

# Problem : Big Picture, Christianity

Western society has moved from an obligation and duty-based worldview to a choice and preference-based worldview.

This shift has happened over the last hundred years in Western culture.

In the midst of this move, there has been a crisis of legitimacy - a loss of trust in the Christian church.

Our faith tradition no longer holds 'pride of place' in current culture.

This is because it has failed to meet the needs of people in a very real way and made large missteps in common culture, particularly in the last century.

The result is that people no longer feel that the church cares about the important challenges of our time - economic disparities, environmental uncertainty, increasing violence, both domestic and societal, and near pandemic mental illness.

In the midst of this public humbling, perhaps out of fear for its future, the church has forgotten that it does not serve itself but the vulnerable, the maligned, and those pushed to the margins of society - aka Jesus' friends and family.

Our failure to recognize this, in combination with the increasingly overwhelming needs before us, has resulted in the abdication of our original calling to be 'People of the Way', the way, being the way of love, as lived out by Jesus of Nazareth.

Instead of facing outwards towards the community to serve, the church has turned inward thinking only of its own survival.

# Problem : Local Picture in the Shelburne/Primrose Community.

Shelburne is the fastest growing community in Ontario.

It has the highest level of poverty in Dufferin County.

Addiction to drugs and alcohol is common place.

Over this last summer there were six local youth suicides in our immediate vicinity of which we are aware, and doubtless more.

The racial/religious demographics are changing so radically, the long standing white, protestant farming community is having trouble adjusting.

There is racially instigated violence in the local high school.

In the local elementary school, illiteracy is on the rise.

# Problem : Specifically Within Our Churches

There is a long history of focus on Sunday morning service as a measure of the wellness of the church community.

Attendance is dwindling as a long time members die, or move to be close to their children, or into nursing homes where they watch Sunday service on television.

As the financial model for church support has long been based on tithing - tied in to Sunday morning service - the financial model no longer works.

# Solutions : Specifically Within Our Churches

There are those who do look outward.

They understand the digital world and the modern context in which culture exists.

They love the ethics of Christianity and recognize that it has a place to play on the world stage.

They understand that the local church must be reimaged in order to take part in the larger conversations concerning humanity at the same time it serves the local and immediate concerns of the community.

They have energy, expertise in a wide variety of areas and see partnership with others not only as desirable but as an exciting, creative prospect.

# Solutions : Within Our Immediate Community Beyond, Through Digital Technology.

Within the immediate communities of the church are people imagining creative solutions to problems of wellness as well as creative opportunities in the arts, and enlightened education through interfaith dialogue. They are seeking out a place to gather and offer their solutions.

In the larger world the digital opportunities are endless, as is the array of programs being developed world wide that desire, as we do, to serve the larger good with compassion, grace and creativity.

They are looking for places to connect.

And so are we.



# Mission

Our Mission is to become a sanctuary for compassionate care and spiritual nourishment by creating a fully integrated community hub partnering with all those who desire, as we do, to bring grace and generosity of spirit into this world.

We seek to engage the spirit through enlightened education and interfaith gatherings and nourish the spirit through creative engagement with a wide variety of art forms.

We desire to offer compassionate care locally to the immediate community by companioning with them through the various stages of life and to extend that same care into the wider world through socially active initiatives that deem all people to be of infinite value.