

Applewood United Church  
an Affirming Congregation

**Sunday, June 6, 2021 10:30 am**  
**Annual Meeting & Worship on ZOOM**

**Territorial Acknowledgement and Announcements**

We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is situated upon traditional territories of the Erie, Neutral, Huron - Wyandot, the Haudenosaunee and later the Mississauga of the Credit First Nations. The territory is mutually covered by the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement between the Iroquois Confederacy and the Ojibway and other allied nations to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes.

Today, this remains the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work in their community, and to share and respect Mother Earth.

**Announcements**

**Centering Music:** "We Have This Ministry" VU 510

We have this ministry  
and we are not discouraged;  
it is by God's own power  
that we may live and serve.  
Openly we share God's word,  
speaking truth as we believe,  
praying that the shadowed world  
may healing light receive.  
We have this ministry, O God, receive our living.

O Christ, the tree of life,  
our end and our beginning,  
we grow to fullest flower  
when rooted in your love.  
Brothers, sisters, clergy, lay,  
called to service by your grace,  
different cultures, different gifts,  
the young and old a place.  
We have this ministry, O God, receive our giving.

The yoke of Christ is ours,  
the whole world is our parish;  
we daily take the cross,  
the burden and the joy.  
Bearing hurts of those we serve,  
wounded, bruised and bowed with pain,  
Holy Spirit, bread and wine,  
we die and rise again.  
We have this ministry, O God, receive our loving.

**Call to Work and Worship:**

One: God gathers us to worship and work.

*Two: In these we celebrate God's presence.*

*One: God's Spirit enlivens our time together,*

*Two: may we be led and inspired by that Spirit.*

Scott Perkin: In the name of Jesus Christ,  
the one true head of the church,  
this gathering is called to order,  
for worship and for work appropriate to its time.

### **Motion regarding temporal matters**

**Review of Agenda** *emailed prior to the meeting*

**Minutes of past meetings** *emailed prior to the meeting*

### **Opening Prayer**

### **Remembering community members**

**Sung response:** "Lord Listen to Your Children Praying" VU 400

**Scripture reading:** 1 Corinthians 12: 4-11, 15:58

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

1 Peter 4: 8-11

Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.

One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

*Two: Thanks be to God*

**Music for Meditation:** "To Love More Truly"

**Reflection:** "I Love My Church"

### **Chair's Remarks**

**Annual Reports**

**Motion to receive and accept Reports**

**Celebration of ministries**

**Sung Response: "I'm Gonna Live so God Can Use Me" VU 575**

I'm gonna live so God can use me,  
anywhere Lord, any time!  
I'm gonna live so God can use me,  
anywhere Lord, any time!

I'm gonna work so God can use me,  
anywhere Lord, any time!  
I'm gonna work so God can use me,  
anywhere Lord, any time!

I'm gonna pray so God can use me,  
anywhere Lord, any time!  
I'm gonna pray so God can use me,  
anywhere Lord, any time!

**Motion to reappoint the treasurer**

**Motion to elect Committee Chairs and Members for the 2021-2022 church year**

**Motion to give the Executive Committee the power to fill any vacant positions**

**New Business**

**Motion to end the Annual Congregational Meeting**

**Closing Prayer**

**Closing Music:** We Have This Ministry #510 VU vs 1

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**Reflection:**

**"I LOVE MY CHURCH"**

(Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12: 4 – 11; 15:58; 1 Peter 4: 8 - 11)

There are people gathered here this morning who love Applewood United Church. As an expression of that love you make a conscious effort on a daily, a few times a week, once a week to express your love for this community of faith inspired by Jesus with your attendance at services and meetings, your prayers, your service, your financial support and conversation in the larger community.

Applewood United requires your active participation in order to be a vibrant community of Jesus' followers effectively carrying out its ministry and mission.

What's in it for you? Philosopher William James said, **"The best use of life is to spend it for something that outlasts it."** The truth is only the Kingdom of God is going to last. Everything else will vanish.

Therefore there is good reason to live meaning-filled lives – lives committed to God through worship, missions, focused use of our resources, spiritual growth, fellowship with Christians, care for neighbour and all of creation.

The results of these activities will last forever.

We were put on earth to make a contribution. We weren't created just to consume resources—to eat, breathe, take up space and create more consumers.

God designed all of us with a purpose in mind. A primary purpose of ours is to love God and express that love in worshipping, praising God. Isaiah 43: 21 reads, **“The people I have shaped for myself will broadcast my praises.”**

Another way in which we live out our love for God is by loving our neighbour and expressing that love in serving God by serving others. The Bible says, **“We are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works.” (Ephesians 2: 10)**

Many best-selling books offer advice on how to “get” the most out of life. That’s not the reason God made you. You were created to add to life on earth, not just take from it. God wants you to give something back. God not only creates us to serve but equips us to serve.

Each of us has a particular role to play based on the way we were shaped by God. Each of us was uniquely designed or shaped to do certain things. We are not an assembly-line product but custom-designed.

Peter and Paul both emphasize that all of us have been given special gifts and all of us are called to serve using the given gifts. 1 Peter 4: 10 reads, **“Serve one another with whatever gift each of you have received.”**

In 1 Corinthians 12 Paul lists a variety of gift that have been distributed by the Spirit of God to people. Verse 7 says the **“gifts have been given for the common good.”**

Father Thomas Ryan writes, **“The Christian is one who lives with others, and who never monopolizes any good thing, whether material or spiritual for his or her own benefit. The Christian is a bearer of an active concern that each one has access to a life that is always fuller, on earth no less than heaven.”**

Gifted people in the church are known not for how much better they are at something but for how much good they do using the gift(s) they have.

Together we are the body of Christ, the Church, and we have been gifted to carry on Jesus Christ’s earthly ministry.

It is never a lack of gifts that troubles the church today, but rather a lack of commitment and readiness for us to be used by God.

Let us choose this day to be fully committed to God and one another by **“serving one another with whatever gift or gifts each of us has been given.”**