**Profile of:** The Parish of Christ the King, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada – a parish of the Anglican Network in Canada (ANiC) June 2021

This profile is intended to give a sense of the nature, activities, characteristics, operation, and identity of Christ the King (CtK). It is hoped that this information will assist potential applicants in praying about the position.

**Foundational Values**

The creation of Christ the King, Edmonton (CtK) is an expression of deep continuity. The continuity is derived from a deep desire on the part of the members to be faithful to an orthodox understanding and interpretation of scripture. God’s Word speaks to a changing culture and always points to repentance and acceptance of Jesus and His work. And God’s Word calls his people to proclaim the life-giving news of Jesus Christ and to act with sacrificial love.

The congregation is open and welcoming to everyone seeking to grow in the knowledge and love of God as revealed in His inspired Word, the Bible. “Love your neighbour as yourself” (Mk. 12:31);

“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.” (Col. 3: 12-14)

**Mission**

The mission of CtK can be simply stated: “Make disciples of all people. Teaching them to obey all that Jesus has commanded” (Matthew 28: 16-20); “And the angel said to them, ‘Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.’” (Luke 2:10); “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13: 34 – 35); “Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.” (2 Tim. 4:2)

CtK very much wants to be a ‘means of growth’ in two senses: growth in the love and discipleship of members; and, growth in the number of those hearing and responding to the call of Jesus. The sustained desire is for CtK to become a ‘mother’ church – in other words to be the means by which a new church could be established. Although this hope has not yet happened – the timing is God’s – CtK seeks a fresh urgency from God for this vision and, also, the bestowal of resources – spiritual, pastoral, and material – to bring fruition.

This hope is a key element in CtK’s formal vision statement:

*To be an expression of the Church of Christ as a member of ANIC, guarding and conveying the historic Christian faith; growing in heart, mind, and action; prayerfully, reverently, and joyfully following the Holy Spirit; and fulfilling the Great Commandment and Commission within our city, nation, and the world. Also, to provide a safe and welcoming haven for seekers and disciples who are new, adrift, neglected, or undernourished.*

A recent survey of parishioners asking for input about how well CtK is meeting its mission brought out

several themes. (response rate 40%)

The most repeated theme in their responses was that of the Holy Spirit: the importance of allowing more room for His working (listening time; prayer ministry) and the need for more practical teaching about His operation.

The second most common theme was mission: local missions, outreach, proclaiming the gospel to those who don’t know it.

Less prominent themes were: the importance of prayer; loosening of the liturgy and control in the service; and ‘being Anglican’ isn’t the goal.

**Statements of Faith**

The Thirty-Nine Articles are the foundational expression of faith for the parish. There are several additional documents that enrich and further express this faith, in particular The Book of Common Prayer. The Montreal Declaration and the Jerusalem Declaration also speak to the faith, as do the Ordinal of the Anglican Church of North America (ACNA) and the Global Anglican Future conference statement.

**Format of Worship**

CtK seeks to worship God, that is to do the ‘work’ of the people, by consciously attending to the elements of practice and worship captured in the terms ‘orthodox or traditional’, evangelical, and charismatic. This attention is expressed through the use of Anglican Church in North America (ACNA) approved forms of liturgy in an ‘in-house’ booklet which includes explanations for those unfamiliar with this way of worshipping. The ministry of the Word is a key element of faithful worship. Weekly celebration of Holy Communion feeds communicants with the bread of heaven. And, in the same service, time is spent waiting quietly for the Holy Spirit to speak and to move. Chapel prayer ministry is offered by prayer teams during the Eucharist to all who feel called by God to personal prayer. Congregational singing seeks to offer praise and to turn hearts and minds towards God through hymns and contemporary songs. “God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” (John 4: 24)

It is obvious that the corona virus has affected the worship format. Services of Morning Prayer started to be broadcast in March 2020. Physical services, which are also broadcast live, resumed in June. Services of Holy Communion were added in October. Both live on-line and physical services are continuing as of May 2021.

The Sunday morning service is held at 10:00am.

