



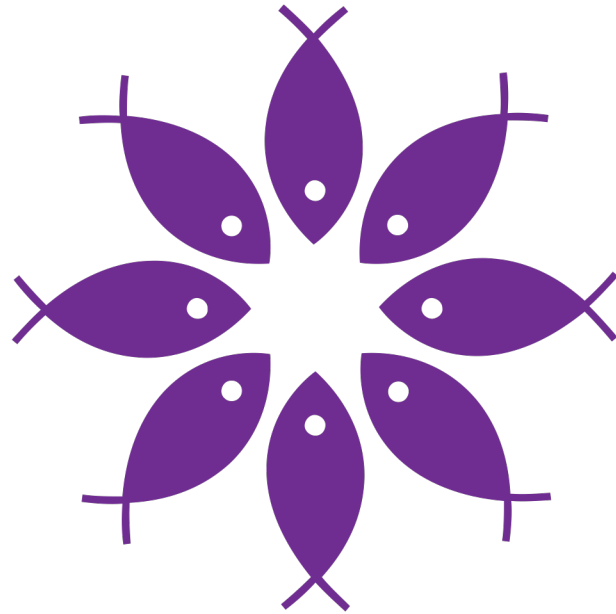
Rev. Kirk T. Summers

**Loving your beautiful facilities and grounds**



# The Presbyterian Church in Canada

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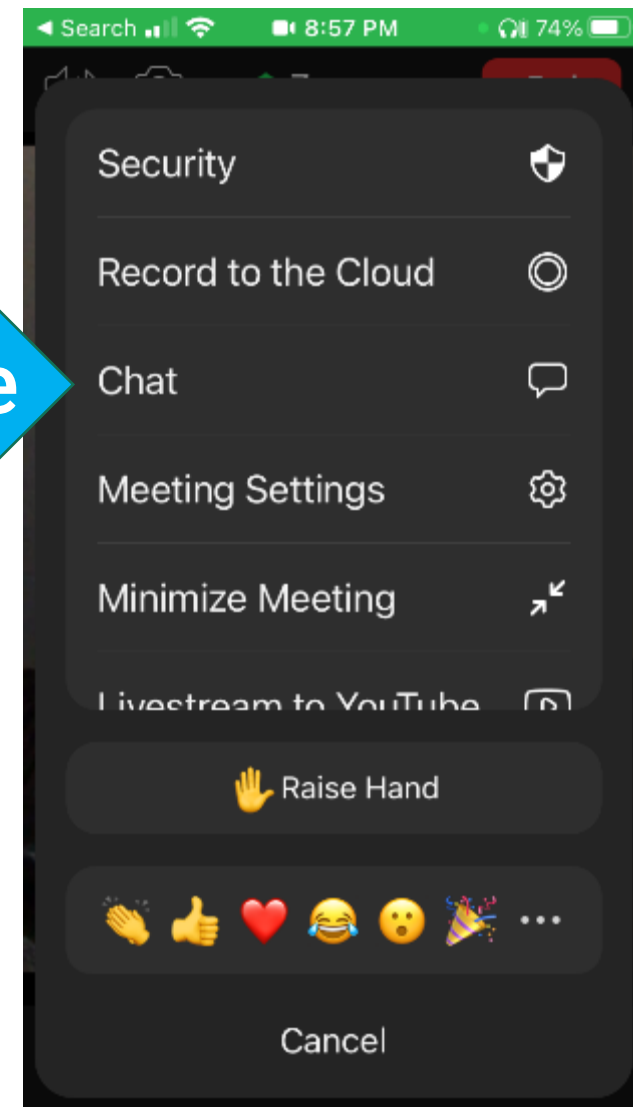


Presbyterians  
**Sharing**

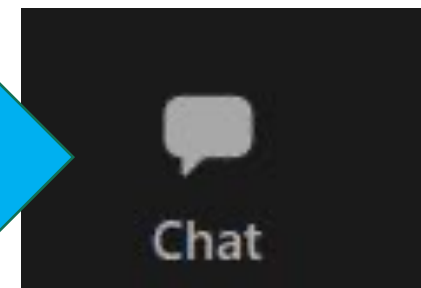


- Stay muted and use chat to ask anything
- Chat will be monitored and questions asked as we go along or at the end
- You can unmute at the end

