

10 Mission Per Square Foot Case Studies

Mission
PER SQ FT

Fall 2015



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Overview



We Help Communities Rejuvenate & Repurpose **Faith Buildings**

Mission Per Square Foot is about harnessing faith buildings to:

- Enhance Spiritual Mission
- Create Liquidity From Existing Assets
- Transform Organizational Capacity
- Protect the Environment
- Serve the Community

Greening Sacred Spaces (GSS) is a practical program to assist faith communities in taking concrete actions to create a more energy efficient place of worship and to educate members of the community about ecological issues.

Faith & the Common Good is a national, interfaith network founded in 2000 on the belief that our diverse faith congregations and spiritual communities can be powerful role models for the common good.

Offered by:



Faith & the Common Good



“Helping communities rejuvenate and repurpose faith buildings – where many faith buildings are more than 100 years old, facing dwindling congregations and increasing operating costs – to meet community needs in a sustainable manner is a pressing matter.”

LUCY CUMMINGS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

What will we offer the faith communities?



Access to workshops such as mission/ft², social enterprise, and fundraising



Expertise concerning ways to maximize mission/ft², including best practices, tools and information



Assistance with accessing site assessments: neighbourhood vulnerability assessment, facility audit, and service capability assessment



Dedicated support resource from mission/ft² project team



Connections with experts and other stakeholders



Support for a roundtable discussion to develop a mission/ft² action plan

St. Luke's Anglican Church



Location

760 Somerset Street West
Ottawa, ON K1R 6P9



Project Details

- St. Luke's Table, a lunch club for neighbours from the nearby rooming houses
- Supportive housing
- Retrofit of the nave of the church, in a conscious, environmentally friendly effort to maximize the use of their space for worship and for the community



"[The goal was a] beautiful, flexible, environmentally friendly space that we can worship in and others can use."

RANDAL GOODFELLOW

Story of Development

Located in a neighbourhood that has the highest concentration of rooming houses in Ottawa, St. Luke's mission has always been very clear: to serve their community and welcome all "without exception" to a contemplative and hopeful environment. Since 1983, its basement has housed St. Luke's Table, formerly St. Luke's Lunch Club and now a ministry of the Anglican Diocese. From its modest beginnings serving lunches to 25 people in need, St. Luke's Table now serves about 400 meals per day to hundreds of individuals. Their services include counselling, computer access, a community garden, a bike clinic, and much more.

In 1989, in order to expand its mission, St. Luke's tore down its church hall and built a 44-unit supportive housing apartment building and a parking garage. The church also redesigned its nave and basement

to accommodate offices and functions that were formerly housed in the church hall. As well as providing a service to their community, the apartments and parking will eventually also become sources of revenue for the church.

Luke's also has a strong history of support for the environment. In 2012, the parish became among the first in Ottawa to complete an energy audit. The congregation has implemented many of the recommendations, including replacing the windows and doors, stopping drafts, and updating heating and ventilation. St. Luke's was also one of the pilot sites for a Canada Green Building Council initiative to track energy use in faith buildings.

www.stlukesottawa.ca

St. Luke's Anglican Church

Starting 2013, the parish combined their greening efforts and missionary drive to undertake an environmentally conscious renovation of the nave. St. Luke's sought to get as much "mission" out of its "square foot" as possible, thus coining the name of the project.

An enthusiastic congregation raised money through a GiFT (Growing in Faith Together) campaign, meeting its target by 140%. According to Randal Goodfellow, who oversaw the renovation process, the success of the fundraiser was largely due to its clear intention. St. Luke's, in partnership with a student from the Telfer School of Business (University of Ottawa), developed a marketing plan that helped focus their vision and clarify their aims. Unlike many congregations, the parish has also developed both a 5-year business and a 5-year mission plan.

The highlights of the renovation (in addition to the energy retrofit):

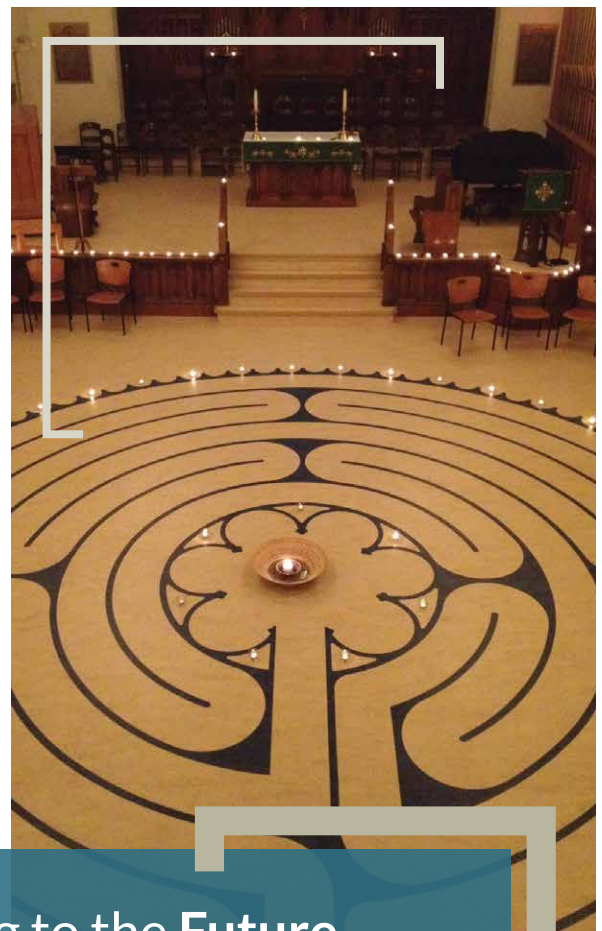
- **A mobile pulpit, altar, organ, and font.** The flexibility of the furniture provides a wider range of use – for concerts, for meetings, and for alternative forms of worship.
- **Recycled furniture.** The communion rail, removed to create space and eliminate barriers between clergy and congregants, was transformed into a font. Similarly, the mobile altar contains the fretwork of the original pulpit and some pieces from former pews, which have been removed in favour of moveable chairs.
- **Replacing the floor, which had been sinking under the weight of the old stone font, with Marmoleum, (a sustainable product), and creating a labyrinth.** The church holds monthly labyrinth walks that draw in participants, young and old, from around the city. Others from outside the congregation also use the Labyrinth for healing work.

