
JOINT NEEDS ASSESSMENT REPORT

Brunswick Street United Church Halifax, Nova Scotia



Approved by the Joint Needs Assessment Committee – September 27, 2009
Approved by Brunswick Street United Church Council – September 27, 2009

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Introduction

Brunswick Street United Church (BSUC) Joint Needs Assessment Committee (JNAC) was established in September 2008.

The members of the JNAC include:

Rev. Trent Cleveland-Thompson
Rev. Susan MacAlpine-Gillis
Walter Hayward
Sandra Oakley-Andrews
Sharon "Shazza" LaFramboise
Linda Poulton MacSwain

Community Profile

Brunswick Street United Church (BSUC) is located in the inner city of Halifax, which includes the central business district, government offices, entertainment venues, tourism centres, art galleries and museums, office buildings, bars, restaurants, and so much more.

The original settlement of the town of Halifax was the defensive fort of Citadel Hill located three blocks from the BSUC. Other historical buildings in the community include Province House, City Hall, Historic Properties and the Halifax Armouries.

The community of Africville was torn down in the 1960's to create a proposed redevelopment of the area for highways, the A Murray MacKay bridge and a port expansion. The municipal government justified this proposal by citing poor living conditions, despite refusing to extend services to the community. Many of the former residents were dispersed among some of the area's public housing projects in Mulgrave Park and Uniacke Square.

The number of new developments in the area has increased in the last 5-10 years, as well as renovations of older housing, bringing new life, but also forcing others out of the community because of price increases in the housing market and rental costs.

The community is very diverse through race, religion and economic situations. Community churches provide services in the following denominations: Anglican, Catholic, Presbyterian, Christian Science, Gospel, Baptist, Unitarian, Adventist, Salvation Army, as well as our own United. The Buddhist, Muslim and Jewish faiths are also thriving in Halifax. Social services are also very prevalent with over 30 different organizations in the downtown core providing housing, rehabilitation, legal aid, health protection, food, furniture, education and policing of the area.

The Halifax economy is a relatively stable one for the time being. It has historically, and continues to be, based on good jobs with the military bases, educational institutions, government offices, and health care facilities. Recently, there have been some new high-tech jobs in the IT sector and labour intensive jobs from the off-shore oil sector. The airport and port have also grown in recent years providing good jobs. However, the global economy has affected some lower paying jobs in the manufacturing sector by moving manufacturing plants to countries who have lower wages, and the downturn in China as a result of this most recent recession has negatively impacted the container traffic at both terminals, and rail freight traffic. Eventually these negative impacts will have an affect on the hospitality and entertainment sectors.

The community profile, based on the 2001 Census of Population, consists of the following:

- 13.5% under the age of 20 and 14.3% was 65 years and older
- 55% of households are without children
- 12.9% are immigrants
- Median income for individuals was \$23,083 and families was \$75,506
- 73.6% of the population over 20 years of age had post secondary education and 7.7% had less than a high school certificate
- 28.7% of the population owned their dwellings and 71.2% rented their homes

Community Offerings:

Halifax Regional Municipality website
<http://www.halifax.ca/>

Churches:

St. Georges Anglican
Conwallis Street Baptist
Shambala Buddhist Centre
Christian Science Church
Missionary Bible Fundamental Church
Peoples Gospel Hour
Harvest Community Church
Halifax Chinese Christian Church
New Life Christian Centre
St. Mary's Basilica
St. Patrick's Glebe
Salvation Army
Universalist Unitarian Church
7th Day Adventist
St. Matthew's United
Fort Massey United
Brunswick Street United

Schools:

Atlantic School of Theology
Numerous Elementary and Junior High Schools (French Immersion is an option in many schools)
Citadel High
Dalhousie University
St. Mary's University
Nova Scotia College of Art and Design
Mount Saint Vincent University

Kings College
Numerous Business Schools
Numerous Private Schools from Elementary to High School

Hospitals:

Victoria General
IWK/Grace
Veteran's
Abbey Lane
QEII/Infirmary
Nova Scotia Hospital (Dartmouth)

