

**Social Action and Outreach Committee
TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Purpose

Rideau Park United Church established the Social Action and Outreach Committee to:

1. promote active concern for all God's people and creation;
2. be aware of social justice issues affecting society, both within and beyond the church community;
3. put into action a broad spectrum of caring programs.

Structural Accountability

The Social Action and Outreach Committee is a sub-committee of, and accountable to, the Session of the congregation.

The Social Action and Outreach Committee oversees and acts as a resource for the following sub-committees:

- Peace and Development
- Ecumenical Refugee
- Environment
- Christmas Cheer – Note – in conjunction with M&P, there is a paid Coordinator hired to run the Christmas Cheer program
- Seniors
- Housing
- Sunday Fun
- Group for Friends
- And other activities

Responsibilities

General

1. To identify social issues affecting the world, both at home and abroad;
2. To provide leadership in increasing congregation awareness and understanding of the issues, and then to initiate action in response to the issues;
3. To educate the congregation on outreach programs;
4. To prepare and administer an annual budgetary allocation.

Specific

1. To develop a communication strategy of informing the congregation of programs and services in the community;
2. To provide effective programming opportunities to educate the congregation;
3. To establish contact and liaise with community groups in order to provide spiritual, economic and social assistance;
4. To ensure that all programs supported by the committee are staffed and funded.

Membership

Committee

Membership should be broad enough to reflect the diverse programs the committee oversees; Chair is elected by the congregation at the Annual Congregational Meeting Generally, there are 10 to 12 members, including representation from the various sub-committees.

Sub-committees

These sub-committees are comprised of interested members of the congregation:

- Peace and Development Sub-Committee
- Ecumenical Action Sub-Committee
- Environment Action Sub-Committee
- Christmas Cheer Sub-Committee
- Seniors Sub-Committee
- Housing
- Sunday Fun
- Group for Friends

Frequency

Committee meets the fourth Tuesday of each month, September to May.

The sub-committees meet on an 'as needed' basis.

Date of Completion of Form: November 2007

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