

105 Mission and Ministry ideas to challenge your faith and bring positive change to your community.

1. Take on the support of a school lunch / breakfast program.
2. Begin an elimination of loneliness initiative. (Visitation and Telephone)
3. Hold community free lunches in the church or public hall. Name it: "There is such a thing as a free lunch."
4. Organize evening card / backgammon / various games nights.
5. Take on community beautification projects. (tree planting, flower planting, clean up a vacant lot / Road way or river / lake shore. Check out: <http://www.guerrillagardening.org>)
6. Organize information nights and bring in experts. Local history, Politics, Skills, hobby of language learning.
7. Support the building of Habit a Humanity Home with the help of other organizations.
8. Create of Grocery delivery service.
9. Have a team to deliver prescriptions or assist people getting to Dr. Appointments or physio.
10. Hold music nights for young and not so young talent.
11. Sponsor concerts in the church, hall or other community space.
12. Sponsor drama groups or community theatre groups.
13. Start a church drama or dance group.
14. Start a church or community "band". (How about a kazoo or ukulele band? http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w_DKWlrA24k&feature=artist)
15. Record a CD as a Choir or Band or have the elderly tell the stories soon forgotten about our past history.
16. Hold a middle / high school battle of the bands / Idol competition.
17. Train those gifted and interested for grief support to serve both the church and wider community.
18. Educate your community on issues of intimate partner violence and abuse. Become a safe place for those in need.
19. Start a Book club. <http://www.canadianbookclubs.com/start.html> 20. Start a film society.

"Fall down 7 times get up 8." ~Japanese Proverb

“One of the keys to success is having the courage to start.” Kendall Emerson Harrison

21. Co-ordinate a handy person service to assist with small repairs.
22. Start a professional services team: Taxes / Legal advice / Community services / health advocacy
23. Become more aware of issues of disability in your community.
24. Connect with Amnesty International. Consider holding a write-a-thon in December.
<http://www.amnesty.ca>
25. Build a well in a poor community.
26. Learn about Residential Schools and the United Church apology. Invite your aboriginal community for a meal and conversation.
27. Support an innovative ministry in a neighbouring pastoral charge or community.
28. Start a Faith and the Arts expression group. Sponsor a local artist to share with you for the season of Advent or Lent.
29. Sponsor of youth sports team or drama club or reach for the top group.
30. Go on mass to youth sporting events. (Especially those featuring youth of your Church Family.
31. Create a community celebration wall in your building.
32. Tell good news stories on your website.
33. Take out anonymous congratulations ads in the local newspaper.
34. Write letters of support and encouragement to politicians.
35. Sponsor an appreciation night for health care workers, police and fire services.
36. Learn about and fight VLT addiction. http://files.efc-canada.net/si/Gambling/Gambling_Toolkit_2006.pdf
37. Be a safe open space for all self-help or 12 step groups to meet.
38. Take on a community issue with passion and joy.
39. Start a festival that fits your community and geography.
40. Start a walking / running group.
41. Plan a year of innovative worship. (Differing expressions / formats / different space use / guest music
/ shared presentation time with guest preachers and lay preaching)
42. Start a Stephen ministry. <https://www.stephenministries.org>

