



Congregational Conversation

October 14, 2018

1. Welcome and introduction (Karen/Cheryl/C.)
2. Communications and Neighbourhood Initiative Report (Cheryl C./Gordon/All)
3. Sabbatical Leave Review (Cheryl M./All)
4. Financial Update (Cheryl C.)
5. Church Board: Opportunities (Cheryl C.)



COMMUNICATIONS AND NEIGHBOURHOOD ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVE

James Bay United Church



BACKGROUND

- How did the Communications & Neighbourhood Engagement Initiative become a priority?
- Project Overview
- Benefit to James Bay Community
- Organization
- Approval and funding



What did we set out to do?

- Build new relationships: in the congregation and the neighbourhood
- Engage with people where they are
- Implement new initiatives inside and outside the church building
- Communications strategy: effective, consistent, continuous



How would we know if we succeeded? (Outcomes)

- Formal Neighbourhood Engagement Team
- Team members can speak about their participation
- Congregation has more pride and able to express God's love
- More lay leaders and additional church services
- More use of sacred space
- More relationships with unchurched community
- More members finding a place to offer their gifts in ways that connect with their passion
- Other organizations invite JBUC to the table



What did we do?

14 New Activities and Initiatives since September 2017:

1. James Bay Children's Choir
2. Jerk Church
3. Creche Display
4. Labyrinth Walk
5. Window Wanderland
6. Highly visible Church sign and front patio
7. Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

What did we do?

(continued)

8. Community Movie Night
9. Facebook: increase of 360%
10. Congregation's participation in worship during sabbatical time
11. PRIDE worship service
12. Poor Person's Walk (community rally, potluck)
13. Music-centred worship services in July
14. Neighbourhood Celebration for the Community



How did we do?

- Increased visibility and connection with the neighbourhood
- More positive sense of ourselves as an active partner in the community



STILL WANT TO PURSUE

1. Formal Neighbourhood Engagement Team
2. Increased connection between the Director and members of the Congregation
3. More members finding a place to offer their gifts in ways that connect with their passion



Board's observations

- Tremendous efforts and achievements in first year
- Board thinks this initiative is integral to future of JBUC
- Survey of congregation: 22 people responded
- We imagined more people responding to the survey

Work at your table

Two questions:

1. As you consider the current and future life of this Congregation, why might this initiative be a priority?
2. What would allow you to have more participation in the Communications and Neighbourhood Engagement Initiative?

At your tables:

1. Discuss as a group (5 minutes)
2. Individual response on post-its (5 minutes)
3. Report out (5 minutes)

Conclusion

- We will gather information up
- Will report back
- Stay tuned ...