THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA  
L’ÉGLISE UNIE DU CANADA  
LONDON CONFERENCE

Ministry Position Description (LC 405 PD )

ROUTING: Please keep a copy for your records prior to sending on. *

☐ Governing Body (or appointed working group) complete the form using the “Guidelines for Developing Ministry Personnel Position Descriptions for Local Ministry Units”.
☐ Congregation approves the position description and forwards with the “Request to Declare a Vacancy by a Local Ministry Unit – LC 425 V” form to the Presbytery
☐ Following action by the Presbytery, Presbytery office forwards to London Conference office with the “Request to Declare a Vacancy by a Local Ministry Unit – LC 425 V” form.

Position Title: Ordained, Diaconal, or Designated Lay Minister or Designated Lay Minister-in-Transition.

Position Profile: ✓ Full-time ☐ Part-time If Part-time, hours/week ____________
✓ Solo ☐ Team ministry If Team, # of other Ministry Personnel: __

Position Summary: (2-4 sentences that summarize the position)
To lead the congregations of Oxford Centre and Curries (Oxford Centre Pastoral Charge) in worship and spiritual development. To create a community of faith that is open to all people. To provide an atmosphere where everyone can share their hopes, mistakes and struggles in a caring community.

Accountable to: (who does this person ‘report to’ for fulfilling their duties?)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>To Whom</th>
<th>For What Purpose/Tasks</th>
<th>Name/Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Local Ministry Unit through the M&amp;P Committee</td>
<td>For the local support and accountability related to this position description</td>
<td>Norm Ryder (Chair of M&amp;P)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presbytery</td>
<td>For support and collegiality.</td>
<td>Rev. Jane Van Patter (Chair of Oversight of Pastoral Charges)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference</td>
<td>For oversight and discipline.</td>
<td>Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa (Executive Secretary)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The use, retention and disclosure of personal information collected from this form is done in compliance with privacy legislation including, but not limited to, the Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act (2000,c.5). **THIS FORM IS NOT VALID IF ALTERED.**
**Autonomy in Decision-Making:**

Ministry Personnel are expected to collaborate with various committees regarding financial decisions. Regular worship hymns are typically selected by the Ministry Personnel, and then reviewed with the musicians that are providing music for the service. Collaboration for special occasions is also encouraged.

**Principal Areas of Responsibility and Associated Duties**

**Leadership:**

- Highly personable approach to leadership; e.g. builds relationships and consensus, delegates and shares leadership appropriately.
- Courage to try new things with diplomacy and caring.
- Ability and willingness to work with committees both in person and through technology.

**Worship:**

- To organize and lead regular Sunday worship, at both congregations, with one service at beginning at 9:45 am and one at 11:00 am, which rotate on an annual basis. With the exception of various combined services throughout the year.
- Preparation and leadership of special services such as Christmas, Easter, Children’s Service, Communion services, Anniversary Sunday’s, combined services with the local Anglican church (Good Friday and World Day of Prayer)
- Bulletin preparation and delivery to churches for all Sundays, including when pulpit supply or groups lead, such as during Conference Sunday
- To be willing to provide to members, adherents and the community at large, service leadership as well as preparation classes for confirmations, marriages and baptisms.
- Leadership and support for funeral services.
- Balance traditional services with inventive variations.
- Work with the Elders committee in arranging annual service schedule.
- Work with Musical Coordinators to arrange music for services.
- Sermons/Messages typically delivered by Ministry Personnel and are 15-20 mins in length. Messages that reference the scripture, but also incorporate everyday life experiences and provide an opportunity to learn, laugh and reflect.
- Children’s stories that are age appropriate and engaging.
Greeters and Lay Readers support Ministry Personnel each week, but scripture must be provided.

**Discipleship:**
- Work with Sunday School Superintendents in each congregation regarding curriculum and tying in children’s story with weekly lessons.
- Provide leadership for Bible Study groups.
- Assist with planning and participate in annual Vacation Bible School.
- Attend UCW meetings and Fellowship Club when time permits.
- Participation in after service “church luncheons”, as service schedules permit.
- Attendance at various open houses for anniversaries/birthdays, etc.