43. Connect with a Prison ministry either directly or by supporting a chaplaincy ministry with encouragement and resources.
44. Connect with KIVA.ORG <http://www.kiva.org>
45. Create and have a regularly updated website and facebook page, ello or twitter account. (updating is key)
46. Educate around the work of the Stephen Lewis Foundation.
www.stephenlewisfoundation.org
47. Buy Bed Nets. www.spreadthenet.org
48. Study and support the Mission & Service Fund ministries of the United Church of Canada.
49. Start a travel group: Local tourism Across the Province Across the Country Around the world.
50. Have group celebrations at Christmas, Thanksgiving and Easter to strengthen community and combat loneliness and grief.
51. Pass out free tickets for concerts or sporting events.
52. Have a congregation pair of season tickets to theatre or a team and draw for winners before each event.
53. Start a Yard Care Co-op.
54. Start a community Garden.
55. Organize a tool sharing program.
56. Organize a bartering program. (2 hours truck use for garden tilling) (Baby sitting for Christmas cookies)
57. Start a new parent support program. (Place to share. Free Child care so parents can sleep, go out, shop, or attend appointments.)
58. Support a parish nurse initiative.
59. Sponsor a refugee family or program.
60. Knit mittens and hats for kids and adults without.
61. Start a Prayer Shawl ministry.
62. Set up a respite care program.
63. Connect Seniors and teens. (Perhaps through history of community / war time stories /) Hold a youth Sr. dance.
64. Create a congregational playlist of favorite music. (Coldpaly to Dylan to Ella to the Canadian Brass) Buy it and publish it on iTunes.

65. Share new music and video in worship time for expression and conversation.
66. Start a Rainbow alliance and or PFLAG group.
67. Find ways to provide good sexual health information to your community.
68. Place condom machines in your public washrooms and provide free menstrual supplies.
69. Support a family planning initiative.
70. Hold information days to demystify mental health.
71. Provide suicide prevention training to your educational/ health / community clergy and all other interested.
72. Support and or volunteer with community crisis lines.
73. Start a senior's college.
74. Provide estate and tax planning workshops.
75. Donate books regularly to your local community and school libraries.
76. Start a faith development (exploration) group.
77. Create a labyrinth in your community.
78. Host a golf tournament with prizes for those having the most fun.
79. Host a poetry and writers retreat that concludes with a performance.
80. Start a Community reads program where the entire community reads one common book. (Bring the author to town for a community conversation)
81. Adopt a country and learn about its unique culture, needs, history, food and music. (End the project with a party featuring said countries music and food)
82. Pass out free coffee at the arena, the Y or the Gym especially on weekends as a thank you for parents and guardians taking an interest in their child's development.
83. Host a bring someone to worship, supper, evening performance.
84. Sponsor a scholarship to community college or university from a local school.
85. Learn about and support a micro finance project.
86. Co-ordinate a Presbytery wide / Conference wide micro finance support program for those training for ministry.
87. Support a buy local initiative.
88. Encourage a Radical Simplicity group. <http://radicalsimplicity.org/>
89. Educate about the story of stuff and Buy nothing

day. www.storyofstuff.com <http://www.adbusters.org/campaigns/bnd> <http://www.buynothingday.org/>

90. Encourage and support sustainable agricultural.
91. Create Advent and Lent rituals to share with the community.
92. Host a spoken word and or improv event.
93. Organize a community sporting event. (curling, hockey, soccer, floor hockey, bridge) (Invite teams, billet, feed, party, play
94. Create a prayer ministry and give the wider community access through phone and internet to express need.
95. Join the parade and have a product or event to share.
96. Start a living the questions or similar group that has a mealtime to be shared each week. End the evening with a special desert or unique beer or wine / scotch tasting.
97. Start a transportation service for Sunday morning.
98. Start an alternative worship experience during the week or later in the weekend.
99. Become a community that is known for your kind hello, listening ear and smiles. (All we have is right now.)
100. Learn about and sponsor a Canadian Food Grains Bank initiative in your area.
101. Start a little Free Library outside for all to use without supervision. <http://littlefreelibrary.org>
102. Throw a surprise Birthday / appreciation party for a person going through a hard time. (Homeless person , addicted youth, a person working the street) Invite their friends.
103. Send a person with limited resources to visit family who live at some distance away. Or Bring a child or parent home for a special birthday, anniversary or at Christmas.
104. Hire a yoga teacher and offer free classes to the community.
105. Hire a meditation practitioner and offer free classes to the community.

Add your ideas and success stories to this list and email them to me for future incorporation into this material and use in workshops.

Thanks as always and enjoy the gift of today.