

Stellenbosch United Church

Opportunities for Ministry



The purpose of this booklet is to inform us of the dynamic and varied ministry arising out of the life of our congregation, as well as to invite you to participate in this ministry and to assist in its continuation and enhancement

Our congregation's history began in 1899, when it was first established as a Presbyterian Church. This continued until 1990, when we became the Stellenbosch United Church, combining two denominations: The Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa, and the United Congregational Church in Southern Africa. We are presently a diverse community of about 850 people serving this remarkable university town. We are brought together by a shared knowledge of and commitment to Christ as Lord and by our joy in being shaped by the Father and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Mission Statement

We, acknowledge that the mission we are engaged in is not ours, but is God's continuing mission of love to the world and to humanity, which God has created and is creating. We understand our mission action as a covenant partnership with God and with one another. We commit ourselves to express our faith in practical ways, locally, nationally and ecumenically through equipping members to practice their faith in ways that that will help to overcome the scourges of poverty, violence, crime, injustice, racism, sexism, HIV/AIDS and other social problems. We also believe that the Gospel calls us to a ministry of reconciliation in a world that is torn apart by many forms of division.

Membership

When we consider the meaning of our membership of this congregation, we feel it is important to bear in mind that all of us are called to be vital parts of the Body of Christ, gifts to each other and of crucial importance for one another's growing into mature faith and in joining the mission of spreading God's Faith, Hope and Love in the world.

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We operate under the leadership of a Church Council comprised of elders, who assist with the organization of the church activities.



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Worship

Weekly Services

The Services are held each Sunday at 09h30 and 19h00.

During the morning service, the children participate in the service for the first 25 minutes and then leave for the Hall, where they receive attention in different age groups in the Work Rotation Model programme.



There is also a crèche for young children and it is staffed by 2 adults each Sunday morning during the service.

Preparation and Welcoming

Each Sunday there are a team of people who assist in preparing the church for worship, welcoming people, showing them to seats, handing out leaflets, taking up our offering and tidying up after worship.

Communion Services

We celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion on the first Sunday of each month. The elements of bread and wine (grape juice) used in this service need to be set out and after the service the communion glasses need to be collected and washed.



Music Group

We have different music groups, one that plays at the morning worship and another at the evening service and one during the youth service on a Sunday afternoon at 5pm. If you play a musical instrument or enjoy singing this could be a most helpful way of sharing in the ministry of worship.

Recording of Services

The services are recorded each week and duplicated on a taping machine which is kept at the church. These tapes are sent out to people who request copies and are also taken to people who are not able to attend the services.



Flower Arranging

Each week, fresh flowers are arranged and placed in the church. There are also special occasions when additional flower arrangements are needed e.g. Harvest Festival, Easter, Christmas, Thanksgiving. (There is a church budget for flowers if necessary.)



Serving Tea/Coffee after the service

A team of people help serve tea/coffee after the services, and anyone joining the roster of helpers will be welcome.

Choir

Although we do not have a permanent choir at the moment, we would greatly value the formation of a choir. If you are interested in either singing or leading a choir we would value hearing from you.

Youth Ministry

The motto of our youth ministry is Youth United ... Youth Integrated and the aim is to mix and unite with groups from other denominations and to integrate the various generations and cultures in our congregation.

Church

On a Sunday (during the school terms) the children first meet in church and then leave and go into several groups whilst the service continues:



Small Children's Ministry

This is for children under the age of 4 who have a special class designed to meet their particular needs. If you enjoy teaching young children, this could be an important place to volunteer your help.



Workshop Rotation Model

Our Children's ministry from Grade 1-8 is developed around a series of themes which are rotated over a period of 4 or 5 weeks. Each week, the children meet in small interactive groups to consider an aspect of the particular theme that is being addressed. There are a wide range of themes that are taught and you could commit yourself to assist with the teaching of one or two of these themes a year.

Senior Youth Grades 9-12

Our young people meet in discussion groups to address issues of the Christian faith that are pertinent to their circumstances. If you are a person who enjoys relating to teenage children, this could be a most helpful place to assist with the exploration of faith and life.



Confirmation Class

Persons from Grade 11 participate in a confirmation class, which explores the confessions of the Christian faith, and also seeks to reflect on what it means to be a Christian in our society today. For those people who feel convinced about the Christian faith, this class culminates in people making a profession of faith. This class is primarily run by the assistant minister but assistance is always welcome.

Sun Fun

During the school holidays, the children do not have the usual classes, but gather together in the hall for supervised activities and fun. We need people to volunteer their assistance in running these Sun Fun occasions.



Other Youth Ministry

We also have a Junior (Grade 5,6 and 7) and a Senior (Grade 8 upwards) fun and fellowship groups for the youth that usually meet on a Friday evening. The activities planned are varied and tailored to what is appropriate for their age and interest.

Youth Fellowship

On a Sunday afternoon we have a youth fellowship aimed at Grade 10 and older in the church hall. The fellowship includes interactive worship and teaching.





Outreach Projects

There are several projects during the year that the youth initiate. Easter eggs are collected and distributed to person in hospitals, as are Christmas gifts for Crèche children. There are also several community based projects.

Crèche

Each Sunday, there are a number of parents who leave their young children in the care of the crèche whilst they attend worship. Two people volunteer to be on duty each Sunday.



Pastoral Care

Hospital Visiting

Each week we try and visit the hospitals in Stellenbosch caring for those who are members of our congregation, or those who have come from outlying towns and need care.

