

June 2020

Living Faith Story...

... for the Bedeque Pastoral Charge, serving the many communities surrounding Bedeque, in a rural and small village setting in the province of Prince Edward Island, Canada

Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council

Guiding Principle:

“Under God, we are accepting of all people, ministering to each other in love and offering hope while working for peace and justice in the world”



Consultations:

A survey of our church life was conducted in May of 2020, providing guidance and ideas on priorities to develop our Living Faith Story.

Our Beginnings:

The Bedeque United Church Pastoral Charge was once a three-point ministry of the Borden United, Cape Traverse United, and Bedeque United churches. These communities have had protestant ministry for generations within schoolhouses to barns to churches: 1920 in Borden; 1831 in Cape Traverse; and 1817 in Bedeque. The roots of our ministry before the United Church of Canada was Methodist.

The History of Bedeque United Church can be traced back 187 years when the first services were held in the barn of Nathaniel Wright, a United Empire Loyalist, not far from the site of the present church. A chapel was built in 1818 on part of the land which is now the site of the Lower Bedeque Cemetery. In January 1888, the present church was dedicated as the Bedeque Methodist Church. In 1903, the chancel was added, and in 1925 the Bedeque Methodist Church became Bedeque United. In 1935, the vestry was extended, and in 1954 the John Craig Memorial Hall was built. In 1988, the Bedeque United Church congregation celebrated its 100th anniversary of the church with various activities throughout the year. The Allan organ was purchased in 1991, and in 1997 an addition was built to accommodate the Minister's study and an office for the secretary of the Pastoral Charge.

The congregation has families whose roots in the church go back for several generations, some five or more!

The Cape Traverse Church history goes back to 1831 when the first Methodist chapel was built and in July 1890, a permanent church building was established. For 50 years the Cape Traverse congregation was part of the Tryon circuit. In 1968 Cape Traverse became part of the Bedeque Charge with Borden and Cape Traverse churches worshipping as one. The Cape Traverse United Church was decommissioned in July of 2016. It has since been sold and utilized as an antique shop.

The Borden Church services began in the schoolhouse on July 4, 1920. In 1924 the service moved to the Borden Union Hall. The present church was built under the leadership of Rev. Burton Crowe and was dedicated for worship on November 9, 1950. The Borden United church was decommissioned in June of 2018. It now hosts special services and events for the community.

Today:

In 2016, after a thoughtful visioning journey, the Bedeque, Borden, and Cape Traverse congregations amalgamated, worshipping as one church family in Bedeque. Over the last four years, we have blended three congregations into one church family. Some old traditions that belonged to individual congregations have been adopted by our new church family, while some new traditions have arisen. Worshipers from these communities now gather at the Bedeque United Church every Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m., where the average attendance is 85.

Why come to Prince Edward Island?

It is a simple answer really. We are Islanders and we have it all!! Our multi-generational communities have a vibrant love and respect for others in our neighbourhoods and around the world. It is certainly evident in our fundraisers for charities and benefits with one of the highest per capita in donations for Canada.

Our population of Prince Edward Island is small at 157,000. It was at Province House, in the heart of Charlottetown our capital that Canada was born in 1864 where the Fathers of Confederation first met.

Charlottetown has the only passenger airport on Prince Edward Island (approximately 45-minute drive from Bedeque). The Charlottetown Airport has connections across North America: 30-minutes to Halifax and 2-hours to Toronto. Charlottetown has many attractions, including the Confederation Centre of the Arts, home to the very popular "Charlottetown Festival"; a diverse restaurant and live music scene; and a variety of historic properties and experiences, particularly during the tourist season. Charlottetown is also home to many beautiful parks, as well as an extensive boardwalk along the city's waterfront.

The second-largest city in the province, Summerside, is a five-minute drive to the village of Bedeque. Summerside offers many great art and entertainment venues, along with shopping and all the necessary services a family would need.

The opening of the Confederation Bridge in June 1997 has joined Prince Edward Island with the mainland - or vice versa truth be known. Driving time to Moncton is now approximately ninety minutes.

Our congregation lives mainly in rural settings. The village of Bedeque is situated about 10 minutes from the Confederation Bridge. The Bedeque area is well-served by a wide range of educational facilities, shopping centers, health care facilities, and federal and provincial government offices (see Access PEI website for further information). There are also many great recreational facilities including a rink and softball field in Central Bedeque and Borden, as well as a Wellness Centre in Summerside. There is a very active Minor Hockey program in Bedeque for boys and girls, as well as a number of gyms and spas.



