other churches to support a Syrian refugee family, co-sponsoring the annual Human Rites Conference, hosting Iron and Earth environmental group, and sponsoring as well as hosting an Indigenous / Non-Indigenous Women's Healing Circle for its third year. Scarboro is also a strong supporter of the programs of the Mission and Service Fund of the United Church of Canada.

In addition to supporting its faith community, Scarboro is home to over 60 groups seeking an affordable and comfortable rental space for their activities. Groups range from choirs and orchestral groups to those providing social or addictions support.

Specific Community Outreach and Social Justice activities include:

- LGBTQ: Pi(e) Day and Leaders' Day both well-attended and very successful; annual participation in Calgary's Pride Parade
- Environmental: Intensive energy audit has been completed and Prayers for the Earth are on-going monthly. Bicycle Sunday is held annually
- Poverty: disbursement of surplus monies from Refugee Fund underway
- Reconciliation: Women's Talking Stick Circle takes place monthly and in talks to start a similar group for men; Screening and discussion of *Indian Horse*; annual participation in Valentine's Day march for murdered and missing Indigenous women and girls
- Member of Calgary Alliance for the Common Good
- Neighbour Day each June: city-wide community events initiative promoted by the City of Calgary. Scarboro engages in joint activities with the Sunalta and Scarboro community associations
- Campus Ministry: periodically prepare and serve a meal at the University of Calgary

|   |  |
|---|--|
|   | <p>X We have a specific goal related to community outreach and social justice as follows:</p> <p>In addition to the guiding principles of the Mission Plan, this Ministry Team embodies the principle and value of hospitality. Its stated objectives are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To be a visible, welcoming, affirming and helpful neighbor;</li> <li>2. To strengthen Scarboro's outreach to the wider world in four areas of focus – LGBTQ2+, environmental, poverty and reconciliation; and</li> <li>3. To effectively communicate Scarboro's mission.</li> </ol> <p><input type="checkbox"/> We do not have a specific goal related to community outreach and social justice.</p>  |
| <p><b>Church Community and Neighbourhood</b></p>      | <p>We are currently doing the following in the church community and neighbourhood:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Very successful fundraisers: <i>Guess Who's Coming to Dinner</i>; Fall Faire; <i>Spring Thing</i> Time and Talents Auction</li> <li>• Soup Nights in February and May with Sunalta and Scarboro community associations</li> <li>• Actively volunteer with Bankview House, a local seniors' residence</li> </ul> <p>X We have a specific goal related to the church community and neighbourhood as follows:</p> <p>In addition to the guiding principles of the Mission Plan, this Ministry Team embodies the principle and value of hospitality. Its stated objectives are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To welcome, support and offer a nurturing spiritual environment to our Scarboro United Church community;</li> <li>2. To be a visible, welcoming, affirming and helpful neighbor;</li> <li>3. To establish a stronger regional church presence;</li> <li>4. To effectively communicate Scarboro's mission.</li> </ol> <p><input type="checkbox"/> We do not have a specific goal related to the church community and neighbourhood.</p> |
| <p><b>Faith Formation and Christian Education</b></p> | <p>We are currently doing the following in faith formation and Christian education:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Children's and Youth Ministry Team follows specific curriculum for children's Christian education, but the youth program is free form and we choose faith discussions based on current events of interest.</li> <li>• Confirmation classes available on annual basis.</li> <li>• Exploring holding small group discussions, bible studies, etc. for adults and young people around critical/intelligent theology.</li> </ul>  |

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
|                      | <p><input type="checkbox"/> We have a specific goal related to faith formation and Christian education as follows:</p> <p>X We do not have a specific goal related to faith formation and Christian education.</p>  |
| <b>Leadership</b>    | <p>We are currently doing the following in Leadership:</p> <p>We have a 14-member Official Board (including our Minister) which meets monthly except during July and August. The Board is supported by three Mission Teams, each of which is led by a Board member. These Mission Teams are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exploring and Celebrating our Faith</li> <li>• Welcoming and Supporting our Community</li> <li>• Stewarding our Future</li> </ul> <p>The Board holds an annual retreat to address issues/ideas that require more time and attention than monthly two-hour meetings allow.</p> <p>Feeding into the retreat process, we try to ensure we engage the congregation as appropriate. To this end, we recently utilized the Flourishing Congregations Survey created by St. Mary's University to ascertain some of the congregation's impressions about our Community of Faith. More recently, we held small group discussions and made the same outline of questions available to the whole congregation via an on-line survey to help determine the content of our Community of Faith Profile. Major themes emerging from the most recent work speak to who we are and what we think of our Community of Faith:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We have an overwhelming sense of family as members of Scarborough. People feel really connected to the Community of Faith and value highly the opportunities to fellowship with one another</li> <li>• There is nearly universal enthusiasm for and appreciation of our choir and music program</li> <li>• We have some anxiety over the financial stability of the church and its programs</li> <li>• We really value intelligent theology that challenges us and is also meaningful to our day-to-day lives and the world at large</li> <li>• The general consensus is of wanting to strengthen our community ties and promote ourselves and our vision better, to be achieved through a cohesive communications strategy</li> </ul> <p><input type="checkbox"/> We have a specific goal related to Leadership as follows:</p> <p>X We do not have a specific goal related to Leadership.</p> |
| <b>Pastoral Care</b> | <p>We are currently doing the following in pastoral care:</p>   |