Mobile



PC



# Recording will be posted

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[presbyterian.ca/leadership-webinars](https://presbyterian.ca/leadership-webinars)



# Coming this fall

Resources to help congregations & presbyteries considering options for how to develop their properties and buildings including for

- Income to support congregation
- Affordable housing (different levels)
- Community space

# Rev. Kirk T. Summers

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- Minister
  - Calgary, AB
  - London, ON
  - Trinity PC – York Mills, ON
- COO of residential care facility
  - Alzheimer's/cognitive impairment
- Degrees:
  - Sociology (WLU)
  - Divinity (Knox)
  - Philosophy (University of Wales)



# A Prayer for Stewards of Facilities and Grounds



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Gracious God,

by your spirit give to all who lead and have authority and influence over others and places, the wisdom, time and energy to govern well, care well, and vision well, seeking only what is good in your sight for the Good News of your son.

Amen.

# Psalm 100 (NRSV)



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<sup>1</sup> Make a joyful noise to the Lord,  
all the earth.

<sup>2</sup> Serve the Lord with gladness;  
come into his presence  
with singing.

<sup>3</sup> Know that the Lord is God.  
It is he who made us,  
and we are his;  
we are his people  
and the sheep of his pasture.

<sup>4</sup> Enter his gates with thanksgiving  
and his courts with praise.  
Give thanks to him;  
bless his name.

<sup>5</sup> For the Lord is good;  
his steadfast love endures forever  
and his faithfulness to all  
generations.



# This is about Stewardship



- 
- A steward is a person who manages matters of a household for an owner
  - It is a position of trust and responsibility
  - We are each a steward of God, and therein God's grace and goodness

## **1 Corinthians 3:9-11,16**

<sup>9</sup>For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building. <sup>10</sup>According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it.

<sup>11</sup>For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ.

<sup>16</sup>Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?

(NRSV)

## **1 Peter 4:10**

<sup>10</sup>As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace:

(ESV)

# Caring for facilities and grounds – something we really want to do

- a component of both **stewardship** and **evangelism**
- a **missional resource** integral to
  - successfully serving your congregation
  - your outreach to your community



# Theology & Practical Management

Trinity Presbyterian Church in York Mills offers a robust **theology** around:

- facilities
- grounds
- staff
- volunteers
- ministry



**PART I:  
The Theology of  
Church Facilities  
and Grounds**



# A few thoughts from Charles Chadwick – Thanks Chuck!

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Church facilities and grounds are places of proclamation!  
They show and tell of God.

They are special set apart places, holy places, where the human  
meets the divine

They can convey permanence, stability, serenity, security, sanctuary.

They can be places of peace, pilgrimage, purpose.

They can transmit something of the character of the faith we hold as  
people of hope and love for God, and neighbour as self.

# A few thoughts from Charles Chadwick (cont'd)

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They can foster a sense of awe and wonder, reverence and respect for the magnificence of God.

They can bring about feelings of curiosity and the strengthening of interest in the way and will of God.

They can be places where the stories of people's lives, and local communities, and shared concerns for others, can be connected to the story of God's engagement with humanity through Jesus Christ.

The sheer presence of a church's facilities and grounds can remind us that God took form and presence in Jesus. They can tell of creation, incarnation and resurrection.

# A few thoughts from Charles Chadwick (cont'd)

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They can have such an important and impactful part to play in serving the common good, being 'the House of God as a host of good.'

They remind us that God chooses to be revealed sometimes in specific places, such as to Jacob in Genesis 28, to Moses in Exodus 3 and to Isaiah in Isaiah 6.

They witness to Christian faith being alive, for Christ has Risen indeed!

They help a local congregation as the embodiment of Christ, to be together for worship, to be taught, fed, and set out to love and serve in the world.

The grounds especially can provide a space where creation is able to flourish, such as a haven for local wildlife, and a place for beautiful flora and fauna to grow.





