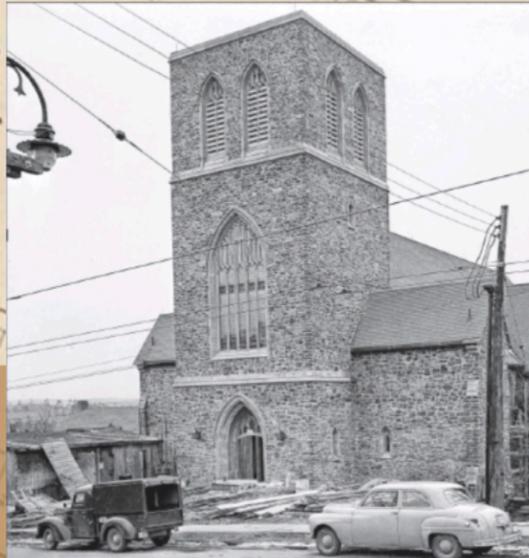


# Property Redevelopment Committee Spring 2021 Update

In April 1827, the congregation of St. Paul's Anglican Church was frustrated by its inability to select their own clergy. As a result, a small group broke away to form a new congregation where they were able to exercise the freedom to make their own decisions.

Following the 1942 fire, the congregation decided to move to the outskirts of the city. A location on Oxford St. was purchased and the church began construction of a new building while they met in the St. Andrew's Church Hall. The Sanctuary was completed in time for worship on Easter Sunday, 1950. Soon after, construction began on the Christian Education building, which was completed in 1958. *Image was taken on April 3, 1950 on the Monday before FBCH held its first service in our current Sanctuary (from Chronicle Herald).*



On September 30, 1827, the group that broke away from St. Paul's held a baptism in the Bedford Basin and officially constituted themselves as the Granville Street Chapel (later the Granville Street Baptist Church). From September 1827 until April 1887, the church was located close to the corner of Granville St. and Blowers St. (approximately where MEC is located today). *Image is of the Orpheus Theatre, which occupied the building that once housed the Granville Street Baptist Church (from NS Archives).*



On April 10, 1887, Granville Street Baptist Church moved to a new location they built on the corner of Spring Garden Rd. and Queens St. (where Lululemon sits today). The church already owned the land and had, years earlier, built a Sunday school building there. The move was made to allow more space for the growing congregation. With the move came a new Act of Incorporation and a renaming of the congregation: The First Baptist Church, Spring Garden Road, Halifax. The church remained at this location until a fire destroyed the building on March 21, 1942. *Image is of the fire that destroyed our building on Spring Garden Road (from NS Archives)*





# Property Redevelopment Committee (PRC) Spring 2021 Update

In the Spring of 2018 FBCH embarked on a look into the future: our goals, our ambitions for ministry, and our desire to remain an independent Baptist voice for God's good news in our community and beyond. Subsequently the Congregation adopted 5 guiding statements for this work. One of these statements is to investigate new revenue streams for the financial sustainability of the Church. In 2019 the PRC received its mandate to discover the best use of our Congregation's real property assets in support of the ministries of First Baptist Church Halifax (FBCH).

## Underlying Assumptions

Our committee has done all its work in the context of the present operations, ministries, and staffing of FBCH. We have assumed a desire to stay on Oxford Street as an independent Baptist community. As reported in February 2019 we have not done an in-depth analysis of the consequences of selling our church property, moving, or merging with another congregation as these options do not appear to lead to a sustainable future. There is a brief discussion on these alternatives in the Appendix.

## Putting Our Assets to Work

Our property assets include the buildings in which we gather, work and worship as well as the land on which we sit. Making significant changes to our property is a generational decision. It is a decision we make for future congregations. Exploring those options requires wisdom, courage, and faith. It involves assessing some unknowns such as:

- What will ministry look like in the future?
- How can we use our property assets to sustain the present ministries while maintaining opportunities for the future?
- Are there property redevelopment possibilities that will deliver sustaining new revenue for the long term?

## What Has the PRC Discovered So Far

1. Unexpectedly, we have experienced the recent impacts of Covid-19. Our response has demonstrated that we can adapt to new ways of connecting with our Congregation and Community. Lessons have been learned including how our ministry may evolve and how we might use our space going forward.

2. Financial forecasts clearly indicate growing deficits. Declining congregational giving cannot sustain our present operations. Based on our present operations, at some point within the next 10 years **the annual loss, or financial gap, is forecast to increase to almost \$150,000 per year. This is an urgent item that must be addressed.**
3. Living within a smaller facility, the Sanctuary Wing, will help reduce operating costs but will not solve the growing operational losses.
4. Only new sources of revenue can address the complete financial challenge.
5. Our current programming uses a small portion of our facilities and pivoting to a smaller footprint is possible. Gathering, working and worshipping within the Sanctuary Wing with no CE Wing can be done.
6. Renovation of the Sanctuary Wing is necessary to address some significant maintenance challenges as well as to provide for practical new uses on the Hall level. Early planning indicates that new uses on the Hall level can be satisfactory to our needs.
7. New, long-term sustaining revenue can be achieved by a land lease and redevelopment of the parsonage and CE Wing lands.
8. Continued donations in support of the work and ministries of FBCH is essential as well as the careful management of our financial resources.
9. A series of important congregational discussions and decisions is required about ministry priorities, redevelopment guidelines, and environmental principles as they apply to renovations and property redevelopment.
10. Property redevelopment is approximately a 5-year or more program.

