

NEW GERMANY PASTORAL CHARGE 2015 JNAC REPORT

**NEW GERMANY PASTORAL CHARGE
5183 Hwy 10
New Germany
Nova Scotia, B0R 1E0**

**Emmanuel United Church, Hemford
Epworth United Church, New Germany**



**Approved by the Joint Needs Assessment Committee -
Approved by New Germany Pastoral Charge Official Board -
Approved by New Germany Pastoral Charge -**

**New Germany Pastoral Charge
South Shore Presbytery
Maritime Conference**

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INTRODUCTION

The current Joint Needs Assessment Committee (JNAC) was established on May 14, 2015. The members of the JNAC include:

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| ◇ Peggy Hyson | Emmanuel United |
| ◇ Arthur Jensen | Emmanuel United |
| ◇ Jennifer Hayward | Epworth United |
| ◇ Sandra Matchett | Epworth United |
| ◇ Jack Logan | South Shore Presbytery |
| ◇ Rev. Curtis McDonald | South Shore Presbytery |

The JNAC based all decision-making on consensus throughout the assessment process.

COMMUNITY AND RESOURCES DESCRIPTION

NEW GERMANY PASTORAL CHARGE COMMUNITY PROFILE

New Germany is a lovely rural community located along the shores of the LaHave River, on the South Shore of Nova Scotia and is situated at the foot of a beautiful lake. It acts as a hub to 15 or more outlying communities. New Germany has a population of approximately 800 people and offers many services to its residents.

The community and surrounding areas are involved in forestry, particularly lumbering, farming and the Christmas tree industry. As well, a large number of Michelin Tire Canada employees reside in the New Germany area.

Both an elementary (New Germany Elementary School [www.nges.ednet.ns.ca]) and high school (New Germany Rural High School [www.ngrhs.ednet.ns.ca]) are located here. Students are bussed to the schools from outlying communities. New Germany Rural High offers advanced courses. The community has a Shoppers Drug Mart; Canada Post office; Royal Bank of Canada; senior's housing; home for special care (Rosedale Home for Special Care); grocery store (Fresh Mart); building supplies (New Germany RONA Building Supplies); Nova Scotia Liquor Commission; two restaurants: 2 Papa's Pizza and Charlies Pizza; electrical and plumbing services; gas & convenience; auto services; funeral home; small engine repair; Lakeview Auto Sales, Early Years Centre with day care located at New Germany Elementary School and a stained glass shop (<http://www.villageglassworks.ca/>); all amenities except a retail clothing store. There is a nurse practitioner, two dentists, one doctor, and a public health nurse located in New Germany.

“Rails to Trails”, an off-highway trail development, winds its way through the center of the community of New Germany and beyond, which provides a wonderful outdoor walking experience for many residents of the area. There is also the “River Ridge Common” which is a park developed under the MODL which has access to the trails for hiking etc. The community supports baseball teams, soccer teams and other sports related groups.

The home for special care is very active 39 bed Home. They have a wheelchair accessible van. New Germany has an EHS depot. The RCMP has an office located in the fire hall.

New Germany is supported by a well trained volunteer fire department with a new modern fire station. Other active volunteer organizations include the boards of the New Germany Medical Center and Rosedale Home for Special Care. The Medical Center was constructed entirely by donations and the voluntary labor of community members. The Lions Club, Legion and Ladies Auxiliary, Red Cross, Cancer Society, New Horizons Club (Senior Citizens), Masonic Lodge, SACs (School Advisory Council) for each school, ladies groups of the different churches, Arts and Crafts Association, and the New Germany Promotional Society are all busy in the community. As well as the United Church, other religious affiliations include Lutheran, Anglican, Baptist and Jehovah’s Witnesses. What cannot be found in New Germany is available in Bridgewater, an approximate twenty minute drive away.

Bridgewater is known as the “Mainstreet of the South Shore” with a population of approximately 8,000. The South Shore Regional Hospital is located in Bridgewater along with many government buildings and services including a new Justice Centre. A Collaborative Health Centre has been added to the Medical Arts building giving access to Doctor services. Michelin Tire Canada and a Call Centre employ many in our community. There is the Bridgewater Mall Shopping Centre, Bridgewater Plaza shopping area and many merchants/businesses along King Street. Situated on the outskirts of Bridgewater is a large shopping complex known as the Pine Grove Centre, where many new stores including Wal-Mart, Canadian Tire, Staples, Reitman’s, Boston Pizza, Swiss Chalet and a Best Western Hotel are located. Doctors for medical and optical services are located in Bridgewater. There are a number of car dealerships in town. Bridgewater is the home of the “Big X”, which is the largest exhibition in Nova Scotia (South Shore Exhibition) each summer. The Nova Scotia Community College (Lunenburg Campus) is located here with the Y.M.C.A. attached to the one side of the college. There is an 18-hole golf course just outside Bridgewater in Pinegrove. The South Shore Fieldhouse Society has an indoor track & field facility. A new lifestyle center for Lunenburg County is located in Bridgewater and it house’s a new hockey arena, swimming pool and library.