# Before you're inside you're outside!

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- It's good to not forget the grounds
- Accessibility
- Parking
- Gardens, trees and such...
- Never get a second chance to make a first impression

# Yea the Church!

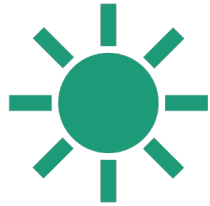


- First and foremost, the Gospel of Good News is ours to proclaim
  - “ So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added. They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.”

Acts 2:41-42

- But we’re also facilities operators and grounds-keepers!
  - To the glorious end above

# Oh, Canada – it's cold outside and it's 2023!



**Canada has four  
seasons**



**Churches need a place to  
flourish, to live their life,  
wherever that place is**



**I.T.  
Incl. Security**

# Integrity of Operations

- Ground everything in the Good News as resurrected power & people



# Integrity of Operations



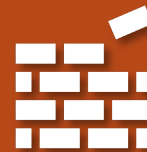
Purpose



Programming



People

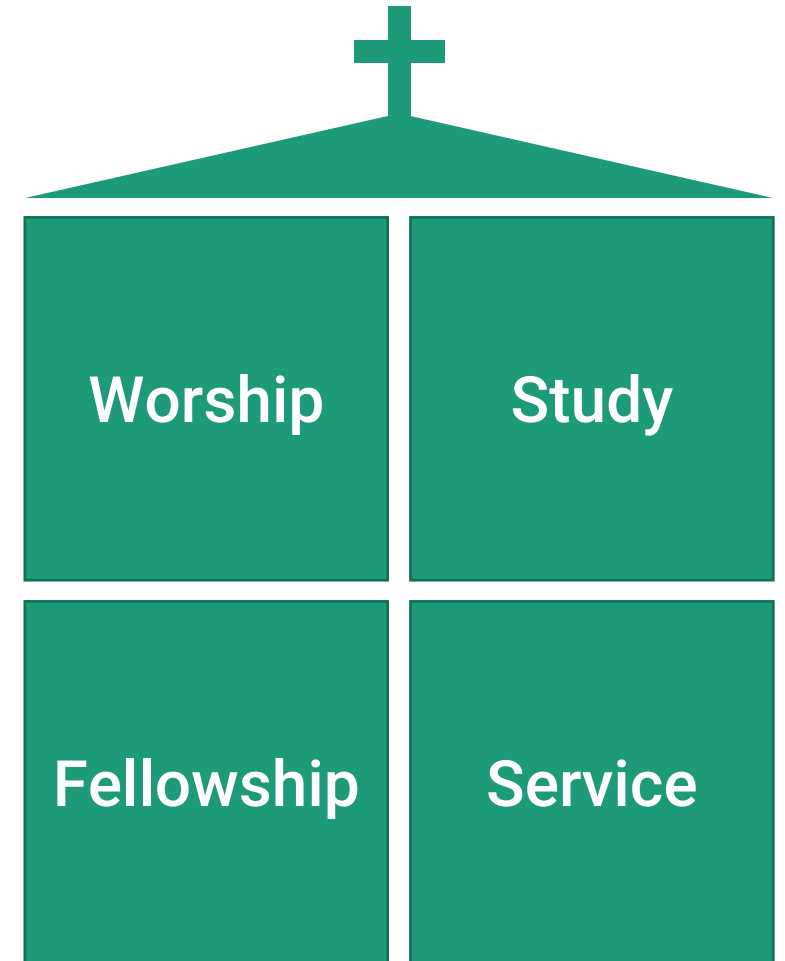


Plant

# Purpose and Program



- Purpose:
  - whose we are / whom we serve / why we're there
  - Church is Jesus Christ together with his people
- Program:
  - What is needed to achieve purpose?
    1. Worship
    2. Study
    3. Fellowship (incl. Pastoral Care)
    4. Service
    5. All wrapped in the Stewardship of All of Life
  - Where else can we do these things?