**Rector**

The rector is Stephen Lieberman. In 2014 he graduated from Vanguard College with a Bachelor’s of religious studies in pastoral leadership, and joined CtK as the part-time youth pastor that same year. He became the full-time assistant pastor in training for ordination in 2015. Stephen was ordained in June 2019 and recently completed his master’s of divinity degree at Taylor Seminary. From the end of August 2020 Stephen diligently served as the interim rector. At the end of December 2020 he was appointed as rector.

Stephen is married to his wonderful wife, Angie, and together they are parents to Silas (5), Caleb (3), and Elyse (2).

**Leadership and Administration**

CtK is blessed with a goodly number of lay leaders equipped with a wide array of gifts, talents and experience which they willingly use for the furtherance of the Kingdom. One venue where this capacity is deployed is parish council which has the usual officers – treasurer, secretary, rector’s warden, and people’s warden. There are also standing committees of council: hr, facilities, and nominating. CtK has by-laws and is close to completing an extensive policy and procedures manual.

**Staffing**

For the past several years CtK has had two paid pastoral staff and no paid administrative staff. The administrative work is carried out by considerable volunteer input and by the staff. CtK is fortunate to have Chad Graham, honorary priest, who ably contributes to its life and ministry.

**Congregation**

Attendance on a Sunday for the majority of 2020 and into 2021, has generally consisted of 35-55 in-person attendees per service, with 15-30 devices regularly following along on the live-stream. There is a lot of anticipation for the end of covid restrictions and the resumption of regular gathering.

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| *Age range* |  |
| 2 and under | 2 |
| 3 – 6 | 8 |
| 7 – 12 | 6 |
| 13 – 17 | 2 |
| 18 – 24 | 4 |
| 25 – 35 | 8 |
| 36 – 50 | 12 |
| 51 – 65 | 18 |
| 66 and up | 30 |

In addition to those able to attend regularly there is a group of some twenty people who, in their various ways, participate in CtK and consider themselves to be and act as connected to, interested in, supporters of CtK. This group brings a parish ‘total’ to, roughly, 110.

**Financial information**

God has been faithful in moving the hearts of members to donate financially. Each year the church budget has been met or exceeded. The 2020 operating budget is $300,000. Despite the disruption caused by the corona virus, CtK has been able to meet its budget expectations. In addition, CtK has a healthy non-designated reserve fund as well as a healthy growing building fund.

CtK is also blessed to have a competent and diligent treasurer and assistant. Both have many years of related professional and volunteer experience. CtK’s accounting and finances are ‘in good hands’.

**Facilities**

CtK does not own its worship facility, as is the case with the vast majority of ANiC parishes. Within a few months CtK’s beginning in 2013, it has been meeting in the West Edmonton Christian High School: 14304 – 109 Avenue). The school is owned and operated by the Edmonton Society for Christian Education which has a financial partnership with the Edmonton Public School Board.

The congregation meets for Sunday Worship in the school’s atrium. During the week, the atrium is used as a meeting place for students. The architect designed it to be also used as a worship space. It is a bright, open space, conducive for worship, with a 150-person capacity (pre-corona virus layout).

The school library acts as the nursery. Two Sunday school classes uses other spaces. The galley kitchen, located adjacent to the atrium, is used to prepare after-service coffee and special pot luck lunches (of course not during the corona virus). There is ample parking on the school grounds and adjacent street for all of the parishioners. This space, despite its limitations and the chore of set-up and take-down, serves well.

CtK is also permitted to use the school library for meetings each Monday evening. The school allows additional week-night use, however this use is secondary to school activities. The school administration has been very accommodating.

The facilities committee is actively seeking a space for CtK to ‘call its own’. Based on the committee research, the lease alternative is too costly. The purchase of either a church building or commercial space appears to be more doable. To date, God seems to be saying: “Be patient.”

**Church Office**

The church ‘office’ is being operated from the homes of the rector and volunteers (chiefly the members and officers of parish council). The rector has a designated cell phone number. Parish Council does not foresee this situation changing in the near future.