Nova Scotia's capital, Halifax is located 125 kilometers from New Germany. Four nationally recognized universities,(St Mary's, Dalhousie, Kings College and Mount Saint Vincent) as well as the Atlantic School of Theology are located in Halifax.

The near-by towns of Lunenburg and Mahone Bay offer many other services and are well known for their fine food establishments. These two towns are the largest tourist destinations on the South Shore. Lunenburg has been designated a World Heritage Site and is the home port of the world famous Bluenose Schooner.

The charge functions well with the other denominations in the area. During Holy week, the ministers preach in each other's churches. The ministers of New Germany area rotate services at Rosedale Home for Special Care on Tuesday's. The Remembrance Day service is normally held at Epworth United, with local ministers taking part in the service. Our community Cenotaph is located in front of Epworth United Church.

From a global perspective, our area is heavily dependent on the Christmas tree industry. Lunenburg County is known as the Balsam Fir Tree Capital of the world . It provides steady employment year round but peaks between late October and mid December. During this time, New Germany becomes a buzz of activity as trees are shipped to the United States, as well as many parts of the Caribbean and South America.

Please check out our community and surrounding areas on the following websites:
<http://newgermanyca.ednet.ns.ca/>
<http://www.modl.ca/>
<http://www.bridgewater.ca/>

PASTORAL CHARGE PROFILE

The New Germany Pastoral Charge consists of two congregations; Epworth in New Germany; and Emmanuel in Hemford. Services are conducted each Sunday at Epworth and the first and third Sundays at Emmanuel. Epworth is central for both churches with the manse located adjacent to the church. It takes ten minutes to travel between the two churches. There is a strong sense of community pride, which is reflected in the two churches of our pastoral charge.

Both points participate in meetings of the official board, in meetings of the combined session and attend fifth Sunday charge services which rotate between each point on the charge. We celebrate communion at least six times per year. As a charge, our business is conducted by a consensus decision making process.

The Pastoral Charge supports Sherbrooke Lake United Church Camp. This camp is located about 30 kilometers north-east of New Germany situated on beautiful Sherbrooke Lake. <http://www.sherbrookelakecamp.org>. Each summer we support and encourage our youth in taking advantage of this great camping experience.

The pastoral charge participates in the soup kitchen held each year during Lent. Also, there is a Food Bank in New Germany to which all denominations contribute. Both the soup kitchen and the food bank are run by volunteers from the local communities.

As a pastoral charge, one of our main concerns is the fact that less than half of our membership is active in the congregation. We believe the reason is an aging population and the out-migration of our young people.

We practice our Christian faith through our work, community and worship together. We are committed to working together as Christ's family.

We believe that God is calling us to re-evaluate what we are doing as a charge, to except and initiate change, be positive and be creative.

NEW GERMANY PASTORAL CHARGE RESOURCES

The Pastoral Charge's manse is located on Highway # 10 adjacent to Epworth United Church in the community of New Germany.

The manse is a beautiful two story house offering generous sized rooms. On the main level you find a well lit kitchen with eating area and formal dining room, living room, and a half bath. The charge office, located in the manse has adequate library space, a desk and chair, and photocopier. There are five bedrooms and a full bathroom upstairs. A back stairway leads directly down to the kitchen and back porch area.

The interior and exterior of the manse have undergone upgrades and have been well maintained. This house is heated by a forced air oil furnace. There is a large storage room located to the rear of the house on the main level. The backyard has space for gardening and a storage garage. There is a drilled well located on the property and the manse is connected to the area's sewer system. The Manse Committee is responsible for the maintenance of the property. There are also charge Trustee's for the Manse.

This charge is made up of two churches. Each church is responsible for its own maintenance. They each have a Memorial Fund including investments used for church maintenance and repairs as necessary. There is a charge trust fund to which the individual churches and manse can submit requests to the Official Board, when carrying out major repairs.

Each of the two churches are supported by their own choirs and organists. Sunday school class is held at Epworth Church. Epworth also has a UCW group who share such duties as outreach, visitation and fundraising.

