

TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OTTAWA
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Stained Glass Project - The Process

Conceptual Design

After receiving approval of funding from the Memorial Fund committee, a stained glass committee was formed to select designs that would reflect the values and visions of Trinity United. Committee members: Anthea Brandon, Ellie Barrington, Beth Jenkin, Alex Dunn, Chris Humphrey, Mike Velichka.

Final Design

Towards the end of the window design process, Beth was no longer able to fully distinguish the shades of colours she had chosen. Alex worked with Beth in her studio to 'be her eyes' - painting colours into the black outlines for each of the individual pieces of glass.

Glass selection

Northern Art Glass supplied the glass and materials, provided expertise and transposed Beth's designs to full scale patterns. In all there are 25 different glass selections of colours and textures.

Glass Cutting and Grinding

- To cut each piece of glass, a sheet of glass was placed over the template and scored freehand.
- Running or grozier pliers were then used to snap the scored glass.
- All pieces had to be ground to smooth out the edges and ensure the parts would fit together accurately.

Glass Assembly

- Individual pieces of glass had to be held together with extruded lead came.
- A zinc metal frame was used to surround and hold the complete panel.
- Every joint had to be soldered on both sides of the panel.
- Three stiffening bars were used to prevent the panel from flexing.

Finishing and Cleaning

- The acid flux used in soldering had to be flushed, first with soapy water, then fresh water, to prevent the came from corroding.
- All the spaces around the edge of each piece of glass had to be packed with a black, oil-based grout, on both sides of the panel.

- 'Whitening', a dry white powder, was then sprinkled on the glass and brushed vigorously to absorb the excess oil. This process burnished the lead came, converting it from grey to black.
- The excess grout, now dry, was then carefully removed with a wooden or metal pick called a fid.
- Each piece of glass had to be polished to remove dirt and identification marks.

Framing

The stained glass panels were framed in blond oak cabinets and varnished to match the pews. They were then fitted with support brackets and energy efficient LED back lighting.

Moving Day

Chris created a table on wheels to carefully secure and transport the **Tree of Life** from his garage workshop down Agincourt Road to the church.

Installation

Pulleys were used to hoist the boxes into place. Helpers: Steve Dunn, Brian Gibson, Bill Hamilton, Bryne Hearty, Chris Humphrey, Harold Sheehan and Mike Velichka.

Stained Glass Project – The Time Line

Nov. 15, 2012	Stained Glass Committee convenes for the first time
Jan. 17, 2013	Beth presents conceptual designs
April 29, 2013	Final designs are completed
May 4, 2013	Training sessions for glass cutters begin
June 25, 2013	Glass is delivered to Trinity and glass cutting begins
July 27, 2013	The last piece of glass in Our Rainbow Ark panel is assembled
Aug. 23, 2013	Manufacturing of wooden cabinets begins
Oct. 21, 2013	The last piece of glass in The Tree of Life panel is assembled
Oct. 24, 2013	Our Rainbow Ark is installed in its box and LED lights are tested
Nov.7, 2013	The Tree of Life is moved back to Trinity
Nov. 22, 2013	The Tree of Life is installed in its light box
Dec. 30, 2013	Both stained glass cabinets are mounted in the sanctuary