



The Ministries & Programming of
St. Stephen's on-the-Hill United Church

When we give what it takes, SSOTH has the ability to do some amazing things. We live better lives and our community is a better place because of the faith we share. Together, we give to financially support the ministries and programs of our church. What exactly happens in our church? What are we supporting?

This report offers glimpses of our program ministries. It describes where we distribute your contributions so all areas of our church's ministry and programs have the financial resources to support them. These ministries cover five major areas in the life of our congregation:

- ‡ Ministry of Christian Worship & Spiritual Growth
- ‡ Ministry of Christian Development & Faith Formation
- ‡ Ministry of Pastoral Care & Spiritual Nurture
- ‡ Ministry of Mission, Service and Outreach
- ‡ Ministry of Place and Sacred Space

As Christians we understand that we take of what belongs to God for ourselves and others. Life is a cycle that moves us between receiving and giving. This is the activity of grace in our lives we hope to reflect and let Jesus' love shine through.

MINISTRY OF CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

Sunday morning worship continues to be an important aspect of our church life. In worship we gather to celebrate God's presence and respond to God's call of service in our world. One of the challenges of our time is to offer meaningful worship that honours our heritage, while at the same time reaches out to ones who are seeking a deeper relationship with God.

Here at St. Stephen's we are blessed with strong lay worship leadership and a vibrant music ministry which includes our celebrated Junior Choir. We continue to incorporate multimedia on a regular basis. We are committed to a 1 hour service each week that offers a time of reflection, spiritual growth and renewal. Regular worship happens each week at 10:30 a.m.

This area of ministry includes:

Ministry personnel leadership in worship	Junior, Youth and Senior Choirs
Funerals and Weddings	Music
Baptisms	Special Services
Multimedia and Sound	Guest Musicians
Pulpit Supply	Ushers and Greeters
Hymn Books and Bibles	Worship and Communion Supplies

MINISTRY OF CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT & LEARNING

Through Christian nurture, each of us grows in our knowledge of what it means to be a people of God in our world. With the help of dedicated personnel and volunteers, we provide education for children and youth, preschool to Grade 8. This year we are including PD activity days for our children. A nursery is available for babies and toddlers. Weekly youth group gatherings encourage teenagers and young adults to spend time together here.

Adult study and reflection happen throughout the year through Bible study, speakers, book studies and other gatherings. Special classes throughout the year give young people and adults the opportunity to confirm their baptismal vows in the United Church of Canada.

This area of ministry includes:

Ministry personnel leadership	Church School and Curriculum
Youth Groups	PD Day Activities
Adult Educational Events	Confirmation & Membership
Book Study	Bible Study
Retreats	Library Resources

MINISTRY OF PASTORAL, COMMUNITY & SPIRITUAL CARE

We offer ongoing care and support to all members and friends of our congregation. In many ways much of what our church offers is in some way, shape or form, a kind of pastoral care. Yet there are some more specific areas that fall under the specific ministry of Pastoral Care.

We respond to individuals in times of crisis, such as illness or bereavement. We keep in touch with members who are housebound or who can no longer come to church. We seek to connect and welcome newcomers to share our church home.

Our ministry personnel, Elders and volunteer visitors want to make this church a caring community where each person is able to feel the love of God being shared with one another.

This area of ministry includes:

Qualified and Trained Personnel	Resource sharing
Hospital Visiting	Visiting senior's residences and shut-ins
Bereavement Counselling and Referrals	Pastoral phone calls, visits and mailings
Funeral and Marriage preparation	Prayer Group
Meditation Labyrinth	Pastoral Care Workshops
Newsletters and Communications	Social time and events
United Church Women's Groups	Men's Groups

MINISTRY OF MISSION, SERVICE, OUTREACH & JUSTICE

We are also St. Stephen's off-the-Hill. As people of God, we are called to work in the world around us. We provide time and money for God's work beyond our church walls. This work takes place in our city, in our country, and in countries all around the world. As Christians our daily living is a testimony to our mission of sharing God's love at work, at school and at play.

Our congregation also has a strong ministry of outreach with our commitment to local and global charities, and through the Mission and Service Fund of the United Church. We are called to seek justice and equality for others. Throughout the year, we provide additional support and funding to special projects as needs are identified.

We also support the work of the United Church through Halton Presbytery and Hamilton Conference assessments. This includes the work of a Mission Development Officer by the Halton Presbytery.

We also remain committed to The Compass. SSOTH is a founding partner of this outreach centre on Lakeshore. A collaborative ministry of local churches, for the past ten years the Compass is a shining example of Christians working together as we seek to bring some relief to the impoverished in our city.

The Ministry of Mission, Service, Outreach and Justice Concerns has included:

Mission and Service Fund	The Compass
Support for Hamilton Conference	Support For Halton Presbytery
Affordable Space for Community Groups	Habitat for Humanity
African Famine Relief	Caring and Sharing
The Open Door	Fair Trade Coffee and other products
Benevolent Support	Youth Ministry
Honduras Mission/ MMI	Local initiatives to support justice and care
Sleeping Children Around the World	Grandmothers for Grandmothers

MINISTRY OF PLACE AND SACRED SPACE

St. Stephen's on-the-Hill, as our name implies, has a definite place that it occupies on the map and in our community. Our building and property have become an important part of our identity and who we are as a community. It is a place that has special meaning in the hearts of people and is surely thought of by some as a sacred space. The addition of things like the Memorial Garden, the Courtyard and the Labyrinth remind us that this space goes beyond our walls to provide an inviting spiritual oasis in a very busy world.

Having a committed Board of Stewards and a Church Officer ensures that the building and grounds are well maintained and looked after. When the roof needs replacing and emergencies arise, how fortunate we are to have the necessary resources to meet these needs.

Our hope is to offer a safe and sound place where we welcome others and welcome the presence of the living God.

This area of ministry includes:

Building Administration	Worship & Gathering Space
Memorial Garden	Custodial Duties
Spring and Fall Clean-ups	Utilities
Insurance	Lawn Care and Landscaping
Telephone & Internet	Affordable Community Meeting Space
Building Rental and Promotion	Snow Removal
Memorial and Special Gifts	Building Safety & Repairs