

COMMUNITY PROFILE

Cranbrook, known as the “Key City of the Rockies” is located in the southeast corner, on highways 3 & 95, with access by car, bus or plane, and less than 80 kilometers from the Canada/US border, and some 160 kilometers by road, from the BC/Alberta border. Elevation is 920 meters (3020 feet) above sea level. Nestled on gently sloping plains, Cranbrook faces the Purcell Mountains to the west and the Majestic Rockies to the north and east. With mild winters and more sunshine hours than any other BC City, Cranbrook is a favored location to work, play, retire, or raise a family.

Cranbrook has majestic views of mountain scenery and an abundance of all season activities. Our many clubs & organizations provide a vast array of projects and activities to appeal to residents of all ages. Educational facilities from pre-school to post secondary include a well ranked international College or the Rockies. With performing arts, government offices and a well-established health care system a stable and enriched environment is provided for our citizens. Education is not only found in the schools, it can also be experienced in our heritage homes and buildings that blend well with our newly erected structures to add character to our streets and downtown.

Cranbrook has a population of over 18,500, and is the Regional Centre of the East Kootenay. Other urban communities within this area include Creston, Elkford, Fernie, Invermere, Golden, Kimberley, Radium and Sparwood. The total population of the Regional District of East Kootenay, in the last StatsCan of 2006 was some 56,000, while the City with the immediate adjacent area comprises about 28,000.

Forestry, mining, manufacturing, tourism, trade, service and transportation are the economic backbone of this Region, and Cranbrook is the “Hub” of these activities. Tembec Ltd (sawmills, pulp mill & value-added centre) is headquartered locally. In the nearby Elk Valley, the large Elk Valley Coal Corp presently operates five coal mines, producing some 20 million tonnes of metallurgical coal per year. Cranbrooks Industrial Park is home to many of the service firms so necessary to the major industries. Tourism is widely promoted through Tourism BC, and the Cranbrook & District Chamber of Commerce. Cranbrook is served by one interprovincial and two international highways, providing convenient access to Southern Alberta and BC, to major centres in Montana, Idaho and Washington, U.S.A., and to the Trans Canada highway at Golden, BC. Bus service is by Greyhound, Dewdney Trail Stages, Dicken Bus Lines, and Cranbrook Transit System. Canadian Pacific provides rail freight service across Canada, while Burlington Northern and Union Pacific Railway serve U.S. Markets. Air Canada Jazz and Pacific Coastal Air operate daily service from the Cranbrook airport with connections to other Canadian & U.S. carriers. Charter flights and helicopter rides are available.

As a result of its role as the “Hub” of the retail trading region, Cranbrook has four major shopping areas including an active downtown business district, many hotels and motels, three campgrounds within the city, and more than 50 eating establishments. The City boasts a well rounded menu of community facilities including 18 churches, a community college, 11 public schools, 4 independent schools, 14 day care facilities, a Regional Hospital providing acute, intermediate and extended care, 4 senior citizen homes, 20 parks, 6 golf courses, a spray park, 2 separate arenas plus the multi purpose Recreation

Complex (RecPlex), a curling rink, performing arts theatre, five screen movie theatre, two libraries, a daily & a weekly newspaper, 2 radio stations, cable television, high speed internet service, and the internationally renowned Canadian Museum of Rail travel. Only 16 kms from Cranbrook is Fort Steele Heritage Town-a restoration of a gold mining town from the 1890s.

There are approximately 100 clubs and organizations including service clubs, cadets, charitable, church, educational, environmental, ethical, fitness, historical, professional, social, support and theatre groups, and the Kootenay Ice WHL hockey team who won the Memorial Cup in 2002.

Cranbrook has a diverse economy, a well-development community infrastructure, a skilled labor force and strategic location to readily access provincial, national and world markets. Above all, Cranbrook is known for its sunny, mild climate and an abundance of outdoor activities. Fishing, golfing, hiking, hunting, photography, skiing and fresh air, all entice new residents, many retired, to this beautiful corner of BC.

Cranbrook is experiencing an economic upswing and growth. Housing prices have increased and our city boundaries are expanding.

College of the Rockies

The College of the Rockies has been providing excellent post-secondary education that meets the needs and aspirations of the people, industry and businesses of our region since 1975. College of the Rockies' main campus is located in Cranbrook with satellite campuses in Creston, Golden, Invermere, Kimberley and Fernie. The College's Cranbrook facilities include the Gold Creek campus located ten minutes south of the main campus. College of the Rockies serves a regional population of approximately 84,500 people who live within a large 45,000 square kilometre area featuring high mountain ranges separated by ecologically-significant valleys and water systems. College of the Rockies offers students a unique opportunity to "Live, Learn and Play" by blending learning with exceptional lifestyle in a spectacular location.

The College offers a full range of programs in University Studies, Adult Basic Education, Health, Child Youth and Family Studies, Business and Technology, Tourism and Recreation, Trades and Fire Services, as well as more than 200 online credit courses. In addition, hundreds of online and face-to-face courses are offered by the College's Continuing Education and Contract Training departments each year. In 2006 the College employed over 700 full-time, part-time and seasonal regular employees and served approximately 2000 full-time equivalent students.