A beautiful scenic boardwalk along the Summerside waterfront, overlooking Bedeque Bay, extends for several miles and then joins up with the Confederation Trail. Summerside is also home to a cultural

center housing the P.E.I. Sports Hall of Fame and the Harbourfront Theatre. One of the city's most famous attractions is the College of Piping and Celtic Performing Arts, recognized in many countries around the world for its excellence in teaching and performing.

The surrounding area of Bedeque has grown to be a hotspot for businesses. Our workforce can be found in aerospace, manufacturing, tourism, fisheries, and agriculture. Many companies have found a home here: Master Packaging Inc., PEI Bag Company, Cavendish Farms, MacDougall Steel Enterprises, Atlantic Beef Products, Confederation Cove Mussels, and Linkletter Welding Ltd as examples in our communities.

In the summer months, there are many attractions for visitors and Islanders alike. There are beaches, ceilidhs, theatre, camping, walking and biking trails, gift shops, lobster suppers, parades, community celebrations, and, of course, many golf courses.

Students living in the village of Bedeque have a choice of attending Athena Consolidated (Kindergarten to Grade 9) in Summerside, and then going on to Three Oaks Senior High School in Summerside for Grades 10, 11 and 12. Students also have the option of attending Somerset School in Kinkora for Kindergarten to Grade 8, and then moving on to Kinkora Regional High School for Grades 9 to 12.

Athena Consolidated School houses approximately 340 students and Three Oaks Senior High has an estimated population of 800. Somerset School and Kinkora Regional High School each have a population in the area of 120 students.

Early French Immersion is available in Summerside and late French Immersion is available in Kensington. Core French begins for all students in Grade 4. There is a French Language School located in Summerside.

Three private schools are located in Charlottetown.

All schools in the area are active in intramural and inter-school sports. Breakfast programs are available at most schools and there are many after-school activities such as band, drama, leadership, French, and Chess clubs, to mention only a few.

The University of Prince Edward Island in Charlottetown offers studies in arts, science, engineering, nursing, education, music, nutritional sciences, and business administration. Preparatory programs in medicine and law are also available. Although UPEI's major focus is in undergraduate studies, the university also offers graduate-level courses, with programs at both masters and doctoral levels. The University of P.E.I. is also home to the Atlantic Veterinary College which is considered a world leader in aquaculture research and offers doctoral degrees and masters in veterinary medicine. The Island's community college, Holland College, specializes in offering theory and hands-on training in a flexible learning environment. Partnerships with the private sector and industry have led to custom-designed programs to meet the needs of specific employers. The college is also home to the Atlantic Police Academy, the Atlantic Tourism and Hospitality Institute, the School of Performing Arts, and the Culinary Institute of Canada.

Further information can be obtained on any aspects of P.E.I. Education by going to the government's website. <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/topic/education>

Worshipping Together:

Our hour together on Sunday mornings is a time to reflect and refocus on what is most important in our lives as Christians, while also providing a recharge for the week ahead. More importantly it is a chance to reach out to neighbours and friends, passing on an encouraging or supportive word to them. We feel a strong sense of community, support and spiritual guidance at Bedeque United.

The service is very much a team approach with members of the congregation assisting our minister in many facets of our service.

The Sermon or Message remains a very important feature in our service. The congregation enjoys ministry that builds the message around relatable life examples with some wit thrown in to capture our attention. Of course reading of Bible passages, children's time, Sunday school and music – to name just a few, adds value to our services.



During Celebration Sundays each month, congregational members have the opportunity to donate to the Helping Hand Fund. On this Sunday, members of the congregation come forward in the sanctuary to announce things happening in their lives that are worth celebrating, and provide a

donation to the Helping Hand Fund. The celebrations are diverse and plentiful. Representatives from large families come forward with handwritten lists of milestones like birthdays and anniversaries to announce. Some come with thanks for acts of kindness, gratitude for a good harvest, joy from a baby's birth, or relief for the end of medical treatment. The donations from Celebration Sunday allow the members of the Helping Hand Fund Committee to provide assistance to community members struggling financially or emotionally; it also provides the added benefit of bringing our church family together, as we share each other's happiness and celebrate each other's success.

Fellowship Sundays or "Muffin Sundays" is a time of fellowship and snacks once a month after the Sunday service.



We are blessed to have a beautiful sounding organ, along with two pianos. Our talented organist/pianist, Senior choir and Ladies Choir fills the sanctuary with wonderful music. Hymns from Voices United and More Voices are also loved by our congregation. Three flat screen monitors and our audio system provides a great experience for our congregation.