**Identity and  
belonging... and  
mission too!**

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**Your space  
and how you  
use it tell a  
story...  
about you!**

---

The church  
encourages the people  
of God to do the things  
the people of God  
need to do and be





# **PART II: Practical Management**



*Think I'll go out  
to Alberta  
1986-2002*

# Westminster Calgary

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A place to love  
for a people who  
are loving



**Just like my  
'83 Tercel!**



Minister

Congregation

Staff

Facilities  
and  
Grounds

Architectural blueprints are shown on the left side of the slide, partially unrolled and overlapping. They feature various technical drawings, including floor plans and structural details, with numerous numerical dimensions and annotations. The blueprints are set against a light blue, wavy background.

# Safety First!

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- Importance of all safety and security measures
- Obstacles to avoid and correct in facility design
- Reserve funding for maintenance and repairs
- It only takes a spark!
- A lawyer can cost more than a repair

# The Gestetner won't fit in the cloud!

Important that church *value* its space in light of its purpose

- For volunteers, minister and staff
- The original design may not be the best design
  - Okay to move a wall!

## THE WORLD'S DUPLICATOR



Model 160

The 160 Express takes is perhaps best described as the embodiment of perfection in modern duplicating.

This streamlined, sleek and light efficient unit incorporates all the refinements in mechanical design and construction which make the reproduction of perfect copies a clean and simple process.

The Model 160 has—  
"Express" taking, controlled by a flick of the finger, while the machine is in motion.

Automatic counter, which stops the machine when the required number of copies has been reproduced.

Simple, fingertip adjustments for speed and position of work.

These features guarantee maximum versatility throughout its comparatively unlimited.

# Gestetner

THE WORLD'S LEADING DUPLICATOR SPECIALISTS

# The Joy of Sharing your Loo and Pew

- It's **great** when a congregation or camp or whatever is ***eager to share*** its facilities and grounds!
- Nevertheless, the sharing needs to ***power*** your congregation or camp or whatever

# Letting go of your Eggo!

- Enhance programming
  - Nurture generosity of congregation
- Rentals increase church revenue
- Proceeds in excess of costs
  - Labour
  - Operations
  - Debt retirement
  - Reserve funds
- Protection of investment
- Strengthening of identity

# “Yes, please pay!”

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Don't give away  
space to users  
who *can* pay

E.g.,  
Elections Canada  
movie industry



Facility renters  
power the  
church

not the other way around



# Benevolent and Wise



- Missional
- Neighbourly love
  - Community engagement and activation
- Benevolent users of the facility
  - e.g., AA, etc.
- Realistic projections
  - How much space we can give away and when?
  - Estimate \$ value relative (and celebrate that a gift has been given)
  - By maximizing paid rental use of facility
    - more benevolent uses can be realized

# The Help



- 
- Some facilities and grounds
    - Can be too complex and time consuming to manage and care for
    - Tough to leave in the hands of volunteers
    - Vigilance and expertise required
  - Thousands of square feet of space
    - With abounding potential... and a whole lot of issues!

# F&G Staffing

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- Possibility of a church manager
- Merging of PT jobs
- Custodians might not want to clean
- Cleaners might not want to custodial
- FT: maximum benefit from the employee
- Complete skillset assessment and interest inventory



# HR Recipes and Ingredients



**SUPPORT**



**SERVICE**



**SOLUTIONS**

- Do you want it?
- Can you do it?
- Do you fit?

# The Science of the Obvious: If it ain't fixed, it's broke!



- First focus on the *rejuvenation and care* of **worship**
- Cannot assume poor building will suffice
- Fire systems, toilets working?
- Personnel needed
  - to care for facility
  - to maximize its potential,
  - to have building *ready* to accommodate the chief act of the people
  - At the very least, a good Sunday worship experience.
- A positive worship so significantly fosters: fellowship, service and stewardship

# Yes, there are bills to pay



- Our facilities and grounds have been built and entrusted to us to show the world God's love in Christ
  - They proclaim "this is the house of the Lord..."
  - It's good to go to bed at night knowing our church home is well
  - If it's not, we have to do something
  - Look after the legacy as best we can

