



FAIRLAWN

Connect with what matters in life.

Explore Spirituality (ES) Council

Introduction to Fairlawn's Spiritual Values and where we are on our journey:

Among the values we seek to reflect in our spiritual life at Fairlawn Avenue United Church is the desire to be participatory, relevant, and reverent. We are a caring and inclusive community of believers, seekers, and doubters, concerned more with thoughtful questions than simple answers. We make an effort to touch the whole person, drawing upon our senses, along with heart, head and spirit. We are curious to explore our own spirituality through art, music, poetry, scripture and creative discussions. We acknowledge that we learn from each other's thoughts and experiences.

As of April 2023, Fairlawn is in the process of calling a new Minister. The Chair of ES will work closely with the Minister to achieve the ES goals, jointly agreed to by the Minister and Governing Council. The Chair of ES will play a key role in the early days of this new Ministry as a lynchpin between the new Minister, who will know little about the community of faith's spiritual needs, and that community. We are excited to support the new Minister as the prime catalyst, thought-leader and communicator of our innovation and spiritual growth agenda across the ES offerings. We look forward to learning how their talents, gifts and interests will nurture Fairlawn's evolution and feed our spirits.

The Explore Spirituality Council, working with the minister and staff, is responsible for providing leadership in the following areas:

- Providing our community of faith with opportunities to enliven their everyday lives with opportunities for spiritual growth, inspiration and spiritual fulfillment
- Creating an exploratory journey across our various spiritual offerings to our community of faith of all ages and in all stages of their faith journeys
- Exploring and creating some specific events that support these purposes by providing experiences for worship, including opportunities outside the regular Sunday morning time-slot (e.g. evening worship, weekday gatherings for prayer and discussion, small group ministry and Adult Education sessions). These events can allow for deeper exploration, sharing and reflection of theology and spirituality of interest to the congregation and that feed the intellect and the imagination.
- Ensuring music remains an exciting, participatory, and vital part of Fairlawn's spiritual life
- Encouraging continued experimentation with creative forms of worship and use of alternative content for worship, e.g. poetry, dance.
- Encouraging, enlisting and supporting lay leaders (individuals, families, other small groups) to make contributions to our spiritual life, whether to design special worship services, spiritual exploration opportunities, or adult education sessions.

- Ensuring worship logistics run smoothly both in-person and online, e.g. manage the annual service planning schedule, including supply ministers as needed; be responsible for worship service volunteers (for example: readers, communion team, ushers/welcomers etc.); church flowers/decorations as they pertain to worship
- Building on the work done to seed online worship opportunities

The Role of Chair

The Chair will work with the Council and the new minister to define Fairlawn's “innovation and spiritual growth” hopes and ambitions, and:

- Provide as needed support and coordination regarding the various activities under the ES Council umbrella
- Call ES Council meetings, ensure planning is done, and minutes are taken
- Create and manage the ES Budget, and approve expenditures

The Chair of the Explore Spirituality Council also sits as a voting member of the Fairlawn Governing Council.