## Adapting to New Realities

This Update explores the option of adapting to new realities by using our property assets to help support and sustain our ministries even as those very ministries are evolving to meet the needs of our community and deliver our Christian message of love and hope well into the future.

This Update describes what is involved to lease the Parsonage and CE wing lands to a developer who would in turn construct a multi-residential project that would return to FBCH an annual lease payment of at least \$150,000.

## Getting Ready for the Question

The PRC has consulted professionals and explored many of the most significant challenges to property redevelopment. While there remains much to learn and do, we have discovered enough to know that the changes we are contemplating are BIG. And the decision as to whether to proceed on this path, or not, is a BIG decision.

At FBCH we have a long history of tackling big questions together. We gather information, consult experts, and do our own thinking and debating. We get together and we get 'ready for the question'. This Update is designed to help us all get ready for the question. We encourage everyone to ask questions, attend the various sessions we will host as we are able to over the coming months, and think carefully about the challenges we face as a congregation, and about the opportunities we continue to have for ministry.

### The Question

It is our hope that as soon as the pandemic subsides and we can safely gather, we will come together, and we will be ready to ask the question:

**Should FBCH proceed with the next steps on the path toward a land lease and a redevelopment project?**

#### Next Steps include:

- **With the assistance of CBRE, our real estate advisor, confirm the market potential and financial returns of redevelopment in a competitive process.**
- **Complete plans for our own spaces in the Sanctuary Wing and prepare complete estimates of cost.**
- **Return to the Congregation with the results of this work BEFORE making any binding agreements.**

The following pages briefly present the stages of the PRC's journey, the concepts we are now considering, and the scope of change that property redevelopment would entail.

## Glossary of Terms:

Throughout this document we use terms with specific meanings and this short guide is provided for clarity in their meaning and use:

**The Wings of the Church:** The Church structure as we know it today was actually built in two phases. In 1950 the **Sanctuary Wing** was dedicated – this is the section of three floors extending from the Oxford Street entrance to the hallway behind the baptistry on the upper level and the hallway behind the stage on the hall level. The **CE Wing** was added in 1958 and is also three floors containing (amongst other areas) the parlour, the assembly room and the rumpus room.

**The Parsonage:** The Clergy residence on the south side of the Church.

**Property Lots:** The Church and the Parsonage sit on two city lots. The dividing line between the two runs between the Church and the Parsonage and bisects the stairwell leading from the parking lot. In any land lease, new boundaries will be clearly defined.

**Redevelopment:** In the context of this document, Redevelopment means a project constructed and managed by a developer on the leased portion of the Church property.

**Renovations:** In the context of this document, Renovation means the totality of changes to the Sanctuary Wing to accommodate changes of use such as the move of the Parlour or offices as well as major maintenance such as refurbishment of the sanctuary heating system.

**Present Operations:** This refers to our current budgeted programming including our current ministries and staffing.

# Table of Contents with Summaries

## Stage One: Exploring Mission and Ministry (page 6)

In April 2019, the FBCH congregation approved Five Guiding Statements; one of these statements is developing new revenue streams for the financial sustainability of the Church.

## Stage Two: Facing Financial Challenges (page 7)

Current annual operating losses, our financial ‘gap’, could reach approximately \$150,000 plus per year at some point in the next 10 years. Continuing operating losses erode our financial resources and are unsustainable. It is imperative for the congregation of FBCH to come together to consider options to sustain our ministry.

## Stage Three: Discovering the Potential of our Property Assets (pages 8-9)

A land lease agreement for a portion of our church property could offset the operating losses of FBCH by providing the Church with a continuous revenue stream while maintaining ownership of all church lands.

Renovation of our existing Sanctuary Wing would be required and presents opportunity to reduce our footprint, update our spaces, and enhance our spiritual practices.

## Stage Four: Imagining FBCH Space Needs (pages 10-13)

FBCH can thrive in the Sanctuary Wing with no CE Wing. Re-designing the Church Hall level, together with modest changes to the Narthex, can meet our current needs and enhance mission and ministry as expressed in the Five Guiding Statements.

The PRC is reviewing cost estimates for renovations. Any renovation will require careful consideration of cost and the impact on our financial resources.

## Stage Five: Presenting a Plan for Congregational Discernment (pages 14-15)

While the work of the PRC may still be in early stages, we have gathered enough information to return to the congregation for input, updating, and discussion. As we move toward the fall of 2021, we are hoping to be ready for the question: **Should FBCH proceed with the next steps on the path toward a land lease and a redevelopment project?**

To answer this question we propose to gather the congregation as the present restrictions allow. We will discuss the information gathered to date, the next steps in the process of redevelopment, and the commitments and decision points in this process.

# Stage One

## Exploring Mission and Ministry

Images from the May 2018 congregational meeting when approximately 120 members of the congregation gathered to begin the process of imagining the future of FBCH. After discussions around tables, four working groups were formed and the process launched that would lead to the Five Guiding Statements (adopted by the congregation in April 2019).