Visiting the Housebound

We have a number of people who belong to the congregation, but who, through health or age, struggle to move about or attend worship. They value contact with the wider community and your visiting of them could be a most helpful form of care.

Counselling

If you are a registered professional counsellor, you may want to offer your services/or to 'tithe' your time to assist people from the congregation, who are in need of professional counselling.

Assisting at Funeral Teas

We have people requesting that tea be served in the hall after a funeral service. This usually means that a plate of eats needs to be prepared and if possible, assistance with the serving of tea at the funeral.

Meals Ministry

We try to provide meals for people who are ill, recovering from illness, surgery or adjusting to the demands of a new child in the home. Some members of the congregation bring appropriate meals, which are frozen and kept in the freezer at the church. But there are also occasions where it is necessary for a newly cooked meal to be delivered.

Marriage Course

This is an annual enrichment course which runs over 7 weeks. There are 7 video sessions and workbooks to assist with engagement and reflection. We need people to facilitate this course and help serve refreshments during the evening.

Marriage Preparation

This is a similar course to the Marriage Course, but specifically designed for couples who are preparing for marriage. There is again a need for people to help facilitate this course and serve suitable refreshments during the evening.

Senior Women

This is a group of mostly senior women, who meet monthly for fellowship and tea. They support, encourage one another and periodically arrange suitable outings together.



Kayamandi Crèche

We support a children's crèche, which is run from a church building in Kayamandi. Each week people from the congregation bring provisions, which are delivered to the crèche. Mrs Kuni, the manager of the crèche, periodically needs assistance. We also arrange and provide an annual Christmas party for the children.



Night Shelter

The Stellenbosch Night Shelter was largely formed as a result of one of the members of our congregation spearheading the project.

Many members of the congregation continue to support this worthwhile project through making soup and providing bread for the people at the shelter or assisting in any other ways that may be necessary.



This is a national project aiming at building houses for needy people. It would require assistance with fund raising and drawing in people to help build the homes when necessary.

Annagwele After Care

This is a project in Kayamandi that helps to supervise children after school. There is a need for ongoing fundraising, support and assistance of this after care project.



Administration

Finance, Administration and Building Maintenance

This committee oversees the income and expenditure of the congregation as well as planning and carrying out the various forms of maintenance on the property. People with Financial expertise or who are able to offer time and skill to assist with maintenance are especially welcome.

Counting of Money

On a Monday the money taken up on a Sunday is sorted, counted, recorded and banked. Volunteers to help with these tasks will be greatly valued.

Office Support

From time to time the office secretary needs assistance, especially when there are particular projects that need completion. When the secretary is on leave she needs people with office skills to assist with the day to day tasks of administration.



Garden Committee

Although our gardens are not vast, they do need ongoing care.



Other Areas

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hijklmnopqrstuvw
lmnopqrstuvwxyz
nopqrstuvwxyz
qrstuvwxyzabcde
stuvwxyzabcde



Communication

We have a quarterly newsletter informing us of events in the life of the congregation. We also have a number of people who enjoy writing and who contribute to the insert in each week's pew-leaflet. If you have skills in Desktop publishing, writing, editing, then these could be valuable places to serve.

Student Ministry

With Stellenbosch being a University town, we feel the need to work at developing this area of our ministry. We have the "Adopt a Student" project that asks local families to adopt a student and give them support and care whilst they are away from home. Other activities include getting groups together, arranging outings and fun events.

Farm Workers' Ministry

In an attempt to help people reflect on the Gospel and its meaning for our daily lives, we are introducing a Bible reading programme amongst farm workers on neighbouring farms. This is a new ministry and we would welcome people volunteering to assist.

Christian Education Course

From time to time we have specific courses that target particular topics of interest. These are valuable opportunities to gain greater understanding and insight into different aspects of the Christian faith and life.

Bible Study, Fellowship Groups

These groups meet during the week and each group decides on its own venue, time and topic of study. We encourage each member of the congregation to join one of these groups as they not only facilitate ongoing learning, but also foster support of one another.

New Members Orientation

These meetings are run on average twice a year. The course usually runs over four consecutive weeks and requires assistance with the planning and hospitality of the group.

Stellenbosch United Church Education Trust

This officially registered trust aims at raising sufficient funds for supporting needy and capable students through Secondary and Tertiary Education in the Western Cape. The distinctive feature of this trust is that it offers a mentoring programme for the students who benefit from the Trust. The Trust is still in its early stages of raising adequate funds, but the scope of this project will need different kinds of help as it seeks to fulfil the purpose of the Trust. If you would like to hear more about this project and participate in it, we would be glad to hear from you.

Koinonia Groups

This is new area of ministry with the idea of forming friendships across the racial divides of our society. We have a whole number of people from Kayamandi who have joined our congregation and we would like to develop an ongoing community of friendship through visiting each other and sharing meals in one another's homes.

Books and Cards.

A group of people enjoy recycling old cards which are then sold and the proceeds given to the Benevolent Fund. Secondhand books are continually donated and sorted for resale. Help is required with both of these tasks.

Secondhand clothing

We have for several years been sorting and reselling secondhand clothes at affordable prices to the needy. Donations of clothes and assistance with the sorting and selling will be most welcome.



Cake Sales

On occasion we have a cake sale which sells cakes, preservatives and other produce.

Any Other Ideas?

If there are other areas of ministry that are not listed here, but you would like to initiate, we would be most pleased to support and encourage you in their development.