**Pastoral/Spiritual Care:**
- Allocating time to visit with the sick, elderly, or those unable to attend regular services, whether members, adherents or community at large in need of care.
- Ensuring that those who may be unable to attend services still have access to the weekly message, either through hard copy or digital media.
- Allocating time to visit with families, outside of the traditional sense of those needing “Pastoral Care”. Get to know our church family’s families, outside of the church walls.
- Work with congregational volunteers to organize and distribute visits when demand may be high.

**Justice and Outreach:**
- Continuation of local and global programs currently in place, including:
  - Commitment to Mission and Service contributions
  - Vacation Bible School
  - Adopt-A-Child (Freddie)
  - Camp Tanner
  - White Gift Sunday for the Christmas Place and the “Mitten Tree”
  - Food Sharing for the Salvation Army
  - Special projects as needed (e.g. Wells, Cows, Natural Disaster Funds, etc.)
- Specific, age appropriate outreach to post-secondary students, to keep them connected to their church family.
Personal Spirituality and Self Care:

- Encourage our Ministry Personnel to have external interests and hobbies, and to take time for themselves and their families.
- Have a collegial support network, either through other local Ministry Personnel or connections through Presbytery or Conference.
- Must have an excellent sense of humour. 😊
- Congregations are very mutually respectful and supportive of one another.
- Our United Church of Women support our congregations through home/hospital visits, cards/flowers for special occasions and condolences, and care packages for various groups.
- Many within our congregation commit much time, effort and individual gifts to various committees, and are always willing to offer assistance when needed.
- Courage and maturity to ask for support when needed.

Stewardship:

- Private office is available at Oxford Centre United Church, with phone and internet access. Also includes provision of a laptop.
- Support provided by Charge for technology, finances and investments, payroll, property and special projects. (e.g. envelopes for special offerings)
- Human gifts are plentiful in our congregations. Sometimes they are offered without request, but it is also nice to be asked for support because of a particular gift.
- Expected to attend Elders, Trustees and Ministry & Personnel meetings.
- Attendance at various dinners throughout the year.
- Current administrative tasks:
  - Answering and sending emails in regards to administration, pastoral, or for support of various groups within the church (e.g. informing Sunday School teachers of weekly theme)
  - Bulletin preparation (as stated under Worship)
  - Preparation of travel and expense forms every 2 - 3 months
  - Preparation of Minister's Report for Official Board (4 times a year)
  - Agenda's for Elders meetings, Official Board and Annual General Meetings (AGM)
  - Assistance in assembling of the Annual Report for AGM
  - Preparation of opening letter and statistical report for the AGM
  - Thanksgiving and Christmas letters
o Completion of statistical forms and review of roll books
o Distribution of mail
o Providing information for congregational newsletters to appropriate people
o Purchasing of office supplies

- We feel that Stewardship is something that falls to everyone within our congregations.

**Ministry Partnerships:**

- Build and foster relationships with clergy from local ministries, such as, but not limited to: Oxford Centre Anglican Church, Sweaburg United Church, Eastwood United Church, etc.
- Cultivate relationships with local area groups, such as, but not limited to: Oxford Centre Optimist Club, Camp Tanner, Operation Sharing and the Salvation Army.
- Involvement in the life of Presbytery, London Conference and/or General Council, as required.

**Required Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:**

**Minimum Qualifications:**

- Preference for a full time ordained minister; however the congregation has expressed a willingness to consider diaconal, designated lay minister or designated lay minister in transition.
- A good communicator and facilitator
- Possess excellent time management skills
- Ability to delegate and train
- Proficient in using email and attachments.
- Technologically proficient with various forms of software, such as MS Office, Adobe
- Adept at using various forms of social media (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, etc.)
- An appreciation for music
- A sense of humour
- Approachable and comfortable with all ages
- A leader who will be an active presence in our community
- Driver’s license and access to vehicle
Other “Preferred” Assets:

- Familiarity and willingness to utilize varied means of communication (e.g. texting), especially with youth and young families.
- Rural background is considered an asset.