Community and Global Outreach:

Our Celebration Sunday funds are used generally to help families in our communities during hard times. We also collect food for the local Food Banks each Sunday. Bedeque United Church supports our young people in their educational goals with bursaries or in their plans to attend Camp Abby or church youth conferences with financial support. They have opportunities to build their volunteer hours as well.



Beyond our red shores, we have had a proud history of sponsoring families as newcomers to Prince Edward Island. Most recently we co-sponsored a family of five from Syria to settle in Prince Edward Island. In 1979 we sponsored a family of four from Vietnam. And our Charge and a local family from the church assisted a Japanese family of six from British Columbia, reestablishing their lives after being held in concentration camps during WWII. Occasionally we have sponsored children living in other countries.

After church on World Development Sunday, we have soup and cake and collect donations for those who are in need. This theme of giving extends into December, when the ladies of the congregation join together for a potluck meal, kicking off the Advent Season with fellowship, fun, and raising of funds for members of our community.

Our culinary skills are also used to raise funds for the church. We flip pancakes on Shrove Tuesday and become a well-oiled machine, packing takeout containers for the Lobster Supper each spring. Then, throughout the summer, homemade biscuits are buttered in the kitchen to the sounds of Ceilidhs in the hall.

In Bedeque, our traditions often include the wider community of faith, when we worship and have fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other denominations.

Each December, for two decades or more, choirs from the neighboring Baptist, Catholic, and sometimes Nazarene congregations come to the Bedeque United Church for our Community Carol Sing. Clergy from each congregation share prayers and scripture from the Christmas story, interspersed with choir selections and congregational hymns. It is the favorite service of the year for many.

A newer ecumenical gathering in Bedeque is the Lenten Lunches. Through Lent, members of the local United, Baptist, Catholic, Nazarene, and Anglican congregations gather in the Bedeque Church hall to share soup and join together in worship, with different clergy leading each week. The Lenten Lunches have grown through the years, slowly adding new congregations, and often adding additional tables to fit all the attendees!

Many well-loved traditions in Bedeque centre around important events in the Christian calendar. On the last Sunday before Advent, we welcome the coming of the season with our Hanging of the Greens service. Children decorate the sanctuary while members of the congregation reflect on and sing about the visual symbols of Christmas. And on Easter morning, the early-risers meet at the Marine Rail Park for a Sunrise Service overlooking the Confederation Bridge. As the sun rises, so do their words of praise for Christ's resurrection.

Music plays an important role in Bedeque United worship. There are two choirs who share their ministry of music on Sunday mornings: the Ladies Choir leads the music on the first Sunday of the month, while the Senior Choir leads on the remaining three Sundays. In addition to the choirs, Bedeque United is blessed to have many talented musicians who share their gifts during worship. It would not be unusual to have a fiddle, guitar, flute, or bodhran being played during the service.

Sunday School is held during church services from September until June. Traditionally, the Sunday School follows the curriculum as outlined by the Christian Education Committee. The attendance fluctuates depending on the time of year, ranging anywhere from seven to twenty. They participate in



a Children's Time every Sunday morning, Communion, Palm Sunday, White Gift Service, Hanging of the Greens, and the Christmas Eve Service. The Sunday School currently has an interesting dynamic as the majority of its members are either teenagers or early elementary/preschoolers. There is one class for kindergarten and elementary-aged children and one for the adolescents. There is also a nursery class which is supervised by high school students who are earning volunteer hours for the Community Service Bursary, which is available to all Island students in Grades 10-12. These volunteers also take turns running the audiovisual equipment during the service.

Like many churches, the Bedeque Pastoral Charge is facing the challenges of an aging population. A concern for our future is our young people. Many are very active with us up to their high school graduation. Very often the ones who go away to university do not return to this area. They are more

likely to settle in urban centers where jobs are more plentiful. However, on the positive side, we have welcomed new members to our Pastoral Charge and hope we can continue to do so in the future.

Administration:

The organizational structure of the Bedeque Pastoral charge provides leadership, coordination and oversight into various committees and organizations. The Official Board for the Charge consists of:

- Minister of the Pastoral Charge
- Elders
- Stewards
- Trustees
- Treasurer
- Ministry and Personal rep
- Christian Education Committee rep
- United Church Women rep



Other Special Notes:

The Bedeque United Church sanctuary has three LCD flat-screen televisions used to provide the congregation with prayers, hymns, etc for the service through PowerPoint Presentations.

The Bedeque United Church has the MacFarlane Family Room in the vestry to enable families a place to go where very young children can play and parents can still participate in the service.

Pastoral Care:

Our Minister has traditionally provided pastoral care to our community, with some assistance from our Session Elders or members from the congregation. A large percentage of our congregation has recently said they would be open to a Pastoral Care Team approach of providing additional emotional, social and spiritual support to the congregation, while providing support to our one minister.

