

BUILDING PROPOSAL



PREPARED BY

Elders and Building
Search Team
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Fairview
BAPTIST CHURCH

Fairview Baptist Church is seeking to purchase a new facility to accommodate worship, and discipleship, and to fulfill our mission to reach Calgary for Christ.

Background

Fairview Baptist Church started in 1960 and is located in the community of Fairview. Since Pastor Tim Stephens began his ministry in 2014 the church has experienced slow and sustained growth. In 2021, as Fairview gained notoriety for remaining open during government lockdowns, church attendance surged along with its influence in the city and beyond.

The church has spoken with clarity and conviction about the Bible's teachings on family, sexuality, marriage, abortion, and most recently, the roles and responsibilities of the church and the state.



This last conviction would lead to fines and two arrests of Pastor Stephens who was held in prison for twenty-one days. Also, the church building was seized by the governing authorities. During this season, many were drawn to the church where they could freely gather to worship Christ and hear the gospel without restrictions. Facility size prevents the church from gathering as one body and so multiple Sunday services are currently held.



Pastor Tim pictured with his wife and eight children at the time of his first arrest on May 16, 2021.

Proposal for New Facility

With a new facility the ministry of the church can continue to grow and provide:

1. **A place to worship.** A larger facility could accommodate all who desire to worship with us. Even with multiple services, there are still people each week in an overflow room in the basement. There is a hunger today to hear biblical truth and we desire to satisfy that hunger through our Sunday gatherings and sermons.
2. **A place for the family of faith.** It is our theological conviction that the church should be a family united and not divided. We're presently divided into multiple services and so "family members" are not worshipping together or ministering to each other on Sunday.
3. **A place to share a meal.** Before the pandemic, we would follow our early church pattern and share a meal each week. This fellowship time is such an encouragement to those who come and it builds community in an individualistic age.
4. **A place for discipleship.** A larger facility could hold classrooms for seminars and Sunday School to teach the fundamentals of the Christian faith and how to live in this ungodly age.
5. **A place for outreach.** We want to reach Calgary for Christ and use the new facility as a hub for outreach, training, and evangelism. Thus it is important to be near major roadways, residential housing, transit, and other places where people gather.
6. **A place of refuge.** Owning a facility allowed us to remain open during the pandemic and become a place for church refugees. We want to remain a refuge for those seeking freedom in an age with increasing government overreach and restrictions.
7. **A place of cultural engagement.** We do not wish to retreat or go underground but to advance the kingdom of God as a public witness for Christ and his lordship. A new facility would allow us to host conferences, seminars, and academies to cultivate a Christian worldview. It would also provide space to publish and print materials, and record podcasts and videos that serve to promote the gospel and its implications in every area of life.
8. **A place of education.** With most of our families choosing home education, it is important to have a place for our children to have fun and be equipped to impact future generations.
9. **A place of milestones.** Weddings, funerals, and other special events were restricted during the past few years. Having such a facility provides us with the ability to celebrate these important events in life.
10. **A place for multiple generations.** We have a long-term vision to leave a lasting legacy for Christ. Having a permanent facility will enable a place where Fairview Baptist Church can serve the community by disciplining all ages to be faithful laborers for the gospel.



Outdoor gathering in June 2021, before Pastor Tim's second arrest.

