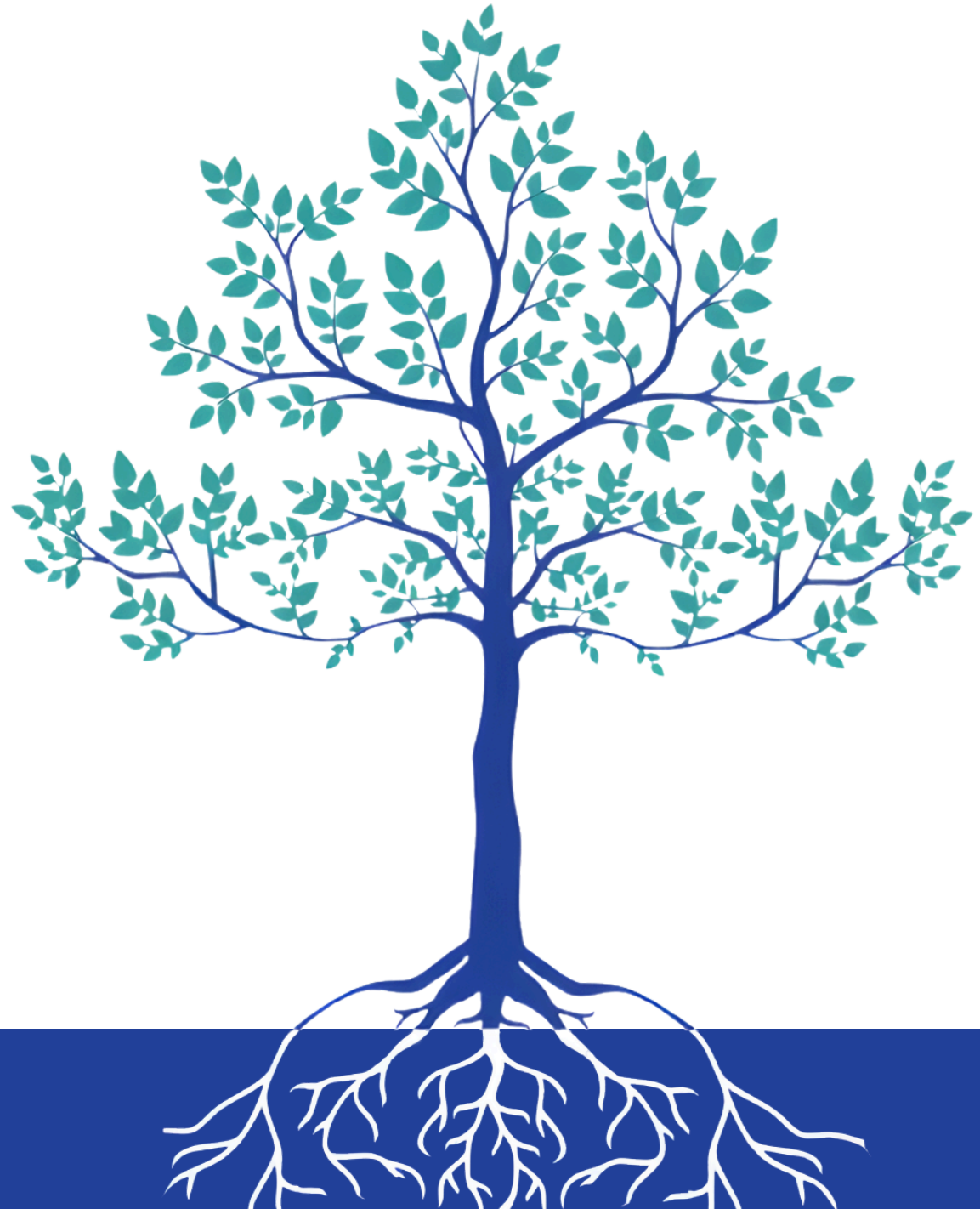

ROOTED IN FAITH

How faith and work come
together in the ministry of
Karis Disability Services

2026 Online Edition





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Welcome to Rooted in Faith.