When using as a review tool by the Local Ministry Unit:

| Date Reviewed: ________ | M&P Representative: ____________________________ |
| Date Reviewed: ________ | Ministry Personnel: ____________________________ |
Local Ministry Unit – Telling Our Story: Steps to Declare a Vacancy

Ministry and Mission Profile (LC 405)

PURPOSE: To enable a Local Ministry Unit to honestly and boldly “tell its story” to prospective Ministry Personnel. Use this form with the Guidelines for the “Ministry and Mission Profile” which you will find in the Handbook “Steps to Declare a Victory”. This includes Interim Ministry and short-term supply situations.

Who Uses it: Governing Body in consultation with congregation, the Interview Team

When to use: When you are seeking new Ministry Personnel whether for a call or appointment or for a regular review of priorities for purposes of assessment and goal-setting.

********************************************************************************

Name of Local Ministry Unit: Oxford Centre Pastoral Charge

Address of Local Ministry Unit: 714581 Middletown Line, Woodstock, ON N4S 7V8

Brief Description of Local Ministry (three sentences): Oxford Centre Pastoral Charge consists of two congregations; one in the village of Oxford Centre, and one in the community of Curries. Our Local Ministry is best described by Our Mission Statement:

*We believe, as a community of God’s people, that we gather to nurture our own belief in God and to act toward others as Jesus has taught us. As a community of faith, our goal is to be open to all people, creating an atmosphere where everyone can share their hopes, mistakes and struggles, in a caring community. Having thus experienced God’s love, we are committed to making God’s Kingdom a reality on earth, by sharing our love and faith with others.*
Please indicate your interest in our Local Ministry by providing your Skills, Gifts and Passions Profile, a resume and a cover letter to the London Conference Personnel Minister.

Closing Date: OR, ✓ There is no closing date.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority (#1 to 8)</th>
<th>Category Title</th>
<th>This is who we are as a Local Ministry Unit:</th>
</tr>
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</table>
| 1                 | Leadership     | ✓ We have a specific goal related to Leadership as follows:  
|                   |                | • To find Leadership that compassionate, inclusive, relationship based.  
|                   |                | • To find Leadership that can guide us into our optimistic, but uncertain future.  |
| 2                 | Worship        | ✓ We have a specific goal related to Worship as follows:  
|                   |                | • To provide worship that balances tradition with innovation, sentiment with humour; embraces our children and youth, celebrates our love of music and is sensitive to the needs of our worshiping community.  |
| 3                 | Discipleship   | ✓ We have a specific goal related to discipleship as follows:  
|                   |                | • To support and grow our Sunday Schools, youth groups, bible studies, Vacation Bible School, UCW’s and Fellowship Club.  
|                   |                | • To strengthen and maintain the connection between our Ministry and post-secondary youth.  
|                   |                | • To further strengthen our current Discipleship through the use of information technology and social media.  |
| 4                 | Pastoral Care/ Spiritual Care | ✓ We have a specific goal related to pastoral/spiritual care as follows:  
|                   |                | • To expand “Pastoral Care” to include more than just the sick or elderly. To include “social” calls and getting to know families within our congregations outside of church walls.  
|                   |                | • To provide more structured support to our Ministry Personnel in the area of Pastoral Care.  |
| 5                 | Justice and Outreach | ✓ We have a specific goal related to Justice and Outreach as follows:  
|                   |                | • To continue to support our current Outreach initiatives including, but not limited to: Mission & Service contributions, Food Gifts for the Salvation Army, White Gift Sunday for the Christmas Place, “Mitten” Tree at Christmas, Adopt-A-Child, Camp Tanner and other special projects as deemed appropriate.  
|                   |                | • To make the local community more aware of the outreach that is taking place.  |
| 6                 | Spirituality and Self-Care within your Local Ministry Unit | ✓ We do not have a specific goal related Spirituality and Self Care.  |
|   | Stewardship | ✓ We have a specific goal related to stewardship as follows:  
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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th>• To better recognize and utilize the human gifts within our midst.</th>
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</table>
| 8 | Ministry Partnerships | ✓ We have a specific goal related to pastoral/spiritual care as follows:  
|   |             | • To foster the internal “Ministry Partnerships” as it relates to specific committees and groups within our Local Ministry. |

Approved by the Governing Body or _Oxford Centre Pastoral Charge Official Board_

(name of Local Ministry Unit).

