



Thornbury, Ontario
Grace United Church
Bold. Nurturing. Liberal. Christian.

Terms of Reference
for Boards and Committees (April, 2018)

Approved by the Church Board
April 9, 2018.

Vision, Mission, Beliefs, Responsibilities
Grace United Church, Thornbury
Adopted by the Congregation Sept 21, 2008.

Our Vision

We will be a bold, nurturing, liberal Christian witness in our community

Our Mission

As a Christian community we search for God's Divine Truth in our time with deep questions and reverence and live it with excitement and respect.

The Spirit of What We Believe and Live

We believe that all people are children of God and there are no exclusions to this radically freeing belief.

We acknowledge that there are many paths to God's Divine Truth.

We strive to live in a right-relationship with God, each other and all of creation with peace and justice.

We encourage and explore all honest questions of faith and are willing to live without definitive answers.

We worship God joyfully and embrace our historical past but continue to change because time and change are God's gift to us.

We extend God's sacraments and blessings to all people.

We encourage all to bring their dreams and talents to be supported and shared.

Our Responsibilities

We practice open arms, open hearts, open minds in everything we do.

We provide an environment to encourage the search for God's Divine Truth in our time.

We use music in our search to create excitement, respect and reverence.

We carry Grace's vision and beliefs to a wide cross section of our community, both local and distant.

We provide financial resources necessary to move us closer to our vision.

We charge our leaders to make decisions on our behalf to help us realize our vision.

FAITH FORMATION AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE

(See also *The Manual 2013* section B.7.8.6.a)

Mandate: To nurture, encourage and support the faith formation and justice engagement of the Congregation within guidelines and principles that include the following:

- a) dynamic life long learning;
- b) growth in a transforming relationship with God;
- c) active engagement with the Christian story, past and present, and the formation of new stories of “God with us”;
- d) intentional reflection upon God’s presence in creation and working in partnership with God to reconcile and make new;
- e) discovery and celebration of gifts;
- f) equipping persons for tasks that are holistic and justice seeking;
- g) formation and community relationships that are mutual, holistic, justice-seeking and cross generational;
- h) an invitation for persons of all ages and stages to explore and grow in their relationship with God as revealed through Jesus Christ, with Grace United Church, and with the world.

Responsibilities:

- a. Ask- seek information and input from congregation, groups engaged in faith formation and justice activities, and the Board
- b. Support- connect committee budget allocation to fund FFJ-related activities, connect people to people, connect ideas to opportunities; This includes organizing an annual discussion with all FFJ groups and any other interested individuals, to connect them with each other, share about their work, and share ideas or hopes for continuing or new activities
- c. Notice- needs, resources and opportunities for existing or possible FFJ activities
- d. Communicate- be the communication hub, conveying information between the Board and the FFJ activity groups; and requesting budget allocation to meet the needs, and making groups aware of funds available to them

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(according to the policies of *The Manual 2016*)

- e. Visioning
- f. Planning

Membership: 3-5 members, including Board Liaison elected by the congregation, and Chair and Secretary selected by the Committee.

Meetings: The Committee shall meet at least quarterly, with additional meetings when necessary.