### Five Guiding Statements

- **GS 1** - It is a human characteristic to seek connection with the Holy within ourselves, within others, and within creation. For many at FBCH, a primary place for seeking this connection is the Sunday morning worship service. In addition, we would like to provide opportunities that encourage a multitude of avenues of spiritual exploration informed by the broad Christian tradition that meet the diverse needs of the larger community.
- **GS 2** - We are social beings who not only desire but require community to live and to thrive. We seek to deepen our connection among those who already participate in our common life. We also need to broaden our reach to connect with more of our neighbours and in doing so will better reflect the diversity of the surrounding community.
- **GS 3** - From our beginnings in 1827, FBCH has sought to live out the words of Micah 6:8 “Listen here, mortal: God has already made abundantly clear what ‘good’ is and what is needed from you: simply do justice, love kindness, and humbly walk with your God.” (Inclusive Bible) Building on this tradition, we seek to extend our voice and our efforts to do justice for our neighbours and for the good of all creation.
- **GS 4** - The financial stability of FBCH depends on the active contributions of its participants AND on developing other revenue streams that are in line with our core values.
- **GS 5** - Honouring the freedoms at the centre of our Baptist heritage, we practice broad-based, informed decision-making that actively seeks input from all participants. Recognizing this as a core of our shared life, we also acknowledge that our current structures need adjustments to meet the needs of a changing congregation. We will develop governance structures that seek to be responsible, flexible, nimble, and fearless.



## Stage Two Facing Financial Challenges

The congregation enthusiastically participated in the work of imagining our future ministry and mission through the process that led to our Five Guiding Statements.

Throughout the process, the congregation was aware that to nurture our hopes for mission and ministry, we also had to have a clearer understanding of our financial situation both now and into the near future.

This became the part of the early work of the PRC - defining the magnitude of the congregation's financial challenges.

FBCH has been blessed with generous donations, endowments, investment income and, until last year rental income. These major categories of revenue, combined with prudent budgeting and effective management of operating expenses have provided our Church with a solid balance sheet. But, as we have identified in past Annual Meetings, we are not paying our way. Endowments and other unrestricted gifts as well as the investment income derived therefrom are the gifts of those who came before us. Unrestricted gifts are now being used to pay our operating losses each year.

The relentless reality of our demographics has led to multiyear declines in regular donations. Our analysis of our demographics tells us this downward pressure on our donation support is increasing. Consequently, we are experiencing operating deficits - operating revenues are less than our operating expenses. We are eroding our resources to "balance the books".

The drop in donations has far exceeded the amounts gained from investment income and cost management. The financial gap is clearly widening. The most significant driver of the financial gap is our donation trend. This gap is a forecast based on our past experience and our knowledge of our demographics.

**It is calculated that the operating loss, or financial gap, that will emerge at some point over the next 10 years is in the magnitude of \$150,000 plus per year.**

Over time, any continuing losses are unsustainable therefore it is imperative for the congregation of FBCH to come together to consider options to sustain our ministry and stabilize our revenue stream.

The Donation Trend		
<b>2015</b>		<b>\$360,000</b>
<b>2020</b>		<b>\$302,000</b>
<b>2025</b>	<b>Estimate</b>	<b>\$250,000</b>

### A Firm Foundation

Financial sustainability requires continuing congregational support as well as **additional long-term annual income** in the order of \$150,000.

# Stage Three

## Discovering the Potential of our Property Assets

Having gained greater understanding about the financial challenges, the PRC turned to our primary mandate from the congregation. As stated in Guiding Statement Four, the PRC is tasked with exploring potential for *developing new revenue streams for the financial sustainability of the Church*.

### Key Findings and Information Obtained to Date

- A land lease agreement for the parsonage lands and the CE Wing lands of our church property could address our accumulating operating losses providing the Church with an inflation adjusted revenue stream while the Church maintains ownership of the lands.
- A land lease would be entered into with a developer using a formal, professionally managed process. The Church would have no role in the construction or management of the development.
- At this time, Spring 2021, a multi-residential housing development is estimated to yield an annual land lease value of approximately \$200,000 based on surveys by real estate advisory firm CBRE and their Broker Opinion of Value provided to FBCH.
- Principles and priorities for potential developers would be developed with congregational input. Matters such as the quality of construction and general appearance would be outlined.
- Working and worshipping within the Sanctuary Wing requires thoughtful analysis of our space requirements. The PRC has engaged the services of Zzap Architects & Planning and Hanscomb Quantity Surveyors to assist with this work. Gathering, working and worshipping within the Sanctuary Wing with no CE Wing can be done.
- Renovation of the Sanctuary Wing would be necessary to remedy displaced gathering and office spaces. Early indications are that renovations would provide space for our needs. Concept drawings are found later in this Update. The nature and cost of renovations will depend on the Congregation's approval in principle and will be developed in detail for presentation and approval.
- The sanctuary would be largely untouched by renovations to the original building. Some changes to the Narthex are contemplated, and opportunities to further open the Sanctuary for prayer and spiritual practice are being studied to allow our Church to be "*a better tool for practicing the Way of Jesus within the community.*" ~ Rusty Edwards.