_________________________________    ____________________  
Name/Signature of Chair      Date/location

_________________________________    ____________________  
Name/Signature of Secretary      Date/location
THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
L’ÉGLISE UNIE DU CANADA
LONDON CONFERENCE

Demographic, Financial and Community Profile (LC 405 DFC)

PURPOSE: To provide information about the Local Ministry Unit to prospective applicants.

PART A: ABOUT OUR PEOPLE:
(Multi-point Local Ministry Units will complete Part A, B and C for each congregation)

Number of congregations: □ 1  ✓ 2  □ 3  □ NA (e.g. for Outreach Ministries)

Congregation A  _Oxford Centre United Church_  _178_____  _40_________
(Name of Congregation)  (# on roll)  (Avg. Sunday attendance)

We think of ourselves MAINLY as: ✓ Rural  □ Remote  □ Small town  □ Suburban

□ Urban  □ Inner City  □ Other ________________

Most of us live (check only one):  □ In apartments  ✓ In single-family homes

□ In retirement homes  □ In long-term care homes

□ On working farms  □ On rural retirement properties

The rest of us live (check all that apply):  ✓ In apartments  □ In single-family homes

□ In retirement homes  □ In long-term care homes

✓ On working farms  ✓ On rural retirement properties

Our congregation includes (approx. number in each group)

Infants and pre-school ___6______  Children (5-12) ___8_____  Teens (13-19) ___4____
Young adults (20-30) ___8______  Adults - (35-50) ___12____  Adults- (51+) ___10____

Young retirees (51-64) ___6______  Older Retirees (65-70) ___16____  Seniors (over 70) ___40____

Most of us...: (choose one)

✓ Grew up in this area  □ Moved to this area for work

□ Moved here to be close to family or other resources  □ Moved here for other reasons
Many of us work in the following industries or sectors: (check all that apply)

- Health or social services
- Education
- Manufacturing
- Transportation
- Agriculture and food production
- Tourism/Hospitality
- Retail
- Environment
- Mining/Forestry
- Information Technology
- Other (specify):

Our congregation is like: (choose one that best applies)

- A big family where we all know each other;
- A medium sized church where we recognize each other but may not know each other well;
- A big church with lots of staff, where small groups of people are close to one another based on common interests.
- Other description:

Our heritage as a local ministry unit: (check one that best applies):

- Has its roots as a Methodist/Congregationalist/Presbyterian/Local Union/Aboriginal congregation prior to Union in 1925;
- OR, Began
- Between 1925 and 1945
- Between 1945 and 1965
- Between 1965 and 2000
- After 2000.
Congregation B  __Curries_________________      __69_______       ____ 25_______
(Name of Congregation)      ( # on roll)               (Avg. Sunday attendance)

We think of ourselves MAINLY as:  ✓ Rural    □ Remote    □ Small town    □
Suburban
   □ Urban    □ Inner City    □ Other ______________________

Most of us live (check only one):
   □ In apartments    ✓ In single-family homes
   □ In retirement homes    □ In long-term care homes
   □ On working farms    □ On rural retirement properties

The rest of us live (check all that apply):
   ✓ In apartments    ✓ In single-family homes
   ✓ In retirement homes    ✓ In long-term care homes
   ✓ On working farms    □ On rural retirement properties

Our congregation includes (approx. number in each group)
Infants and pre-school __5_____  Children (5-12) __5_____  Teens (13-19) __4____
Young adults (20-30) __8____  Adults - (31-50) __22_____  Adults- (51+) __6______
Young retirees (51-64) __1______  Older Retirees (65-70) __8___  Seniors (over 70) __11____

Most of us...:  (choose one)
✓ Grew up in this area    □ Moved to this area for work
□ Moved here to be close to family or other resources    □ Moved here for other reasons

Many of us work in the following industries or sectors: (check all that apply)
✓ Health or social services    ✓ Education    ✓ Manufacturing
✓ Transportation    ✓ Agriculture and food production    □ Tourism/Hospitality
✓ Retail    ✓ Environment    □ Mining/Forestry
✓ Information Technology     □ Other (specify):
Our congregation is like: (choose one that best applies)

✓ A big family where we all know each other;

☐ A medium sized church where we recognize each other but may not know each other well;

☐ A big church with lots of staff, where small groups of people are close to one another based on common interests.

