



ARWRC
ANTLER RIVER WATERSHED
REGIONAL COUNCIL



HFRC
HORSESHOE FALLS
REGIONAL COUNCIL



WOWRC
WESTERN ONTARIO WATERWAYS
REGIONAL COUNCIL

Community of Faith: Demographics Worksheet

PURPOSE: To provide information about the Community of Faith's ministry and community.

Who uses it: Communities of Faith in preparing their Living Faith Story. Copies are sent to the Regional Council in digital form.

Community of Faith: Byron United Church

Address: 420 Boler Road, London, Ontario, N6K 2K5

Pastoral Charge: Byron United Church

Regional Council: Antler River Watershed

Date: 2026 August

1. Are you part of a multi-point pastoral charge or Collaborative Agreement ☐ Yes ☒ No

2. Number of Resident Members: 333

3. Average Sunday Attendance: 155, plus about 150 online worshippers.

4. We think of ourselves MAINLY as: ☐ Rural ☐ Small town ☒ Suburban

☐ Urban

☐ Inner City

☐ Other

5. Our congregation includes (approx. number in each group)

Infants and pre-school	<u>2</u>	Children (5-12)	<u>9</u>	Teens (13-19)	<u>20</u>
Young adults (20-30)	<u>20</u>	Adults (31-40)	<u>12</u>	Adults (41-50)	<u>31</u>
Adults (51-64)	<u>44</u>	Adults (65-70)	<u>32</u>	Adults (71+)	<u>195</u>

6. The proximity of our members to the church are (approx. number in each group)

0-5 km	196	5-10 km	45	10-15 km	21
15-20 km	11	over 20 km	12		

7. Our congregation is like: (choose one that best applies)

- ☐ A big family where we all know each other;
- ☐ A medium sized church where we recognize each other but may not know each other well;
- ☒ A big church with lots of staff, where small groups of people are close to one another based on common interests.
- ☐ Other description:

8. In our Community of Faith we have gifts/skills/passions in the following areas:

Gifts	Description
☒ Education	Our Pastor has a doctorate in preaching; many professional backgrounds with diverse educational experiences.
☒ Artistic	Talents in drama, creative artistic ideas for the Sunday school program, thematic arrangements & displays throughout the year.
☒ Worship	Many members with strong faith to lead in worship or public prayer for groups; backgrounds in understanding of scripture; testimonies about faith journeys.
☒ Compassion	Gift of pastoral care in many members; genuine love for others in our church family in times of need; supportive of needs in the broader community for clothing, food, financial support; members of small groups are supportive of each other; provide meals for members recovering from surgery, or needing other temporary support.
☒ Hospitality	Strong sense of fellowship within church activities (even during the pandemic); many hospitality connections among individual families; pastor is occasionally invited out for meals.
☒ Other	In addition to our Prayer Team, many members lead strong prayer and devotional filled lives.
Skills	Description
☒ Play musical instruments/Sing	Four regular talented musicians (organist, pianist, drummer and keyboardist) as well as others with instrumental skills who participate periodically during worship; large devoted choir, with several soloists;

	praise band aspects to worship on a regular basis; trombone choir participation occasionally during the year.
☒ Teaching	Talented leaders of several small groups, with strong faith; volunteers for teaching in Sunday school and Youth programs; talented coordinator of Sunday school and Youth programs.
☒ Organizing	Staff members have strong organizational gifts; our church leaders also use these skills very effectively in planning and leading meetings; Pastor demonstrates organizational skills in his support for all church leaders; Congregational Designated minister is skillful in how he organizes our volunteers, supports our church leaders, and presents workshops.
☒ Social Media	We have a paid Communications Coordinator, who creates and publishes social media content to promote church materials to the wider community.
☒ Health Care	We have many active and retired doctors and nurses within the congregation.
☒ Cooking/Baking	Individual members provide meals for those in temporary need (illness, surgery); preparing for our Byron Cares community Christmas dinner for community people in need. A group of volunteers prepares a meal regularly for a local street mission.
☒ Listening	Our Ministry & Personnel Team provides this for our staff (especially during the pandemic); Leaders' Board members provide this support for the teams in their Elements; we are encouraged to "listen" to God's calling on our lives, during the weekly sermon message; several have responded and taken on new leadership roles; both ministers listen to needs expressed and respond appropriately.
☒ Prayer	Prayer is a central focus of all we do; strong Prayer Team with leadership in each worship service and ongoing prayer throughout the week; prayer at outset and closing of each meeting; many examples of how prayers have been answered and how our Church has been blessed over the years.
Passions	Description
☒ Poverty issues	Collection of socks, underwear, and clothing for the Men's Mission; Christmas gifts for children at Southdale Chaplaincy; quilts and clothing for Rotholme's Women & Children Centre; clothing for Ark Aid Street Mission. Some members volunteer with local aid agencies, and we operate a food bank in our building, in cooperation with the other churches in Byron.