### Renovation Cost-Sanctuary Wing

- Cost is very sensitive to the extent of our expectations.
- The project is seen as "ONCE IN A LIFETIME" opportunity to update our use of the building, anticipating as best as we can the needs of the Congregation for the next 50 years.
- The present concept drawings are incomplete:
  - They do not reflect the overdue need for a major repair or replacement of the Sanctuary heating system.
  - They do not reflect projects to improve our environmental footprint.
- Accurate estimates of cost cannot be prepared until we have included the factors above as well as taxes and project management costs and costs associated with refurbishment of the church organ.
- A land lease will NOT fund renovations.
- This is a SIGNIFICANT project and the accompanying drawings are indicative of expenditures that could reach \$1,500,000.
- Funding will come primarily from our own resources. The impact on present operations and investment income is not yet thoroughly analyzed.

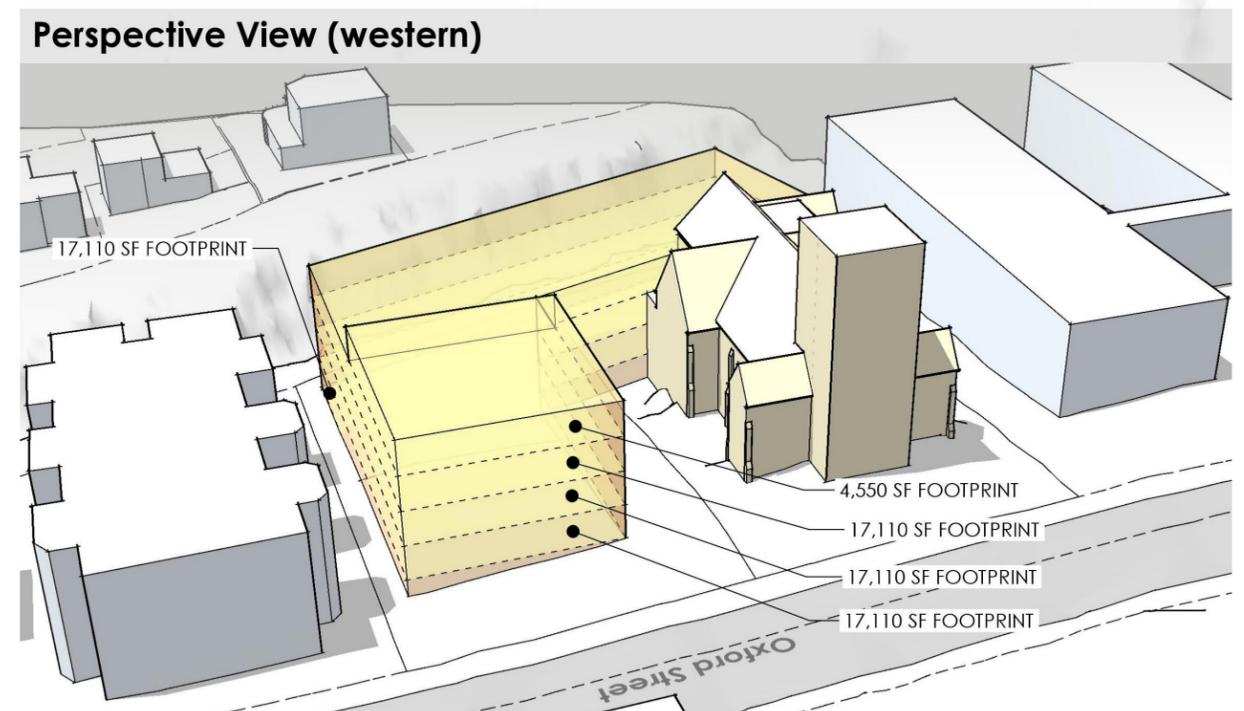
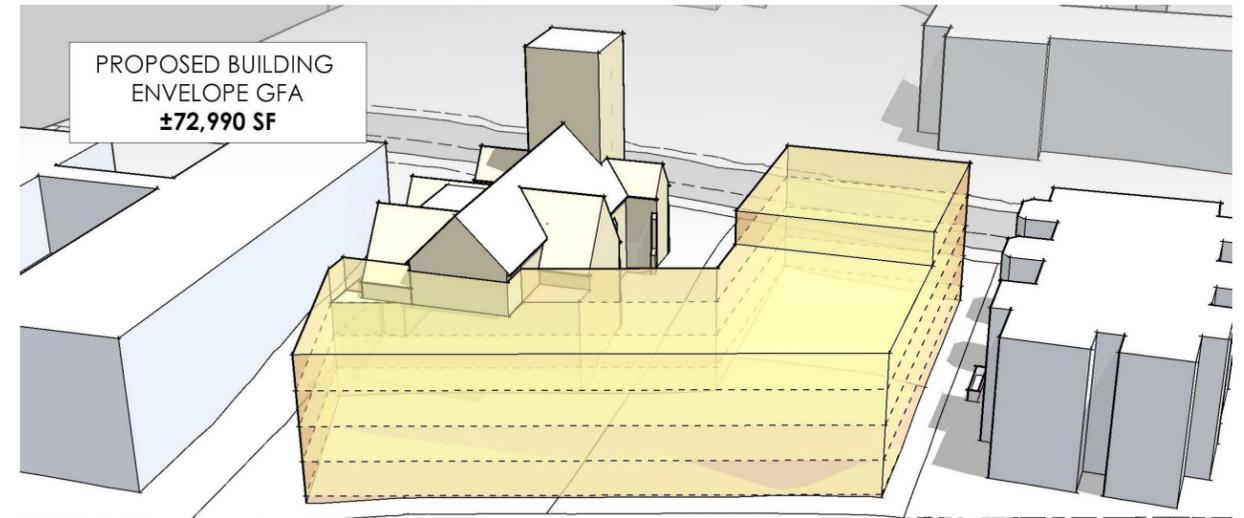
### What is a Land Lease?

