

MINISTRY & MISSION PROFILE
THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
L'ÉGLISE UNIE DU CANADA
LONDON CONFERENCE



Local Ministry Unit – Telling Our Story:
Ministry and Mission Profile (LC MM)

PURPOSE: To enable a Local Ministry Unit to honestly and boldly “tell its story”.

Who uses it: Governing Body develops the profile in consultation with congregation.

When to use: When you are amending a current call or appointment; seeking new Ministry Personnel whether for a call or appointment or can be used for a regular review of priorities for purposes of assessment and goal-setting.

How to use: Follow the instructions in the Handbook: Declaring/Changing Ministry Positions. Make sure that an electronic copy is available to send to the Conference office for posting once the Presbytery approves the Vacancy.

Name of Local Ministry Unit: First United Church

Address of Local Ministry Unit: 7 Curtis Street, St Thomas, ON N5P 1H3

Brief Description of Local Ministry (three sentences): First United Church has a long history in St Thomas, tracing back to its Methodist roots in 1834. Our membership approaches 350, with approximately 150 meeting each Sunday in our impressive Cathedral style sanctuary. In our mission statement we claim we are ‘Seeking to be a welcoming Community of Christian Faith, proclaiming and Celebrating the Love of God in Jesus Christ through the Inspiration of the Holy Spirit.’

Priority (#1 to #7)	Category Title	This is who we are as a Local Ministry Unit:
2	Discipleship	As a congregation, we endeavor to live out our faith by supporting the needy in our community through Caring Cupboard, Secret Santa gifts, and other local organizations that help the less fortunate. We have also acted out our faith by sponsoring and supporting a Syrian Refugee family over the past year. We share our faith with children through our Church School, which is currently run by 6 volunteer teachers, and reach out to our youth with a youth group that meets every other Sunday during the service. Throughout the year we have a variety of events that bring our church community together and raise money for various needs.
6	Justice and Outreach	The needs of this community are many, with poverty, unemployment and those who struggle with mental illness. As a church we have tried to minister to those in need through supporting local agencies with donations of food and clothing and other gifts. We also have frequently helped individuals who may come into the church with providing them money for groceries or other immediate needs. In addition, this church has sponsored and supported a Syrian Refugee family financially as well as extensive personal support through a committee of volunteers.
4	Leadership	We have had strong leadership over the last number of years, and it is essential for this to continue as we move forward. We not only need someone who can provide direction and build consensus, but also someone who can bring out the best in others and encourage people to make full use of their gifts and abilities. Also, as we go through a period of transition, we need a leader who can work with the board and various committees to make sure we have the proper programs and resources to meet the needs of the congregation, which may include hiring additional support to help grow and support our ministry to youth and children.
7	Ministry Partnerships	N/A
5	Pastoral Care	As we currently have one full-time minister, most of the Pastoral Care falls on him. As we have an aging population, this can be a demanding part of the ministry. This has gone beyond our own congregation and into our community through his work as a Police, Fire and Paramedic Chaplain, as well as countless funerals when there is a need. Having a minister who lives in and is part of the same community where their church is located has proven to be a successful way to minister to the community of St Thomas.

<p>3</p>	<p>Stewardship</p>	<p>Like many churches, our financial situation is challenging, but not at all in crisis. Almost 90 percent of our budget is covered through congregational givings, and the remainder is covered through fundraisers and trusts funds. We are blessed to have stable trust funds that have helped support this ministry over the years. We have a beautiful building and property that is paid for and in good condition, but does require maintenance and repairs from time to time. Through our Trustees, Finance Committee and our Board, we do our utmost to be good stewards with our financial gifts. As both of our full time ministers have or will be retiring, we are prayerfully considering the needs of this congregation and going through an extensive visioning process with the consulting group L3, as we ask God to show us who we are called to be as a faith community.</p> <p>We are also blessed to have a wide variety of gifts within the congregation, including the gifts of music, leadership, compassion and creativity. We strive to improve on giving everyone who wishes an opportunity to express their gifts and use them in service to God and this church.</p>
<p>1</p>	<p>Worship</p>	<p>The Sunday morning worship experience is of utmost importance to the members at First. We seek a meaningful worship experience through a variety of musical methods, including choir, soloists, keyboard, guitar and pipe organ, which is arranged by our part-time music director. We also come to hear the Word of God preached in an uplifting and Scripturally grounded manner that we are able relate to and apply in our lives today. We look for creative ways to make worship more meaningful and relevant.</p>