

## Neighbours Exercise/ Reality Check – Session 3 PVUC

### Who are our neighbours?

Schools – primary, secondary, Xn school, Montessorri school,

other churches (St. Paul’s UC, St George’s Anglican, Peace Lutheran, Presbyterian, Catholic, mosque, Hindu temple, Jewish community, milestone ministry, Evangelical, Pentecostal),

medical clinics, hospital, social agencies, funeral home, nursing home, day care centres, sexual health clinic

homes, apartments, condos, social housing, farms, new neighbourhoods – housing,

young to middle age – middle income,

ethnically diverse – visible minorities,

library, seniors centre –arts centre, arena,

stores (Macs, M&M, Pizza Depot), strip mall, downtown “Pickering Village”, Pickering Town Centre, grocery stores, box stores

sports fields, playgrounds, arena, green space, hiking trails

police, fire, EMC, Ambulance

Go Station, Durham Buses

Some industry

OPG/ OLG- race track

### What do we imagine are the primary ways these people have their faith needs met?

- Sports Community organizations
- Sunday services are available other churches
- During times of crisis – church provide funerals etc
- Personal faith rather than organized religion
- Community Family
- Many agnostic Conversation
- Observation of Christian witness in acts of church members
- Many “too busy” for church
- Large number of people needs not met Not met – sleeping in, sports activities

### **What do our neighbours want/need from the church?**

- Use of space
- Celebration of life's transitions – weddings, baptisms, funerals
- Opportunities to connect with others in their community / Community events
- Opportunities for spiritual growth / Nurturing for self, children, faith development
- Want to be welcomed/ accepted
- Counseling/ Pastoral care
- Whole family experience
- Evangelical message for parents
- Programs for children
- Help and support and Information
- Benevolent fund assistance
- Moral guidance
- Multiracial congregation
- Young families what to see other young families
- Family time, quiet time, social time
- Mission – giving back to the community
- Place of worship

### **What does the church need from our neighbours?**

- Intergenerational people
- Multiracial/culture congregation
- Resources (financial, time, talent)
- Families
- Energy, Enthusiasm , Involvement
- Postitive regard
- People to come in/ Participation
- Cooperation
- Open minds
- Respect for our property
- Information on what they need
- New members – aging/shrinking congregation
- Events geared to neighbours

**Who are the people of "goodwill" with whom we might partner in ministry?**

- Interchurch immigrant support group
- Interdenominational church groups
- Services for elderly
- Other churches/faith groups
- Sport and school communities
- Ethnic groups
- Service organizations
- Social agencies
- Blood donor clinics
- Foodbanks
- Hospitals – fire, medics
- Nursing homes
- Shelters for women, men and youth
- Funeral home
- Community centre
- "green " projects
- Ajax youth centre
- Pickering High School

**Reality Check Exercise ( I have indicated the majority response beside each statement**

Please read each statement and mark it as follows:

- + I recognize this
- X not my experience
- ? not sure

When you have finished, share your responses with another person in the group. How do you account for differences.

- + \_\_\_ In this congregation, God's Spirit is stirring – calling us to a renewed sense of missions, to lively congregational life, to exploring spirituality, to rediscovering Jesus.
- +\_ Lively communities of faith need a "home base" from which to be in mission. "Holy space" matters.
- X\_\_\_ Having a building is like living with an albatross. It determines your mission for you for all time.

- ?\_\_ We have a clear mission in our community, but we haven't adjusted to changes in the community yet.
- ? \_\_ We have a clear identity as a church in the community.
- + \_\_ We have a message of Good News to share.
- ?\_\_ It is easy for people to find their way into our congregation.
- X, +, ? We have a lot of people coming to our church for a few months and then dropping out.
- +\_\_ We have the financial resources to support new mission.
- X\_\_ We have a "poor us" attitude in our congregation.
- \_+\_\_ People in our community show a need for belonging and an interest in faith.
- +\_\_ The church is welcomed as a partner in the community.
- +\_\_ Our United Church approach to faith, values, scripture, and community life offers something important for the well-being of Canadian communities – old and new.
- X\_\_ The location of our congregation represents a time when people walked or drove horse-drawn vehicles to church.
- X\_\_ We are as ethnically and culturally diverse as our community is.
- \_X\_\_ The average age of the congregation is about the same as the average age of the people in the community.
- + X ? We are clear about our faith as well as our outreach.
- X\_\_ We are reaching all the people in our community that we can.