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| St Paul's United Church<br>62 Peter St N.<br>Orillia, ON L3V 4Z1   | <b>POLICY</b> | Page 1 of 2   |
| <b>Subject: Vision and Mission Statements, Statement of Beliefs, Values for St. Paul's United Church and St. Paul's Centre</b> |               | <b>Date Effective: 2018</b><br><b>Date Reviewed:</b><br><b>Date Revised: October 16, 2018</b> |
| <b>Issued by: Leadership Team</b>  |               | <b>Approved by: Leadership Team 2018</b>  |

## St Paul's United Church

### Vision

A place of gathering: developing relationships, inspiring creativity, celebrating diversity, exploring spirituality

### Mission

An affirming community of faith committed to following the teachings of Jesus

### Statement of Beliefs

We are a vibrant dynamic faith community committed to:

- Providing opportunities for significant faith development and connection with others for mutual support in life's journey
- Reaching out to respond to the hopes and hurts of the wider community and beyond
- Creating worship to nourish spirits and transform lives
- Being an affirming community welcoming everyone regardless of their class, race, sex, age or ability
- Embracing people of all sexual orientations and gender identities
- Celebrating God's love in our lives and seeking greater meaning
- Valuing everyone's gifts and seeking to find ways for those gifts to be shared so that we are nourishing to the individual as well as to the community as a whole.

### Values

**Compassion** is an essential value of a Christian life. It represents the passion with which we care for our families, our neighbors and ourselves. It challenges us to demonstrate radical hospitality.

**Inclusiveness** is critical to achieving a fair and accepting culture. At St Paul's we have talked about not just accepting others but welcoming and celebrating the diversity they bring. Inclusiveness starts with an open mind and moves us to recognize and then embrace the differences that can lead to a better world. It is essential today as we try to reach true world peace.

**Trust** moves us to interact positively with those around us. It requires respect, honesty and forgiveness. Trust allows us to create a place where safe constructive dialogue is possible.

**Eco-justice** for others and for the world around us means more than just

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economic or legal justice. It requires us to consider our actions and how they impact others. Eco-justice requires us to act in a fair and just way in all we do. **Gratitude** is a core value that allows us to recognize that we are privileged to live in God's world. It requires us to be humble and helps us open our hearts to others and challenge our thinking. We are called upon to love and prayerfully worship as we strive for spiritual growth. **Generosity** leads us to share our lives with others. We have been "richly blessed" and out of gratitude we are able to respond generously to others. Our actions need to be directed towards "the common good" for all.

## St Paul's Centre

### Vision

A place of gathering: developing relationships, inspiring creativity, celebrating diversity, exploring spirituality

### Mission

An inclusive place of gathering that is open to the entire community

### Values

- **Respect** for all people, the community and the environment
- **Transparency** and openness in all our relationships
- **Accountability** is being responsible for our actions
- **Accessibility** for all people

### Business Model

St Paul's United Church is the heart of St Paul's Centre  
St Paul's Centre is owned and operated by St Paul's United Church  
Turning ourselves inside out for the sake of the community