

## Summer Student Research Job

Toronto United Church Council – Richmond Hill, ON

\$16.00 an hour - Temporary

Introduction:

Church congregations wish to signal to the wider community that they are open for them, both physically and personally. Congregations have a building which they wish to use as a service to the neighbourhood. Even more, as congregations wish to establish a personal relationship with the wider community, they seek opportunities to support individuals and groups in their attempts to live a prosperous, safe, inclusive life.

Job Description:

The candidate will examine the outward communications methods of a selection of churches (e.g. websites, social media, radio, podcasts etc.). He /she will also conduct in-person visits to assess the effectiveness of their outdoor and indoor signage (Way-Finding), and their welcoming presence for able and disabled people.

Additionally, as part of a team, the TUCC Summer Student Researcher will evaluate two congregational projects by interviewing team members from 4-6 churches and comparing the outcomes from the two initiatives.

The Summer Student Researcher will do this in some or all of the following ways:

- review what congregations currently do to inform their neighbourhood what lies behind the congregation's (often) closed/dark doors (a sample of 8-10 will have been identified)
- review how easy it is to find your way to key areas (sanctuary, community hall, bathroom, church office)
- check the congregations' web presence for ease of locating and navigating
- find out how easily non-members can locate information on: denomination, address and contact details, congregational activities, potential rental information.
- establish a list of findings, as well as research a list of best-practises
- prepare a document incorporating best practice designed for a congregation's property committee to review their building and encourage new initiatives.
- design a set of down-loadable templates of common signs that congregations can use in their own building
- prepare and conduct interviews with 2 member teams of congregations where either of these approaches have been undertaken (2 people in each of 4-6 church congregations who either have participated in the 'currents' or the 'into the promise' approach.)
- analyze the findings and evaluate positive and negative outcomes (short/long-term)

- review the outcomes of this research based on other approaches in this field
- prepare a report for the wider community of practitioners.

The student will work together with his/her staff supervisor to identify which of these methods (or others suggested by the student) will be used.

Qualifications:

- postgraduate student with research-based experience in the areas of theology, communication, design, religious studies, social work studies
- preference to those currently enrolled in an educational program in a related field
- good planning and organizational skills
- must provide own transportation
- strong computer skills

Program Description:

This position is being advertised under the Canada Summer Jobs (CSJ) initiative. To be eligible for this position, you must be between 15 and 30 years of age on the start date of the job. You also must have been a full-time student during the previous academic year and be intending to return to full-time studies in college or university in the next academic year.

Anticipated Start Date: as soon as possible – 35 hours/week for 8 weeks

Application Deadline: Tuesday, May 21<sup>st</sup> 2019, Interviews to follow

Application Details: Please submit a CV and brief cover letter to Katja Brittain, [katja@tucc.ca](mailto:katja@tucc.ca)