A land lease is a lease agreement that permits a developer to use a piece of land in exchange for rent payments. The value of a land lease is determined by the potential square footage that can be built on the land. Most land leases are signed for 75-99 years and indexed to rise as the value of land increases.

Land leases can be structured to give the land owner rights including sign-off on design and right to limit the types of businesses that could go into commercial spaces.

## What could a development look like?

The developer would provide accurate plans for the project based on the Centre Plan development guidelines, costs and return on investment. But to give a general sense of "What Might Be" the Architects Zzap provided a 'massing study'. That is, the general shape and size of a project that fits within the parameters of zoning. The massing study indicates the potential buildable square footage which relates directly to the potential value of the land the development is built upon. These are not architectural plans. The drawings simply indicate the approximate maximum size of a project based on zoning.



## Stage Four Imagining Space Needs

The PRC recognized that our current buildings were designed for an era when church programming, especially Sunday school, was a primary means of growth and vitality. Could we design a space to more closely reflect the congregation's hopes for enhanced mission and ministry as expressed in the Five Guiding Statements? Could FBCH thrive in a much-reduced footprint? To help us answer these questions, the PRC engaged the professional services of Zzap Architecture and Planning and Hanscomb Quantity Surveyors to provide conceptual ideas for space usage and cost estimates for renovating the original Sanctuary Wing.

### A Renovated Building Could Offer

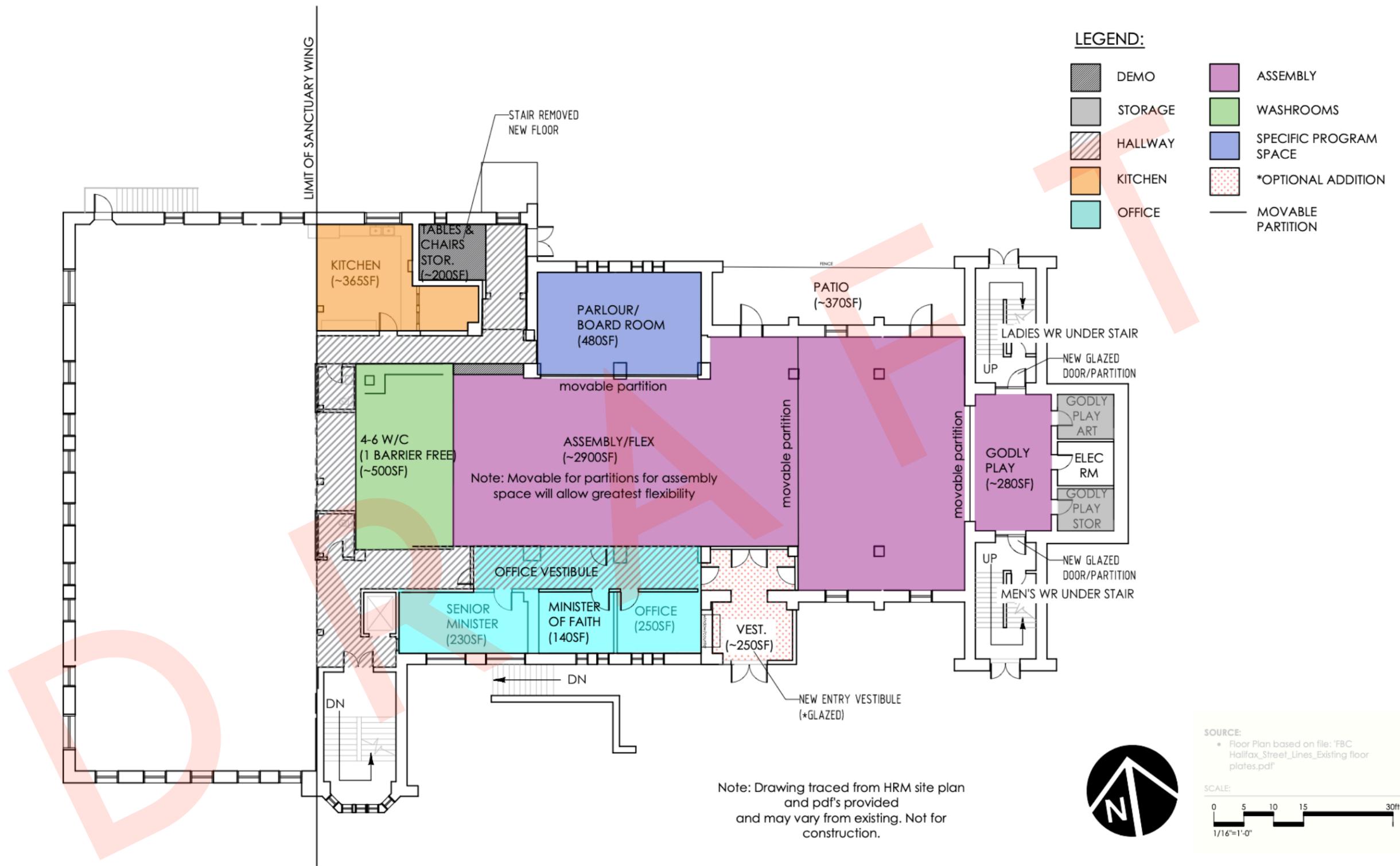
- An enhanced presence on Oxford Street that reflects our inclusive and welcoming spirit even in exterior public spaces.
- The establishment of a weekday entrance into the second floor office and main gathering space.
- A more welcoming narthex space that encourages conversation and community formation.
- Our sanctuary in its present form with the ability to enhance the use of the transepts by offering flexible seating for small groups, quiet prayer and reflection, etc.
- A new Parlour that offers flexible space for a variety of gatherings while maintaining the look and feel of our current Parlour.
- Zoned access so that some spaces could be opened to the public more regularly while other spaces, particularly offices, are quiet and secure.
- Modern and well grouped spaces for staff.
- Space for faith formation and meetings.
- Children's spaces located adjacent to the Sanctuary, locating children closer to their families.
- Accessibility issues addressed on all floors, including washrooms.
- A larger space for Congregational meals and gatherings than we currently have, with flexibility within the space to be configured in a multiple ways.
- An enhanced kitchen.
- Modernized operating and physical facilities which reduce our environmental impact and contribute to a healthier work environment.
- Opportunities during renovation to explore synergies with the developer for energy and operating efficiency as well as for improved accessibility.

