

Changing the Name

Some background

Over the past two years the elders have been discussing changing the name of the church. We have heard from multiple people, both inside and outside our church that we need to move away from being Chartwell Baptist Church.

The key conversation in recent months has been related to the future of the Chartwell property. As the prayer and Discernment team has met they have sensed that God is asking us to change the name as a first step toward the future of the property. It seems that God is asking us to make clear to the neighbourhood that we are invested in Clarkson, that we see ourselves as part of this neighbourhood. This has come up in multiple times of prayer, including the January prayer night to which the whole church was invited.

Fortunately, this was not a new idea for the elders. As early as January 2016 the elders had spent time discussing the name of the church and whether it should change. We were beginning to hear from various people that the name Chartwell was not a name that was clear to people. It was not a name that was helpful to the vision we believed God had given us. Over the course of 2016 we began to have conversations among the elders and with key leaders in the church about the name we have and potential new names for the church. It was in the midst of 2016 that the name Clarkson Community Church first came up.

In January 2017 Jamie spent time with the SALT group discussing the potential name change. This was a group of 20 people working through training to be life group leaders. They spent time discussing the connection to the Chartwell name, as well as whether Baptist was a helpful label for us to put at the front of how we describe ourselves. The feedback from this group was immensely helpful.

During 2017 there has been ongoing conversation with some Life Group leaders, the elders and staff about changing the name. In this time we have heard from some of the founders of the church, the Chartwell Oakville church and the other churches in our neighbourhood, all of whom have been very positive about changing our name.

As the prayer and discernment team met in February 2018, they spent time praying through the timing of a name change. There was a strong sense that Easter 2018 was the time to make the change. The elders discussed this at the March meeting and made the decision to proceed with the name change, leading to a vote on the name change at our June 2018 Annual General Meeting.

Next Steps

Easter Sunday

On Easter Sunday we will share a logo for the new name and will begin using the name as part of our welcome and as the way we describe the church.

April & May

We will use the new name regularly as part of our worship, our scheduling and even our signage (if we can). There will likely still be uses of the old name (eg. writing cheques for the offering), but we will work to try out the new name as much as we are able.

There will be opportunities for you to give feedback, both on no longer using the old name and on “Clarkson Community Church” as the new name. We are looking for your input on both of these, as well as your questions and even suggestions of other names.

We will also take time in April and May to share some of the stories of why this name is meaningful, including the 100 year history of the name in Clarkson. There is more behind this name than we can cover in one sermon and we will take some time to share that over the next couple of months.

June AGM

While we still need to finalize the wording, there will be a vote at the AGM on changing the name of the church. Whatever the members decide will stand (as per our bylaws), so we are looking for lots of people to participate to make sure that your voice is heard.

At the heart of the process we have chosen for this change are two key beliefs:

The first is that we believe God is asking us to do something and we want to be obedient to that. We don't want to rush a vote, and so believe that trying the name out is a way to move forward in obedience while not pushing the church too quickly into a decision.

The second is that in order to know if the name fits, we should try it out. Over the next two months we will get a good feel for the name and that should help you to know if it is the name for us.

Jamie Bay

Pastor

Chartwell Baptist Church (Clarkson Village)

W: 905.855.5001 x28

C: 905.580.5897

jamie@clarksonchurch.ca www.clarksonchurch.ca