From its beginning, Karis Disability Services (formerly Christian Horizons) has drawn strength and direction from the Christian faith tradition. This document describes how that faith shapes who we are, how we understand our work, and how we relate to one another.

We recognize that people engage with Karis from a wide range of personal, cultural, and religious backgrounds. Whatever your beliefs or religious affiliation, we hope you will find points of connection and encouragement here. Our aim is to cultivate a hospitable organizational culture, a “shared dwelling place” that forms our identity and our sense of what it means to be together (Reynolds 2008, 54).

These pages call us to understanding and respect as we live our core values together and work toward a world where everybody belongs. As we continue our work of learning how best to honour God and value people in all we do and with all our resources, we welcome further conversation.

If you would like to share your thoughts or questions, please contact us at ministry@karis.org.

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The Reeses' Journey

On March 5, 1963, the words “Congratulations! It’s a boy” were quickly followed by the news that Steven Reese, son of Reverend Jim and Adrienne Reese, had been born with physical and intellectual disabilities.

Jim’s younger brother had grown up with brain damage following a fall, and Jim felt daunted by the challenges ahead. At a time when disability was understood largely in terms of impairment and limitation, it was difficult to recognize and celebrate the gift Steven was to their family.

A psalm that Jim and Adrienne had memorized years earlier that brought comfort and steadied his fears came to Jim’s mind:

“Wait on the Lord; Be of good courage and He shall strengthen your heart; wait, I say, on the Lord!”

(Psalm 27:14, NKJV)

While still in the hospital, Adrienne received her own verse:

“Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice!”

(Philippians 4:4)

God’s message to the Reeses was clear: Steven was a gift to his family and community. This conviction raised the question that challenged them:

Why aren’t Christians more visible in ministry with people with disabilities?



Adrienne Reese, Rev. Jim Reese and their children.

In 1965, Jim and Adrienne gathered other families to begin an organization providing Christian faith-based services for Steven and others. At the time, many people with developmental disabilities lived in institutions, separated from family and community.

The Reeses became early leaders in the community living movement, helping transform supports and services for people with disabilities in Canada and beyond.

They wanted Steven’s support to recognize not only the physical, intellectual, and emotional aspects of his life, but also his spiritual needs. Karis Disability Services continues this commitment by supporting each person’s faith journey, Christian or otherwise, in environments shaped by love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22–23).

Why a Name Change?

In 2023, with the full support of its Board and the founding family, what was then known as Christian Horizons rebranded as Karis Disability Services.

This decision followed prayer, research, and consultation, and reflected a growing awareness that people unfamiliar with the organization were often unsure whether they were welcomed or belonged.

Many people assumed we were a church. Others hesitated to engage with us as employees or service users because of what the word Christian suggested to them, often shaped by past experiences of exclusion.

Research by Dr. Erik Carter indicates that as many as one in three families with a disabled family member have left faith communities after experiencing exclusion.

“Everybody belongs” lies at the heart of Christian service. Yet many people did not engage with us long enough to understand what we mean when we describe ourselves as a Christian ministry.

We now include disability services in our name because it reflects the work we provide. We embrace disability as an

ChristianHorizons



karis Disability Services



Karis name change celebration, 2023.

essential aspect of human diversity and as language preferred by many within the disability community.

Using “disability” names a reality that shapes community life. As Jim and Adrienne were reminded early on, everybody has a reason to “rejoice in the Lord.” Human diversity makes life together meaningful, even as it reveals real challenges and barriers.

As developmental services continue to evolve in Canada and people with disabilities increasingly shape their own journeys, we welcome all who choose our services to find supports that fit their lives. Our name may be new, but our commitment to our faith roots, values, vision, and mission remains unchanged.

Learn more about our history at [Cardus Case Study](#) or watch the [Christian Horizons 50th Jubilee documentary](#).

Learn more about our new name at “[why_rebrand](#)” or visit our [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

“Karis” Guides Us

Knowing a name change was needed didn’t make choosing one easy! We took time to consider which name suited us best.

“Christian Horizons” gave us a rich history and legacy, and we needed something that would do it justice.

