

The Next Chapter in the Story of Stratford's Knox Presbyterian Church



- ✓ Faith
- ✓ Arts and Culture
- ✓ Community Service

Signs of the Times: *Knox Presbyterian Church*



- Knox needs \$1.6 million worth of unavoidable building repairs in the next five years (*Building Assessment Report, 2017*).
 - \$400,000 of repairs have been done since 2017.
- High maintenance costs and a dwindling congregation have set Knox on a search for solutions.
- The **Knox Church Task Group** estimates that if nothing changes, the church could potentially last only two more years.
- Knox could become part of the one-third of Canadian churches that will disappear in the next 10 years (*Source: The National Trust of Canada and Faith and the Common Good*).

Signs of the Times: *Stratford Arts and Culture Collective*



SACC has been working for four years on developing an arts and culture centre as an additional venue to serve the arts and culture needs of Stratford and area citizens.



30+ arts and culture groups working under one umbrella.



Project is feasible and needed. (*SACC Feasibility Study, 2019*)



Over 4,000 Stratford citizens participate “onstage and backstage” for SACC member organizations. (*2016*)



Shared values with Knox.

The Knox/SACC Partnership



- This **NEW VISION** is driven by partnership between Knox Church and the Stratford Arts and Culture Collective (SACC).
- Partners share a core set of values.
- The partners are responding to the needs of Stratford citizens, the Knox congregation, and the local arts and culture community.
- The Knox congregation is fully committed to this vision and voted almost unanimously in favour of the project.
- The Stratford Arts and Culture Centre Feasibility Study (*TCI Management Consultants, Nov. 2019*) confirms the need for an Arts and Culture Centre.

The Vision:

Overview

Revitalization of Knox church and property with faith, arts, culture, community service and socially responsible housing components.

- Preserving as much of the heritage structure and uniqueness as possible.
- Increasing the church's social importance and impact within the community.
- Converting the sanctuary into a flexible, state-of-the-art performance space for theatre, music, dance, visual arts, children's programming, media, literature and many other arts and cultural activities.

- A main performance stage, an exhibition space and a studio are envisioned at a reconfigured Knox Church.
- The SACC has identified specific elements for improvement such as acoustics, stage configuration, audience amenities, administration and technology.
- Congregation will have the flexibility to worship in the sanctuary as well as a new, smaller worship space.
- Revenue generated by new uses will sustain the reconfigured building (e.g., rentals, property development).

The Vision: *Specifics*

Trinity Centres Foundation (TCF)



trinitycentres.org

- Knox has engaged Trinity Centres Foundation to assist with planning the project.
- TCF is Canada's best-known expert consultancy for congregations seeking to renew their properties for other uses.
- TCF is currently working with four other church congregations in Ontario and a municipal region of collaborative churches.
- TCF will assess financial options and constraints (i.e., funding sources), property valuation and the potential for redevelopment of the north half of the site to fund the \$3 to \$4 million that this project needs to enhance its usage and viability.
- TCF will help develop the project timelines.

Anticipated Benefits to Stratford Citizens

- Preservation of a significant heritage site in Stratford.
- Knox congregation to continue to worship on the site and leave a strong financial legacy for the future.
- A community space that is an anchor in the downtown core.
- Creation of available and accessible performance space for many local arts and cultural organizations.
- Addition of socially responsible housing in the core of the City.
- Continued use of the Knox site by numerous community service organizations.

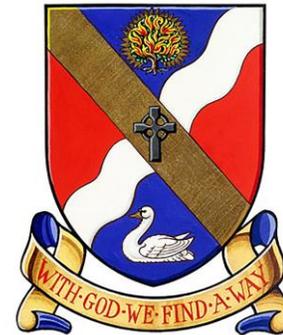


Arts in Perspective

- According to Statistics Canada, the Live Performing Arts industry in Ontario generates over \$2.5 Billion in *direct* annual income and leverages more than \$12 Billion in *additional* economic impact.
- Over 60,000 Ontarians work in the arts – the equivalent of a mid-sized city.
- More than 55% of Ontarians attend plays or musicals every year, with live performing arts attendance – plays, concerts, dance, etc. – outstripping in-person attendance at sporting events.

Phase One

- Includes:
 - Due diligence
 - Identification of funding, development and governance options
 - City/Heritage approvals
 - Community outreach
- A project plan, produced by TCF
- If plan is viable, possible outreach to developers



- This project is a *visionary partnership* of Arts and Faith in the heart of Stratford with measurable economic, spiritual and social impacts.
- Stratford will be a leader in a movement of *church conversions for community benefit* that is gaining momentum across North America.
- Community-based arts and culture organizations will have a *state-of-the-art, flexible space*.

Looking Forward...

We are eager to move forward with TCF and providing more information:

- ✓ Zoning studies
- ✓ Massing
- ✓ Drawings
- ✓ Heritage considerations