The renovations were completed in 2014, with a net cost of about \$125 000. St. Luke's has already seen an increase in use of their space. The more traditional morning service is full and an afternoon contemplative service 'in the round' has been created where congregants eat off of the mobile altar. The nave's new configuration is specifically designed to maximize the use of the space, both for worship and for the greater community, for events such as receptions and group facilitations.

www.stlukesottawa.ca

*"When you need a change,
it can't be led by the pastor."*

RANDAL GOODFELLOW



Looking to the Future

St. Luke's is hoping to update the lighting in the nave, and to build washrooms and kitchens closer to the main worship area. The church would also like to draw more people to St. Luke's, whether through rentals or in connection with its neighbourhood's social enterprises, so that the beautiful space may be shared both for revenue and expanded expressions of ministry.

Barrhaven United Church



Location

3013 Jockvale Road
Ottawa, ON K2J 4E4



Project Details

Since its construction in 1993, the Barrhaven United Church (BUC) property has been home to two major outreach programs:

- Non-profit preschool
- Office space for NGOs and organizations in transition
- 12-step support groups
- Other faith communities



"While the Food Cupboard's primary focus and direction of funds is still to provide food assistance in our community, they desperately need a facility that will warehouse that food, allow for efficient distribution and facilitate community learning."

TOM SCHWARZKOPF, TASK GROUP ON THE
BARRHAVEN FOODCUPBOARD PROPOSAL

Story of Development

When, after years of meeting in school classrooms and gymnasiums, BUC developed plans for its own building, the community also wished to construct a community housing project on its five-acre property, in the name of good stewardship. In 1990, with the assistance of the Ontario Ministry of Housing and the Ontario March of Dimes (OMD), and based on the needs of several members of the congregation, BUC identified a lack of affordable rental housing as well as rental accommodation for individuals with physical disabilities and Environmental Sensitivities. The Ministry of Housing approved the church's application for a mixed housing project and paid a 40-year lease on BUC's property.

With its construction, which was completed in 1993, Barrhaven Non-Profit Housing Inc's (BNPHI) Steepleview Crossing community became the first non-profit housing in Barrhaven, and unique in Ottawa for the services it offers.

The 41-unit, five-building complex contains:

- A two-story, 16-unit apartment building
- Three buildings with two- or three- bedroom units
- Seven units (one-, two-, and three-bedroom) designed for the environmentally sensitive

16 of the units are accessible, and many have undergone renovations that keep the special-needs accommodations up-to-date and improve the environmental sustainability of the buildings. OMD, which was consulted in the construction of the units, rents a suite to provide on-site, 24-hour care to ten residents.

www.barrhavenunited.org

Barrhaven United Church

BNPHI is a private corporation, separate financially from BUC; however, the constitution of the organization requires 51% of the Board of Directors to be members of the church. Since Steepleview Crossing is designed for individuals capable of largely independent living, BNPHI employs only two part-time staff: a property manager and a custodian. Although the organization has occasionally faced financial challenges, BNPHI is currently stable and focussed on maintaining Steepleview Crossing as it ages.

While BNPHI is a corporation with its own buildings, The Barrhaven Food Cupboard (BFC) presently lacks its own facilities.

The organization also has a much longer history:

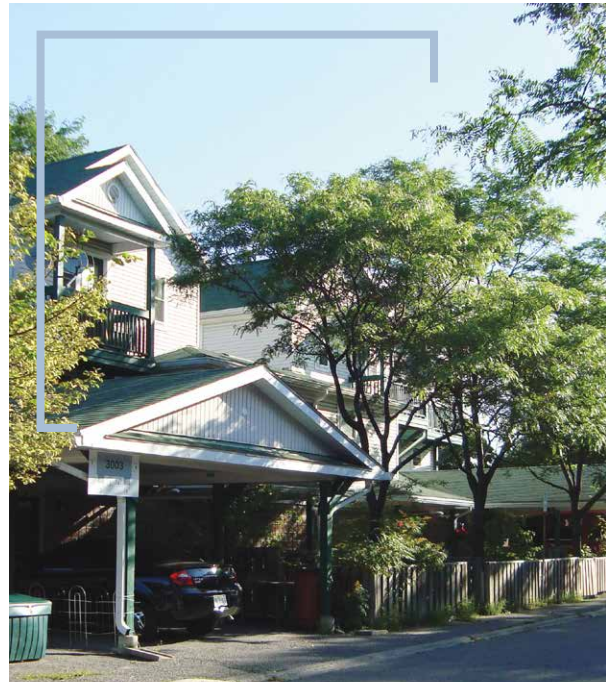
- **1969: three churches in Bells Corners found the Family Services Association of Churches (FAMSAC).**
- **Early 1980s: at FAMSAC's request, Barrhaven United began running satellite food delivery and Christmas hamper programs in Barrhaven from members' homes and later, a portable on the church property.**
- **1993: With the BUC's church construction, a food depot was set up in the building.**
- **2005: BUC's request to the wider Barrhaven community to help run the programs began a process that led to the election of BFC's first community board in 2012, which includes some members of BUC.**

The Barrhaven community, including individuals, grocery stores, and local groups, are the sole supporters of BFC; the Food Cupboard receives no assistance from the Ottawa Food Bank. BFC's year-round program and Christmas Hamper program are operated entirely by volunteers.

www.barrhavenunited.org

"Operation of a non-profit housing [...] requires careful planning, skilful management and a Board that is dedicated and prepared to respond to emerging and urgent issues decisively."

TOM SCHWARZKOPF, CHAIR OF BNPHI



Looking to the Future

Both BUC and BFC have identified the need for separate facilities; BFC requires at least six times the space available currently, and still has no means of storing perishable food items.