We chose “Karis,” a phonetic variation on the Greek word χάρις (charis), meaning grace, favour, and loving-kindness. It’s related to χάρισμα (charisma) for “gift.” Karis expresses our conviction that all people have value and unique God-given gifts to share.

Everybody is a gracious gift to their communities, and their communities are not whole without them. This name reflects both our legacy and our future.

In the Bible, we read, “**For from [Jesus]’ fullness we have all received, grace [χάρις] upon grace [χάριτος].**” (John 1:16, ESV)

Grace is central to the message and ministry of Jesus. The radically accessible goodness of God comes through the ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

This goodness is available to everybody, and we believe we have a part to play in conveying this message through our service.

Later we’ll write about our core value of celebrating gifts. Did you know this value used to be “respecting gifts?”



A camper climbs up a playground with support of one of our first family camps in the late 60s.

While we won’t stop respecting and encouraging people’s gifts and contributions, we also want to celebrate what everybody brings to those around them.

The Bible helps us understand what “gifting” looks like within communities. In 1 Peter 4:10, each person receives a “grace-gift” to serve others as faithful stewards of God’s grace. These gifts are not for private gain, but for building up community.

“Karis” expresses our heart of service in response to God’s grace and our conviction that all people—created in God’s image, including those often marginalized—have gifts of value to share.

Dr. Keith Dow recorded a [video](#) helping to explain and describe the transition to “Karis” from a theological perspective.

Purpose and Mission

As demonstrated by the Reese family's passion and purpose, Karis's faith roots run deeper than obligation. Jim and Adrienne Reese's desire for a Christian service option for people with disabilities lives on in our work and is reflected in Karis's founding documents.

Our Letters Patent indicate that our purpose is: **"To imitate the work of Jesus Christ by serving those in need."**

This statement reflects our longstanding emphasis to imitate Christ and the Christian tradition.

"Part of the influence [of our faith] is the concept of justice, but it's much deeper than that. It's really about thinking about how Jesus lived his life: he had a place...for anybody and took the time to slow down or to adjust his posture or his activities to include people that society had often not included and missed out on" (Janet Noel-Annable, CEO, Interview, 2020).

Karis is registered with the Canada Revenue Agency as a charity under the "advancement of religion," which includes supporting faith-based institutions and ministries. As such, Karis is legally required to ensure that its religious purpose continues to guide its practices, alongside its values, vision, and mission.

God has called Karis to imitate the work of Jesus Christ in serving, supporting, and learning from people with disabilities and their families.



As a Christian ministry, we affirm the Holy Bible to be the authoritative Word of God. We believe the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds to faithfully represent the essential beliefs of the Christian faith. Drawing from the Bible and two millennia of Christian witness, we profess the following:

- **Our Values:** Valuing People; Fostering Belonging; Serving Others; and Celebrating Gifts come from our belief that every person is loved by God and created in His image.
- **Our Vision:** People with disabilities belong to communities in which their God-given gifts are valued and celebrated.
- **Our Mission:** As an expression of Christian faith, we work together with people with disabilities to accomplish their goals and nurture communities where everybody belongs.

Ministry and Work

From our purpose and mission, three primary outcomes clarify our work:

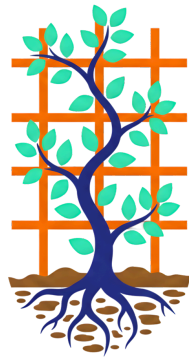
- People experience services that **reflect our core values.**
- People experience services **consistent with our service principles.**
- People experience communities **where everybody belongs.**

Our Value Statement highlights our vertical relationship with God and our horizontal relationship with each other.

These two principles work together and arise from Jesus' Great Commandment:

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbour as yourself.
(Matthew 22:36-39)

The belief that love for God must be partnered with love for one's neighbour is the foundation of thousands of years of Christian service.



Rooted in Faith

**Mission
Vision
Values**



Karis x Humber College graduating culinary class, 2024.

As early as the first century AD, it was reported that

...There were no needy people among [the Christian community] because those who owned land or houses would sell them and bring the money to give to those in need. (Acts 4:34-35, NLT).