It takes money for all of the above to happen

# Five Fingers of Finance



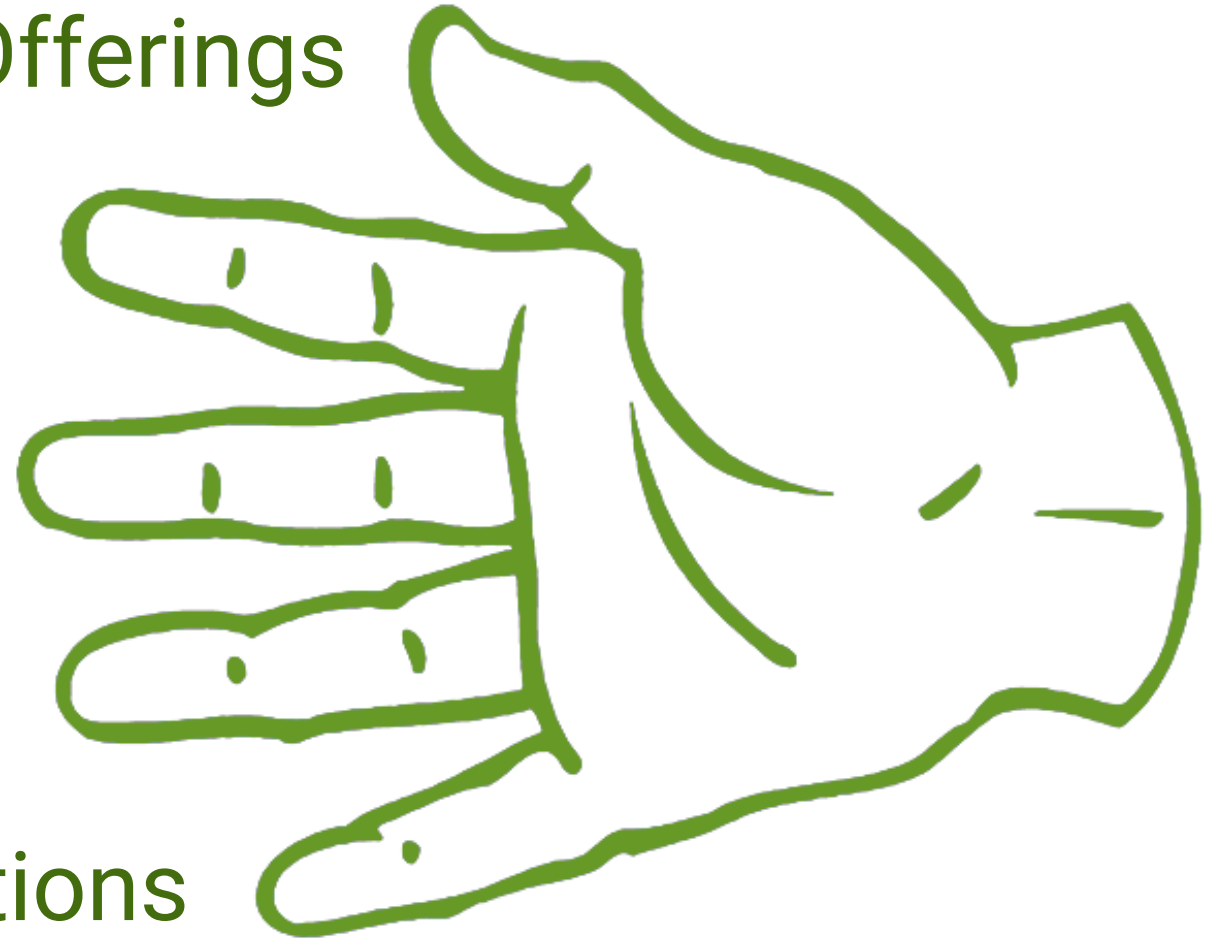
Tithes & Offerings

Investment

Fundraising

Rental

Planned Giving & Foundations



# Celebrating Milestones and Anniversaries



- 
- Commemorating significant milestones in the church building's history
  - Engaging the congregation in celebrations of space
  - Reflecting on the impact of the building on the community
  - Thanks be to God for the blessing that is your facility and grounds





# Reflections and Questions

# Thank You



Presbyterians  
Sharing

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