Social Services:

Corrections Canada
Metropolitan Housing
Salvation Army food bank and housing for single men
Direction 180
Mainline
Native Friendship Centre and daycare
North End Clinic
The Arc
Libraries (Gottingen Street and Spring Garden)
Dalhousie Legal Aid
George Dixon Centre
North End Parent Resource Centre
Uniacke Square Tenants Assoc and food bank
Hope Cottage
Metro Turning Point
Brunswick Street Mission
Police Stations (Uniacke Square and Gottingen Street)
St Joseph's Daycare
Blood Donor Clinic
Red Cross
Bloomfield Centre
Harbour City Homes
YMCA – Y Move
Parker Street Food and Furniture Bank
Black Educators Association
Black Business Initiative
Elizabeth Fry Society
Halifax Coalition Against Poverty

Recreation:

YMCA
George Dixon Centre

Centennial Pool
Boxing Club

Social:

Italian Community Centre
Bloomfield Centre
Northwood Centre
Air Force Club

Other:

Citadel Hill National Historic Park
Armouries

Pastoral Charge

The location for Brunswick Street United Church 2107 Brunswick Street Halifax, Nova Scotia B3K 2Y4 (BSUC) is on Brunswick Street in Halifax between Barrington and Gottingen Streets, north and south and Cornwallis and Cogswell Streets east and west, servicing a poorer area of the Halifax peninsula.

BSUC began in the area, first as a Methodist Church, and then in 1925 joined the United Church of Canada. The very next year, with poverty in the inner city, a board was created with representatives from the other United Churches, each with a financial stipend to assist with mission work. The Brunswick Street Mission (Mission) was created to provide necessities, clothing, food and a drop in centre for the community. Council, meetings, committees where all members of the congregation are encouraged to be a part of the life and work of the church, govern Church.

In 1956 Camp Brunswick opened for the first time with Rev. Herman Campbell as the presiding minister. The location is in East Chezzetcook and originally was a farm homestead built by Capt. John Smith who lived on the property from 1782 until 1806. Originally children attended Camp Kinsac until 1949, which was sold for \$600. At the time a quart of milk was \$0.19. The land and buildings were purchased in 1954 for \$3200, with a down payment of \$1100 and the rest borrowed. Within two years the amount was paid off. The first camp saw seven mothers with thirteen children attend. Over the years various renovations were done to improve the location for the safety and enjoyment of children. For many years the children were guided with Camp Director Blanche Potter Creighton and Youth Worker Leader Ann Cruikshanks who with other counsellors helped to provide the camping experience for more than one hundred children, mostly from single parent homes, every summer. The Camp was totally rebuilt under the pastoral leadership of Rev. Gus Pendleton, who served at BSUC from 1996 until 2004. Since the last renovation the building is empty and rarely has a group to enjoy its "open air experience". Much of the 65 acres of woodland and 30 acres of cleared land remained mostly intact. Discussion of sale of the property is on-going.

On June 20th, 1979, the church building was destroyed by fire. Services were held at Trinity Anglican Church, while space was provided in Alexander school for the office and the mission work until the completion of the present structure. It was designed by a member of the congregation, Jim Sykes, who continues to be active in the life of the congregation. This has allowed a space that can be used for dinners, gatherings, committee meetings, extra space for Mission work, as well as activities such as yoga and a community faith study group.

In 2005, the job of the Mission had become too much for the declining congregation to run effectively and efficiently. With a smaller number of members and inadequate finances, the Church and Mission became two separate, yet intertwined, entities. BSUC still continues to be involved in the Mission by having two members of the congregation on the Mission Board. The two members on the current Board of Directors are Hazel Andrews and Walter Hayward. The Beans and Brown bread Fundraising program to raise money for the Mission was headed up by BSUC, as well as taking care of the deliveries to the other Churches involved in the program.

The congregation recently supported a refugee in sanctuary for over 18 months, and has set aside \$15,000 to take care of his expenses, while living in another country awaiting immigrant status.