While our way of meeting people's needs may look different than it did for early Christians, we continue the tradition of responding to our neighbours with the love and grace of Jesus.

Our [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...) channel features videos highlighting our work, ministry, and organizational values. Visit [karis.org](https://www.karis.org) to learn more.

Valuing People



Key Insight: Whole person dignity and full citizenship

Key Scripture: Genesis 1:26-27; Psalm 139:13 - 16

We will value people for who they are—not for productivity, independence, or ability. Everybody is created in God’s image (imago Dei), fearfully and wonderfully made. We will recognize each person with full citizenship and inherent dignity. We will advocate for rights and responsibilities to be exercised in community life, not kept at the margins.

Key Insight: Self-determination with support

Key Scripture: Revelation 3:20

We will value people by honouring their freedom to shape their own life. Although their choices may differ from ours; we will accompany with respect; supporting without control or coercion.

Key Insight: Created for relationship

Key Scripture: Matthew 25

We will imitate Christ by serving our neighbours. Our practice is “with, not for:” listening first, protecting consent, and fostering participation in worship, work, and community. Valuing people becomes a lived confession—honouring God by affirming the sacred worth, agency, and belonging of every person.

Upholding each person’s God-given worth, freedom, and place in community.

Fostering Belonging



Key Insight: Remove barriers: physical, social, attitudinal

Key Scripture: Genesis 1:26-27; Psalm 139:13 - 16

Belonging is more than inclusion; it is being known, wanted, and missed when absent. Through Christ, we are “no longer strangers and aliens, but members of God’s household.” Jesus’ Parable of the Banquet shows that God’s invitation is for everyone, especially those left out.

Key Insight: Honour interdependence and shared voice

Key Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:22-26

Everybody brings a story and gift that the community needs. The Bible describes the church as a body where “the parts that seem weaker are indispensable.” Belonging happens when space is made for mutual care, shared leadership, and genuine friendship rather than just participation.

Key Insight: Practice hospitality as shared leadership

Key Scripture: John 13:34–35

We practice belonging by removing barriers—physical, social, and attitudinal—and by welcoming difference as a sign of grace. We love one another as Jesus loved us and reflect God’s hospitality by helping one another discover the joy of belonging.

Belonging is God’s welcome made visible. We’re no longer guests, but family.



Serving Others



Key Insight: Service expresses faith through love.

Key Scripture: Mark 10:45, John 13:14-15

To serve others is to follow Christ's pattern of love in action. Jesus "did not come to be served, but to serve," inviting us into that same posture. Service is not charity but a way of living that recognizes God's image in every person.

Key Insight: Work with, not for, others.

Key Scripture: Galatians 5:13

When we serve, we learn dependence on one another and on God's sustaining grace. We discover the giver and receiver are both transformed. Serving others becomes a daily discipline of love—expressing faith through compassion and honouring God by tending to the flourishing of all.

Key Insight: Embodied care reflects the gospel.

Key Scripture: Matthew 25:40

Serving others means accompanying people with dignity and respect, working alongside rather than over them. True service is relational and embodied, requiring patience, presence, and attention to physical, emotional, and spiritual needs. "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

Serving others is love made tangible. Sharing Christ's grace in every act of care.

Celebrating Gifts



Key Insight: Gifts are given for other's good.

Key Scripture: 1 Peter 4:10; 1 Corinthians 12:4-7

Every person has gifts to share. These gifts are not earned by talent or status but received from God for the good of others. Scripture teaches that "each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others." Gifts are given in variety but share one source and purpose: to build up the body of Christ and bless our neighbours.

Key Insight: Listen first; invite and resource participation.

Key Scripture: Romans 12:4-8

Celebrating gifts means making space for people to offer what God has placed in them—voice, creativity, prayer, leadership, friendship, and joy. We name gifts where they appear and remove obstacles that keep them hidden. Rather than assigning roles based on assumptions, we listen first and co-design opportunities aligned with each person's passions.

Key Insight: Celebrate visible and hidden contributions.

Key Scripture: James 1:17

When communities celebrate gifts, everyone is strengthened. Those who seem less visible often reveal indispensable graces, re-centering our life together on gratitude and mutual service.

