

J N A C

Sydenham-Heritage United Church

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MEMBERS OF THE JNAC COMMITTEE

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COMMUNITY PROFILE

Brantford is a city located on the Grand River in southern Ontario. While having close proximity to the larger centres of Hamilton, London, Kitchener-Waterloo and Toronto, it has a distinctive identity and community spirit. A city of 99,000 people (2016 census) with an average individual income of just over \$40,000, it is a fully serviced urban community with many enviable amenities. Housing is quite affordable in Brantford and frequently draws those seeking homes from some of the pricier surrounding areas. The average cost of a 3-bedroom house is about \$336,000. Brantford is serviced by GO Transit which permits access to Hamilton City Centre and McMaster University which includes a tertiary hospital. VIA Rail has a stop here on the Windsor to Montreal corridor five times daily.

Brantford was founded in 1839 and took its name from the historic site where Joseph Brant, chief of the Six Nations forded the Grand River. The river valley is steeped in history and traditions. In 1784 Chief Joseph Brant led the Six Nations people from Upper State New York to the Grand River Basin, a shallow crossing spot. They made their village here. The Six Nations were granted land on either side of the magnificent Grand River in gratitude for their support of the British in the American War of Independence. The Six Nations of the Grand currently maintain the largest First Nations community in Canada adjacent to the boundaries of the city of Brantford.

The Grand River played a vital role in the development of Brantford. During the 1800's the river provided the opportunity for economic growth as barges transported materials up and manufactured goods down the river to the Great Lakes. Brantford became a large manufacturing centre in the late 19th and early 20th century due to its proximity to large markets and easy rail access. The city suffered a significant economic downturn in the 1980's when many of the original industries closed or left the city. The city has reinvented itself over the intervening years. Today while there remains an industrial presence there is also a diverse number of industries and other developments. The reinvention of our downtown core as a college and university centre is also part of the new diversity of this city.

Brantford is renowned for its parks and recreational facilities and has an extensive trail system along the banks of the Grand River. The city offers over 40 kilometers of natural trails that are perfect for walking, cycling, and running.

The city is proud to own two public golf courses. Northridge (www.northridgegolf.ca) is an 18 hole championship course. Arrowdale (www.arrowdalegolf.ca) is a 9 hole course situated in the middle of town. The city also has an active curling club (www.brantcurlingclub.ca).

Brantford values learning and education and is committed to providing learning opportunities to all ages. There are three school boards: Grand Erie District School Board (www.gedsb.on.ca), Brant-Haldimand Norfolk Catholic School Board (www.bhncdsb.edu.on.ca), Le Conseil Scolaire de District Catholique (www.csdccs.edu.on.ca).

In addition Brantford is home to the W Ross Macdonald School, a provincial resource and school for blind and deaf blind students from kindergarten to grade 12. This respected school has been providing a unique day and residential educational opportunity in Brantford for over one hundred years (www.psbrant.ca).

The downtown core is home to Laurier Brantford (www.wlu.ca), and Contestoga College (www.contestoga.on.ca). The core is alive with students for the academic terms each year.

Harmony Square is a gathering space in our downtown and further evidence of how Brantford is recreating itself. The venue offers ice skating in the winter, a splash park in the summer, and is the site of seasonal events – including, Scare in the Square, Jazz Festival, weekly concerts and a family celebration site following the annual Santa Claus Parade.

There are two libraries in Brantford (www.brantford.library.on.ca). Kiwanis, Rotary and other service clubs are well established and active in Brantford.

Community centres offer a wide array of programmes to their respective neighbourhoods. The Wayne Gretzky Centre (www.waynegretzkysportscentre.ca) hosts numerous hockey and swim tournaments. It also provides a first class sports and fitness facility for the residents of the city. A joint project by Laurier University and the YMCA will result in the opening of another sports and fitness centre in the downtown area in September, 2018.

Culturally Brantford offers much to its residents. A vibrant arts community is supported by the Glenhyrst Art Gallery and the Sanderson Centre for the Performing Arts(www.sandersoncentre.ca). Annual events include the Brantford International Jazz Festival, the Brant Studio Tour, and the Brantford International Villages Festival. There is an active professional Brantford Symphony and a well-rounded variety of musical groups.