Since 2012, discussions have been underway to consider constructing an independent BFC facility on BUC land. In addition to providing

vital storage space, the building would also be used for community health and food education.

BUC and the Ottawa Presbytery of the United Church of Canada have approved a Memorandum of Understanding with the Food Cupboard for the lease of land to BFC. BFC is currently considering the financial feasibility of the project.

Ottawa Sikh Gurdwara



Location

25 Gurdwara Road
Ottawa, ON K2E 7X6



Project Details

- Kitchen renovations
- Renovation of main heating system and roof
- Sikh Heritage Centre, a multi-use hall located within the temple (Gurdwara)



THE GOAL OF THE PUNJABI SCHOOL:

“To promote and provide religious, cultural and language knowledge to children in a manner resulting in children gaining knowledge, confidence and feeling proud of their religion, heritage and culture, and becoming attached to Sikh values.”

Story of Development

The history of the Ottawa Sikh Society (OSS) and the Ottawa Sikh Gurdwara (temple) involves continuous improvement and many successes. From 20 members in 1968 to over 4000 members today, the OSS has grown to serve Sikhs from around the greater Ottawa area. In 1982, after years of meeting in community centres and high schools, members of the organization built the temple in Nepean. Since its construction, the temple has been under almost constant renovations, the most recent of which occurred from 2012 to 2014.

Some of the most important changes involved the kitchens and, consequently, the heating and water systems. The community gathers weekly for religious services, after which the community

gets together for meals (langar) and socialization. Serving langar is a vital element of Sikh culture and religion, and the kitchen needed to be as energy efficient, effective, and environmentally-friendly as possible. Believing strongly that every person should do what they can to help, members of the community with expertise in engineering and other relevant subjects formed a Gurdwara Renovation Committee to tackle the project. The renovations, which cost approximately \$1.3 million, were largely funded through private donations. The “spirit of giving” in the community helps raise funds for Gurdwara; OSS members donate regularly.

www.ottawasikh society.com

Ottawa Sikh Gurdwara

The renovations include:

- New stoves
- A new exhaust system to reduce smoke in the cooking area
- A dishwasher system that runs on water heated by natural gas as opposed to hydro, which is now more expensive. The system is mechanized and efficient, which means less work for those running it and less waste of water. They also have reusable plates, cups, and cutlery.
- A new, centralized boiler, and a new energy efficient heater and air conditioner
- A new, better-insulated roof

The OSS had earlier added a whole new section to the temple: the Sikh Heritage Centre, a multi-use room connected to the main building by a hallway. Again, the \$700 000 project was largely funded through private donations and special fundraising efforts, although the temple also received a \$60 000 grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

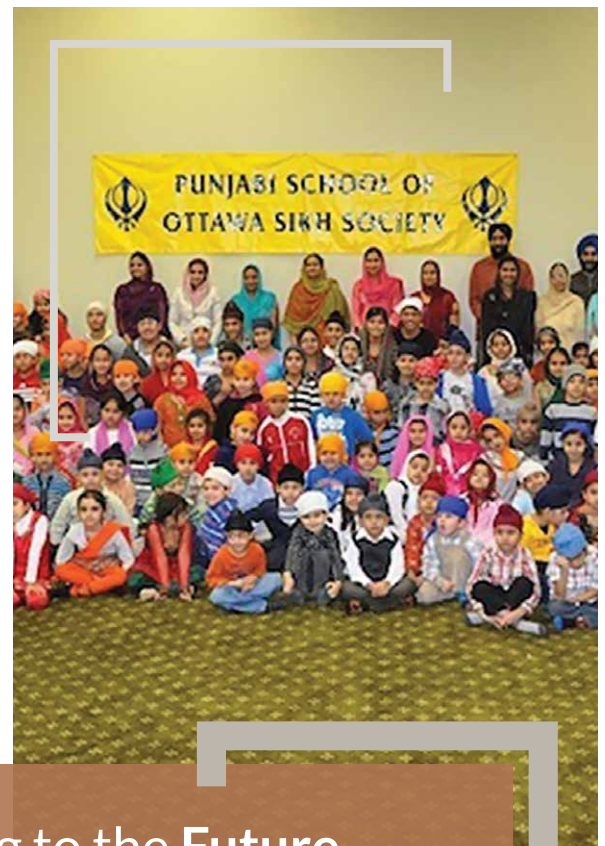
The hallway to the centre includes meeting rooms, which senior members of the community use for weekly socializing. The centre is employed for a variety of activities a few days each week. The multipurpose room serves as the home of the Punjabi school, which teaches children and community members the Punjabi language, the principles and history of Sikhism, and traditional dancing and instruments. The school also holds a summer camp. Renovations to this part of the complex have helped improve the building's energy efficiency and comfort.

Many cultural and community events are also held at the Sikh Heritage Centre, and the OSS hosts classes and seminars, such as computer lessons for seniors. However, some members of the community would like to see the Centre used more, for a greater diversity of activities, as had originally been planned. The room's attachment to the main area of the temple means that all visitors must follow the rules of the Gurdwara: heads must be covered and shoes removed, and meat and alcohol are prohibited. These rules limit the use of the space, although even with restrictions, the Centre is an important asset to the community and offers many possibilities.

www.ottawasikhsociety.com

"Currently [the OSS] serves more than 5,000 member and non-member Sikhs living in the greater Ottawa area and the neighbouring communities."

OSS WEBSITE



Looking to the Future

The OSS would like to implement a compost program for their kitchen biodegradable waste. Presently, no one picks up the Gurdwara's compost, which could fill up to two green bins per week. The organization has also considered creating a second floor for additional guest rooms, as Sikh temples welcome travelling visitors and students and provide needed amenities.

Bronson Centre



Location

211 Bronson Avenue
Ottawa, ON K1R 6H5



Project Details

The Grey Sisters of the Immaculate Conception transformed their property from a high school to the Bronson Centre, a not-for-profit charity. The building now includes:

- Office space for not-for-profit organizations
- A large theatre that seats 850 people
- Meeting rooms
- Mac Hall, a multipurpose room that is used for a variety of shows, workshops, rehearsals, and more



“Interested groups must be willing to be part of the hospitable and supportive environment that welcomes a variety of people to this Centre every day.”

