



A SUCCESS STORY

As part of the redevelopment of St. Philip's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kitchener, Anishnabeg Outreach (AO) purchased St. Philip's building and property. AO created a facility (pictured above) that houses an indigenous-led Ontario Early Years Centre, an employment agency, and much-needed programming for at-risk youth. With some of the proceeds of the sale, St. Philip's merged with nearby St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran, strengthening their combined ministry.

Organizations have been trying to create a much-needed hub of wrap around services for the region's 50,000 Indigenous people for decades. With the support of St. Philip's and the Eastern Synod we were finally able to achieve this goal. This has been transformative!

— AO CEO, Steven Jackson



Eastern Synod
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

Helping congregations
discover solutions
where mission and
capital resources
meet community
opportunities.

CONGREGATIONAL REDEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Contact Karen Bjerland
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Reimagine the
future of your
church and your
congregation



CONGREGATIONAL REDEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Has your congregation taken time to rethink your vision and consider repurposing your property to be Christ's church in fresh ways for your community?

If now's the time, we can help.
Our services can be customized
for you, by you.

A Ministry of the Eastern Synod of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada.



Over the next 10 years, 30% of Canadian faith communities will need to rethink how they use their properties.

THE CHALLENGE

Congregations face declining membership and income, while property values continue to increase. Leaders must balance these realities as they plan a path forward. Without expertise in community engagement and church real estate planning or even knowing what options might be available to them, many congregations fear their only choice is to sell the property and close the church.

THERE ARE OTHER OPTIONS

Over the last 5 years, Congregational Redevelopment Services has worked with 15 Eastern Synod congregations to find solutions that honour their visions and identify a clear and achievable pathway forward, providing options with the goal of increased financial sustainability.

CONGREGATIONAL REDEVELOPMENT SERVICES (CRS):

- Helps congregations envision and implement renewed missions, including the goal of increasing financial sustainability.
- Provides unbiased discovery, innovative option exploration and sensible economic feasibility studies.
- Procures real estate, development, and other expertise needed to create and implement a plan.



PHASE 1: TAKING INVENTORY

- Assess all options, including collaborative community partnerships, redeveloping or selling the property, leasing it back, etc.
- Ensure that mission is integral to the decision-making process.
- Address emotional issues and potential sources of conflict.
- Protect church interests in discussions with real-estate or property development groups.
- Present go-forward concepts for congregational approval.

PHASE 2: BUILDING CAPACITY

- Explore and choose partnerships.
- Assess real estate options.
- Identify income opportunities.
- Analyze ownership and governance models.
- Determine funding sources and create a financial pro forma.
- Develop a project brief for congregational approval.

PHASE 3: IMPLEMENTATION

During the final phase, CRS can oversee design and implementation of the project in collaboration with congregational leaders.



The degree of oversight will vary depending on the complexity of the project and your in-house expertise.

Project outcomes could range from creating a social services hub, to partnering with a developer to provide supportive or affordable housing, or something that has not yet been dreamed of!

80% of congregations surveyed would recommend CRS to others.

NOTE: CRS fees vary at each stage.

FIND OUT HOW WE CAN HELP YOU

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