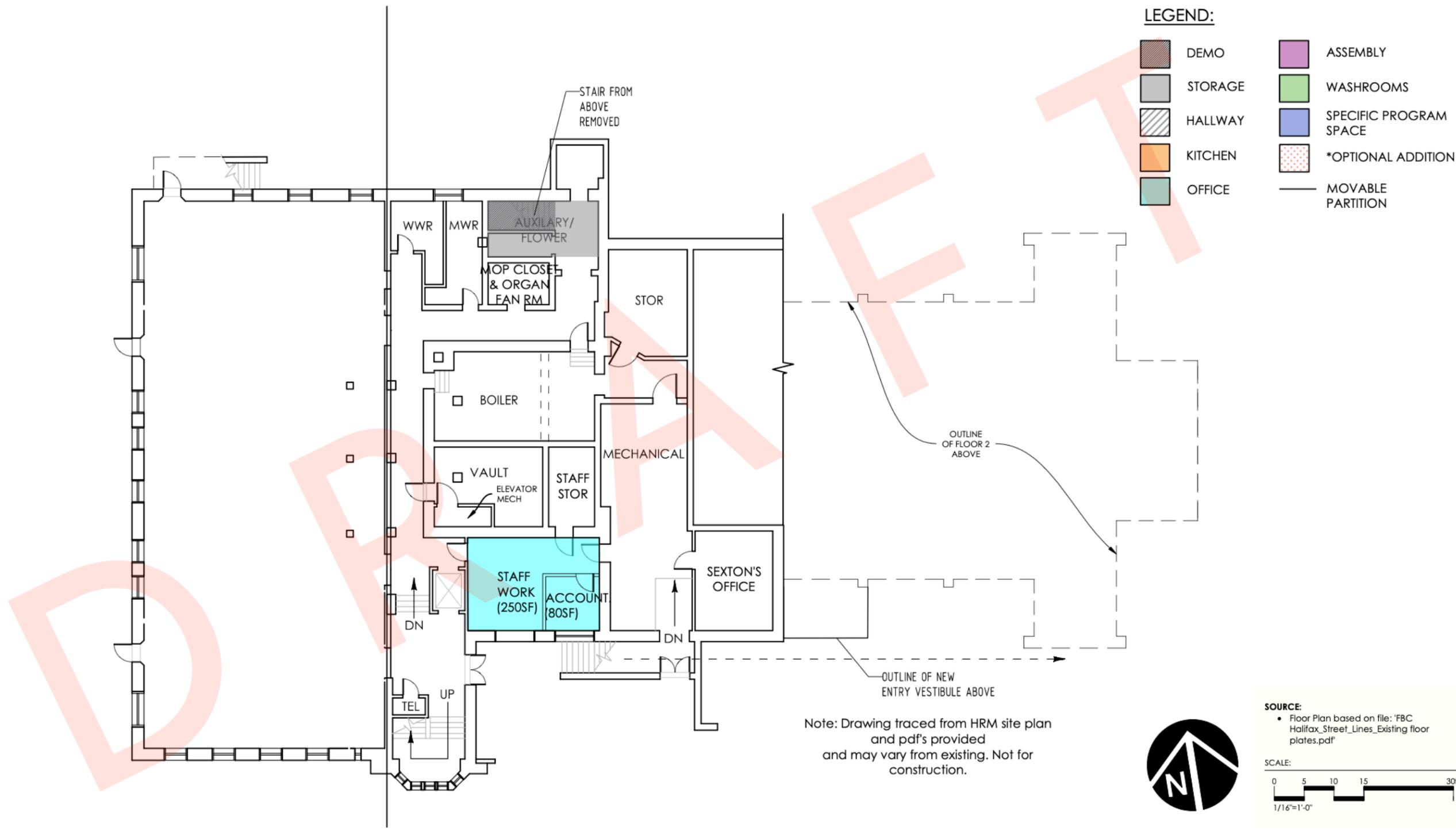
### The Following Pages (Read First!)