**Communication**

The communications objective is to keep what happens in the parish as transparent as possible. The pastor keeps parishioners up-to-date each week through an e-mail “Resources and News”. Special updates are also communicated via e-mail by a lay volunteer. Christ the King, Edmonton is listed on the national ANiC website. The parish also has its own website (christtheking-edmonton.ca) and a FaceBook page, both of which have been useful means of communication.

**Focus on Missions**

The concern for missions at CtK is driven by its members’ strong desire to see those without the saving knowledge and love of Jesus come to the joy of that life-giving experience. In recognition of the parish’s focus on supporting missionary work locally, nationally and internationally, CtK decided to separate missions from the other parish ministries which are outlined below. In accordance with the value placed on mission, CtK unanimously decided to allocate 10 per cent of the parish budget to missions.

CtK has initiated a variety of outreach programs to the Edmonton community:

* distributed parish leaflets to the neighbourhoods within the vicinity of its place of worship
* linked with the local McQueen Community League
* held a number of bike-repair shops during the Community League’s Family Day
* held an after-service children’s soccer camp
* held a number of Alpha Courses, including one at a nearby seniors’ home
* held some Christianity Explored Courses
* annually organized Cross-Talk children’s day camp which attracts about 25 campers.

Beyond the immediate community, CtK sponsors individuals involved in a variety of mission activities:

* Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship, University of Alberta campus
* Christianity Explored Canada Ministries (members of CtK)
* Desert Streams healing ministry in Edmonton
* Bridgebuilders (members of CtK)
* Deschambault Lake ministry team (CtK members) in conjunction with LAMP (a Lutheran indigenous ministry) - on-going ministry and a vacation bible camp.
* Other indigenous missions: Empower Ministries, Galcom International, and Open Doors

**Ministries:**

*Prayer*

Prayer Chain

The prayer chain is one of many prayer ministries at CtK. Any member may send a prayer request by email or telephone to the coordinator. Anyone may join the ministry as a pray-er/intercessor. The prayer chain coordinator checks the prayer chain for messages once a day and forwards prayer requests through the chain within 24 hours of receiving them. All prayer chain members are asked to keep requests confidential. There are 17 prayer warriors who faithfully pray over the requests.

Congregational prayer meetings

On the third Tuesday of each month a congregational prayer meeting is held in the school library.

Prayer Chapel

Prayer Chapel Ministry is offered by lay prayer teams, in a separate room, during the Sunday Worship Eucharist to all who feel called by God to personal prayer. The rector announces the opportunity for personal prayer at the start of administration of the Eucharist. Members who feel called to do so, continue to the prayer chapel after receiving communion. CtK has seven prayer chapel teams of two lay people, male and female, that rotate each Sunday. The team members are approved by the rector.

Bi-Weekly Prayer Meetings

A small group, mainly women, have been faithfully meeting for prayer on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday afternoons of each month since the founding of CtK. The purpose for meeting is to pray for CtK, ANiC in general, and individual members who have requested prayer through the prayer chain.

*Children’s Ministry*

The Children’s ministry provides three weekly classes: nursery (aged 0–3), pre-school (4–6), and the oldest class (7–11). All of the classes have been working through the God’s Big Story curriculum. This curriculum has been developed with liturgy and Anglican catechism in mind. An important weekly ministry is the time of catechesis every Sunday. It encourages and embraces all ages in our service, and promotes multi-generational learning together.

*Youth*

Youth ministry, like the students involved, is always changing and moving forward. Its aim is to introduce youth to Jesus Christ and to teach and disciple them in getting to know Him. It seeks to achieve its aims through a program of stable and also changing opportunities. There are regular events Friday nights, Bible studies, one-on-one mentorship, volunteer activities in the summer, a fall youth conference and a spring retreat.

*Visiting Team*In March 2020 the visiting team was recreated to minister and care for those in the congregation who are shut-in, ill, or needing encouragement or support. Due to the corona virus this has been done by phone calls, sending cards and, when possible, by visits. A team of nine lay people faithfully serve and support the pastor with this work.

