

Background Information re: Westworth United Church

Demographic Information

1. Residence of Members

The majority of Westworth's members live in four postal code areas within reasonable proximity to the church: R3M (Old River Heights), R3N (West River Heights), R3P (Tuxedo), and R3R (Charleswood). In 2010, 72% of the congregation lived in these areas. The percentage declined to 67% in 2015. The decline was due to a decrease in membership in these areas and not due to migration of members to other areas of the city.

2. Demographics of communities from which Westworth's membership is drawn.

In all 4 postal code areas:

- the overall age of the residents has increased
- approximately 48% of residents are 45 years of age or older
- approximately 50% of families have no children residing with them
- the number of residents reporting no religious affiliation has increased by approximately 10% between 2001 and 2011
- the number of residents reporting United Church affiliation has decreased by approximately 5% between 2001 and 2011

3. Westworth's demographics

- The number of families/individuals listed in our congregational address data base declined from 390 to 351 between 2010 and 2015. There is also an increase in the percentage of out-of-province addresses in 2015
- The membership reported in the annual reports has declined from 512 (2007) to 352 (2014)
- Sunday School enrolment has declined noticeably over this same time.

4. Westworth's financial situation

- Since 2008, our expenses have exceeded our revenues 3 times (2009, 2010, 2014). Exceeding revenues in 3 consecutive years indicates a congregation at higher risk of being unable to sustain itself (United Church Financial Viability Assessment tool).
- As a proportion of our overall budget, staffing costs have risen from 65% (2008) to 69% (2014).
- As a proportion of our overall budget, utilities, maintenance and repair costs have risen from 14% (2008) to 19% (2014). Costs that exceed 25% of total revenues indicate a congregation at higher risk of being unable to sustain itself (United Church Financial Viability Assessment tool).
- Between 2008 and 2014, the number of contributors supporting Westworth has decreased from 291 to 232.
- In 2014-15, 79% of Westworth's contributors were 50 years of age or older