. For more information about College of the Rockies, please see their website at www.cotr.bc.ca

THE MINISTRY OF CRANBROOK UNITED PASTORAL CHARGE

Mission Statement

“Cranbrook United Church exists to glorify God by living as disciples of Jesus Christ. We lovingly proclaim His Good News by word and deed through the power of the Holy Spirit.”

The vision of this pastoral charge includes:

- expanding numbers to include young people
- having many members involved in outreach and stewardship
- continuing to foster spiritual growth, meaningful worship, compatible theological perspectives, and gracious listening skills while respecting its diversity

The vision for the community and world would flow out of the attention of Cranbrook United Church to outreach, stewardship and attracting new families.

Who we are

Cranbrook United is, at the moment, in a period of transition with an Interim Minister; the Intentional Interim Ministry began in July of 2006 upon the retirement after 22 years of Pastor Jack Lindquist, and a change of ministry of Pastor Dave Morton to the Lutheran Church Canada. During this time, we have experienced a number of changes, most notably during Sunday services; these include:

- Music style
- Order of service
- Use of Power Point to replace hymn books and other service books
- Increased use of lay ministry people/volunteers

These changes came about as a result of a number of workshops and congregational discussions facilitated by our interim minister.

In November of 2006 the congregation participated in a workshop to discuss “Who is Our Church?” and tried to imagine the church as a single person and give this person specific characteristics. The outcome of this discussion produced a person who was referred to as “Bessie Maude Hope” with some of her characteristics as follows:

- A 65 year old woman who is a mature Christian with a reserved nature.
- A semi-retired professional who is aging but is physically and intellectually active, and who has health issues and arthritis and feels there is need for improvement

- She enjoys traditional music and is open to modern up-beat music with a sprinkling of other types
- She is down-sizing or moving to a new residence, is adjusting to changes in technology and upheavals in her life, gives support to others and is considering what to do with the rest of her life along with needing social interaction and longing for opportunities to travel
- Given the opportunity to spend \$5000, she would like to use it for general renovations, support programs in the church, outreach and sharing with others

In November of 2007 at another workshop to discuss the “Many voices: A Snapshot of Cranbrook United” we produced the following statement:

- “Cranbrook United Church is a community of Christians with diverse beliefs and gifts. We acknowledge and find richness in our differences.
- Some of us identify with diversity and inclusiveness of the United Church of Canada. Some of us identify with the conserving voice within the church.
- We are seeking a minister to help the congregation be rooted in faith; engaged in the world”.

These workshops and discussions have given members of the congregation an opportunity to state their views, hopes and fears in a candid and frank manner.

Attendance at Cranbrook United has been steadily decreasing since the late 1990’s but has now levelled off. The average attendance in 2007 was between 80-120 people, and there is strong potential for growth in the coming year.

In the past, the family of Cranbrook United Church was younger, had more energy, had less women working outside the home and made time for worship and church activities. Its Mission and Service committee reached its goal financially and even exceeded it regularly. The men’s group has declined in numbers but always manages to put on an annual pancake breakfast for the congregation. Because keeping in touch is important to a family, a committee has been responsible for making a caring call to every family and keeping them up to date with church news. The ladies group has fostered friendships while serving in many areas. Fun-filled events for children during Professional Development school days have been provided by members of the congregation as well as training and caring through Stephen Ministry.

The elderly are honoured with an annual tea and regular visitations. Cranbrook United Church has meaningful and engaging worship with increased lay ministry involvement. This is a congregation that thirsts for sound Bible teaching, which is obvious by the number of people involved in Christian Education and in small group bible studies.

In describing the family of Cranbrook United Church, it would be fair to say that there is a ready willingness to get on board with any project, mission or cause that is brought forward and receives congregational approval. While there is often a lack in volunteer/lay leadership, the members are always eager to help the leadership team accomplish things together as the Body of Christ. When someone is in need there is always someone else eager to provide food, a listening ear, rides, prayer, etc. The

prayer line is busy with pleas but also thanksgiving for answered prayer. The Mission and Service committee is strong and keeps everyone informed of needs within the community and globally.

Cranbrook United Church and its Community

Cranbrook United Church is a solid brick construction with a commanding position in the downtown core. This offers the potential to be the main centrepiece of the community for programs/outreach. With this in mind, the vision is to expand the numbers to include young people, involve many members in outreach and stewardship, and grow spiritually through meaningful worship.

Cranbrook United Church strives to balance diverse theological perspectives and foster gracious listening skills. It is unique within the community because of the liberal and inclusive stance of many members.

Cranbrook United is a welcoming congregation, above all else. If one listens to the buzz of conversation and laughter before the Sunday service begins, one gets a sense of how the congregation relates to one another. They meet like old friends sharing stories and conversation both before and after service.

Cranbrook United Church provides ministry to the community through (but not limited to): managing a thrift store, catering funerals, involvement in the Rock Lake United Church camp and also providing space to many groups in the community at a nominal charge, i.e. AA, the brain injury support group, the music teacher's association.