The health and well being of the community is supported by a strong health care system. The Brant Community Health Care System (www.bchsys.org) includes The Brantford General Hospital, Brantford and The Willett Hospital, Paris. There are numerous walk in clinics available, one health care network of several doctors (www.ontariohealthclinics.ca) and there are currently family physicians who are accepting new patients, a significant change from a chronic shortage of doctors a few years ago. This is a testament to the success of the BCHCS and the city for attracting these professionals.

Seniors have a special place in this city. The Beckett Adult Leisure Centre offers a wide variety of programming for a nominal fee to city residents. Many retirement homes, adult communities, assisted living facilities and nursing homes are located in the city and the surrounding Brant County. The Stedman Hospice/Hankinson House operates outreach and day programming for city residents living with life limiting illnesses and Hospice Care for patients and their families at the end of life.

MINISTRY AND PASTORAL CHARGE PROFILE

Our congregation officially came into being January 1, 2017, as the result of an amalgamation between Heritage United Church and Sydenham Street United Church of Brantford.

Sydenham United, which has been in existence for over 125 years came from the Methodist Tradition. Heritage United is the result of the amalgamation of Colborne Street United and Wellington Memorial United churches in 1995. Both congregations also come from the Methodist tradition.

Since June of 2017, we have had the excellent and inspiring leadership of Rev. Gert Janse van Rensburg. During Rev Gert's leadership, our congregation grew substantially in numbers and enthusiasm. We are currently benefiting from the excellent leadership of our part time appointed Ordained Minister of Pastoral Care, the Rev. Bill MacKinnon, who has been with us since 2014.

At the end of 2017, we had 286 individuals on our roll. Sunday mornings usually see 100-120 persons at the worship service including 10 to 20 Sunday school pupils. Like most churches in our community, we are a majority of older individuals but we do have representation from all age groups and in fact, boast families that span three generations.

Our congregants come from all over the city and surrounding area with over 90% driving to church. We have members who offer rides to others to attend services.

We regularly run a Vacation Bible school in the summer which has been well attended by church and community children. In 2018, there were about 30 regular attendees. The school is run by volunteers from the congregation and community.

We are a task-oriented congregation with a strong community outreach vision. With the help of other partners we provide Sunday Supper to the community from November to April. We also serve "Open Door" breakfasts every other Wednesday morning from October to April. We provide Sunday Services at Seasons Bell Lane Retirement Community every Sunday.

We strive to build in this world and in this community, the Kingdom of God which we see as the mission of Jesus Christ. Based on this concept, we will soon be working on our new mission statement.

We are a church that believes in having fun and learning to live in our world. To this end we also run:

- a UCW group
- a men's breakfast group
- a book club
- a Friday night fun group
- regular Bible study
- Friday Lunch Bunch
- a mixed games group gets together weekly
- a weekly work group to provide DIY work in the building
- a choir with rehearsal Thursday evening

We pride ourselves on being an accepting and caring church community. We are accepting of persons of all nationalities, faiths, race, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital status and of all abilities. We have an active extended Filipino community.

We offer strong lay leadership. Active members of our congregation include a retired Ordained Minister and a Diaconal Minister Emeritus. We also have two congregational members who are on their path to Ordination.

Like many congregations, we love to share a meal together and regularly do so. We also have a weekly Sunday Coffee Hour after church services.

RESOURCES PROFILE

Property

Sydenham-Heritage United Church is located at 120 Sydenham Street, Brantford, Ontario. The building is well maintained and has a variety of well used meeting rooms in addition to a beautiful sanctuary that easily seats 275 people. In the sanctuary there are lovely stained glass windows, a Renaissance, 3 manual, digital organ by Allen, and a Samik grand piano. There is a centre aisle, a balcony and a choir loft that has been made more versatile by replacing the old fixed seating with comfortable movable chairs. The minister's study is located upstairs, just outside the sanctuary, while the administrative office space is downstairs. The administrative office is well equipped with a computer, copiers and printer, with room for one or two people to work. In addition there is an office that is currently used by our pastoral care minister.

Downstairs, there is a large meeting hall with a stage and a second grand piano. There is also a multi-purpose fellowship room, a Sunday School room, offices and storage areas. The washrooms, which are also on this level, were completely renovated in 2015, and include a state-of-the-art wheelchair accessible washroom. The two main levels of the building are wheelchair accessible.