☐ Other description:

Our heritage as a local ministry unit: (check one that best applies):

✓ Has its roots as a Methodist/Congregationalist/Presbyterian/Local Union/Aboriginal congregation prior to Union in 1925;

OR, Began


We think of our local ministry unit in the following way: (choose one that best applies):

☐ We have a new vision and are really excited; still working out how to live into that vision

☐ We are clear about our vision and purpose and have/are developing the skills and gifts to bring it about; we are excited and optimistic about our vision.

✓ Our congregation is changing and it is clear that we can no longer continue as we have been; we don’t know how to go forward and have some anxiety. We believe that we have a future but can’t quite see it.

☐ We see that the ministry within this community is probably winding down after many positive and productive years of faithful ministry, mission and service; we want to celebrate what we have been as we intentionally and graciously end this ministry.
PART B: ABOUT OUR TANGIBLE ASSETS

Governance structure: (Official Board, made up of members of various committees from each charge)

How many people are on your Governing Body? ___30_____

How many are typically present at a meeting of your Governing Body? __15____

Ministry and Personnel Committee:

How many members? ___6 in total, 3 members from each congregation._____

How often does the committee meet? ___Quarterly__

Has one or more of the committee members attended a M&P Committee Training event in the last three years?  □ Yes    ✓ No
Congregation A – Name: Oxford Centre

Our Church Building(s): (include information for each building if more than one)

Oxford Centre United Church was originally built in 1860, the church had to be extensively rebuilt in 1979 due to a tornado, but the stained glass windows remained intact and are still part of the sanctuary today. The sanctuary seats 115 people and uses the Good News Bible and Voices United. There is a small kitchen in the back between the Fellowship Room and the sanctuary that includes a stove and sink. The charge office is in the basement, along with the nursery and Sunday School rooms. The office has a computer as well as a telephone, answering machine, and high speed internet service. There is also access to a photocopier. There is a sound system in the church that not only offers sound to the sanctuary but also to the Fellowship Room. Music is provided by a paid organist on a new organ that was recently dedicated. Music is also provided on special occasions by soloists as well as other instruments as there are some talented people in the congregation. The choir is small but dedicated.

Sanctuary holds: _115_ people

Are there meeting rooms?  ✓ Yes     □ No
What are they used for?   Typically for committee meetings, UCW meetings, bible study, Fellowship Club and Sunday School.
Is there a nursery?   ✓ Yes     □ No
Are the nursery toys/furniture compliant with current safety standards?  ✓ Yes     □ No
Are there Sunday Schools rooms?  ✓ Yes     □ No
How many?   Three, that can be split with dividers, if necessary.
Are they also multipurpose use?   Also double as meeting space or other activity space.
Are there activity rooms? (ie quiliting, gym, library)  ✓ Yes     □ No

Brief descriptions: Large room on the lower level, with linoleum floor, just off the nursery. Typically used for meeting space or meals following services. Can also be divided into smaller Sunday School rooms.

‘Fellowship Room’ - Large carpeted rooms with meeting tables and chairs, small seating area with couch. Typically used for meetings, lunch following services, UCW meetings or bridal/baby showers.

Small kitchenette available.
Where is the office located for the minister?  On the lower level, just off the largest meeting room.

Describe it:  Approx. 8’ x 12’, desk, phone, printer, fax and internet connection all available. Laptop also provided.

Is the building used by outside groups as well as ministry activities?  ✔ Yes  ☐ No

Brief descriptions (tenants, occasional rentals, frequency of use): Occasional use by other outside groups and individuals for meeting/shower space.

Is there a photocopier in the church?  ✔ Yes  ☐ No

Is internet provided at the church?  ✔ Yes  ☐ No  if yes  ✔ High Speed  ☐ Dial-up

Is the church accessible?  ✔ Yes  Tell us how: Very small step to access main doors. (No trouble for a wheelchair, if assisted.) Sanctuary is fully accessible. Washrooms are not accessible at this time.