The floorplans on the following pages are only conceptual. It is intended to help us begin to understand what a renovated space could look like and how it might work. Floor plans and design details will not be established unless and until the congregation chooses to move forward with a redevelopment of our properties.

The PRC hopes the following pages will stir your imagination about the potential within our space. The committee looks forward to hearing how these images spark your own thoughts about our potential future space.







# Stage Five

## A Plan for Congregational Discernment

### Where do we go from here?

While the work of the PRC may still be in early stages, we have gathered enough information to return to the congregation for input, updating, and discussion. As we move toward the fall and winter of 2021, we are hoping to be ready for the question: **Should FBCH proceed with the next steps on the path toward a land lease and a redevelopment project?**

To answer this question we propose to gather the congregation as the present restrictions allow. We will discuss the information gathered to date, the next steps in the process of redevelopment, and the commitments and decision points in this process.

### Next Steps & Decision Points (Congregational Approval)

There are many steps toward a successful redevelopment of our church properties. Our best advice is that we would be engaged in this process for 5 or 6 years. Briefly, here is a timeline with some of the critical elements described:

#### 2021

**WITH CONGREGATIONAL APPROVAL**, FBCH formally engages CBRE to be our real estate agent in marketing the redevelopment opportunity. FBCH would agree upon our own vision of a complementary development and any services we would need from a developer. FBCH would continue planning our own renovations to the original church building.

**This is the present question – should we begin the process of seeking development proposals?**

#### 2022

Identify potential developers, and **WITH CONGREGATIONAL APPROVAL**, confirm FBCH's guidance to them. This will result in a preliminary, conditional agreement with a developer.

- The developer would conduct site surveys and negotiate a development agreement with HRM – at the end of this period any conditions would be removed.
- The developer's lender would conduct their own review.
- At some point in 2022, an approved Development Agreement will confirm the Land Lease Value and the redevelopment timeline.
- This confirmation will provide us the financial and project details to bring the contract for our own renovations' for Congregational Approval.

By the end of 2022, we finalize the lease agreement for Congregational Approval. will confirm the Land Lease Value and the redevelopment timeline.

#### 2023

The developer continues with project planning – architecture and construction drawings; site preparation.

- At some point in this year the developer will occupy and commence work on the leased area and may demolish the parsonage.
- FBCH undertakes renovation **WITH CONGREGATIONAL APPROVAL**.
  - There are many details to consider in the timing of any renovations and our plans will need to dovetail with the developer's intentions for demolition.

#### 2023 and 2024

Developer construction period. At some point in 2023 the developer will demolish the CE Wing.

First lease payment to FBCH.

## Upcoming Opportunities to Learn More, Ask Questions, Give Feedback

### Board and Committee Tours and Conversation

Prior to the general release of this Update, our leadership Boards and Committees will be invited to receive our Update, take a tour of the Sanctuary Wing with descriptions of the possible renovations, and give input to the PRC.

- Board of Trustees & Finance Committee: August 30, 5:30pm
- Diaconate: August 31, 5:30pm
- Board of Management: September 1, 5:30pm
- Auxiliary: September 13, 1:30pm

### Congregational Committee Tours and Conversation

The Congregation, having received this Update on September 8, is invited to join one of 3 planned discussions of the Update's conclusions followed by a tour of the Sanctuary Wing with descriptions of the possible renovations, and to give input to the PRC.

- Saturday, September 18: 10:30am - 12:00pm
- Sunday, September 19: 12 noon - 1:30pm (child care provided)
- Tuesday, September 21: 10:30am - 12 noon

To Sign-Up for one of these discussions and tours please follow the Sign-Up Genius link emailed by the church office or contact the Church Office directly.

### All Comments Welcome!

As stated in the opening Summary, redevelopment of our Church properties is a BIG decision. A decision that will resonate for generations to come. Together, we must make this decision whether to proceed along this path, or not. The PRC welcomes your comments, questions, and observations on this update and on the future of First Baptist Church Halifax. All our committee members are listed below, and any of us welcomes your inquiries.

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**Jim Stanley, Co-Chair; David Dexter, Co-Chair; Kathy Schwartzentruber,  
Neil Ritchie, David Morse, David Clarke, Ken Margeson, Dianne Kokesh,  
Clyde Evans, Rusty Edwards**

# Appendix

## A Brief Discussion of Alternatives to Property Redevelopment

### Underlying Assumptions

Our committee has done all its work in the context of the present operations, ministries, and staffing of FBCH. We have assumed a desire to stay on Oxford Street as an independent Baptist community. We have not done an in-depth analysis of the consequences of selling our church property, moving, or merging with another congregation. In February of 2019 we reported to the congregation on this approach. Below, for convenience we repeat the information of 2019 and expand upon it briefly.

The work of the PRC has led the committee to realize the significance of the financial challenge that lies just ahead of our congregation. This challenge has been upon us for some time and we are now experiencing the increasing pressures of growing annual operating losses. Remaining on Oxford Street seems logical and by all accounts appears to be the most desirable outcome for our current congregation.

Property redevelopment appears to be one way to solve the financial challenge for years to come and remain here on Oxford Street. It is however a BIG decision, a serious commitment for every congregant, and the scope of the project carries with it a certain amount of risk. One can certainly ask, are there other options? Here are four:

#### 1. Status Quo

We would continue to operate in the present Church facilities funding our operating losses from reserve funds until that was no longer practical. We could continue in this way for some time. A future congregation would face a greater dilemma.

