

An Enduring Future For Our Parish



Parish Profile of the Anglican Parish of Christ Church Selkirk



April, 2019

Executive Summary

The parish of Christ Church Selkirk is looking for a new incumbent who will lead us into the future with faith and passion. Our community is challenging, growing and changing, a great place to live and call home. We are seeking a full-time incumbent who is a team player and a strong enabler of people as we discern where God is calling us to mission to all the people of Selkirk and District. We have a modern sanctuary (2001) with up to date technology and a lively, contemporary worship style, firmly rooted in our Anglican tradition. The future is bright, we look forward to bearing witness to Christ, praising His Name, learning His Way, sharing His Truth and displaying His Life.

The Anglican Parish of Christ Church Selkirk – The Story So Far

The congregation of Christ Church has a long and proud tradition of worship and community service. Christ Church has a beautiful new building with complete handicap accessibility and up to date technology for Sunday services. The services are projected on audio visual screens so that the congregation can see the words to the service & hymns. We have a pianist, director and choir who lead the music. Our weekly congregation is approximately 40 parishioners who attend service at 9:30 on Sunday mornings. At the same time Sunday School is held for the one to four children attending. Following the worship we have a coffee/light lunch and time of fellowship in the hall.

While most members of the congregation are seniors (age 65+); there are several middle aged (age 45 – 65) including some families with children.

Although we have significant invested bequests, we struggle to meet our weekly operating costs as our weekly giving is below or just close to the cost to operate.

Like any parish, Christ Church has experienced conflict in the past - such as the decision to build, personality conflicts, different priorities for the parish which has led to a loss of some parishioners. We believe that this is behind us and there are many strong supporters who continue to work to overcome the challenges we face. As a strength and positive note, many families have multi-generational ties to Christ Church and continue to faithfully support Christ Church.

In October 2016, our Pastor Brad Elliott was diagnosed with terminal cancer and died in January 2017. His illness and passing affected our parishioners who have mourned the sudden loss of a loved pastor who was an integral part of the Christ Church family.

Several interim clergy have been supportive over the last 2 years. They have brought a variety of gifts that have helped us to grieve and to heal. Together, we have come to understand the qualities we need in a parish priest to help our parish thrive and grow. We are determined to address the challenges that are facing us so that we can succeed and sustain our parish for future generations.

The Parish of Christ Church has strongly expressed the need to serve God, grow Spiritually, demonstrate our faith, spread the Word of God, and to be the Body of Christ. Our new incumbent will form us, guide us and struggle with us to achieve this.

Ministries Working in Christ Church

- Worship Committee
- Music Coordinator, Director & Choir, keyboard/piano accompanist
- Altar/Chancel Guild
- Administrants, Readers & Intercessors
- Audio Visual operators
- Sunday School Leaders
- Sunday Morning Coffee Teams
- Pastoral Care
- Luncheon catering (e.g., funerals)
- Vestry
- Fundraising Committees
- Volunteer grounds keepers
- Volunteer building committee
- Red River Refugees Committee
- Meals on Wheels
- Food Bank & Soup Kitchen

The Parish of Christ Church has great administrative support. We have a part-time administrative assistant, a part-time custodian, supportive wardens, and vestry.



The New Church Building

The Anglican Parish of Christ Church Selkirk was established in 1886 and the first church building was erected in 1887 in the centre of the City of Selkirk at 227 McLean Ave. The original wooden structure served as a place of worship until August 1999. Due to structural deterioration, it was decided, after much deliberation and consternation, to construct a new building on the same site. The new building was dedicated on April 1st, 2001. Thanks to the generosity of parishioners and some very generous bequests Christ Church became mortgage free earlier than anticipated; and our new building was consecrated on June 15, 2015.



Christ Church Selkirk 1886 – 1999



Christ Church Selkirk 2001 - Today

The Stained Glass windows from the old church were incorporated to be a major focal point in the design of the new church. The windows started in our old church with a single 'Good Shepherd Window' created circa 1900. It is now located over the entry to our new church. Beginning in 1986 a series of five new stained glass windows were added. Grouped in three panels, five windows reflect themes of Pentecost, Advent, Christmas, Epiphany and Lent using figures from both the Old and New testaments as well as a representative contemporary person. This concept is carried through a larger single window - the Easter Window - located behind the altar. While the background of each of the windows is tinted in a liturgical colour, the glass is clear so that those within are not separated from the world outside.



Stained Glass Windows of Christ Church.



