

St. Aidan's United Church and Cadboro Bay United Church Amalgamation Project

Core Values

January 23, 2020

DRAFT 4

The following core values are being proposed for the new church that will result from the amalgamation of St. Aidan's United Church and Cadboro Bay United Church. Although there are more values that guide the work of both churches, what is being presented here are the core or main values. These values will be used as a guide for discussions and decision-making regarding future activities of the church. This includes setting a new strategic direction for the church, selecting new partners and programs, developing a governance structure, and identifying future social enterprise activities.

Our core values as inspired by the teachings of Jesus and affirmed by this community are:

1. **Progressive:** To align ourselves with a progressive Christian theology and voice.

- ❖ Be willing to question tradition, expand our view, see beyond our assumptions, move beyond our current boundaries, and be open to change.
- ❖ Radically embrace diversity, emphasize social justice, care for the poor and vulnerable, and stand up for and support the oppressed.
- ❖ Be a resource for progressive Christians across the Saanich region and the Capital Regional District.

2. **Relationships & Partnerships:** To build strong connections and shared values with others.

- ❖ Work collaboratively with community organizations, social enterprises, neighbourhoods and local governments to address economic, social and ecological issues.
- ❖ Foster connected, meaningful and deep relationships through small groups.
- ❖ Provide opportunities for spiritual growth through classes, groups and the offering of spiritual practices.
- ❖ Support families in all their diverse configurations through the many life transitions.
- ❖ To acknowledge that the sacred and holy are present and made manifest in every relationship

3. **Sustainability:** To protect our environment and build foundations for current and future generations of church.

- ❖ Commit to protect and restore the integrity of our earth and value all living things.
- ❖ Build alternative models of sustainable funding for the future.
- ❖ Be a resourceful Ministry for generations to come through the fostering of community members and protection of financial resources.

4. **Reconciliation & Intercultural:** To walk with, learn from and listen to others in order to build relationships of understanding.

- ❖ To live fully what it means to be a reconciling church by walking in the Spirit of Christ towards justice, healing and reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.

- ❖ Build relationships with Indigenous peoples and communities, and work to decolonize language, theology and ways of being.
- ❖ Fully commit to becoming an intercultural church and engage from this place.
- ❖ Embrace and be reflective of the diverse communities we live in and seek to serve.
- ❖ Respect each other's differences, create spaces where we can sustain our own cultural identities while affirming those of one another.

5. Innovative & Responsive: To be flexible, nimble, willing to take risks, and responsive to opportunities, issues and challenges as they arise.

- ❖ Model ways of "being church" that provides multiple and diverse entry points to involvement and service including digital and online platforms.
- ❖ Be forward thinking, responsive to changing conditions, and adapt as necessary in order to remain effective and relevant.
- ❖ Move from having a neighbourhood orientation to a regional perspective that can serve and respond to any and all neighbourhoods in Saanich and the CRD.

6. Safe & Welcoming: To become a safe place that welcomes and engages with groups and individuals, both those in the mainstream and those on the margins.

- ❖ Find new ways of learning from and being in 'just' relationships with those most marginalized in society.
- ❖ Be LGBTQ2S affirming and provide safe spaces for individuals of all gender identities and sexual orientations.
- ❖ Address growing social isolation by building community around shared passions and interests, and providing safe spaces for people to gather, talk, learn from and explore differences.
- ❖ Be a welcoming and accessible place for people with mental and physical disabilities.

7. Transformative: To make a positive difference in the lives of people, communities and the world.

- ❖ Be intentional in seeking and committing to work for effective change.
- ❖ Have the courage to challenge established ways of thinking and plant the seeds for transformative change.
- ❖ Align with other faith communities and community groups to promote and create transformative change locally and around the world.
- ❖ Work for transformation through love, compassion and generosity – our greatest joy comes from reaching out and connecting with one another.