

# Kanata United Church

## Our Congregational Profile

*On Sunday, March 8, 2009, over 80 of our KUC family met in small groups to answer questions about how we would describe our Congregation as "a person".*

***Here's "Terry" to briefly share her story with you ...***

### **I am:**

- An active, energetic middle-aged female in my late 40's
- Caring and compassionate, confident, well-educated, open to new ideas and perspectives, and not trapped in gender roles
- Resourceful, with many skills including communication, leadership and organizational abilities
- Generally happier in casual clothing and a wash & wear hairdo
- Fairly comfortable financially, striving to be generous, yet trying to be thrifty
- Involved with the wider United Church family, especially Presbytery

### **I enjoy:**

- Times of fellowship, especially with people I know, good meals, fun and music
- Sports and watching educational and documentary TV programs, when I have time
- Volunteering that supports fundraising events, programs and promotes fellowship
- Being involved in outreach (my faith-in-action) – primarily at local levels

### **I believe in:**

- Being an integral part of my community, and trying to respond proactively to its needs
- Supporting local programs, sometimes in cooperation with other churches
- Allowing neighbours to use my home for a variety of activities
- Gathering to worship God, with thought-provoking sermons, prayer, music and fellowship
- Continuing education and faith development for all ages
- The value of being encouraged to learn through questioning and in dialogue with others
- Responding to challenges/disagreements in a way that conveys acceptance, respectful listening and discussion and tries to reach consensual resolution, though not always successfully
- Pastoral outreach as a fundamental part of my life
- Trying to focus on love and justice as guides for how I live and make decisions

### **I am worried about:**

- Current global socio-economic challenges and their effect on my life, finances and programs
- Being unfocused as I try to be all things to all people
- Feeling tired, and uncertain about fulfilling the need for future leadership
- Staying connected to young people

### **I hope that I can:**

- Clarify my sense of direction for the coming years
- Grow to be more inclusive in reflecting my multi-cultural community
- Feed my hunger for knowledge and spiritual faith development, through sermons, lectures, discussions and personal reflection
- Respond more proactively to potential areas of conflict in my life
- Become more relevant for people / families of all ages, especially children and youth
- Continue to be vibrant, welcoming, and an even more integral part of my community

## Appendix

*In order to provide you with a framework for this Congregational Profile, we have included the actual Questions that each table group had to answer. This part of the Identity Exercise was kept to a tight time frame in order to elicit “gut-level” responses, and not allow time for a lot of analysis.*

*Despite a wide variety of different comments, there was a surprising similarity and overall congruency amongst the 12 table groups.*

*Both versions of the Congregational Profile (shorter Point-form and longer Narrative) were developed not only from the synopses of the Feedback Reports from each table, but also from all of the written comments that had been recorded that day.*

### Identity Exercise Questions:

1. This person (the KUC Congregation) – how old and which gender? *(draw a picture if you wish to)*
2. What are this person’s gifts, talents, resources, abilities?
3. What makes this person unique?
4. When this person throws a party, who gets invited?  
Describe the guests.
5. How does this person relate to the rest of the family *(United Church of Canada, Presbytery, other area United Churches)?*  
To our neighbours *(other denominations and people in Kanata)?*  
To the rest of the world *(beyond Kanata, nationally & globally)?*
6. How does this person learn *(visual, personal study, “lectures”, group discussion, hands-on, etc.)?*
7. What nourishes this person’s faith?
8. What values does this person hold?
9. What happens when this body has disagreement within itself?
10. What are this person’s hopes and fears?
11. Where would **you** like to see this person in ten years time?
12. How would you introduce this person to your friend?
13. What style of clothing does this person wear? Hairdo?
14. What TV programs / movies does this person like?