Celebrate the Giver by welcoming every person's God-given contribution.

Value Statement



We will honour God and value people in all we do and with all our resources.

As a Christian faith-based organization, we hold to this value statement that forms our unique identity while welcoming people of all faiths and backgrounds who share our vision, subscribe to our values, and wish to join our mission.

This approach is also reflected in the Core Competencies document, which acknowledges the need for employees to show “...concern for, and sensitivity to, the fundamental values and ethics of the agency/ organization/sector.”

We will honour God...People look to Karis expecting to see values and behaviours that reflect our faith roots. Employees representing Karis are expected to demonstrate qualities such as honesty (Proverbs 15:11; 24:26), integrity (Proverbs 13:6; Titus 2:7), patience, kindness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23).

We seek to honour God by imitating the work of Jesus—through service to those in need (Proverbs 14:31), caring for ourselves as God’s creation (1 Corinthians 6:19-20), and treating others well (3 John 1:6). Theologically, we also recognise that God may be honoured through actions and outcomes even when those involved do not explicitly acknowledge God.

and value people...We value people as image-bearers of their Creator (Genesis 1:27). Valuing people means treating each person with respect and dignity, expecting the best from them and striving to see the best in them (1 Corinthians 13). “People” includes persons supported, employees, agency partners, and others. Valuing people, therefore, means intentionally fostering inclusion and belonging. In Scripture, the “other” is described as neighbour, alien, or stranger, and is consistently to be treated with care, dignity, and hospitality (Leviticus 25:35; Matthew 25:35; Mark 12:31; Hebrews 13:2; 3 John 1:5).

in all we do...We recognize that our values must be reflected in every aspect (1 Corinthians 9:22; 1 Peter 1:15) of our work. Seeking to imitate the vulnerability and strength of Christ necessitates embodying servant leadership.

and with all our resources. While resources come in many forms (government funding, donations, gifts and talents of employees and volunteers), we see God as the ultimate source (Genesis 1:28; 9:1,7). Recognizing this, we respond faithfully and with integrity as stewards of available resources (Luke 12:42; 1 Peter 4:10). This response is first to God but also to all stakeholders to whom we are accountable, including government, donors, families, persons supported, and the Board of Directors.

Vision Statement

People with disabilities belong to communities in which their God-given gifts are value and celebrated.

People with disabilities belong to communities...We reject the notion that people with disabilities should be isolated, marginalized or excluded (Genesis 2:18). We support people with disabilities to be included in faith communities, clubs, recreational groups, interest groups, and community organizations. In particular, Christian faith communities have a calling to be inclusive, to welcome the stranger (Matthew 25; 3 John 1:5), and to practise hospitality (Hebrews 13).

We work to encourage open and accepting communities by modeling healthy, positive relationships based on valuing and respecting the person and coming alongside communities to help them explore what it means to be inclusive.

in which their God-given gifts...We believe that all people reflect the image of God to the world (Genesis 1:27). This reflection occurs in what we do, how we do it, and how we see others. Seeing people's gifts as God-given challenges any notion that a person's gifts might be overlooked, ignored or devalued (1 Corinthians 12:4; 16:10-11; 1 Timothy 4:12-14), a truth Henri Nouwen reflects on when he describes a man with significant disabilities as "my friend, my teacher, my guide" (Nouwen 2022).



Sumeya in her accesible classroom, Bekoji, Ethiopia, 2025.

Where some may see disabilities are limitations, we see and seek creative ways for people with disabilities to use their gifts to enrich society (Genesis 1:27).

are valued and celebrated. Given that all people have gifts to share and can make positive contributions, we support people with developmental disabilities to be fully functioning contributing members of society. Scripture affirms that God gives gifts to each person for the good of others (Ephesians 4:7-12; 1 Peter 4:10; Romans 12:6; 1 Corinthians 12:11). While some passages focus on spiritual gifts, Scripture also makes clear that gifts include vocations and skills used in daily life (Exodus 31:6).

We support people to share their gifts through various methods—volunteering, pursuing a vocation, pursuing artistic endeavors—and to participate in activities of citizenship including social action, voting, and other political processes.