The operating funds for this charge come from the offerings, donations, fundraising and investment income. The main expenditures for the charge are the minister's salary, benefits, church insurance policies, maintenance, heating bills and Manse related expenses.

Both churches use the Voices United and More Voices hymn books.

As finances allow, there is a fair amount of Outreach to the communities, supporting local families. Both Churches have a mitten tree to support local schools and the Salvation Army with mittens, gloves, scarves and toques.

EMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH PROFILE

The community of Hemford, a rural community, is located in the north-west corner of Lunenburg County—ten kilometers west of New Germany, 25 kilometers north of Bridgewater and 30 kilometers east of Caledonia. It is approximately ten minutes driving time from New Germany and 20-30 minutes from Bridgewater and Caledonia.

The people in Hemford are a friendly and welcoming population who wish to see their community grow.

Hemford has a volunteer fire department with its own fire trucks, fire station and a large fire hall. There is also an active ladies auxiliary.

Independent trades' people live in our community such as carpenters and mechanics. Also, there are Christmas tree growers, and independent saw mills. Children from this area are bussed to New Germany Elementary and New Germany Rural High schools.

There are three churches in our area—Emmanuel United Church in Hemford; a Gospel Hall in Nineveh and the Simpsons Corner Union Church. The Union Church was designated a municipal heritage property in 2002.

People from Nineveh, Simpsons Corner and Hemford currently attend Emmanuel Church. Emmanuel, which means "God is with us", had always been a Union Church, and prior to 1925 there were four different congregations – Lutheran, Congregationalist, Presbyterian and Methodist. In 1925 the latter three joined to form the United Church and in 1971 the Lutheran congregation dissolved. In 1997 the legal work was finalized and the name of the church was changed to Hemford Emmanuel United Church. We have a membership/adherents list of approximately thirty people with an average Sunday service attendance of 12 to 15. Funding for our church is approximately 60-70 percent from Sunday offerings, 5-10 percent from fundraising and 20 percent from donations and memorials.

The church is in a good state of repair and is heated by an oil furnace. It has an operational bell tower and is wheelchair accessible. We have an electric organ and the use of a piano, a sound system and a baptismal font. Lay readers assist with Sunday services. The officers of the church work well together. Because we are a small congregation, some members hold more than one position and/or serve on more than one committee. Janitorial services and yard maintenance are shared among members on a monthly rotational basis. We are a small but dedicated group who would very much like to see our congregation grow in spirit and in numbers. However, our citizens are mainly elderly and new residents fail to join us. We worship on the first and third Sunday each month.

EPWORTH UNITED CHURCH PROFILE

Earliest religious services of the Wesleyan Methodist faith were held in the area. The Presbyterians record their first service here on November 4, 1890. Late in 1915 there were sufficient funds to begin the building of the Epworth structure with the first service on January 20, 1918. There is no special mention in the records about the church becoming Epworth United in 1925.

We have four services per month at Epworth United. Our congregation has approximately 100 members/adherents with an average of 35 people attending services each week. The church is supported through envelope offerings, loose offerings, donations and several fundraising events organized by the Board of Stewards. The United Church Women, an active group, give financial support. We have a small Sunday school.

Epworth is the largest of the two churches and is wheelchair accessible. Our congregation has two organists and the church has an excellent sound system. The basement of the church houses McFadden Hall, a kitchen and washroom facilities.

Our church is heated by an oil furnace and is well maintained. Repairs are funded through special funding grants or through fundraisers. Members share janitorial duties on a two week rotation. Elders greet people at the door, collect offerings, prepare the communion table and schedule lay readers. The church has a baptismal font.

A large portion of our congregation is retired and enjoy small community life.

MINISTRY PERSONNEL DESCRIPTION

THE NEW GERMANY PASTORAL CHARGE IS CURRENTLY DESIGNATED AS A LEARNING SITE.

It is understood that: We are each given particular gifts of the Spirit. For the sake of the world, God calls all followers of Jesus to Christian ministry. In the church, some are called to specific ministries of leadership, both lay and ordered; some witness to the good news; some uphold the art of worship; some comfort the grieving and guide the wandering; some build up the community of wisdom; some stand with the oppressed and work for justice. To embody God's love in the world, the work of the church requires the ministry and discipleship of all believers. (Song of Faith)

Worship:

In consultation with the Board of Session and Worship Committee, it is understood that the primary responsibility for the content and reverent conduct of worship, and the proper administration of the sacraments resides with the minister. The expectation is that the form of worship will conform with the United Church of Canada tradition in general and, specifically, with the guidelines set forth in Celebrate God's Presence and the Revised Common Lectionary. Further advice from the Worship Committee and the Organist is essential. The selection and training of readers is desirable and encouraged. All of this should be undertaken in the intentional spirit as described by the Psalmist: "Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him. Bless his name". (Ps. 100:4)'courts' here understood as the expanse leading from the sanctuary to the 'ends of the earth.'