During this time there are many strategies that could be followed. For example, using an average family donation of \$1500 annually, it would require 100 new families to make up \$150,000 in additional annual donations. This would be more than a 60% increase in active donors and seems highly unlikely. An alternative is to reduce programming. This seems counterintuitive to our mission.

#### 2. Sell and Move

The entire FBCH property and buildings could be sold and we could move to a smaller location. This would follow the example of other Churches in recent years. However,

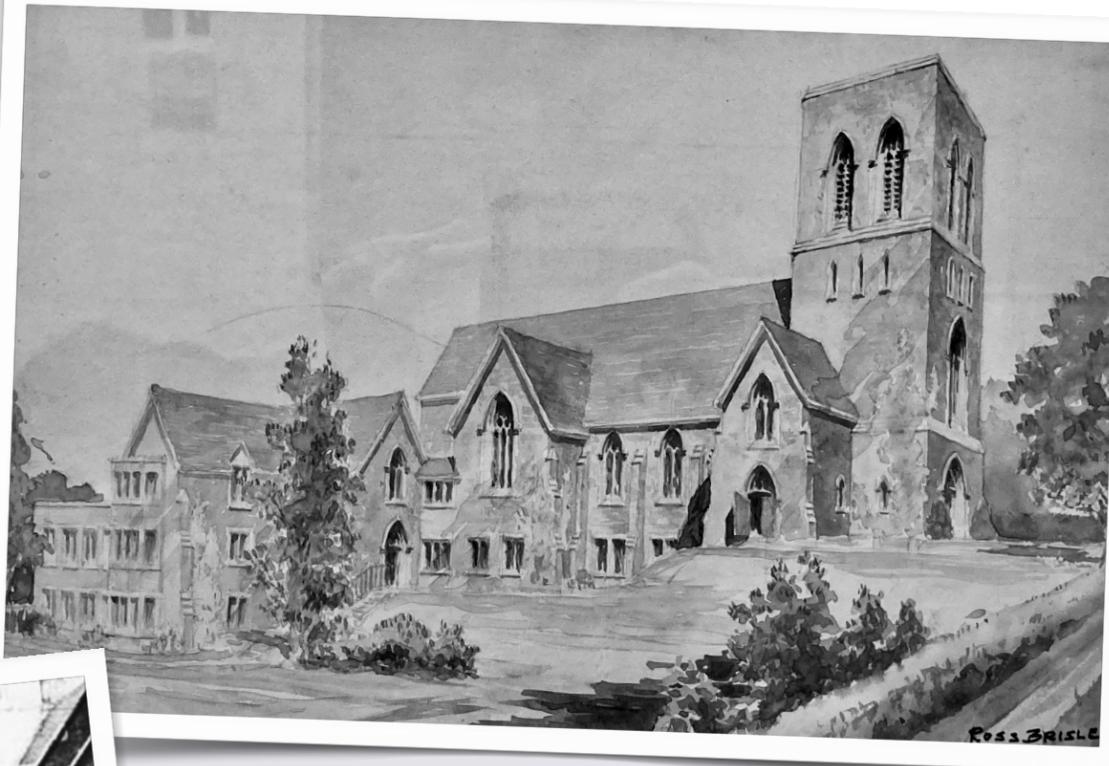
- It would likely sever our ties with the South End of Halifax. More than 75% of our Congregation live within 5 KM of the Church.
- A new(er) or leased facility in the close proximity to Oxford Street would remove us from our traditional roots and particularly the valued ambience of our Sanctuary.
- Other Churches, in pursuing this option, have faced significant internal distress and the results of a move have not always provided the new start promised.

#### 3. Merge with Another Congregation

Merging with another congregation has many challenges not the least of which is that it is unlikely to be a Baptist congregation. Perhaps permanently sharing facilities is a more reasonable expectation. Some dialogue has occurred in the past on this subject, but this has not found willing parties on either side to take the matter seriously or further than general conversation. While this could be a part of FBCH's future, it is unlikely to be a present help, and may never materialize.

#### 4. Land Lease Parsonage Lands Only; Retain CE Wing

This land lease option has been investigated but does not yield sufficient annual revenue to undertake such a project. The CE Wing will also require some maintenance going forward as is, or possibly substantial renovations if we were to lease portions of it to third parties to generate any significant income.



### FBCH Buildings

Cornerstone from Granville St. (1827-1886)  
Images of Building at Spring Garden Road  
Image of first parsonage, located at Spring Garden Rd. and Carlton St.  
Images of Buildings at Oxford St.





# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

HALIFAX

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## Breaking Stereotypes Since 1827

The story of the early church in the New Testament is a story of the ever-expanding circle of those included in the community of Jesus. We believe that circle expands to include all people.

Because we are followers of Jesus, First Baptist Church Halifax welcomes all people into the full life of the church community. This means we will not discriminate on the grounds of gender, age, race, national or ethnic origin, colour, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or economic circumstances.

We really do want you to join us. Our diversity helps us all expand our understandings of God.

Learn more about First Baptist Church Halifax at [www.fbchalifax.ca](http://www.fbchalifax.ca) or find us on Facebook.