Mission Statement



As an expression of Christian faith we work together with people with disabilities to accomplish their goals and nurture communities where everybody belongs.

As an expression of Christian faith...We are a Christian faith-based organization, deeply rooted in biblical truths. While we uphold Christian values, we welcome people of all faiths and non-religious backgrounds to join in our mission. We make our work accessible to everyone by describing our approach to service through various documents including the Expectations for Employees, which outlines our role in supporting people.

we work together with people...We work together as teams, as an organization, with communities, with government, faith communities and most importantly with the person using services and their family. “Working together” recognizes that service is not provided from a position above or below another, but as equals created in God’s image. We continue to move from doing things for people toward doing things with people and ultimately, being led by people receiving our services.

with disabilities...We work together with the person who has disabilities and many others including their family and community. We are intentionally inclusive of the person, their family, their community, and the broader Christian community.

Our work in Canada is primarily to support people with a developmental disability, yet many people we support have concurrent disabilities.

to accomplish their goals...Respecting the leading of a person and their goals, implementing plans to get there, and accomplishing those goals through person-centered support is at the heart of what we do. Working alongside people to grow and develop is vital to our vision of seeing people with disabilities actively engaged in communities where their God-given gifts are valued and celebrated. When people of all abilities contribute their gifts, the whole community benefits.

and nurture communities...Our role is to motivate and equip communities to fulfill their potential, best realized when everybody belongs and contributes. We strive to work within communities, encouraging them to recognize the value of everybody’s gifts and contributions.

where everybody belongs. “Everybody belongs” draws from the biblical analogy of Christ’s body, where each member is indispensable (1 Corinthians 12) and “each member belongs to one another” (Romans 12:5). Relatedly, the incarnation (John 1:14) highlights that bodies matter. As human beings, our physical bodies are sites of marginalization and stigma or of welcome and belonging. Everybody has the right to dignity, respect, and self-determination. Everybody seeks a community of belonging.

Service Principles

Karis Disability Services provides supports in a manner consistent with its perspective that all people have intrinsic value as image-bearers of God. In keeping with its Values, Vision and Mission, Karis Disability Services will provide services and supports consistent with the following principles:

We work to enhance relationships. We recognize that each person has a need to associate with others. We believe relationships are essential to a person's quality of life. We believe that family and friends play a significant role in helping a person realize their full potential. We recognize that people with disabilities are at risk of being marginalized and excluded; therefore, we seek to assist each person to develop valuable and positive interpersonal relationships.

We promote full citizenship. We understand full citizenship to mean that people are treated with dignity and respect and are able to exercise their rights and responsibilities as accepted members of society. We recognize that people with disabilities are at risk of not benefitting fully from the responsibilities and privileges of citizenship; therefore, we seek to assist each person to realize those benefits and, when necessary, will advocate with people so they can experience full citizenship.

We seek to value peoples' gifts. We believe every person has gifts to share. We recognize that people with disabilities are at risk of not having their gifts recognized, valued, and celebrated; therefore, we will work to enhance the recognition of people's gifts and to empower people to share their gifts



Harvey, Raymond, and Cindy, Family Camp, Muskoka Bible Centre, 2025.

and skills in their community (e.g., through employment, volunteering, belonging).

We recognize each person's right to self-determination. We believe that all people want to have choice and control in their lives. We recognize that people with disabilities are at risk for not having their right to self-determination respected; therefore, we will respect and will follow each person's direction for their life, help access information to assist in making informed decisions, and foster independence in ways that are meaningful to the person.

We encourage continuous growth and development. We believe that people grow and develop throughout their life. We recognize that people with disabilities are at risk for not having access to opportunities for growth and development, therefore, we will support people to explore opportunities to try new things and pursue their goals.



Earl in Peel, ON.