We would also encourage the minister to make increased general pastoral connections with members through home visits - in addition to the pastoral care role.

Pastoral Care Options:

Our church has always had one full-time ordained minister looking after our pastoral care needs. Our charge has recently supported exploring fulfilling our pastoral care needs through one full-time student minister as a Learning Center. Moving ahead we could have either option in our church.

Continuing Education:

All professional careers require the opportunity of professional development (PD) training, and Bedeque United has always supported and encouraged our ministers to make this a priority. With the daily demands of ministers in pastoral care, time needs to be set aside specifically for PD.

Position Description:

Title: Full time **Ordained/Commissioned Minister** or full time **Student Minister**

The congregation of the Bedeque Pastoral Charge is searching for a dynamic individual to fill a full time ordained/commissioned minister or student position on or about March 1st, 2021. The minister is responsible to the Official Board and would be accountable to the Region for the general conduct of the ministry.

Bedeque United Church's spiritual atmosphere is enjoyable and rewarding with a supportive congregation of strong faith and commitment.



The following ministry priorities exist in our Bedeque United Charge:

1. Worship (35%)

It is the wish of the congregation for the minister to be responsible for public worship, including the planning and scheduling of services, communions, weddings, baptisms, and funerals, etc.

The Minister should:

- Deliver sermons and prayers that are relevant to current issues and everyday life.
- Provide the opportunity for the congregation to read scripture passages.
- Arrange a time with the children during worship with a meaningful story and hymn for their level of understanding.
- Provide the opportunity for a variety of hymns and musical styles during service, including the traditional hymns and choir selections, as well as encouraging members of the congregation to share their musical talents.
- Provide the opportunity for fellowship with the members of the congregation and the community.

2. Pastoral Care (25%)

Pastoral care is important to our congregation. To help meet this need, the congregation has shown an interest in supporting the incumbent minister with a Pastoral Care Team.

- Provide care and support for members of the congregation who are in seniors' homes, hospitals, or manor care.
- Provide pastoral and spiritual care for those who are bereaved.
- Provide regular home visits for pastoral connection with members of the congregation.
- Provide communion to the people who are unable to attend church services (sick, elderly, shut-ins).
- Confidentially assist those with personal crises (marriage, employment, finance, etc.).
- Involve young families in the life and work of the church, actively encouraging more involvement of members and adherents.

3. Community Outreach (15 %)

Encourage the continuation of outreach programs in the community including but not limited to:

- White Gift Sunday
- Ecumenical services and activities with the wider community of faith
- Helping Hand Fund
- Interest and involvement in the community outside of the church
- Attend community events

4. Christian Education and Support (10 %)

In consultation with the Christian Education Committee, provide support, leadership and spiritual guidance for all age groups in the congregation including:

- Sunday School
- Bible study
- Bible school
- Confirmation preparation
- Marriage preparation
- Baptism preparation
- A continued relationship with Camp Abegweit

5. Administration (10 %)

Work with the church staff and volunteers in the day-to-day administration of the church. Attend Region, Maritime Conference, Official Board, and other committee meetings as necessary.

6. Personal Development (5 %)

The congregation would strongly encourage the minister to seek rest and relaxation for personal and spiritual renewal and continually upgrade their skills for personal development, with guidance from the Ministry and Personnel (M&P) Committee.

Skills and Personal Qualities:

Ideally, an individual being considered for this call would have the following skills and personal qualities:

- Able to relate well to people across all generations
- Warm and caring
- Strong communication skills
- Able to deal with social issues
- Self-motivated
- Able to use relatable life examples and wit to capture an audience for public-speaking and presentations
- Comfortable using technology (computers, IT, etc.)
- Able to apply mediation and conflict resolution skills
- Strong awareness of small communities and their ministry
- Interest and involvement in the community outside of the church
- Able to work with other faith communities
- Strong business and organizational skills
- Musical interests and/or talents

Terms of Employment:

Salary: Based on scale as per General Council Schedule

Vacation: 4 Weeks per year

Travel Allowance: In accordance with mileage allowance as specified in General Council Guidelines paid on submission of log.

Housing: The Pastoral Charge will not be providing Manse housing for this position and will be moving to the Comprehensive Salary Model for our next Minister call

Moving Expense: Based upon reasonable estimates and receipts as per the Manual.

Continuing Education and Learning: Three weeks per year, including Sundays, approved by M&P (\$1, 442 per year)

Office Support: A fully equipped office in the Bedeque United Church with administrative support in the office 15 to 18 hours weekly.

Pension & Benefits: As per Manual