BRONSON CENTRE WEBSITE

Story of Development

In 1993, the Grey Sisters, owners of 211 Bronson, were faced with an empty building when Immaculata High School, its previous occupant, moved to their current location on Main St. Although the Grey Sisters initially sought to sell the property, the appraised values led them to imagine potential uses for the building that would fill a gap in Ottawa. The Sisters took the lead and ran think-tank sessions, first with the congregation, then with lay collaborators, and finally with other organizations and religious groups. By consulting many people, the project leaders learned from the experiences of others, and could rely on a sizeable network for assistance, in-kind contributions, and services.

After visiting various not-for-profit organizations, the team realized that there were many groups in Ottawa that were doing great work but that were unable to afford their own offices. The Grey Sisters envisioned the creation of affordable space for small not-for-profit organizations, which

would provide opportunities for groups to share space, resources, and ideas. After receiving the support of several groups, the project leaders consulted a structural engineer, who donated his time to discover what sort of renovations and upgrades were required for a transition.

According to Fay Edmonds, the project leader, it is vital to understand a building and the potential costs before attempting a revitalization project. In the end, the most important renovations – including installing a new furnace, repairs to the roof, and some rewiring – took only a couple of years; the Bronson Centre opened its doors in 1996 as a registered charity.

www.bronsoncentre.ca

Bronson Centre

Details about rentals:

- Not-for-profit organizations mostly hear about the centre through word of mouth
- Bronson Centre administration screens each group carefully to ensure that their practices are in accordance with the owners' beliefs
- Although the rent is affordable, the organizations are also responsible for renovating their own rooms. The administration relinquished creative control, allowing groups to make whatever changes to their space they desire so long as they remain within code regulations.
- Since year three or four of operation, the centre has almost constantly been full, with over 30 agencies currently occupying the building.

It is the Grey Sisters' practice to establish a project, and subsequently to hand it over to another organization for long-term governance. The Grey Sisters paid for the initial required upgrades with the help of donations from others committed to the concept. The Bronson Centre is now financially independent from the Sisters and governed by a Board of Directors; the Grey Sisters are simply the property owners.

In order to keep rent as low as possible, the Bronson Centre:

- Rents out its theatre, hall, and meeting space
- Fundraises through events such as a golfing tournament
- Seeks governmental grants for specific projects

Despite its large size, the Bronson Centre retains its atmosphere of collaboration and community. Many groups share meeting space, form personal connections, and are aware of each other's activities. And while a religious institution no longer runs the Bronson Centre, faith groups are still present in the building. For example, the Sisters themselves are tenants with their own Grey Sister-sponsored Kairos Centre, which offers group reflection on the spirituality behind social justice.

www.bronsoncentre.ca

"You have to take enough time to do the research and get a sense of what you want to accomplish [...] be really clear in your vision."

FAY EDMONDS, GSIC



Looking to the Future

Corey Mayville, executive director of the Bronson Centre, is focussed on the upkeep of the building. His plans for the future of the centre include replacing windows, constructing a multi-level parking garage, and installing air conditioning for the theatre.

Christ Church Cathedral



Location

414 Sparks Street, Ottawa, ON K1R 0B2



Project Details

Lease and development of the land belonging to Christ Church Cathedral and the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa. This project has two phases:

Phase 1 (2012-2015) has involved the development of the land east of the Cathedral:

- Construction of Cathedral Hill, a luxury eco-friendly condominium tower and townhome project
- Reconstruction of the Cathedral's Great Hall and 'crypt' into more efficient, usable, accessible, and inviting spaces

Phase 2 (2016 onwards) will involve the development of the land west of the Cathedral.



"The primary objective of property development is to intensify Cathedral land use and thereby generate a significant and long term financial return that will cover the cost of maintaining Cathedral facilities. This in turn will allow the Cathedral to re-direct a much higher percentage of its annual income to non-property needs within the parish and the wider community."

JOINT VENTURE TASK FORCE AGREEMENT

Story of Development

Christ Church Cathedral (CCC)'s ambitious development of its property into commercial space for revenue was motivated by a number of factors, including the large amount of underused land in its possession and the dire need for repairs to the Cathedral itself, which has been standing since 1873. However, the unique project also reflects the Cathedral's mission, to be "A diverse and vibrant parish that glorifies God and welcomes all people." The revenue from Cathedral Hill and the West Tower project will help support ministry beyond the property itself. Furthermore, renovations of the Cathedral's own Great Hall and crypts have made the building more inviting and usable.

Ten years ago, the Cathedral was already considering a project to develop their land. According to Shane Parker, dean of Christ Church Cathedral, an important first step was establishing internal consensus among the congregation. Throughout this project, the church body has been extremely supportive and patient.

Over the next few years, CCC began contractual arrangements:

- In 2006, CCC and the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa, which owns half of the land around the Cathedral, joined their properties for the purposes of the land redevelopment project, whose revenue they will split.
- The joint organizations hired FoTenn Consultants, urban planners who provided insight into the value and potential of the land, and recommended a course of action.
- CBRE was hired as a commercial broker, and Gowlings as a legal advisor.

www.christchurchcathedralottawa.ca

Christ Church Cathedral

An offer for development was put out to tender in 2008. The Request for Proposals included the Cathedral and the Diocese's own needs for parking, a multiuse space, kitchens, and offices. Although no developers initially bid on the project, Windmill Developments Group and another firm submitted alternative proposals. Windmill was chosen for its innovation and commitment to sustainable development.

Construction of Cathedral Hill, a 21-storey, 140-apartment luxury condominium tower and townhome development, began in 2012 and will be completed by the end of 2015; occupancy began February 2015. Designed by HOK for Platinum LEED certification, the building aims to be as sensitive of the environment as possible. The development is also pedestrian-conscious and respectful of the Cathedral; its construction materials and architecture complement the historical building.

