

Kingston Mission Status Report and Plan

Mission Background

History

The Kingston Mission has been in existence since 2000. Worship activities have been conducted at the chapel of Queen's University, Kingston. Services were intermittent for the first two years, and were provided by a variety of pastors from the Ottawa Circuit. In the fall of 2002, the Ottawa circuit established the Kingston Mission Planning Committee (KPMC) and assigned to it the mandate to establish a permanent mission presence in Kingston. Since that time the committee has been creating an enhanced community presence by setting up a regular worship schedule, and by advertising the mission presence through print (newspapers, posters) and Internet media. The mission website address is: <http://www.kingstonlutheran.ca>.

Lutheran Presence in the Kingston Area

There is a limited Lutheran presence in the Kingston area, consisting of one local ELCIC congregation established in 1950. Official ELCIC statistical information on that congregation can be found at:

<http://www.elcic.ca/ELCIC/WebData.nsf/0/EB948BF99321BA3E86256E2300718C5D?OpenDocument&view=webprovince>.

- ELCIC churches within 100 km of Kingston:
 - Saint Mark's, Kingston;
 - Good Shepherd, Brockville
 - Holy Trinity, Belleville
- Closest LC-C churches to Kingston
 - Ottawa: Saint Luke, Our Saviour, Christ Risen
 - Eganville: Saint Luke and Zion Augsburg
 - Christ, Petawawa:
 - Grace, Locksley
 - Saint Paul's, Coburg

Demographics and Growth Potential for Mission

Detailed information regarding Kingston, including area maps, is available from the City of Kingston website, located at: <http://www.cityofkingston.ca/>. Statistical information for the Kingston metropolitan area is available from the Statistics Canada website at:

<http://www12.statcan.ca/english/profil01/Details/details1.cfm?SEARCH=BEGINS&ID=828&PSGC=35&SGC=35521&DataType=1&LANG=E&Province=All&PlaceName=Kingston&CMA=&CSDNAME=Kingston&A=&TypeNameE=Census%20Metropolitan%20Area&Prov=>.

Kingston is a typical mid-sized Ontario city, having a developed urban core and growing suburbs. The city is geographically distributed, stretching from Pittsburgh Township in the East to Kingston Township in the West, and more or less bounded by Lake Ontario on the South and

Highway 401 on the North. The population of the Kingston metropolitan area is approximately 150,000, not counting the outlying communities. The mission will serve the main metropolitan area, as well as several smaller communities located within a 50 kilometer radius of the downtown core. If a maximum commute time of one hour (approximately 100 km) is considered, the mission has the potential to draw from an area ranging from Belleville in the West to Brockville in the East, and Smiths Falls in the North.

Why Kingston?

- Largest Eastern Ontario city next to Ottawa, with a stable, slowly growing population;
- Historic position as a leading city in Eastern Ontario
- Nearly equidistant from Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal and located along the main transportation routes;
- Centre of a large geographic area currently under served by LC-C East District or any other confessional Lutheran church (e.g. LCMS, ELS, WELS);
- Kingston is the closest accessible urban area to Western upstate New York, another area that is under served by our sister church, the LCMS;
- Kingston has a large student population, drawn from throughout Ontario and across Canada. A strong confessional Lutheran presence will serve the needs of our synodical members who are in Kingston on a temporary basis;
- Kingston is a major tourist and recreational area, and experiences a major influx of visitors and cottagers during the May-September timeframe;
- Current turmoil in Anglican and ELCIC churches over social/doctrinal issues such as same sex marriage will result in exodus of some members; LC-C can provide an orthodox, doctrinally sound and liturgical worship option that may be attractive.

Current Mission Status

In September 2003 regular services were instituted at the Mission. They are held on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month and are led by Pastors from the Ottawa circuit, who serve on a rotating basis. The currently serving pastors are: Rev. Michael Meleg (Christ, Petawawa), Rev. Deane Detlefsen (Christ, Petawawa), Rev. Tom Korcok (Grace, Locksley) and Rev. Wayne Geick (St. Luke & Zion, Egansville). Rev. David Milette (Good Shepherd, Moncton), is providing additional support to the mission by developing the mission website and initiating an online Bible study over the Internet.

Worship attendance is typically between five (5) and ten (10) persons, consisting of both Queens' students and working families. Lay members of the mission are being encouraged to take a more active role in the growth of the mission by conducting lay-led services on the Sundays where a pastor is not present, and by developing better group interaction via Bible studies, prayer or other similar activities.

Future Mission Outreach Plans

Growth at the Mission is dependent on reaching a greater number of the Kingston area residents. To achieve this, the KPMC is planning to conduct an every house mailing that will provide an invitation to a special worship service, describe the mission, detail worship and study times and identify contact persons for the mission. The every house mailing will be accompanied by special advertising in the local newspapers and media. Dedicated funds for the every house mailing have been donated by the LWML; additional funds required for the advertising will be drawn from mission offerings or other donations.