Administrative Support:

Is there support for administrative tasks (e.g. bulletin, scheduling, reception)?

✔ Yes  ☐ No

If yes, how many hours per week? _2-4___  If yes, is this ☐ paid  or  ✔ volunteer?

Who takes the service when your minister is away on holidays or study leave?  Depending on length of leave, Elders may do service, or pulpit supply is arranged.
Congregation B – Name: Curries

Our Church Building(s): (include information for each building if more than one)

Curries United Church is a traditional 19th century building built in 1891. The church was declared a Heritage Building in 1986.

Nestled in the center of the hamlet of Curries, the church sits adjacent to Pleasant View Cemetery and a municipal park.

The main sanctuary seats approximately 130 and the balcony, with a picturesque wrought-iron railing, seats an additional 50 people. All of the windows in the church are stained glass including four special windows dedicated by past and present members. Beautiful burnished oak benches, woodwork and wainscoting adorn the interior.

Within the sanctuary there is an organ, a digital grand piano and an excellent sound system (including microphones) with the ability to record services.

The downstairs floor of the church serves as our Sunday School rooms and social area. Our kitchen is also located on this floor and was renovated in 2003.

The church is equipped with a photocopier, an overhead projector, television and VCR. Both the sanctuary and downstairs areas are wheelchair accessible by means of a lift.

Sanctuary holds: 180 people

Are there meeting rooms?  Yes  No

What are they used for? Sunday School, meetings, lunches, suppers, family functions, rentals

Is there a nursery?  Yes  No

Are the nursery toys/furniture compliant with current safety standards?  Yes  No

Are there Sunday Schools rooms?  Yes  No

How many? Are they also multipurpose use?  Two multi-purpose rooms.

Are there activity rooms? (ie quiliting, gym, library)  Yes  No

Brief descriptions: No gym or library, but multi-purpose rooms can be used as activity rooms. Full kitchen available.

Where is the office located for the minister? Oxford Centre United Church

Describe it: See description above.

Is the building used by outside groups as well as ministry activities?  Yes  No

Brief descriptions (tenants, occasional rentals, frequency of use) Main room and kitchen are rented out approximately seven times per year.
Is there a photocopier in the church?  ✔ Yes  ☐ No

Is internet provided at the church?  ☐ Yes  ✔ No  if yes  ☐ High Speed  ☐ Dial-up

Is the church accessible?  ✔ Yes  ☐ No

Tell us how: There is an elevator to the sanctuary and to each floor. Washroom is wheelchair accessible.

Administrative Support:

Is there support for administrative tasks (e.g. bulletin, scheduling, reception)?

✔ Yes  ☐ No

If yes, how many hours per week? __2___  If yes, is this ☐ paid  or  ✔ volunteer?

Who takes the service when your minister is away on holidays or study leave? Depending on length of leave, Elders may do service, or pulpit supply is arranged.
PART C: ABOUT OUR FINANCES

The word or phrase that best describes our current financial situation is:

☐ Abundant    ☐ Adequate    ✔ Not meeting expenses but optimistic

☐ Not meeting expenses and relying on bequests and reserves to fund operating budget.

☐ Other (describe)

Our Revenue Sources are (please indicate approximate percentage of your current operating budget that comes from each source):

**Congregation A: Oxford Centre**

Congregational Givings ___97%_______  Congregational Fundraising Activities __7%_____

Rental of building/services ______  Bequests/Reserves/Investments _____________

Other (please briefly describe): UCW _1%

**Congregation B: Curries**

Congregational givings ___70%_______  Congregational Fundraising Activities __10%_____

Rental of building/services _2%_____  Bequests/Reserves/Investments ____18%_________

Other (please briefly describe):

**Our Financial Reserves:**

We have sufficient reserves in the bank that we could cover three months of expenses if we had an emergency.  ✔ Yes    ☐ No

**Our Financial Accountability:**

Our financial statements are reviewed by an external person each year:

✔ Yes: a formal third-party review. (For the Charge as a whole)    ☐ No.

Our financial statements from the last three years are available upon request.