We recognize the need for holistic supports. We believe that a person is more than the sum of their parts. It is impossible to totally capture a person's existence into a few words and phrases. We recognize that people with disabilities are at risk of being seen in a fragmented way, with needs in various areas; therefore we will promote:

- **Physical needs:** recognizing each person's unique physical abilities and interests, we will work to enhance each person's acceptance of their physical characteristics and assist them to achieve physical development according to their needs, desires, and abilities.
- **Intellectual needs:** recognizing each person's unique intellectual development we will support each person to acquire the necessary skills or direct them to resources to equip them to address life's challenges. We will support each person to develop and grow to their maximum potential, enabling them to make positive choices and to participate in beneficial aspects of life.

- **Emotional needs:** recognizing each person's emotional development, we will work to strengthen each person's ability to function positively and to create healthy and stable environments that will minimize negative stress.
- **Spiritual needs:** recognizing each person's right to freedom of religion, we will work to support each person in undertaking and pursuing faith-based activities that they choose, that are meaningful to them, that will enhance their personal life, and that will positively affect them in their everyday living.

Scripture Cited

This is not an exhaustive list. It contains the verses and Bible passages specifically referenced. Bible references are from the New International Version (NIV) unless otherwise noted.

The Reese's Journey

Psalm 27:14 (KJV) Wait on the Lord, be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart; wait I say on the Lord

Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Philippians 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice.

One Vision. One Ministry.

Matthew 22:36-39 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself.

Acts 4:34-35 (NLT) there were no needy people among [the Christian community], because those who owned land or houses would sell them and bring the money to give to those in need."

Valuing People

Created in God's Image

Genesis 1:26-27

Then God said, "Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground."

So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

Psalm 139:13

"I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well."

Human Beings Are Persons

Psalm 139:16

Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

People have the right to self-determination

Revelation 3:20 (NLT)

"Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends."



People are relational

Genesis 2:18 It is not good for the man to be alone.

Fostering Belonging

The Beauty of Vulnerability

Psalms 54:4 Surely God is my help; the Lord is the one who sustains me.

Psalms 103:15 The life of mortals is like grass, they flourish like a flower of the field;

Isaiah 53:2-4 He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him...Like one from whom people hide their faces, he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.

1 Corinthians 12:26 If one part [of the Body] suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

Philippians 2:7 He made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

Hospitality and Welcome

Matthew 8; Mark 2; John 9 Jesus heals the blind, the paralyzed, the centurion's servant, and many others.

Luke 15:11-32 The Parable of the Prodigal Son

Luke 15:11-32 The Parable of the Prodigal Son

Luke 10:25-37 The Parable of the Good Samaritan.

Acts 4:32 All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had.

Belonging to Community

1 Corinthians 12:21 Those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable.

Relational Healing

Mark 2:1-12 The friends of a paralyzed man lower him through the roof in order to get past the crowds to Jesus. When Jesus sees their faith, he first says to the man "Son, your sins are forgiven." Only then does he go on to physically heal the man in order to demonstrate that he has the power to forgive sins.

John 9:2-3 Christ's disciples ask him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Their impression was that disability was a result of sin. "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," replied Jesus, "but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him."





Serving Others

John 13:3-5 Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

Philippians 2:5-8 In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross!

Redemptive and Restorative Work

Luke 22:26-27 (NLT) In this world the kings and great men lord it over their people, yet they are called 'friends of the people.' But among you it will be different. Those who are the greatest among you should take the lowest rank, and the leader should be like a servant. Who is more important, the one who sits at the table or the one who serves? The one who sits at the table, of course. But not here! For I am among you as one who serves."

1 Peter 5:2-4 Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

Justice and Advocacy

Proverbs 31:8-9 Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.

Luke 4:18-19 "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."





The Tactile Gospel: Serving Everybody

- Matthew 25:37-40 Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’ ‘The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’
- Mark 9:41 Truly I tell you, anyone who gives you a cup of water in my name because you belong to the Messiah will certainly not lose their reward.
- John 1:14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.
- Galatians 5:22 (NLT) The Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!
- 1 John 1:1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life.

Celebrating Gifts

- Genesis 2:23 The man said, “This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh”
- 1 Samuel 16:7 (NLT) People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart
- 1 Corinthians 12:21-22 The eye cannot say to the hand, ‘I don’t need you!’ And the head cannot say to the feet, ‘I don’t need you!’ On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable.
- 1 Peter 4:10 (NLT) God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.



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