



ARWRC
ANTLER RIVER WATERSHED
REGIONAL COUNCIL



HFRC
HORSESHOE FALLS
REGIONAL COUNCIL



WOWRC
WESTERN ONTARIO WATERWAYS
REGIONAL COUNCIL

Community of Faith: Living Faith Story Worksheet

PURPOSE: To provide information about the Community of Faith's understanding of their ministry Call/Purpose and Vision.

Who uses it: Communities of Faith in regularly assessing their ministry and in gathering their profile information for ChurchHub.

How To: Use the other worksheets in the community of faith profile to help discern your ministry priorities.

Please refer to Community of Faith (CoF) Profile handbook for how to fill out this form in Toolkit #2

Community of Faith: Byron United Church

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

Pastoral Charge: Byron United Church

Regional Council: Antler River Watershed

Date: 2026 August

1. Call/Purpose Statement:

"To celebrate and share the Good News of New Life in Jesus Christ through worship, fellowship, discipleship, ministry and mission in this church family, our community and beyond."

We encourage our congregation in this mission through three processes:

Connecting with God and each other;

Growing in our Christian faith and understanding; and

Serving people inside and outside our church family.

2. Vision:

"A community where all find and live God's love, grace, and joy."

3. Values:

1. We value growing as faithful followers of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.
2. We value the Holy Bible as inspired by God.
3. We value being a prayerful congregation, relying on the Holy Spirit.

4. We value being a caring, loving, and nurturing congregation.
5. We value developing Christian leaders.
6. We value congregational unity in achieving God's purpose.
7. We value developing hearts for evangelism and service.
8. We value uniting with other Christian communities by celebrating in worship, fellowship and service.

3. Describe how you currently live out your unique ministry. How does your ministry make a difference to your church and community?

We proclaim "Jesus Christ is Lord" in our worship, fellowship, discipleship, ministry to one another, and mission to the world. The love of the Triune God changes people's hearts, attitudes, and actions, filling us with His purpose, joy, and fellowship.

4. What are your goals for the next year that might enhance your current ministry or begin something new? (Think SMART goals: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time based)

Goal #1: Discern whom the Lord wants to be the next Senior Pastor, and work with her/him to bless this church family and wider community.

Goal #2: Continue promoting the church family to the wider community, and welcoming and blessing all whom the Lord brings our way.

Goal #3: Continue the new initiatives of our Church Growth Team, Spiritual Growth Team, and Volunteer Growth Team.

5. How does your Living Faith Story guide your decision making?

The document itself does not guide our decision making. He guides us as we seek His will through prayer and loving actions.

Definition of Current Ministry

(How would you describe your ministry; What is important to you in each category?)

a. Administration: Priority - # 4

We have a full-time Church Administrator, a hard-working Vice-Chair of the Board, a dedicated Treasurer, and we have recently contracted a part-time bookkeeper. We expect our Pastor to ensure e-mails and phone messages are dealt with promptly, and prepare for and attend meetings of our Session, Leaders' Board, and Element Team meetings. Different lay leaders are responsible for recruiting volunteers for upcoming events and service on their teams. The size of the congregation and its many events and ministries make good administration and communication essential.

b. Community Outreach & Social Justice: Priority - # 3

In 2024, 40 new people, including immigrants from Nigeria, India, and Nicaragua began and continue attending our worship services. Twenty-two new members officially joined the congregation. In 2025, we added an additional 17 new members, including more people new to Canada. Our Benevolent Fund is administered by the Senior Pastor to help people requiring urgent financial assistance. In addition to our Byron Cares Food Bank, we provide volunteers and/or support to numerous local ministries including but not limited to the A.A. groups that meet at the church, Southdale Chaplaincy Christmas gifts, socks for the Men's Mission, Ark Aid (meals and resources), Youth for Christ, and Salvation Army Christmas Kettles. In addition to local partnerships, we support national and international organizations including Cruxifusion, Canadian Foodgrains Bank, and many other life-changing ministries. See our annual report for more partnerships and details.