✔ Yes    ☐ No, but available on our website    ☐ No
Our Statistics from the last five years of submissions to the United Church of Canada show:

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td># attending Sunday worship</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>77</td>
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<tr>
<td># of regular givers</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>106</td>
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<tr>
<td>$ expended for pastoral charge</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>$58,434</td>
<td>$60,946</td>
<td>$62,376</td>
<td>$46,047</td>
<td>$65,684</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td># households under pastoral care</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>142</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PART D: ABOUT OUR COMMUNITY

This is what we love about our community. This is what makes it unique.

Curries and Oxford Centre churches are located in rural central southwestern Ontario in a prosperous and picturesque agricultural community. Curries and Oxford Centre are within 5 minutes of one another and 10 minutes from the city of Woodstock, the main business and shopping centre of Oxford County. Oxford County has deep agricultural roots, and is rich in history.

Century farms, old homes, historic buildings and manufacturing facilities are all part of the area’s makeup. The area has seen substantial growth in the manufacturing sector with the construction of the Toyota plant in Woodstock, which opened in 2008. There has also been tremendous residential growth in the northern and eastern areas of the City of Woodstock as well.

Both hamlets are located 30 minutes from London to the west; Cambridge to the east; 45 minutes from Hamilton, Kitchener, Waterloo and Guelph. Within 1 ½ hours, one can reach Toronto, Lake Erie, Niagara Falls and the United States.

We are close to several hospitals, schools, libraries, museums, recreational and sports facilities and colleges and universities.

The majority of services and amenities required by both communities can be found in nearby Woodstock.

- Elementary, secondary and alternative schooling is available and bussing to the schools is provided.
- Community colleges and universities are within easy driving distance.
- Health care services provided locally include a number of nursing homes, senior facilities, walk-in clinics, and the new Woodstock General Hospital. Larger hospitals, including London Health Sciences Centre, Children’s Hospital of Western Ontario, McMaster and Chedoke-McMaster, are all within one hour of Oxford Centre and Curries.
- The community is serviced by a volunteer fire department.
- South Gate Centre, an active seniors’ recreational centre, can be found in nearby Woodstock.
- Sakura House, Oxford’s residential hospice, is an alternative care setting where skilled 24 hour end-of-life care is provided by a team of professionals with the assistance of professionally trained volunteers at no cost to patients or their families.
- Amenities in the area include a wide variety of sporting venues including fastball, soccer, hockey, dance, gymnastics, swimming and golf. Woodstock has a modern community complex with two ice rinks (one Olympic size), a gymnastics facility and a banquet hall. Cowan Park, a state-of-the-art soccer facility, also has an indoor walking track and a banquet hall.
- Entertainment opportunities include live theatre, movie theatres, concert facilities and community-organized events.
Canada’s Outdoor Farm Show and Canada’s Outdoor Expo, both annual events, are held in Woodstock.

When you put together our communities, our ministry and our resources, what you end up with is so much more.

We value our communities of faith as places made up of people who care about one another. We share in our talents, our faults, our successes and our failures. Curries and Oxford Centre offer a place of comfort and support to their congregations and beyond.

Together we are a strong church family continually striving to live up to our mission statement, which reads as follows:

*We believe, as a community of God’s people, that we gather to nurture our own belief in God and to act toward others as Jesus has taught us. As a community of faith, our goal is to be open to all people, creating an atmosphere where everyone can share their hopes, mistakes and struggles, in a caring community. Having thus experienced God’s love, we are committed to making God’s Kingdom a reality on earth, by sharing our love and faith with others.*

It is these basic values and our mission that we hope our next ministerial leader will be able to foster and facilitate as the leader of our church families.

**The three economic, demographic or political challenges facing our area are:**
We feel one of the most relevant demographic challenges facing our area is the number of rural families that are having fewer children. This is having an effect on family farms as well as our rural schools.

**Here are two or three websites that offer detailed information about our community:**
www.ourchurches.ca  
www.oxfordcounty.ca  
www.city.woodstock.on.ca  
www.tourismoxford.ca  
www.tvdsb.on.ca

**Other faith communities represented in our community/region are:**
There are many United, Anglican, Baptist, Presbyterian, Methodist and Christian Reformed churches within Oxford County.

**We have close ties with the following faith communities:**
Oxford Centre Anglican Church