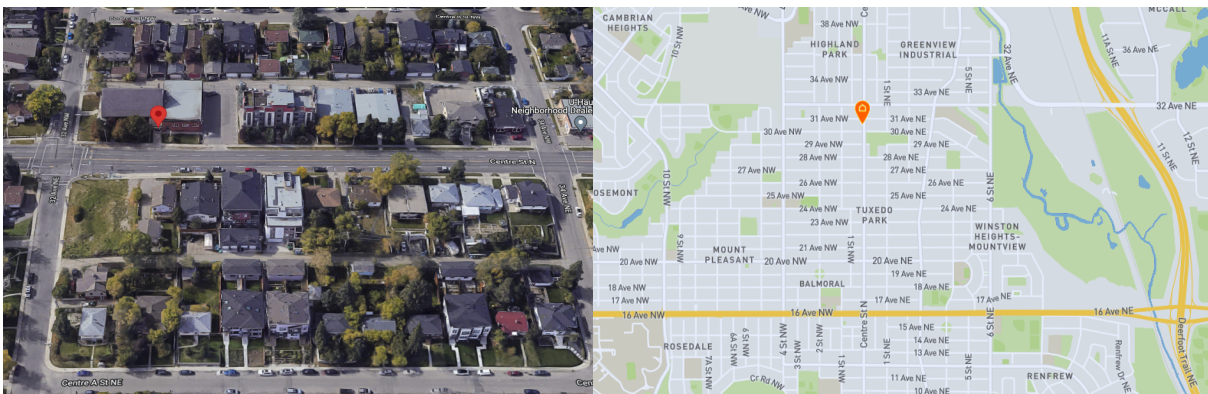
After exploring several locations, the Lord has led Fairview's Search Committee to an existing church building (Northminster United Church) at 3311 Centre St. N that fits the congregation's growing needs. **A firm sale has been signed and agreed to by all parties.**

The prospective building meets our requirements and has the following advantages:

- The current layout is structured for an immediate move-in with no renovations required.
- Beautiful vaulted sanctuary with an open beamed ceiling accommodates seating for 400 - 650 people.
- There is a crying room at the back of the sanctuary with visibility into the auditorium.
- Building size meets our current needs with room to grow (19,000 sq. ft.).
- Located amidst many neighborhoods providing new evangelistic opportunities.
- Easy access for transit users with a bus stop across the street and a new Green Line LRT station being developed a few blocks away.
- Ideally located centrally in the city of Calgary and close to Deerfoot Trail providing easy access for commuters.
- Full-sized gymnasium with a large projector screen, stage, and basketball nets.
- Large fellowship hall with adjoining classrooms.
- Large commercial kitchen suited for fellowship meals and events. It is ideally situated between the gymnasium and the fellowship hall.
- Fenced yard with artificial turf for children to play outdoors.
- Building is accessible with ramps for entry and a lift indoors to access all levels.
- Space for offices, classrooms, and meeting rooms with kitchenettes makes it suitable for many uses.
- Plenty of storage throughout the building.

The purchase price of the building is **\$4.25 million** (\$223.68 per sq. ft.).

Note: The building cost is far more economical than the commercial buildings we have considered. No other suitable churches are for sale but for comparison, an existing church facility, Springs Church (at 30,000 sq. ft.) on Heritage Drive, is planning to sell for \$10 million (\$333 per sq. ft.). House of Praise church serves as a new build comparison. They spent \$9 million to build a 26,000 sq. ft. facility in 2015 (\$346.15 per sq. ft.).







There are items that we must commit to prayer to complete this sale and move into this new facility. The offer to purchase was conditional upon congregational approval; the sale of our existing facility; and a satisfactory inspection, all of which have been completed. We must still secure the remaining funding before taking possession of 3311 Centre St. N in May.

Timeline

The following is a timeline of key events required for the completion of the sale.

- **Completed:** November 13, 2022: Members meeting to approve the purchase of this facility.
- **Completed:** December 9, 2022: Property Inspection and Lawyer review deadline.
- **Completed:** December 9, 2022: Deadline to list our facility for sale.
- **Completed:** March 31, 2023: Deadline to close the sale on our current facility.
- May 31, 2023: Possession date.

Prayer Items

Please be earnest in prayer for...

- Congregational unity as we move forward together to glorify God;
- That the Lord provides all the funds needed to close the sale through cheerful givers (2 Cor 9:6-7) and generous hearts (Exod 35:5);
- The mission of the church and that many would hear the gospel and be saved and strengthened.

May the Lord continue to bless the ministry, send more laborers, raise gospel patrons, and pour out his Spirit upon our city to see a great awakening of true, biblical faith in Christ. He is the Lord of all lords and King of all kings, is worthy of our allegiance, and will receive the reward for his suffering. To God be the glory.

“For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.”
Romans 11:36