



A Statement from the Corporation
and Parish Council of the
Church of St John the Evangelist

A Tradition of Inclusion

November 2010

*God, steadfast in love and infinite in mercy,
welcomes sinners and invites us to table.*

The Church of St John the Evangelist strives to be a church which welcomes all people. We see ourselves as a community of seekers, grappling together with the great questions of life and faith. As a congregation, we have put a lot of prayer, thought, and planning into ways in which we can remove the barriers preventing people from finding their place amongst us and contributing to the rich diversity of life as seekers committed to Jesus' vision of God, humankind and the future of creation.

Over the decades, parishioners have discerned the need to welcome new ministries to St John's. In the 1940s, we founded the St John's Business Women's Club at a time when most considered the proper and only place for women to work was in the home. In the 1950s and 1960s, we welcomed women into church leadership and founded the Community Shop as an outreach ministry to our neighbourhood. In the 1970s, we welcomed young children to communion, advocated for the ordination of women and began our remarkable ministry of refugee sponsorship. In the 1980s, we began our ministry to persons affected by HIV/AIDS and intentionally extended the hand of Christ's fellowship to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people. In 1990s, we initiated Circles of Support and Accountability to support the re-integration into society of previously incarcerated sexual offenders, and started our ministry of advocacy for the homeless and the provision of affordable housing.

The Church of St John the Evangelist is committed to maintaining this long-standing tradition of inclusion. All who search to be part of a Christian community committed to living in respectful community, in God's name, have a place at St John's.

Our success as a community of Christ is measured by the degree to which all people, regardless of gender, wealth or place of abode, age, race, place of origin, creed, sexual orientation, family status, disability or record of offences, feel welcomed, safe and included.

Thanks be to God.