

**Founding Principles and Policies for KUC'S  
Centre for Community and Spiritual Discovery  
2015 (revised November 2017)**

**Preamble**

Kamloops United Church as *A Centre for Community and Spiritual Discovery* is both a physical and spiritual place that calls people together in Christian community grounded in God's love, and that reaches out to the wider Kamloops community by offering facilities, programs, and interest groups. For some this may mean "discovering" and being part of a community for the first time. The Centre will be a hub with various opportunities offered for individuals and groups to inquire, explore, discover, grow and develop in faith and spirituality. Such offerings could cover a wide range of spiritual topics and practices such as labyrinth, inter-faith dialogue, music and art, justice, relationship with aboriginals, Biblical studies. Methods of delivery and presentation will vary: experiential programs, alternative worship services, discussion groups, video and audio series, one-off topics, book studies, lecture/classroom series, and other methods not yet imagined. The Centre encompasses all age groups, and those from all faiths or no faith. All are invited to participate – to "*come and see*".

**Rationale**

The Centre is based on the recognition that KUC plays and indeed is called to play an integral role in the community and spiritual life of Kamloops. This has been the case for more than one hundred years. This calling to engage in the community and spiritual life of Kamloops happens in many ways: through offering our facilities for use by other groups; through offering spiritual workshops and programs open to the community; through working ecumenically in refugee sponsorship and other endeavours; and through the initiation of the Kamloops Food Bank and the Kamloops Farmers' Market many years ago. Moving in a more intentional direction to name and proclaim KUC as *A Centre for Community and Spiritual Discovery* is a continuation of living out our role in the on-going community and spiritual life of this city and environs.

**Spiritual and Theological Foundations for the Centre**

- Biblical imperative to create community (Acts 2: 44-47a), to offer hospitality (Luke 14: 12-14, and to love one's neighbour (Mark 12: 31).

- Biblical imperative of teaching the faith to the next generations (Deuteronomy 4) and making disciples (Matthew 28: 19-20).
- Each generation must re-discover the faith for itself and express it contextually in a way consistent with its time and place.
- Each generation, each individual, and each community of faith must discern God's calling specific to that time and place.
- We now live in a pluralistic world joined together through global communications and ever-changing technology; we believe we are called to respond to this changing world using the technology that enables us to communicate with and reach in an ever-expanding way into the surrounding community.
- We believe the Spirit is active in our world, calling the Church to move out into the community to align itself with the mission that God is already doing.

### **Missions and Values of the Centre**

- The mission of the Centre is to provide a physical and spiritual place where various aspects of spirituality and faith may be explored, discovered and discussed.
- The values of the Centre:
  - welcoming to all persons, inclusive of all persons, and open to the whole Kamloops community and surrounding region;
  - a place where questions, searching and doubting are encouraged;
  - Christian-focused and based with a desire to work with and engage inter-faith groups.

### **Considerations in Determining Programming and Types of Activities**

- Will reflect the Centre's spiritual and theological foundations and mission and values as noted above.
- Will reach towards both groups and individuals inside and beyond the church.
- Will express a United Church ethos and understanding within a pluralistic context.
- Will endeavour to bring together various groups within the community.
- Will include a variety of delivery and presentation methods, and will cover a wide variety of pertinent topics and practices.
- Will encompass all age groups, and persons of all faiths and no faith.
- Will not make its motivation or intent to increase the membership of KUC.
- Will support and enhance individuals' and groups' well-being, personal growth and spiritual wellness from a holistic perspective.

### **Considerations in Funding and Costing for the Centre**

- Will see the Centre as an outreach into and service to the wider Kamloops community, and thus KUC will not endeavour to profit financially from the Centre's operations.
- Will endeavour to recover minimum costs by charging a small fee or donation for most programs offered by volunteer leaders or paid KUC ministerial staff (as partial cost recovery for photocopying, utilities, custodial salaries, program purchase costs, etc.)
- In concert with paid outside or non-volunteer leaders, will determine suitable fee or donation suggested for such programs.
- Setting fees will take into consideration the actual costs of church operations and the market value for similar community space and programs.
- In the event other resources (eg books) are required by the participants, these costs will be borne by the participants.

### **Hospitality**

- The hospitality function is an integral part of being a welcoming community and Centre for Community and Spiritual Discovery.
- Volunteer hosts (or hosting team) will welcome participants, ensure an atmosphere of comfort and inclusivity, and provide suitable refreshments.

October 20, 2015      Accepted by Council Circle, October 27, 2015

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