Windmill is also responsible for the renovations to the Cathedral's Great Hall and crypts. The Hall's redevelopment includes:

- **New, high-quality, and far more energy efficient kitchens**
- **A highly welcoming multiuse space**
- **A more up-to-date elevator**
- **Larger cloakrooms**

In the 'crypts,' new meeting spaces are being constructed, which will hopefully increase the use of these areas, both for not-for-profit and for-profit organizations.

"The Cathedral will need to draw attention to the unfairness aspect of expecting churches to stand perfectly still as a counterfoil while everyone else surrounding churches goes into property development [...] In the context of urban planning, it can be clearly demonstrated that cohesive and balanced development on either side of the Cathedral will generate a superior urban presence."

JOINT VENTURE TASK FORCE AGREEMENT



Looking to the Future

Christ Church Cathedral is hoping to increase the use of its newly renovated space for revenue and for mission.

Plans for Phase 2 of the development project should be completed by the summer of 2016.

www.christchurchcathedralottawa.ca

First Unitarian Congregation



Location

30 Cleary Avenue
Ottawa, ON K2A 4A1



Project Details

- Unitarian House, which provides affordable supportive housing and retirement living for seniors
- Office, meeting, and childcare space in the lower level of church
- River Parkway Children's Centre



"Unitarian House was built on a strong foundation of social responsibility, vision, determination, caring, a sense of humour and a dream."

UNITARIAN HOUSE WEBSITE

Story of Development

When the First Unitarian Congregation moved to its current Westboro location in 1967, its members were very aware of the surplus space on its very large campus. Although some congregants originally wanted to sell the land, the lack of seniors in the community in 1973 motivated the creation of affordable residence for the elderly. In 1975, with \$10,000 in seed funding from a partner Unitarian Church, Unitarian House became a registered not-for-profit charity.

In 1983, a decade after the project advocacy had been undertaken, and years after First Unitarian began seeking financial support, the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation finally agreed to fund the creation of Unitarian House. During the ten-year period that it took to plan and fund the residence, almost all opposition to the project disappeared. Over one decade, approval from the congregation rose from 60% to almost 100%.

Construction of the five-story residence began in 1983, under a specific financial plan:

- Unitarian House signed a 50-year lease on the land, which has since been extended, and paid the \$346 500 rent at the beginning of the lease. CMHC provided a long-term, low interest loan to finance the building.
- The rental payment to the church was used to settle its mortgage, create new parking lots, and construct new water lines, among other projects.

www.firstunitarianottawa.ca

First Unitarian Congregation

Currently, the Unitarian House is home to 130 residents, 36 of whom attend First Unitarian. As a testament to the relationship between the church and Unitarian House, ministers from First Unitarian hold occasional services at the senior's home. Last year, the residence was officially recognized as an "age-friendly building" by the Council of Aging of Ottawa.

According to Werner Daeschel, a congregant heavily involved in the creation of the affordable residence, the success of Unitarian House lies largely in the persistence of the committee that led the project, but the presence of community leadership is also very important.

Furthermore, on the lowest floor of the church building itself, the community-focussed congregation has always had room set aside for mission:

- **Office space for not-for-profit organizations:** originally, the offices were occupied by the Rideauwood Addiction Treatment Centre and Amnesty International, in which prominent members of the community were leaders. Now, the space is home to Physicians for Global Survival, the Turner Syndrome Society of Canada, and Green Communities Canada.
- **Childcare:** several rooms were specifically constructed for childcare, and congregants founded the River Parkway Childcare Centre, which eventually became too big for its space. The rooms are now used for Religious Exploration and for meetings.

In 1998, First Unitarian, with the financial aid of Unitarian House, purchased a new piece of land from the NCC, who stipulated that the property be used only to the benefit of society. Although Unitarian House rented a third of the new land in order to build parking, parts of the remaining property were leased to the River Parkway Childcare Centre, which had outgrown its space within the church. With support from the City of Ottawa, the Centre signed a 20-year lease with First Unitarian, and moved into its own building in 2007. Currently, the River Parkway Childcare Centre cares for about 40 children from 18 months to five years.

www.firstunitarianottawa.ca

"The seed money is the most valuable, because it sets a reasonable path."

WERNER DAESCHEL



Looking to the Future

In 2013, the Congregation built into its campus plan the possibility of a further building that would permit a mix of housing, including affordable units. The Site Stewardship Initiative at First Unitarian is engaged in furthering this proposal.

Tucker House



Location

1731 Tucker Road
Clarence-Rockland, ON K4K 1K7
P.O. Box 4425 Station E K1S 5B4



Project Details

Tucker House Renewal Centre has been a charity since 2005, after many years as a Baptist retreat centre. The historical, environmentally friendly building is available for rental, and hosts many of its own events. Tucker House's latest renovations (2014-2015) increased the site's accessibility, historical accuracy, safety, and professionalism.



"What's valuable about the story is that you're taking a faith-based community and helping it be accessible to a broader community so it's no longer just serving the Baptist community but the wider public [...] The vision of eco-spirituality is still very much alive in today's Tucker House - and that's why it's Mission Per Square Foot."

KRISTINA INRIG

Story of Development

Built in 1870 for a prominent entrepreneurial Baptist family, Tucker House has an impressive history. In the 1960s, the Tuckers gifted the property to the Baptist Convention of Ontario and Quebec, who established the Tucker House Commission. This organization founded a Baptist retreat centre and the Country Fun Nature Camp, an environmentally educational and religious summer day camp. Isobel McGregor, a Baptist minister, also helped establish Tucker House as an eco-spiritual location with the creation of a Community Supported Agriculture program at the centre in the 1990s.

By 2004, due to concerns about supporting their ageing building, the Ontario Baptist Association decided that the house's future should serve the broader community with a new organization. Therefore, in 2005, the Tucker House Renewal Centre was incorporated as an ecological and spiritual retreat centre with a new mission of eco-education, sustainable development, and cultural transformation. According to Kristina Inrig, former Executive Director of Tucker

House, in order to maintain the history and faith connection to the space, the Tucker House Commission became the first Board of Directors of the Tucker House Renewal Centre.