Pastoral Care:

Pastoral Care is and must be, with understanding, a shared responsibility! Session is charged with the essential task of providing the congregation with 'spiritual oversight;' that is, getting to know individuals and families assigned to their care through regular contact; being available to these people upon request in a prayerful way; and providing the minister with advice in times of crises. We must care generously and non-judgmentally for each other so that we are able, in harmony, to witness in our communities and beyond. God expects nothing less!

Christian Development, Outreach and Teaching:

The minister is the Teaching Elder. It is expected, therefore, that every opportunity, mostly planned and deliberate, will be seized to both proclaim and teach the Truth. And the motivation is unequivocal. Jesus said:

“...if you continue in my word,
you are truly my disciples; and
you will know the truth, and the
truth will make you free.” (Jn. 8:32)

Effective teaching requires not only sound curricula (of which the church has several), and imaginative strategies, but primarily Holiness. Lessons of enduring merit are those which allow for the rehearsal of the principles taught within the circumference of the unassailable belief that “...all of life is religious...” The Psalmist has a wonderful way of saying what is meant here:

Say among the nations, “The Lord is King!
The world is firmly established;
it shall never be moved.
He will judge the peoples with equity.”
Let the heavens be glad, and let the
earth rejoice;
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
let the field exult, and everything in it.
(Ps. 96: 10 – 12a)

It is understood, then, that teaching encompasses what is commonly referred to as Christian Education for all ages, programme development to facilitate the present and enduring needs of the people whom the minister has come to serve, leadership development for those who offer or can be encouraged to offer their talents to serve the church according to their abilities, and the ‘equipping of the saints’ in order that all may enrich the wide range of tasks each Community of Faith has assumed in response to the Great Commission. Evangelism, among many understandings of the term, means at least The Church in the World. It is the way we have of proclaiming the “Good News” in a multi-cultured society which hardly seems interested in God’s forgiving and redeeming work through his Son, our Lord. The church must seek out ways to have a voice in the community, indeed, in the nation. There must come from among us those who feel called to witness to the liberating Truth in the councils of the mighty. The Great Commission allows for nothing less.

Administration:

Administration is the useful and thoughtful implementation of the decisions of church courts and the congregation's carefully planned and articulated hopes and expectations. It is understood that the church's activities, insofar as it is possible, will be planned a year in advance. For example, leaders with specific tasks will be identified and confirmed, appropriate materials for teaching and liturgical requirements ordered and received well in advance, meetings scheduled and festive days' celebrations identified and their plans settled, hymns and other liturgical music selected according to the established scripture readings, and so forth. The view is that the life and work of the church is important, and must, therefore, be well and completely planned if the efforts are to be effective – the first principle of which is an essential and critical collegiality!

SKILLS and KNOWLEDGE PROFILE

The four areas of responsibility for ordered ministry will encompass: worship; pastoral care; Christian development, outreach and teaching; and administration.

- A person who can plan worship sensitive to the needs of the two congregations.
- A person with skills in pastoral visiting and counselling, is comfortable working with all ages, and who enjoys this aspect of ministry.
- A person to coordinate the musical direction within the Church.
- A person who is comfortable working with the Sunday School and other youth groups.
- A person whose personality nurtures feelings of trust and good will within the congregation, helping us to be a caring community for those connected with this pastoral charge and for our neighbours.
- A person with a warm and friendly personality who can be a good listener and a good communicator.
- A true disciple of God

TERMS PROFILE

Effective Date: September 2015
Hours of Work: 12 hours per week

All of the following, as per United Church Policy:

Vacation Study Leave
Salary Terms Manse
Travel Moving Expenses
Phone
Continuing Education & Learning Resources Allowance

RECOMMENDATIONS OF JNAC

Recommend that the New Germany Pastoral Charge hire ministry personnel from Category A to F for Order of Ministry, Recognized Designated Lay Ministry and Retired Ministry Personnel at a position of 12 hours per week.

Recommend JNAC be disbanded once this report is accepted.

Recommend Presbytery set up a search committee.