|  |  |
|--|--|
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scarboro In Touch Ministry.</li> <li>• Assist Minister with visiting and supporting those in need</li> <li>• Healing Pathway Ministry, offering sessions once a month to those who wish</li> <li>• Promise of Ageing Seniors Ministry – monthly meetings with pertinent information provided by speakers, offering times of sharing our concerns and telling our stories by having specific topics of discussion, while sharing tea and goodies</li> <li>• We send Caring Cards at times of bereavement, special birthdays and celebrations, and times of illness</li> </ul> <p>X We have a specific goal related to pastoral care as follows:<br/>To keep in touch with people within the congregation, especially those who are unable to attend Sunday services so they may stay connected with the life of Scarboro.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> We do not have a specific goal related to pastoral care.</p> |
| <p><b>Spirituality and Self-Care within your Local Ministry Unit</b></p> | <p>We are currently doing the following in Spirituality and Self Care:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prayer shawl ministry</li> <li>• Healing Touch</li> <li>• Book studies</li> <li>• Prayer book (congregation members write down the names of people they would like to be mentioned during Prayers of the People)</li> <li>• Indoor labyrinth</li> <li>• Memorial garden</li> <li>• ScarboroArts</li> <li>• Baptism of both children and adults</li> <li>• Affirmation of Faith</li> </ul> <p><input type="checkbox"/> We have a specific goal related to Spirituality and Self Care as follows:</p> <p>X We do not have a specific goal related Spirituality and Self Care.</p>  |
| <p><b>Worship</b></p>  | <p>We are currently doing the following in Worship:</p> <p>The Exploring and Celebrating Our Faith Mission Team provides spiritual leadership that supports Scarboro’s growth as a vibrant and inviting faith community, for the higher purpose of experiencing the Holy and bringing ourselves and others to God. It includes the complementary areas of Worship, Christian Development, Children and Youth program, Music Ministry and ScarboroArts.</p> <p>The Mission Team meets monthly to review the successes in the past</p>   |

month's services and prepares the themes for the upcoming months. These themes are developed to align with the scripture readings as outlined in the three-year cycle, the church calendar, the content of the Gathering Publication and topics of interest as identified by the Mission Team. A Worship Planning Team: the minister, music staff and the Children and Youth coordinator meet weekly to finalize details for the future services and support the development of the Powerpoint presentations, prepared by lay support, for each Sunday.

Themes are developed to span over a period of 6 to 8 weeks and during the recent past have included Superheroes, Creation, Gifts of Giftedness, Journey to Jerusalem, Testimonies of Faith. Special services are developed for the Seasons of Advent and Lent. Other specially themed services include Pentecost, Affirming Sunday, Bicycle Sunday, Camp Sunday and Pancake Sunday as examples. We have a number of services during the Advent season including a Darkest Night Service on December 21 and a Family Service and Candlelight Service on Christmas Eve. During Holy Week we have services including Palm/Passion, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday (shared with other downtown churches) and Easter Sunday. Services carry through the summer months are more informal in nature. We follow an order of service which has become familiar to the congregation, but are willing to adjust it to suit the theme and telling of our story. Communion is observed 4 to 5 times on Sundays during the year and weekly on Wednesday mornings.

Scarboro has always been known for the quality of its music program and have a dedicated choir supporting the services and other activities in the church. The repertoire of music is extensive and varied. As a further development of our interest in music, Scarboro has become known as an *arts destination church* and the ScarboroArts program supports the development of this ministry. We take every opportunity to include the arts in worship over and above the excellent music and have included dance, theatrical presentation/storytelling, guest musicians, and active painting in the services. We have included video in the services.

The Mission Team is a creative group willing to try new ideas to engage the community and celebrate our faith.

X We have a specific goal related to Worship as follows:

Our ongoing objectives are:

1. To promote spiritual health and practice for all ages;
2. To promote the use of inclusive language, intentional and visible recognition of others' faith experiences, and the celebration of diversity;
3. To facilitate faith formation for all ages;

|  |   |
|--|---|
|  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>4. To celebrate meaningful, relevant and diverse worship;</li><li>5. To lead and celebrate meaningful and diverse music ministry; and</li><li>6. To share our special artistic gifts with the wider community.</li></ol> <p><input type="checkbox"/> We do not have a specific goal related to Worship.</p> |
|--|---|