The current onsite activities include:

- **Country Fun Nature Camp, which maintains its eco-spiritual focus**
- **Workshops and events, especially on sustainability and other "green" topics; Tucker House uses its historic outbuildings for outdoor learning**
- **Historic tours and nature walks on the property's large natural areas, including wetland, old growth forest, meadow, and more**
- **Retreats and rentals; for example, for weddings or for scout groups**

www.maisontuckerhouse.ca

Tucker House

Since the completion of the property transfer in 2007, Tucker House has undergone several major transformations in order to create a comfortable, sustainable, spiritual, and serviceable space for its diverse uses.

These renovations and upgrades, funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation, include:

- **2008: The creation of an exterior ramp, as well as accessible washrooms and an office**
- **2009-2011: The Green Design Program, which increased the building's sustainability. Projects included an upgraded furnace and water conservation efforts in their new kitchen and washrooms. Solar panels, which generate 15KW of energy to the grid, were also installed.**
- **2014-2015: additional external and internal renovations**

The latest renovations included essential upgrades to the electrical and security system as well as repairs to the windows, brickwork, and other external features of the house. Tucker House chose Environmental Construction Option, a local group, as their general contractor due to the company's commitment to sustainability, experience with historic buildings, and flexibility.

Through a grant from Heritage Canada, the organization hired an Architectural Conservation and Sustainability student from Carleton to help plan a historically accurate design guide for the furniture and décor. Another student from Applied Museum Studies developed a researched inventory on Tucker House's antique furniture. Finally, Josée Farmer, an Interior Decorating graduate from Algonquin College worked with the group throughout the interior renovations, pulling together beautiful textiles and furnishings to recreate the splendour of the historic mansion.

Tucker House based these renovations – which included revealing and refinishing original hardwood floors and vintage paint colours, and purchasing new furniture and decorations – on group input and needs.

The result is a truly historical, yet comfortable, modern, professional, and sustainable building. Similarly, Tucker House's new audio-visual equipment will allow more groups to rent the space for a larger variety of uses, whether spiritual, ecological, or corporate.

www.maisontuckerhouse.ca

"Our mission is to weave spiritual and ecological renewal into the fabric of everyday life."

STRATEGIC PLAN, 2013-2018



Looking to the Future

Tucker House is seeking to promote its recently renovated building with signage and displays explaining the history of the house, and at their annual Green Gala. In the future, the organization would like to connect with the surrounding Prescott-Russell, especially the francophone community, and to continue being a leader in sustainability, eco-spirituality, and education.

St. Joseph's Parish



Location

151 Laurier Avenue East
Ottawa, ON K1N 6N8



Project Details

St. Joseph's has long been involved in a large variety of on-site outreach projects. Two of their most notable ministries, which both have dedicated space within the church:

- St. Joe's Supper Table, which provides coffee, dinners, and groceries in a community setting
- St. Joe's Women's Centre, a daytime shelter that offers services to women in need



"Churches cannot afford to support social agencies within their facilities because they themselves are having financial difficulties."

MARSHA WILSON, DIRECTOR
OF ST. JOE'S WOMEN'S CENTRE

Story of Development

When St. Joseph's began experiencing declining attendance and shifting demographics in the 1960s and 70s, the parish decided to try a new approach to ministry. With a larger percentage of the neighbourhood on social assistance, new to Canada, or in low-rent housing, the church brought in Father Fred Magee, a dynamic and social justice-orientated pastor who encouraged parishioners to form a meaningful community and reach out to those in need. Out of this revitalization of the parish emerged both the Supper Table and the Women's Centre.

In 1978, Father Magee and volunteers from the parish and partner organizations began inviting the homeless and needy to eat in the warmth of the church itself. Although for many years the project was small, consisting sometimes of the pastor simply making sandwiches for a handful of hungry guests, what is now known as St. Joe's Supper Table has greatly expanded with several major renovations; the dining room now seats 24.

The organization's current operations:

- The dining room seats 24
- Coffee is served during the day
- 100-150 guests are served a hot or bagged supper every Monday to Friday
- Approximately 80 volunteers, as well as a paid manager, part-time cook, and summer student facilitate operations

While private donations from the parish make up most of the organization's funding, the Supper Table also works with other not-for-profit organizations, such as the Food Bank and the Islam Care Centre. Guests of the Supper Table help preserve their beloved community; many guests volunteer in the kitchens, while others maintain the recently established gardens.

www.stgilesottawa.org

St. Joseph's Parish

The Women's Centre sprang out of the need for a warm daytime meeting area for the 20 women staying at a shelter in All Saints Anglican Church. In 1983, volunteers from St. Joseph's and partner organizations began serving breakfast to these women, and a year later a room in the former Oblates Centre became a safe meeting space for women during the day. The organization survived for several years on a miniscule budget, offering breakfast and quilting lessons. Through the work of a dedicated director, grants from the City of Ottawa allowed the Women's Centre to achieve financial stability and expand its services. In 1989, with \$100,000 from the provincial government, the Women's Centre moved into the newly renovated Rectory basement, where they still reside, paying rent to the church.

Today, director Marsha Wilson, four staff members, a handful of summer students, and a single volunteer assist 40 to 60 women every day, especially women who are homeless, at risk of homelessness, transgender, victims of trafficking, or suffering from addiction or mental illness.

The Women's Centre's services include:

- Food assistance and meals
- Access to laundry and shower facilities, computers, and telephones
- Toiletries and clothing
- Activities, outings, workshops, and classes
- Counselling

The City of Ottawa remains a major source of funding, providing \$330,000 per year. The centre also holds two annual fundraisers, a fashion show and a "Quality of Life" awards ceremony for individuals who have had a major positive impact on Ottawa. Additionally, the organization frequently partners with NGOs and local companies.