Where We Want Christ Church to Be in the Future

One of the most significant values that Christ Church enjoys is a strong sense of inclusivity. We are a welcoming community with a strong sense of support and love for one another and a passion for those in our wider community regardless of where we have come from. We wish to increase in size and in mission by continuing to welcome our neighbours and work with the wider faith community.

The top priority that the parish has expressed is to grow our church, especially with younger families. We want to see our church filled with people that reflect the breadth of population in Selkirk. We long to attract and be more appealing for younger people, shift workers, and families who have commitments on the weekend.

We want new members of our Parish to feel welcome and know that they are a part of the Body of Christ here. As full members they will want to be active and passionately involved in music, taking roles in worship, technology, outreach, etc., and understand that they are valued members of the church family. This will also mean that we are doing more in the community. Currently we support and volunteer by doing Meals on Wheels and we support and donate to the Selkirk Food Bank. We'd like to more fully utilize the hall and kitchen, by bringing groups into our church and letting them see what we have to offer. We'd like to attract groups such as mom & tots sessions, community group and business meetings etc.

Our new incumbent will help us to continue in our strong tradition of offering Pastoral Care in the parish and in the wider community. We have a pastoral relationship with 3 Personal Care Homes with pastoral visiting and a monthly church service and communion. There are several other retirement residences where we have provided some pastoral and liturgical ministry in cooperation with ecumenical colleagues. We also have provided sacramental ministry at the hospital and homes of some shut-in parishioners, and are available to provide pastoral care to anyone for funerals and sickness when requested.

We continue to work collaboratively in mission and outreach with our neighbouring United and Presbyterian churches on the street and others in the community. We have been involved in refugee sponsorship, food bank, the Daily Bread soup kitchen and Meals on Wheels. We'd like to build on working with our fellow Anglican Churches, St Peter's Dynevor, St Clements, and St George Wakefield and the Inter-Lake Regional Shared Ministry (ELCIC and Anglican).

We continue to work to build our capacity in communication, so that we reach not only the members of our parish but also the wider community who may be interested in knowing what we offer in terms of services each Sunday, and special seasonal services. We have started to put an informational ad in our local paper, The Selkirk Record. We have also started a website to have current updated information on what Christ Church is about, and we are also starting to use social media by having a Facebook page. Our website is www.ChristchurchSelkirk.com

Snapshots of Selkirk

The City of Selkirk has an estimated population of 10,000 and is the centre of a region of 70,000 in the Rural Municipalities of St Andrews & St Clements, East & West St Paul. We are a smaller city and a great community, in an excellent region located on the banks of the Red River, close to Lake Winnipeg offering major fishing and many other tourism attractions & activities just steps away.

See www.myselkirk.ca and www.redrivernorthtourism.com for more information on what our community Selkirk has to offer.

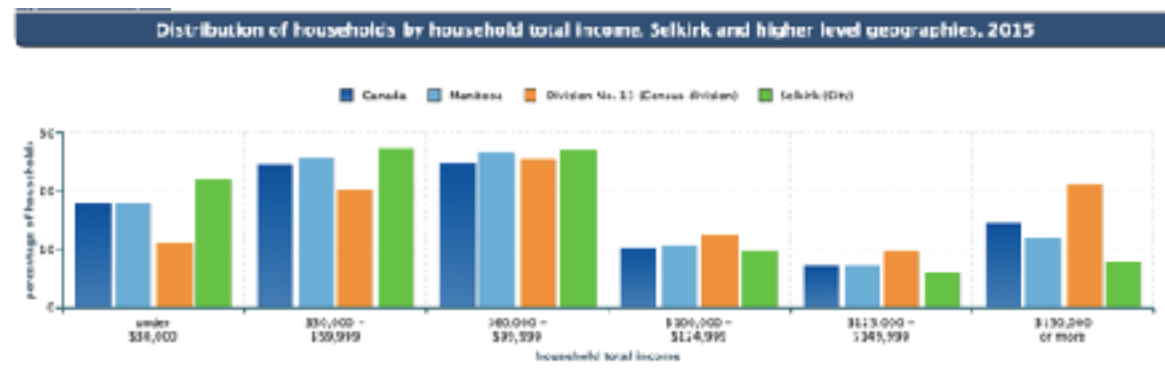
Selkirk is located approximately 30 kilometres from downtown Winnipeg (pop 778,000). As such, we have ready access to excellent post secondary education institutions, world-class health care specialists, exceptional performance and visual arts, major professional sports entertainment and major shopping malls. As well, we are close to the James Richardson International Airport for travel opportunities or visits from out of town family and friends.