Cranbrook United is at present hosting a weekly Outreach Breakfast Program with three other churches in the community. In the past, with the 12 churches in the community (Anglican, Baptist, Catholic, Alliance, Latter-day Saints, Jehovah's Witness, Lutheran, Pentecostal, Presbyterian, Salvation Army Seventh Day Adventist) the congregation has prepared floats for parades, collectively supported a Proclamation week, supported the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, supported the Franklin Graham Crusade, supported the Christmas shoe boxes, hosted and helped run Alpha programs, provided meals and beds for Bikes for Bibles, among other projects.

After reviewing the survey prepared in 2004, it was very apparent that the members of Cranbrook United Church wanted young people back in the church, a good strong Sunday School and a youth ministry. Cranbrook United will need to deal with the reality of the times and look at other ideas. A greater utilization of the church property is one such idea, for example, an after school drop in centre for school children or a baby sitting service could operate out of the church. Another option would be to take a larger leadership role in the community in general, i.e. "Habitat for Humanity" housing projects being planned and worked out of the church.

The theological perspective of this pastoral charge

The theological perspective of Cranbrook United Church is similar to many across the nation with a mix of liberal/conservative-minded individuals. There is interest in the importance of the integrity of the gospel and Christ-centred issues and thus an involvement in the NACC. However, more liberal-minded perspectives are being embraced into the life and ministry of our church. The larger church has influenced Cranbrook United in matters that instil various responses. There is a strong emphasis on learning and knowledge of Scripture. A great number in the congregation remain biblically literate due in part to a two-year series called "Bethel." Many of the congregation have continued to participate in small group bible studies, Lectionary and Spiritual Gift classes and studies on evangelism with a mixture of lay/minister leadership. Prayer is a very important aspect of the church family (Friday prayer group etc).

The Five Year Plan

Cranbrook United Church's paid accountable ministry would facilitate the process to implement a strategic plan for the next five years. The need for a second paid position (possibly a youth minister), could be considered in one years time. Under the leadership of our minister, Cranbrook United Church members would be encouraged to pray for and celebrate its diversity.

Our five year plan goals follow:

1. Promote and validate stewardship and outreach throughout the church and encourage increased stewardship involvement.
2. Foster spiritual development through expanding bible studies and encouraging spiritual gift exploration.
3. Provide meaningful and engaging worship that will capture and maintain young family involvement.
4. Encourage family involvement through the development through a variety of youth and children's programs.
5. Increase active participation in church activities by 50 %
6. Faithfully, caringly and sensitively explore how ministry should look for the next 5 years.
7. Support increased two-way communication

POSITION DESCRIPTION FOR MINISTRY VACANCY 1 FULL TIME EQUIVALENT

Areas of responsibility:

- Preaching and Conducting worship (35 %)
- Administration (15 %)
- Faith formation (work with Sunday school teachers and other lay leaders or study group leadership) (15 %)
- Pastoral visitations (15 %)
- Outreach (15 %)
- Wider church involvement (5 %)

Regular Duties:

- worship planning, which includes team meeting with worship and music personnel
- council and committee meetings
- Presbytery meetings and other Presbytery gatherings such as retreats and East Kootenay U.C. ministry personnel support group
- worship events at various Care Facilities
- pastoral care with hospital visitations
- assist in study groups (by mentoring or leading)

Occasional duties:

- support lay-leaders
- counselling, including marriage preparation and bereavement counselling
- meet with other church staff and co-ordinate the church calendar weekly or as deemed necessary
- engage in outreach projects with ecumenical partners and key Cranbrook United lay leaders

Skills and experience:

- ordained or commissioned in the United Church
- strong communication and interpersonal skills
- ability to work creatively with an aging congregation and a growing number of youthful members
- excellent listening and pastoral care skills

- strategic planning experience would be an asset
- computer skills would be beneficial
- musical interest would be helpful

Cranbrook United Ministry terms for employment:

- regular hours of employment - 40 hours per week
- vacation one calendar month (5 Sundays)
- study leave - 3 weeks (includes 3 Sundays)
- vacation and study leave taken in consultation with the M&P committee
- Approved travel is paid at \$0.39 per kilometre
- Housing allowance (typical 3 bedroom home \$ 1,200.00 per month)
- Continuing education and learning resources - \$ 1,200.00 / calendar year
- Care for ones own spiritual, physical and emotional well-being through regular times of rest, reflection and recreation.

Moving Expenses:

- This cost is the responsibility of the receiving pastoral charge. Costs include reasonable expenditures by the ministry personnel for his/her immediate family members for travel, lodging and food while on route to the new pastoral charge
- Should the successful candidate stay less than three years, that person is expected to repay a prorated portion of the moving expenses

Recommendations:

Based on the information presented in this document, the Joint Needs Assessment Committee recommends the following:

- Cranbrook United Church requests that Kootenay Presbytery declare a full time ministry vacancy for our congregation, effective July 01, 2008
- This position is suitable for a minister ordained or commissioned in the United Church