The recent world banking crisis and recession resulted in a significant loss in BSUC's investment portfolio, as well as for UCC members who support the congregation and Mission. BSUC is not only facing financial constraints, but there are also issues that continue to challenge the congregation in the division of the Church, Mission and Camp. We are one of the few United Churches where the poor feel welcome. This has always been one of our strengths.

Our Mission Statement

From its Christian perspective Brunswick Street United Church
Is dedicated to making a difference in the community it serves by:
Providing for Spiritual needs,
Affirming positive values and traditions of church and community,
Working to bring social change,
Helping people realize their full potential while giving love, concerned support in
time of crisis.
Managing resources effectively and efficiently and
Spiritually challenging people
Working co-operatively with the board
Encouraging members of the congregation to take more responsibility

Resources Profile

Our current trustees are: Hazel Andrews, Doris McGrath, Jim Sykes and Ron Briggs. Hugh Creighton, a volunteer from St. Andrews United Church, prepares financial statements. The current building was built mortgage free after a damaging fire in 1979. The monies from all United churches are then redistributed back to the various Missions located around the country including the Brunswick Street Mission. With the separation of the Church (BSUC) from the Mission and Camp Brunswick the current dividend allocation of funds received in the form of the Church's investments allows for 80% going to the Mission, 10% for the Camp and 10% for the Congregation. Brunswick Street Mission advised BSUC the monthly parking lot revenue was now in better shape and with the weekly offerings cover our expenses. BSUC is responsible for maintaining:

- a worship leader (Sunday pulpit supply)
- a pianist
- a custodian for Sundays
- 10 Subscriptions of the United Church Observer
- Secretarial duties are volunteered

Our trustees have been able to manage our assets by investing in shares totalling \$775 thousand that provide dividends to the Church. Our replacement insurance is valued at \$3.3 million with a property insurance coverage of \$2,775,000 of which a premium of \$5,157 is paid out. We have liability insurance covering us for \$8 million, which amounted to a \$550 premium. The market value of the church is assessed at \$3 million. In recent years, we have two estate bequests that totalled \$150 thousand.

The deed for the building, furniture and fixtures are in the name of BSUC but the Mission for the utilities and building expenses reimburses the maintenance. Memorial gifts to the church were used to purchase 25 new hymnals "More Voices" and to erect the United Church of Canada crest above the main doors. Funds were also invested for the future needs of the church. Fundraising attempts were limited. We gathered Sobey's tapes and had a concert with local folksinger Clary Croft.

Since the departure of the last full-time minister four years ago, the Manse was sold. The Board of Stewards was dismantled, and the Ministry and Personnel Committee was disbanded. On an average week the attendance of thirteen faithful servants share many hats to keep the pulse and coffers going. Our present worship leader, Terry Paul Choyce, often has musical guests to aid in our worship at various times. Special occasions grow the numbers by up to approximately 50 in attendance. Supervisory ministers come to perform the sacraments of communion and baptism. Other clergy have been welcome to

assist in wedding and funerals. The Spiritual Seekers group, organized by our present Sunday supply minister, meet on a regular basis and number well over 30. They are not active in the congregation, however, this group is one of the new directions in which our church feels called. We have enthusiasm and a positive outlook to grow and flourish.

The year 2009 will be the 25th Anniversary of the present building and the 225 anniversary of the founding of BSUC. It is our hope that it will be marked by a special event in the fall of 2009. The talents and abilities give us hope that we will continue to make a difference in the community which we serve. With the faith that began as a mustard seed we hope to grow and flourish in faith.