*Wholeness in Christ*

The Wholeness Prayer Ministry Team continues to offer prayer ministry for those who are struggling with issues that affect their lives on all levels. The team is composed of members of CtK who have been to the Wholeness Through Christ courses and schools. It is a gentle, Christ-centered and Spirit-led ministry which has helped many to find healing and a new freedom in their relationship with God and with others and greater peace and joy within themselves. Three team members conduct the ministry directly while others are engaged in a prayer vigil for the person. It is a gentle ministry which is totally confidential. The primary focus of the ministry is to facilitate a healing encounter with God. God is the one ministering to the person.

*Small Groups*

There are six groups, most of which meet on a week-day evening to pray, to fellowship, and to study the Bible. This number includes home groups and also ladies’, men’s, and younger adult fellowship groups. These groups are an important element in life of the church, enabling closer connection, focused prayer, and interactive study. Zoom has enabled these groups to continue during the corona virus restrictions.

*Greeters/Sides People*

The sidespeople arrive early to ready the bulletins, song sheets, and service leaflets for the congregation. They greet people as they arrive, assist should any extra seating be necessary, and count the number of attendees. In addition they manage the communion line and the offertory collection.

*Altar Guild*

The Altar Guild lovingly and diligently care for the Lord’s Table. This service is a necessity for communal worship and celebration of the Eucharist. Altar guild members are responsible for setting up the altar prior to each service, clearing up after the service, and then washing and storing the equipment and supplies. They also care for the linens and silver used during the Eucharist. In addition, altar guild members prepare for special celebrations such as Thanksgiving, Remembrance Day, Advent, Christmas and Easter. The altar guild has modified its duties in accordance with the requirements of the corona virus.

*Coffee and Hospitality Ministry*

This ministry provides weekly coffee and goodies, as well as some enhanced ‘provisions’ at special events like baptisms, church meetings, Easter and Christmas. It also coordinates pot-luck luncheons from time to time. This ministry is an encouragement for members to fellowship after each Sunday worship service. It is also a valuable way to show hospitality within the congregation and to all visitors and newcomers.

*CrossTalk Ministry*

Cross Talk is an Anglican-based children’s day camp ministry. The program, which is based in Montreal, is used by many Anglican parishes across Canada. Cross Talk is hosted for one week each summer by CtK. It is jointly staffed by CtK lay members and two Cross Talk trained young people. A CtK clergy person oversees the camp. In 2019, there were 26 children in attendance comprising a mix of children from CtK or with connections to CtK, along with children from the community.

**Conclusion**

This parish profile aims to give an accurate description of the life, nature, flavour and size of CtK. Of course it is it limited because how can a text capture the lived reality of the worship and lived reality of God’s people? Nonetheless, it does convey enough information to enable the parish to be identified and recognized. Compiling this profile has been profitable. The selection committee trusts that potential applicants have likewise found reading it profitable.

This profile is lengthy. So, in summary, CtK holds to:

* the Bible as the authority for communal and personal life;
* the active work of the Holy Spirit manifested in gifts, guidance and inspired worship through the liturgy, the eucharist and praise;
* prayer as the means of communicating with God who loves, cares, and guides;
* sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ, ‘who came into the world to save sinners’ (1 Tim. 1:15);
* loving and welcoming all in the name of Jesus.

*Note concerning the origin of CtK*

The impetus for the establishment of a new parish was the decision by the Diocese of Edmonton, Anglican Church of Canada (ACoC), in October 2012 to bless same-sex unions, contrary to the Bible’s teaching. The deep concern about this diocesan decision arose from two matters. First, the decision rested upon an approach which interprets the Bible in accordance with prevailing cultural norms, rather than on one which attempts to let the Bible speak counter to our culture and to be ‘salt and light.’ This interpretative approach is indicative of a long-standing drift away from the authority of Scripture. The second concern flows from the first: salvation involves repentance from sin – those actions and attitudes that place ourselves and our desires at the center. If the need for repentance is blurred to the point of erasure, then a person’s potential to see and understand their need for salvation is jeopardized.

A significantly sized group felt led to leave the ACoC and, after a study of alternatives, chose to create an ANiC church. The step to establish a new parish under ANiC in the spring of 2013, although arising from difficulty, has been one full of hope and promise, since God is faithful and His promises are sure.