The Supper Table and the Women's Centre are very different organizations; the former is a grassroots, volunteer-based community group, while the latter operates more professionally. However, both projects benefit from their unique approaches to mission, both are motivated by a desire to reach out to the local community, and both prove true St. Joseph's reputation as a giving parish in the heart of Ottawa.

www.stlukesottawa.ca

*"We're a community,
not a social service agency"*

MARY MURPHY, MANAGER OF
ST. JOE'S SUPPER TABLE



Looking to the Future

The Supper Table is always seeking new ways to incorporate guests into their activities; Mary Murphy hopes to establish a community kitchen in the future. The Women's Centre, on the other hand, is looking to further its services to victims of human trafficking, perhaps by establishing a hotline to report trafficking.

Islam Care Centre



Location

312 Lisgar Street
Ottawa, ON K2P 0E2



Project Details

The Islam Care Centre (ICC) is a not-for-profit charity that serves Ottawa's Muslim community with information, resources, and support in a large variety of ways. ICC's services include:

- Counselling and advice
- Outreach to the needy and homeless
- Use of a large Islamic library
- Information sessions
- Chaplaincy
- Space for prayer
- Day camps
- New Muslim Care Programs

"Located in the heart of the city, Islam Care Centre is committed to the ideals of strengthening the spiritual and well being of individuals and families."

ICC WEBSITE

Story of Development

In 1992, the Islamic Information and Da'wah Centre opened its doors on Cooper St. in Ottawa, as a small storefront organization. Its goal was to encourage ties between the non-Muslim and Muslim communities by providing information on Islam. Due to its central location, the centre's mission quickly increased: it became an important source of information and advice, especially for new Canadians. Muslims began coming to the centre for daily and Friday prayers, and the organization realized that their space was simply not large enough for its vital place within the Muslim community. In 1999, the centre moved to its current location at 312 Lisgar; it has also since become the Islam Care Centre.

Within its small 2.5-storey building, the ICC offers a wide variety of services. Its main floor is largely comprised of a worship space, open for prayer throughout the day; the location is convenient for Muslims

working downtown. A women-only prayer room is located downstairs for those who wish to have the privacy; however, women are also welcome on the main level.

The ICC also uses these spaces for:

- Workshops and lectures that aim to educate the larger community on diverse topics, such as domestic violence or the principles of Islam.
- Group outreach projects; every Saturday morning, teams of volunteers meet in the prayer room to prepare lunch bags for the needy, which they then distribute downtown.
- March Break camps and other youth and community activities

www.islamcare.ca

Islam Care Centre

The downstairs office of the centre is where most of the one-on-one work happens. Three to four staff-members are on call throughout the day for counselling and advisory services. Calling themselves jokingly “problem-solvers,” the ICC personnel help individuals from all around Ottawa.

Frequent walk-in and call-in cases involve financial difficulties, lack of housing, family issues (especially involving at-risk youth, problems in marriage, and abuse), and integration into Canadian society and information services.

The office also includes a large resource centre and library for Muslims and non-Muslims alike, and is the home of the New Muslim Care Programs. The centre’s top floor is used for private counselling as well as reduced-cost housing – an important source of revenue for the ICC. Additionally, many of their services also go beyond the doors of the centre, such as their chaplaincy to detention centres, hospitals, and long-term care facilities, or their partnerships with St. Joseph’s Supper Table.

Since its creation, the Islam Care Centre has always envisioned a built-to-suit location for their organization. Since 2011, the centre has been involved in a campaign to construct a larger building on their current property.

The new, seven-storey centre would include:

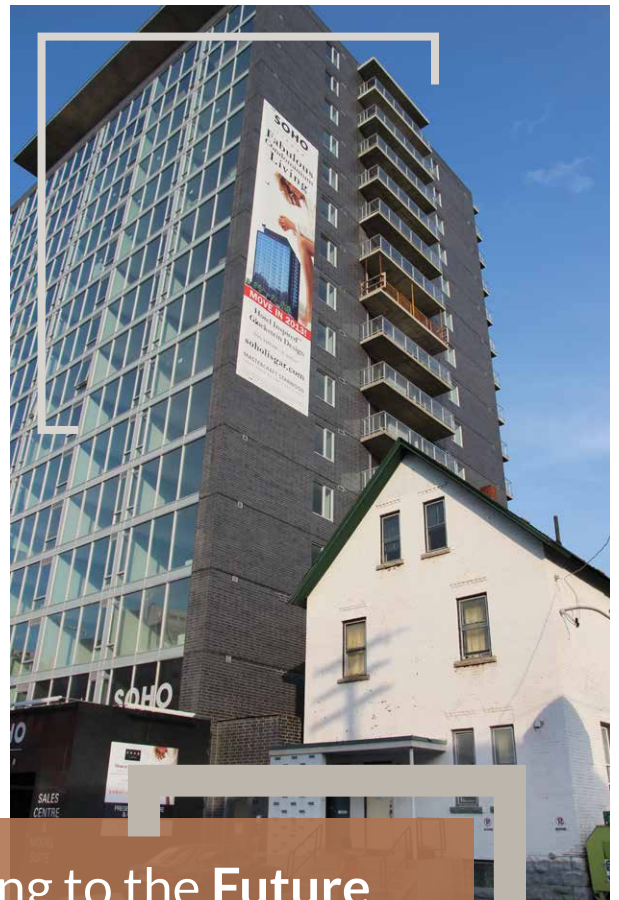
- A storefront resource centre
- A large, multipurpose hall
- A library with moveable furniture, so that the space can be used for a variety of events
- A seminar room
- A large mosque that would accommodate all of their current attendees
- Private offices specifically for counselling; these would also allow for expanded services for at-risk youth, the unemployed, and those in need
- Office space for businesses, in order to increase their revenue

The project will be extremely environmentally friendly; the centre is examining the possibility of using geothermal energy, solar panels, and a rooftop garden. The ICC is also planning on having a large glass floor to allow plenty of natural light.

www.islamcare.ca

“Muslims have to be environmentally-conscious; it is written in so many places in the Quran.”