Accountant's Report Submitted by Hugh Creighton

Brunswick Street United Church	2008	2007
INCOME STATEMENT	ACTUAL to Dec 31/08	ACTUAL to Dec 31/07
REVENUE		
Church Collection		
Envelopes	10,090	10,863
Open Collection	1,018	719
M&S	1,693	1,343
BSUC Mission		13,736
Camp	1,450	2,900
Church Parking	13,272	11,525
Fundraising	379	515
Other and In Memoriam	800	1,065
Trustee Dividends CIBC RBC	5,661	4,181
TOTAL REVENUE	34,363	46,847
EXPENSES		
Pastoral NOTE 1	19,925	12,600
Camp Operation	3,809	4,323
M& S	1,693	1,343
BUC Mission		13,736
Other (Office, Refugee Assist Presbytery)	7,799	3,533
TOTAL EXPENSES	33,226	35,535
NET INCOME (LOSS)	1,137	11,312
NOTE 1		
Interim Pastoral	13,200	9,250
Communion Clergy	700	600
Musicians	4,500	1,550
Custodian	1,325	1,000
Communion supplies	200	200
TOTAL	19,925	12,600
CASH IN BANK DEC 31	13,465	2,256

Ministry Profile

Position Description: 1/3 time Ministry

The purpose of this position is to seek out new people to be a part of the community, challenge the congregation spiritually, offer pastoral care, follow up with marriage/baptism requests, maintain working relationship with the Brunswick Street Mission.

Accountability

The Minister is accountable to the Church Council, and to the authority of Halifax Presbytery.

Work Expectations

It is expected that the work week for the minister will consist of 13 hours to carry out the responsibilities. For weeks that would demand more hours, it would then be encouraged to work less hours in other weeks

Principal Areas of Responsibility

Pastoral Care

- Visitation with congregation members with special needs, including shut ins, persons experiencing illness at home, hospitals and nursing homes.
- Coordinating and/or conducting ongoing visitation within the general congregation and prospective church members (follow up with marriage/baptism requests)
- Offering individual and family counseling and support to the congregation and family members as required
- Coordinating and/or conducting special services as required (funerals, memorials, and weddings)
- Encouraging fellowship activities involving the congregation
- Providing care in crisis situations
- Reestablish duties of Elders and provide training
- Reestablish Ministry and Personnel

Worship

- Preparing and leading the weekly Sunday worship services
- Providing leadership in the development and delivery of special worship events
- Providing worship that encourages congregational participation
- Providing worship that is spiritually challenging that nurtures, uplifts and strengthens individuals
- Coordinating and/or conducting the administration the Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion

Christian Development and Outreach

- Supporting and providing educational/spiritual programs
- Providing information and counseling to persons seeking baptism, marriage, confirmation
- Participate in congregation/community events
- Be a liason between our congregations and other faith communities and organizations
- Participate in ecumenical activities within the community
- Maintain a good relationship with the Mission and it's Executive Director, and provide communication to the congregation

Administration

- Maintaining baptism, marriage, funeral, membership records
- Responding to routine correspondence
- Preparing weekly church bulletins (support available)
- Attending and participating in Church Council meetings, annual meetings and other meetings as required
- Review church financial responsibilities and resources
- Involvement with Presbytery and Conference

Skills Profile

Keeping in mind the following needs as identified by members of the congregation,

Becoming a larger congregation

Biblical Preaching

Social action

Justice seeking

Stewardship

Community outreach

Church Music

Ability to convey the Christian message

Dedication to visiting

Skill for personal counselling

Commitment to social action

Administrative and organizational ability

Council, meetings, and committees govern Church.

the person filling this position will need to be an ordained Minister or Lay Minister of The United Church of Canada. The four areas of responsibility for this person will be pastoral care, worship, Christian development and outreach and administration. The skills required to conduct the responsibilities are as follows:

- Organized
- Educated

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- Open minded to progressive Christianity
 - Aware of current events
 - Conciliatory
 - Challenging
 - Welcoming
 - Sense of humour
 - Listener
 - Motivator
 - Flexible
 - Empathy for the poor
 - Understanding and appreciative of other faiths
 - Some United Church training

Terms Profile

Effective Date:	Immediate
Hours of Work:	13 hours per week
Vacation:	1 month (5 Sundays)
Salary Terms:	According to the Salary and Allowances Schedules applicable to Ministry Personnel of the United Church of Canada. We are capable of sustaining a Category 2 level
Housing:	As stated by the Presbytery
Travel:	As set by Salary and Allowances Schedule
Phone:	Basic service for a listed home phone
Continuing Education:	\$400 according to Salary and Allowances Schedule