We make ongoing efforts to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with neighbours and invite them to connect with God through the life of the congregation. Our on-staff Communications Coordinator advertises in local magazines, on social media, and programs our digital lawn sign to share our news with the community and invite them to participate in Sunday worship and other church events. For the last two years, we have held evangelism weekends with extra worship services including guest preachers, lots of testimonies, and invitations for people to give themselves to the Lord and come forward for prayer. Our 2026 weekend, "Good News for Life," included our current Moderator, Rev. Dr. Kim Heath. We usually have one or two first-time visitors each Sunday for worship, which results in several new people per month becoming regular Sunday morning attendees.

c. Continuing Education: Priority - # 7

Our outgoing Senior Pastor undertook a D.Min. degree during his time with us. We supported him with additional money and con. ed. time. We all benefited from these continued studies, and his regular con. ed. practices of reading books and attending conferences. Money is budgeted each year for other staff and lay leaders to receive relevant training.

d. Denomination & Communities: Priority - # 9

The Byron clergy from the four congregations (United Church, Anglican, Roman Catholic, and Community Church) have lunch together 4-5 times/year. Our local congregational partnerships include the Byron Cares Food Bank, which operates from our building, and is supported by all four denominations in Byron. Byron Cares also co-hosts a benevolent Christmas dinner each year. We also host an annual Christmas Festival of Lessons and Carols, welcoming the St. Anne's Anglican choir, St. George Roman Catholic choir and

their congregations. We support the L'Arche London community through many interpersonal friendships and group interactions.

e. Faith Formation & Christian Education: Priority - # 2

Our Sunday School Coordinator plans and co-leads the Sunday school. Our youth leader plans and leads the youth on both Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings. Our focus is growing mature Christians regardless of age, and we regularly encourage all adults to join our numerous small groups. We have about 8 small groups which engage in Bible studies or other Christian studies. The groups normally choose their own study series/topics, but we periodically do a church-wide series with related Sunday sermons/ worship services and all small groups participate. Small groups are expected to learn, grow, pray, and support each other pastorally. Some of our small groups volunteer with or donate toward local mission organizations. About half of our regular attendees are members of small groups. Daily devotional booklets, the church library, daily Bible reading guides, and other discipleship resources are provided by the church at no cost.

f. Leadership: Priority - # 5

Our Senior Pastor works collegially with the members of the Leaders' Board and other congregational leaders. He periodically shares visions and ideas for initiatives with the appropriate leaders. Our Volunteer Growth Team and others work to help develop leaders for Christian service and ministries inside and outside the congregation. A large variety of people are invited to provide Sunday worship leadership: testimonies, Bible reading, prayer, etc. We have many people volunteering in many different ways.

g. Pastoral Care: Priority - # 8

Pastoral care is the primary ministry of our Congregational Designated Minister (CDM), ministering to bereaving families, those in hospitals, nursing homes, shut-ins, and others who meet with the CDM at the church. In addition to private pastoral care, the CDM also provides short-term pastoral small groups for those grieving the loss of a loved one. Visiting Elders, small group members, and church friends also provide pastoral care to members. The Prayer Team and Prayer Chain members regularly receive prayer requests from members. The Senior Pastor often provides pastoral care to the dying, and to the immediate family around the time of death.

h. Self-Care: Priority - # 6

The Senior Pastor is expected to work a flexible 40 hours/week, and to make up for overtime by taking lieu time. Lay leaders, the Ministry & Personnel Team, and others regularly ensure that the minister is feeling supported and appreciated. Any special self-care needs expressed by the Senior Pastor or staff are warmly supported.

i. Worship: Priority - # 1

Our one-hour Sunday worship service (10:00 AM) is Spirit-filled and joyful. Worship always focuses on the Triune God and the Good News of Jesus Christ through our music, scripture, prayers, preaching, and occasional testimonies. The music is a combination of traditional hymns and modern praise songs and anthems. The paid musicians include the organist, pianist, keyboardist, and drummer. The Senior Pastor and CDM spend 30 minutes or more leading up to worship connecting with people as they arrive in the sanctuary. The worshipping atmosphere is upbeat and casual with interspersed humour. People announce their birthdays and anniversaries, adding to a strong sense of family and unity in Christ. The lectionary and written liturgies are seldom used. “The Celebration Hymnal” and NIV Bibles are in the pews, however, the multimedia screen is used throughout worship for lyrics, scripture verses, announcements, etc. Holy Communion is celebrated approximately every two months, and baptisms upon request. Groups of new members are received two or three times a year.