As in many churches, the kitchen is the centre of fellowship, fun and plenty of good food. Our building boasts a well equipped, commercial kitchen that was extensively renovated and updated 16 years ago. It is well designed to meet the needs of both the congregation and the wider community, and it is convenient to both the fellowship room and the larger meeting hall. There is a parking lot on the north side of the building with 36 spaces, including 3 reserved spaces for staff and 4 reserved for handicapped parking. There is also a fair amount of on-street parking. The main roof areas were done in 2010, and at that time 52 solar panels were installed on the south side of the sanctuary roof. We currently receive approximately \$10,000/yr from the sale of solar energy.

There is no manse.

Support Staff

The staff at Sydenham-Heritage consists of an Office Coordinator who works 5 mornings a week (20 hours), a custodian and a music director.

Financial Information

Sydenham-Heritage United Church only has one full year of financial history, as, prior to January 1, 2017, we were functioning as two separate congregations. The Sydenham-Heritage statistics reports for 2017 indicate that there were 125 supporting households. So far in 2018, there are 127.

	<u>2017 Full Year</u>	<u>2018 to August 31</u>
Donations to General Fund	\$ 125,630	\$ 86,710
Other Revenues	\$ 78,818	\$ 40,313
Operating Expenses	\$ 228,145	\$ 159,634
Donations to M & S Fund	\$ 22,310	\$ 13,752

Reserve Funds

We have reserve funds of approximately \$603,900, at the end of August, 2018. Most of these funds are invested in a brokerage account that is monitored by the Trustees. The value is subject to fluctuation.

POSITION PROFILE

Sydenham-Heritage United Church is seeking a full-time, experienced, minister commencing as soon as is possible. We are seeking a leader who will teach, preach and demonstrate progressive Christianity in all of its facets to our people and our community. We are a congregation that embraces progressive Christianity and would like to continue to learn and practice in this exciting field of faith.

The successful candidate will be responsible for Sunday Worship Services, Sacraments, weddings, and funerals. She/he will ensure the provision of Sunday Services at Seasons Bell Lane Retirement Community.

The minister would demonstrate an effective pastoral presence through: preaching, visiting, pastoral care, administration, leadership and interaction with the music director.

He/she will be involved in the wider United Church of Canada, engage in Professional Development and be diligent about self care.

Living locally would be an asset.

TERMS PROFILE

Sydenham-Heritage United Church offers salary and benefits consistent with the United Church of Canada salary schedule, which are subject to negotiation. We are in Cost of Living Group 3.

SKILLS PROFILE

As a congregation we would welcome a leader who will motivate and minister to people of all ages, socioeconomic backgrounds and educational levels. She/he must be a talented speaker and preacher, and relate current events to theology.

As Pastoral Care would be a main focus, we would look for a minister with strong counseling and visitation skills. In addition, he/she would create a culture that is friendly to youth and young families.

The applicant should be a capable administrator, a flexible team player, and a compassionate listener who is approachable and energetic with a great sense of humour.

She/he will have the ability to work well with the music director and church staff and be skillful in drawing out individual talents.

The successful candidate will possess knowledge of the policies and procedures of the United Church of Canada, have a solid sense of stewardship, and be outreach oriented.

The applicant should be skilled in bringing about transformational change.

Skills in technology, computer, planning and leadership would be an asset.

We desire a minister who will be motivated and enthusiastic to grow and learn with us as we journey in our Progressive Christian Faith.

OUR BEHAVIOURAL COVENANT
SYDENHAM-HERITAGE UNITED CHURCH

"We are called to be the church as part of the body of Christ.
We know that God is with us and works through us.
We are not alone and we will give thanks to God".

OUR PROMISES TO GOD

We Promise to:

- care for the earth
- follow the example of Jesus
- be open to what the spirit is saying to us.

OUR PROMISES TO THE CHURCH

We Promise to:

- create an open, inclusive, safe, peaceful environment
- support and help carry out decisions that are made
- accept change with a positive attitude
- use our time, talents and gifts to promote a healthy congregation

OUR PROMISES TO EACH OTHER

We Promise to:

- treat others with respect, courtesy and compassion
- listen to the opinions and ideas of others
- discuss, debate and disagree openly in meetings,
- express our ideas clearly and honestly
- be aware of our own actions and how they might affect others,
- be mindful of our body language, tone of voice and choice of words.
- hold each other accountable for keeping this Covenant