



Summary Report  
May 10, 2015

# The Shift

On April 11<sup>th</sup> approximately 75 people from Knox congregation joined us for 'The Shift', a full day workshop in the Goforth Hall. The workshop helped us to understand the current shifts in culture and church life, and to explore what God is calling Knox Church to do and be. The workshop was facilitated by Rob Dalgleish, Executive Director of the EDGE network. The EDGE is a not-for-profit group established to help local church's seek God's renewal of their congregations, ministries and facilities.

## Overall observations on the day together:

- 1- There was a strong feeling of encouragement and hopefulness
- 2- There was a clear expression of appreciation that members from both services were together, listening and discerning together as a united church.
- 3- People expressed gratitude for the opportunity for congregants being able to feed input into the Renewal process
- 4- There was positive feedback for Rob Dalgleish facilitating the workshop

## Ideas for Site and Facilities:

- housing (mixed for students, young families and seniors)
- Expanded student housing
- eatery / café
- partnering / inviting ministries or Churches to rent / lease / purchase space at Knox
- green space / park space
- multi-purpose space / conference (eg. St.Paul's on Bloor)
- space for students to hang out and relax / decompress

## High Level Mission / Ministry Focus Areas:

A wealth of ideas and opinions was expressed by congregants during The Shift workshop. While covering diverse areas, these ideas could be loosely categorized into the following areas:

- 1- **Discipleship**; strengthening and equipping Church members for Christian life and service
- 2- **Outreach**; finding ways to better know and serve our neighbours. Outreach is the gateway to the Church
- 3- **Evangelism**; a clear desire to share Jesus with those around us
- 4- **Welcoming / Inviting**; to help Knox, it's people and organization, to be more welcoming, a safe context for all people.

\***Balance**: please note that the feedback consistently referenced the need for balance between discipling the congregation, and doing Outreach / Evangelism

## Exploring four new ministry models

During the day, congregants were presented with four creative new ministry models that are proving to be effective means in sharing the gospel and serving communities. After each model was presented, congregants were given opportunity to respond in their table groups. The following provides a brief summary of this feedback. It is important to understand that these models were presented less so as examples to implement and more so as examples of how churches had listened for what God is doing in their community and responded in faith.

## Cascades Fellows:

### What is it?

- an intensive 9 month discipleship program to provide equipping, mentoring and community for people in the workplace

### Observations:

- we spend most of our waking hours at work, we need to equip people in this area
- a fresh understanding of our purpose as Christians in the workplace is important
- need to connect mature Christian professionals with younger people coming into workplace
- young professionals (& students) are open to discipleship, learning
- idea put forth of having a Christian co-working space at the Church to promote this
- Knox Church needs a clear program to disciple people in the workplace

### Concerns:

- don't really understand what the model actually does from the video

## **Skater Church:**

### What is it?

- a local Church opened up its gymnasium to skateboarders, connecting with a local youth passion for skateboarding and finding a new way to reach and minister to kids about Jesus

### Observations:

- connected with people through passion/hobby
- recognition that not all of our lives can be part of worship
- important to have inspiring leaders to help drive it
- the Skateboarders were initially pushed away by the Church, but in retrospect the Church came to see them as Jesus knocking on the door. Question: how is Jesus knocking on our door at Knox
- it is important to seek to connect with people in all areas of life
- inspiring to see a Church responding creatively to a need in the community, and watching God use their response to open the hearts of the youth to Jesus

### Concerns:

- important to invite new people, but not forget people who are already in Church

## **541 Barton Street:**

### What is it?

- an Eatery & Cafe that provides:
  - nutritious food that is financially accessible for everyone
  - a space that is accessible to people from all social and economic backgrounds
  - a gateway between the local Church and their surrounding community.

### Observations:

- lots of enthusiasm for the concept and the heart of this ministry
- idea of a gateway to community / university for Church really resonated
- way to engage many different people and age groups, extension of KYDF & EAT
- common mission we can get behind
- appreciation of the idea of having the poor in our midst, and treated with dignity, respect
- need for good, healthy and inexpensive food highlighted consistently by people on campus
- provides jobs and jobs training- major need in our Church and community
- need to clearly identify as Christian space, without being intimidating
- we live in a coffee culture, this is a great opportunity to serve & be present in peoples lives

### Concerns:

- volunteers are already stretched at Knox
- would it hurt local businesses, and a special concern raised around Red Fish Blue Fish

## **RZIM**

### What is it?

- Ravi Zacharias International Ministries is an apologetics ministry that works to reach those who shape our culture with the credibility of the Gospel of Jesus Christ
- RZIM works to engage the academic community with the Gospel of Jesus Christ

### Observations:

- 800 people attended an RZIM debate hosted at Knox Church on a Monday night
- strong evangelistic focus
- Helping the thinker believe, Helping the believer to think
- could help tremendously in Knox's desire to reach University with the Gospel
- Knox Church is the perfect location for RZIM to work on campus
- desire to see partnership, not simply RZIM having Knox space
- enthusiasm around explore partnership possibilities

### Concerns:

- RZIM is only interested in Knox real estate, not partnership
- RZIM is very strong and could overpower / the Knox Church

## **How Have Things Changed In The Church In Your Lifetime?**

- smaller congregation
- separation of generations
- more focus on individual, less focus on family / community (Church)
- consumerism; people focused on getting exactly what they want all the time
- people so busy
- fear of leadership
- less quoting of scripture
- less emphasis on denominational differences
- more casual dress
- much more diversity
- less trust, more suspicion / fear
- more paid staff, less volunteers
- congregants attend less frequently / Church less of a priority

## **Time of Discernment**

After learning about these new ministry models, participants in the workshop explored the changes in society and the wider Church, and reviewing the results of the Knox Renewal Feedback studies, congregants were asked to pray and discern in their table groups around the question of 'What is God calling Knox Church to do and be?'

### General Observations about Knox Church:

- there is a disconnect between 11am and 5pm. This may be normal but a hope was expressed to be together more
- family life now revolves around things other than Church
- we can feel disconnected from each other in Knox
- need to find balance between strengthening the Church and focusing on outreach
- we need to try and help the Church be more welcoming (both our people and infrastructure)
- we need to find balance between financial stability and risk taking ministry; we are not a business, we are a Church
- important to bring different age groups together, mix the generations
- we need to be obedient to the Spirit, this is not our work- its God's
- people are at Church because they want to be here, it is no longer the cultural norm
- people are increasingly busy, frantic and in debt; the Church is so needed
- we must not drift from our focus on Jesus, and sharing the Gospel
- the Church does not have enough volunteers
- lets focus on what God is doing now, and put our energy and resources there
- we need to equip our congregants spiritually in order to prepare them to serve

- we need a common mission to unite us, bring us together
- more focus is needed on equipping people to share Jesus with others
- it is important to get to know our neighbours, share about who we are and our programs
- we need to spend more time in prayer as a congregation, seeking God's face together
- for outreach, we need to identify needs first, then reach out to serve them
- more focus on spiritual renewal & ministry renewal