

Presentation by St. Martin's Anglican Church to Diocesan Council
September 18, 2018
1:00 pm
Holy Cross Anglican Church

First of all, my warmest thanks to the Council for this opportunity to speak to you today about St. Martin's and our hope to have a new permanent space within the next two years. Before I begin I would invite us to place what I offer within a larger context; that is, what is your vision as Diocesan leaders for the presence and ministry of the Anglican Church in Calgary and beyond? Many conversations are happening about mission and ministry, which is an exciting direction. How can St. Martin's, from your perspective, be a part of that movement and flourishing?

Twenty years ago, St. Martin's pulled up stakes and took a leap of faith to move out to the western edge of Calgary, before much of what is there today was even built. This move was based on an understanding that the Diocese would provide financial support for a new church building at a future date. Currently, St. Martin's is the only Anglican parish west of Sarcee Trail. Nearly 80,000 people have moved into this area and more are coming. The parish draws people not only from the west of Calgary, but also from Springbank and Elbow Valley.

In the years since, St. Martin's has shown its vitality and tenacity by continuing to worship and serve in the far west end of Calgary and beyond in very unique circumstances. It has clarified its vision and has implemented that vision in creative and flexible ways. We are a place that meets people all along the faith journey and is broad, open and generous in our theology and liturgy. Nearly 75% of the people who visit us, stay. Assuming they find us! We are a church, a people, who have a heart for service evangelism as articulated through numerous visioning processes over the years. We are a church, a people, who are eager to have a space in which we worship and expand our outreach to the community both by what we can offer and by inviting the surrounding community in to use our facilities to meet spiritual and tangible needs. The creation of sacred and holy space is a particular blessing that worship spaces offer and which we hope to be such a space in the west of Calgary.

Our vision is threefold:

- I. To continue to offer rich and meaningful liturgy that stays true to the heart of our Anglican worship, drawing from our deep tradition and also incorporating the best of the liturgical renewal that the Church is undergoing. After engaging the local community as well as our own parish family, we hope to offer worship at other times and in other ways that speaks to seekers and those who are looking for a church home. Ideas

under consideration include (but are not limited to): Messy Church, a weekend evening contemporary service with dinner provided, mid-week contemplative prayer, and ...

- II. To more fully incarnate our vision as a parish rooted in service evangelism. We envision our space being used by the broader community to provide a wide variety of programs and gatherings that meet community articulated needs. The space would be made available for outside groups to host programs as needed. As the parish itself, we would discern new ministries to offer. Ideas include (but are not limited to):
- drop-in tutoring one or two afternoons per week;
 - open space play for children to run around and blow off steam every Saturday in January and February;
 - the Unwind Space in the narthex (with the chapel open, too) late afternoons and early evenings as a stop on the way home to decompress and not bring stress home (a simple strategy to reduce domestic and family violence);
 - mid-week caregivers/parents drop-in social time with space for kids to play and the adults to relax, chat, etc.;
 - Cooking with Friends;
 - Friday night out where the parish provides childcare and parents can enjoy a sit down dinner provided by the parish;
 - Programs and community events for those with addiction and/or mental health concerns;
 - and more to be discovered.
- III. To offer programs on a variety of Christian faith and spiritual topics in a casual, relaxed, and exploratory manner, as well as interfaith ones.

Where do we stand in our process and dream to have a new permanent home? To date, St. Martin's has contributed a very significant amount of money to make a new space possible. St. Martin's purchased its land in 2005. Through our own funds we have paid the \$1.2 million dollar in development levies required by the City in order to move forward with any building on the parcel. We have roughly \$2.5 million in the CIF towards the cost of the new building. We have paid \$650,000 in costs for subdivision, architects, and various other things needed to get to the stage we are at which is to finalize design and start the permitting process to put shovels in the ground as soon as all the necessary funds are found and committed. To that end, numerous conversations have been had over the years between the parish and the Diocese, culminating in a Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2014. This Memorandum has three main components: a gift of \$1 million to the parish; the inclusion of Diocesan office space in the new facility; and a lease arrangement for that space which would allow the parish to take on a \$1 million mortgage.

The modest, but striking, building we have a concept for costs \$6.5-\$6.8 million dollars. This concept is based on the Memorandum of Understanding that includes housing the Diocesan offices.

We come today to ask for a commitment to support the building of our new home in a way that serves not just St. Martin's, but also the overall vision for our Diocese. It is our hope that the Diocese can make a firm commitment to give the parish \$1-1.5 million toward this project, and to make that decision, if at all possible, at its next meeting in November.

We would ask for the Diocese to determine if it still wants to have its offices housed in this new space. St. Martin's would be honoured to share our space and have it be a resource for the entire Diocese to hold events, offer programs and try new forms of worship. However, needs change, and we will understand if that is no longer what the Diocese wants. But we do need clarity from Council on that point.

Back in the 2000s, there was a diocesan-wide capital campaign called "Growing Tomorrow's Church Today" with a goal of raising \$5 million to support planting Holy Trinity, Calgary, and various other projects. Just a thought, but perhaps it is time to do something like this again? In addition to helping with St. Martin's, it could provide support across the Diocese. Other areas of our Diocese may be wonderful places for new church plants and a number of our facilities would likely benefit from having funds available to renovate or expand in order to live out their mission more fully. For example, a future church plant in the deep SE of Calgary or Chestermere, or expansion of St. Paul's or other needs that surely are out there.

Again, thank you for listening to our story and for your thoughtful consideration of our request for both a financial commitment and clarity on the question of if the Diocesan offices will be housed in a new St. Martin's parish space.

Respectfully,

The Rev. Natasha Brubaker
Incumbent
St. Martin's