The City of Selkirk and community also boast many of the same or better options that Winnipeg has, including an excellent educational system, including French Immersion schools, a Comprehensive High School, indoor and outdoor pools, rec. centre, a large public park & campground and a new library. We have a championship junior hockey team - the Selkirk Steelers (Canadian Champion 1974). As well, the community has excellent programs in minor hockey, ringette, soccer, baseball, volleyball, dancing, gymnastics, and swimming for youth and adult members.

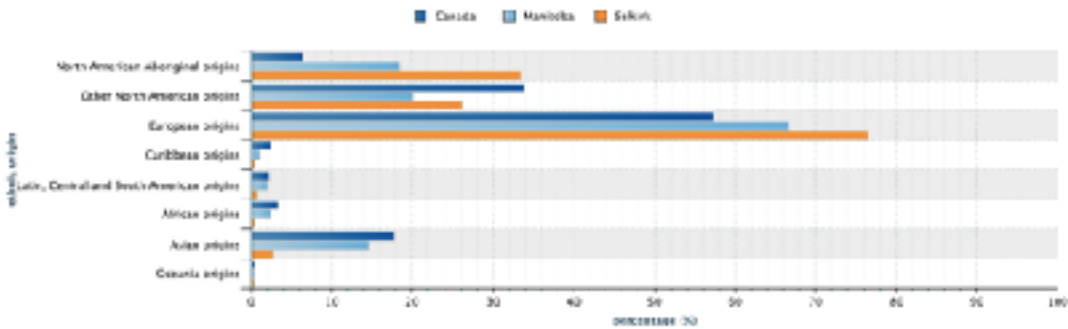
We also have an excellent senior centre that provides a wide range of programs and support in the community. We have shopping malls, major retailers, restaurants, etc for all types of shopping needs. The Selkirk Regional Health Centre has just recently opened (2017) and offers excellent healthcare.

The following graphs illustrate some unique and important demographics of Selkirk:

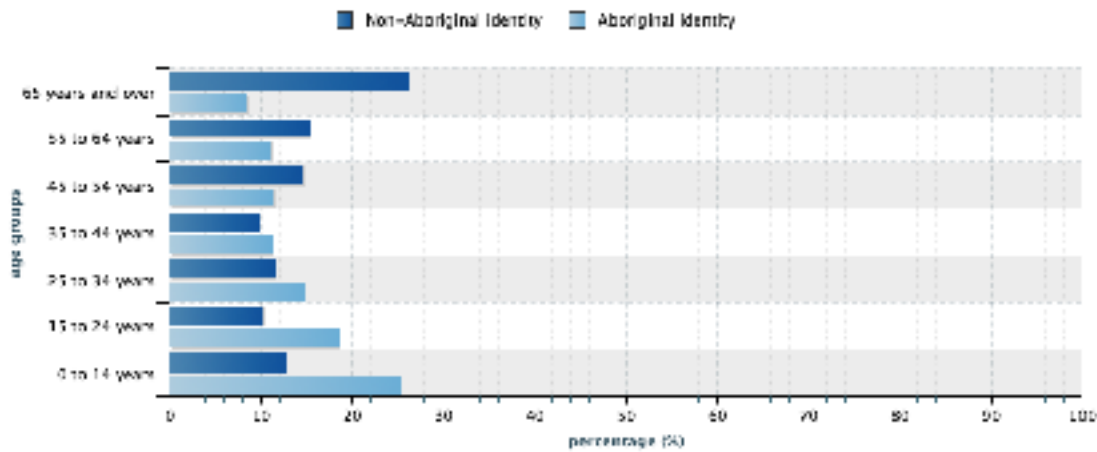
- The population is essentially split 2/3 European origin, 1/3 Indigenous origin.
- The Indigenous population is significantly younger than the rest.
- About 25% of the households have average incomes less than \$30,000.
- Child poverty is apparent.



Percentage of the population by region of ethnic origin,¹ Selkirk, Manitoba and Canada, 2016



Age distribution by Aboriginal identity, Selkirk, 2016



Our New Incumbent

Our new incumbent will be a Passionate Christian leader.

Passionate about our mission in the world

Passionate about the inclusivity and welcome of Christ

A passionate, creative, innovative liturgist, open to new ideas in worship and music

Our new incumbent will be a solid Team Player and a Coach, who will be an key member of Christ Church's leadership team and enable us in the ministry of the whole people of God

Our new incumbent will be a personable outgoing people person who is approachable and who will be fully a part of our parish life and the life of the wider community

We look forward to welcoming a new Priest to our church and will do our best to support them with our Prayers, our labours, and our love of God's world. We look forward to providing a positive, innovative and nurturing ministry together into the future.