God willing, the KPMC intends to conduct the every house mailing in the fall of 2004. It is the firm belief of the committee members that its success depends on the ability to follow up quickly on any contacts that are identified. To do so, it is essential to identify a part time or full time pastor or church worker that can make the necessary calls and visits, as well as provide continuity in pastoral care, including the conduct of worship services, bible studies and other activities at the mission. The issue of continuity is an important one as this is difficult to achieve given the frequency of the pastoral rotation and the geographical distance of those pastors from the mission members.

The KPMC believes that a retired or semi-retired pastor with a strong desire for mission work would be the ideal candidate to follow up the planned every house mailing and further establish the foundation for the mission within Kingston. Given the lack of historical LC-C/LCMS presence in the area, we believe it is important that the candidate should be, doctrinally and confessionally sound, conservative without being legalistic, with a strong pastoral concern and teaching ability. Preliminary discussions with some East District clergy seem to indicate that it may be possible to find such a candidate within our existing roster. If the search is broadened to bordering districts within the LC-C or LCMS additional candidates may be identified.

Timing: The pastor or church worker who will be following up the every house mailing should have an opportunity to help tailor the message prior to it being sent out. This requires the candidate to be identified a minimum of 1-2 months in advance of the mailing, or by late August 2004 to support an outreach to the Kingston community in fall 2004.

Mission Financial Status

The Mission does not currently receive any regular funding from the District or Circuit. The pastors serving the mission have largely done so at their own expense to date. Regular offerings from the mission members are received and recorded by the treasurer at Christ, Petawawa, then transferred to the Ottawa Circuit Treasurer, who then manages the payment of mission related expenses. Stable funding is essential for the Mission to succeed. The KPMC has done some preliminary budget planning to identify the anticipated funding required. The current breakdown for the annual budget is as follows:

Table 1 - Draft Budget Projection for Kingston Mission

Item	Cost Estimate	Notes
Pastoral Travel	\$4,800	Assumes pastor/church worker will travel 1000km/month @ \$0.40/km for official mission work.
Chapel Rental	\$6,500	Based on \$125/wk for a suitable facility, and assumes services every week
Misc. Expenses	\$520	Assumes \$10/wk to cover wine, wafers, paper and other items. There may be a requirement for an initial outlay.
Music	\$2,400	Projected cost for organist \$200/month – The recurring cost can be significantly reduced if we adopt another approach such as the use of recorded music or MIDI playback, but that may require some initial investment. If we can find a musician to do it on a
Advertising/ Communications	\$1,800	Assumes \$150/month, based on four weekly newspaper print ads with approximate cost of \$25, and \$50/month miscellaneous advertising.
Pastoral Housing	\$12,000	Assumes average expenses of \$1000/month, which is consistent with the following currently advertised rent rates: apartments from \$700 – 900, condos/townhomes from \$900 – 1200 and houses from \$1100 - 1200. This amount may be modified if a retired pastor h
Pastoral Salary	\$30,000	Assumes either a retired pastor willing to take a reduced salary, or an initial call placement for a new pastor.
Telephone	\$1,200	Assumes \$100/mo for general communications in support of the mission (phone, internet).
Benefits and Mandatory Expenses	TBD	Requirement for this is undetermined at this time as it is dependent on the type of candidate called.
Total	\$59,220	

Circuit and District Support Required

The successful establishment of a permanent Lutheran presence is dependent on the support of either the East District, through the Department for Outreach (DfO), or the direct support of the member congregations of the Ottawa Circuit. The members of the KPMC request that the DfO provide direction regarding the process for establishing the Kingston Mission as a formal mission of the East District and provide an indication regarding the timing of any potential support. In the absence of direct District support, mission activities will continue under the aegis of the Ottawa Circuit pending finalization of more substantive funding mechanisms.

Concluding Remarks

In the Great Commission of Matt 28:18-20, our Lord said:

¹⁸*And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.*

¹⁹*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*

The clear proclamation of the Gospel is key to the Great Commission, as Paul says in Romans 10:14-17:

¹⁴*But how are they to call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?*

¹⁵*And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"¹⁶But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?"¹⁷So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.*

The members of the KPMC believe that the establishment of a permanent Confessional Lutheran presence in Kinston is key to the clear proclamation of the Gospel within Eastern Ontario, and key to the overall growth of the LC-C within this area. It addresses a historical lack of Lutheran presence in one of the larger metropolitan areas of the province and partially fills in the large geographical hole defined by the Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal triangle. This effort is worthy and deserving of the prayers and financial support of the East District and the Ottawa circuit. The members of the KPMC are committed to the success of the Kingston Mission, and pray that the District and Circuit will be of the same mind.