SULAIMAN KHAN, ASSISTANT
TREASURER AND SECRETARY



Looking to the Future

Although the new centre will likely cost about \$5 million, the ICC has already raised over \$1 million through donations and fundraisers, and is confident that they will meet their target. In preparation for the destruction of their current building in order to make way for the new centre at 312 Lisgar, the ICC is moving into a temporary home on Somerset St.

St. Giles Presbyterian Church



Location

729 Bank Street
Ottawa, ON K1S 2G4



Project Details

Logan-Vencta Hall, a separate multi-use building located at 174 First Avenue. The hall provides space for:

- Non-profit preschool
- Office space for NGOs and organizations in transition
- 12-step support groups
- Other faith communities



"We offer affordable space for community and non-profit groups. We do not rent to for-profit commercial organizations. Our tenants are generally from the worlds of education, arts and culture, support groups such as AA, religious organizations, environmental and peace groups."

JEAN CURRIE, RENTAL COORDINATOR

Story of Development

The history of St. Giles's Logan-Vencta Hall shows how a building's use may change remarkably over half a century. In 1957, due to extremely high Sunday school enrollment, St. Giles began the creation of a new side building across the street from their main church, signing a construction contract with Patterson-Alexander Limited. The church took out a mortgage from a bank and a professional fund-raiser organized a monthly pledge program that ran the course of many years in order to raise the \$124,235 necessary for the construction. The following year, the building was completed.

Logan-Vencta Hall originally contained:

- Sunday-school rooms
- The minister's study
- A Scout room
- A boardroom
- A Ladies' Lounge, for church & social meetings
- A church office

By 1967, the groups that had used Logan-Vencta Hall, such as Canadian Girls in Training, Guides, and Scouts, were experiencing declining enrollment, and many of them stopped meeting at St. Giles. Additionally, there was a drop in Sunday-school enrollment, from 366 children in 1958 to an all-time low of 6 children in 1977. In 1982, Good Morning Preschool began renting out the lower level of the building, sharing the large front room with the Sunday school and gradually using more space. Good Morning Playgroup – now Good Morning Creative Arts Preschool – had been established the previous year by a group of neighbourhood parents. The group has since grown into a licensed preschool and after-school program.

www.stgilesottawa.org

St. Giles Presbyterian Church

In addition to providing a location for a non-profit community preschool, Logan-Vencta Hall has also traditionally afforded space for NGOs, support groups, and small faith communities. In 1967, the Centennial Group, an AA group, was created at St. Giles and eventually moved to Logan-Vencta Hall. Currently, four AA groups hold weekly meetings at St. Giles.

Starting in 1978, St. Giles rented out office space in Logan-Vencta Hall to the Chinese Bible Church, which held their Sunday afternoon worship services in the main church building. When the group moved out in 1988, St. Giles's Board of Managers actively began seeking not-for-profit organizations to complement the church's mission in relation to its role in the community. In 1991, one such organization moved into the third floor: the Peace and Environment Resource Centre, a grassroots charity dedicated to informing and involving the community on a variety of social justice topics. Faith & the Common Good, an interfaith environmentalist organization, and Tucker House, a retreat centre and environmental education leader, have also since taken up offices on the third floor.

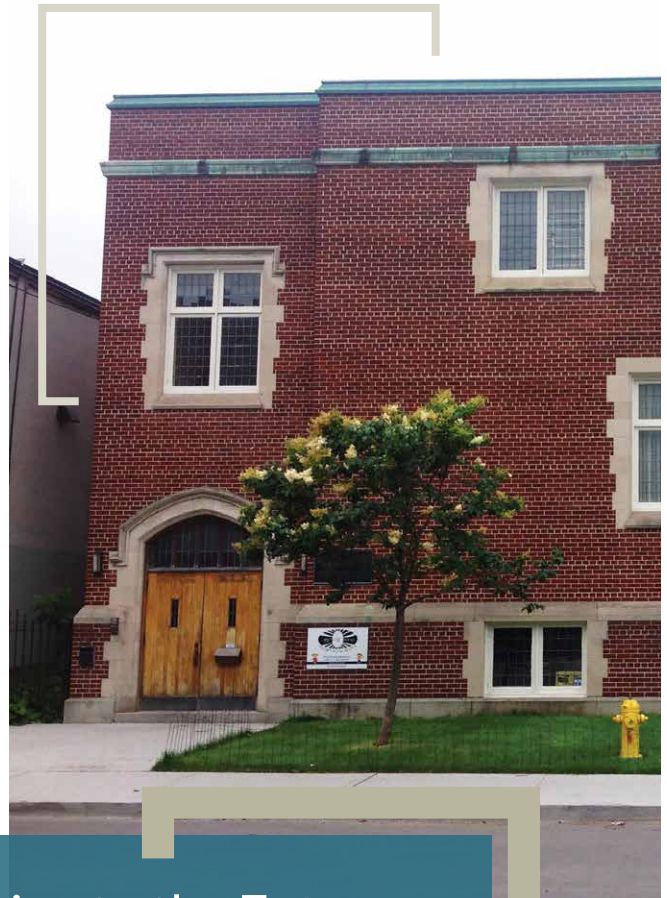
Logan-Vencta Hall has been a temporary home to various organizations over the years:

- In 2000, the hall provided a temporary office for the Centretown Employment Support Program
- In 2003, the Glebe Report had a temporary office in the hall while the Glebe Community Centre was being renovated

The latest addition to the building has been the New Covenant Apostolic Church, which joined in 2013. Logan-Vencta Hall is a good example of a space that was created mostly for church-specific groups, but that gradually became an opportunity for mission and for enriching the larger community.

"...nursery space demand increased due to more women in the work force."

PATRICIA BRUSH, CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR



Looking to the Future

At the moment, the dedicated space in Logan-Vencta Hall is fully occupied; however, St. Giles is open to suggestions for potential future tenants. Logan-Vencta hall also continues to remain available for one-time or short-term uses, such as art or yoga classes, and local theatre rehearsals.

www.stgilesottawa.org

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