☒ Building Community	Our Community Connections Element reaches out to the community in ways to help people learn more about our church and its programs. The four congregations in Byron have specific ties including our Byron Cares Food Bank operating one day per week from our church. For the last two years, we've held an evangelism weekend to share the Gospel with those who don't know Him.
☒ Climate Change	We emphasize care of the environment in no longer using Styrofoam cups etc.; recycling practices in place whenever possible; pre-pandemic we held a garage sale for items no longer needed by church members.
☒ Health Care	Care for seniors and those with mental or physical disabilities is a priority for many people.
☒ World hunger	Support the Canadian Foodgrains Bank; have sent a representative on a mission trip for direct involvement in their efforts.
☒ Refugee support	Sponsored six families of Syrian refugees over a seven-year period (total of 11 adults and 18 children/youth); significant number of church members were involved as volunteers on the support teams for these families; recently supported Ukrainian refugees in connecting with others from Ukraine in our community, with some church members inviting refugees to share their home temporarily.
☒ Social Justice	Social justice issues are raised periodically in worship services.

9. We think of our Community of Faith as in the following way: (choose one that best applies):

- ☐ We have a new vision and are really excited; maybe not as organized as we will be but really excited; maybe even a bit unrealistic at times.
- ☐ We are clear about our vision and purpose and are developing the skills and gifts to bring it about; we are excited and optimistic in who we are.
- ☒ We are clear about our vision and purpose; we have the skills, gifts and confidence to move toward our vision.
- ☐ We know we are changing; we haven't yet come to terms with it; we have some anxiety about the future, but we are still confident in who we are.
- ☐ Our congregation is changing rapidly and it is clear that we can no longer continue as we have been; we don't know, though, how to go forward; we have some anxiety. We believe that we have a future, but we can't yet see it.

- ☐ We see that the ministry within this community is probably winding down after many positive and productive years of faithful ministry, mission and service; we want to celebrate what we have been as we intentionally and graciously end this ministry.

10. Governance structure:

What model of governance are you using? A Unified Board Model, which means the Session and Board of Stewards are combined into one body which Byron United Church calls the Session.

How many people are on your Governing Body? 30

How many are typically present at a meeting of your Governing Body? 26

11. Our Church Building(s): (include information for each building if more than one)

- a. ☐ We don't have a church building. Where do you worship?
- b. How many people does the sanctuary hold? 320
- c. What is the seating/set up in the sanctuary (pews, chairs, choir loft, etc.) Pews for the congregation and chairs for the choir.
- d. Is the sanctuary used other than for Sunday worship? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If Yes, how? Used for Prayer meetings, music ministry rehearsals, piano recitals, music concerts, large meetings, Lenten worship, weddings, funerals/celebrations of life.

- e. Are there meeting rooms? ☒ Yes ☐ No

if Yes, for what are they used? Used for meetings, Bible studies, small groups, non-church groups.

- f. Is there a nursery? ☒ Yes ☐ No

- g. Are there activity rooms? (i.e. quilting, gym, library) ☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please describe A gym with basketball nets and space for volleyball, badminton and pickleball. We also have an updated Library and Prayer room.

- h. Is there an approved commercial kitchen? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Local health unit has inspected periodically and found it to be in order. We have upgrades in the sink counter area and a new refrigerator and a new freezer in the last few years.

- i. Are there groups leasing or using space in your building?

Numerous groups lease space, including three other Christian congregations for worship (Upsana Napali Church, Jerusalem Mar Thoma, and Spirit & Life), Alcoholics Anonymous,

fitness groups, two Probus groups, RTO book club, and local L'Arche group. We also provide space for Scouts Canada.

- j. Is your building still suited for your current ministry (too big, too small, inaccessible, other)? Still suited
- k. Is internet provided at the church? ☐ No ☒ Yes *if yes* ☒ High Speed ☐ Dial-up
- l. Do you do online worship? ☒ Streaming (live, recorded) ☐ Zoom ☐ **Other**
We have provided livestreamed online worship starting during the pandemic and continue it today. We have recently installed permanent high-definition video cameras. Volunteers are trained to operate this technology.
- m. Is the church accessible? ☐ No ☒ Yes Tell us how.

Handicapped door openers. Wheelchair access from the parking lot through the gym to the elevator gives access to all parts of the church. Accessible washrooms.

- n. What other measures of accessibility do you provide? (e.g. Assistive hearing device, large print, etc.)

Words for hymns and scripture readings are projected on a large screen during the worship service.

12. ABOUT OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

- a. Our relationship with our neighbours and community is:

- ☐ Strong, we know them well and work together
- ☒ Good, we have some connections with our neighbours and know about local concerns
- ☐ Poor, we don't know people in the area around the church and have no knowledge of local projects or concerns.
- ☐ Improving, we are getting to know people and are learning about the neighbourhood

- b. Identify the following about your neighbourhood/community:

Strengths:

Small town feel. Shopping, restaurants, doctors, dentists, pharmacies, and the library are within walking distance. An abundance of local sports fields. Springbank Park and Storybook Gardens are in the neighbourhood.

Challenges:

Byron is an upper middle-class area of London with some subsidized housing. New development is active. Economic and political challenges are relatively few.

- c. Name some ideas where your gifts/skills/passions might be welcome in the community
- Assistance for the needy. Activities for children, youth, and seniors.

- d. We have close ties with the following groups/organizations/faith communities:

We have close ties with the other three churches in Byron: St. George Roman Catholic Parish, St. Anne's Anglican Church, and Byron Community Church. The four of us operate the "Byron Cares" food bank. We share some services during Advent. We are supporters of local mission agencies including Ark Aid Street Mission, the Men's Mission, Indwell Affordable Housing, and others.