

The Seed PROJECT



The StAAC Building Redevelopment Campaign



COMMITMENT GUIDE

St. Albert Alliance Church

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CHURCH

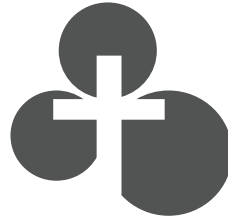


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The Seed PROJECT

IT WAS TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, in the Fall of 2015 that I was spending some time alone with Jesus to ask Him about His desire and intent for our Building Redevelopment Effort, which we are calling *The Seed Project*.

As I sat quietly before Jesus, I asked a simple question and then listened in prayer.

I wrote in my listening prayer journal: "Jesus, what is your vision for StAAC? What are you dreaming about, that you are waiting for me to wake up to? What is the potential you see? Why do you want us to build a new facility?"

To be honest, I expected Jesus to say something about growing our ministry potential; to talk about how our impact in our community might increase; to cast a big vision of all the things we might be able to accomplish with a redeveloped facility.

But as I sat there listening, I heard the voice of Jesus speak so clearly to my heart these words: **"Jeremy, this is how I will teach my people to put me first in their lives."**

And in that moment, the penny dropped for me. Of course! Jesus has been urging us as a community to re-arrange our lives differently, that we might truly learn to put Him first in everything; that we might have no other idols in our hearts before Him.

And while there are many other factors that have helped us understand why God is leading us into this project at this time, Jesus was crystal clear that this is first about our hearts. Who (or what) has first place?

Thank you for taking the time to read through this commitment guide, and as you do so, I would urge you to be praying an S.O.S. prayer: **"God, may you soften our hearts, open our eyes, and strengthen our obedience, that you might truly be First in everything!"**

Jeremy Peters
Lead Pastor





FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS NOW, we have been increasingly conscious of the unique journey that Jesus has been calling us to as St. Albert Alliance Church.

Both individually and collectively, Jesus has been calling us to be ambassadors of His now-available Kingdom as He leads us into to the Deeper Life of transforming relationship with Him, and also into the Mission He has for each and every one of us.

For us **the Deeper Life is all about growing in intimacy with Jesus and becoming more and more like Him.** Jesus said:

"I AM THE VINE; YOU ARE THE BRANCHES.
THOSE WHO REMAIN IN ME, AND I IN THEM,
WILL PRODUCE MUCH FRUIT. FOR APART
FROM ME YOU CAN DO NOTHING."
JOHN 15:5 (NLT)

For us, **Mission is the understanding that we are all sent by Jesus into the world, empowered by Him.** There are specific "good works" that Jesus has planned for each one of us, as the Apostle Paul reminds us in Ephesians 2:10.

“I HAVE GREAT FAITH IN A SEED.
CONVINCE ME THAT YOU HAVE A SEED
THERE, AND I AM PREPARED TO
EXPECT WONDERS.”
- HENRY DAVID THOREAU

These twin focuses mean that we see a primary focus for the church being “to equip His people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up” (Ephesians 4:12), and to be in the kind of deep fellowship that both sustains us as individuals and inspires those outside the church. (Ephesians 3:10, John 17:20-23)

As Winston Churchill said, **“We shape our buildings; thereafter they shape us.”** It is clear that Jesus is shaping us uniquely, and that we need a building that facilitates and enhances that shape.

MOST CHURCHES NEED SOMEWHERE that draws people into worship. Some of the additional ways that Jesus is calling and shaping us as a congregation mean that we need a facility that:



Allows a **wide range of options for equipping** people of all ages for the Apprenticeship Journey.



Creates a **natural environment for fellowship** in smaller and bigger groups.



Has **space for prayer and reflection** every day of the week.



Welcomes the broader community into engagement with the church





WHY a new BUILDING

1 THE PRIMARY REASON we are engaging this project is because we believe Jesus has asked us to; that He has indicated this is a means by which He will teach us as a congregation how to put Him first in every area of our lives – starting with the one that is most challenging – our pocketbook!

He has given us the picture that the new building is to be like a 'greenhouse', serving to create conditions that are most conducive for seed to bear the most fruit.

2 REPAIRS

- Our current building **urgently needs some repairs**, and others can wait a while, however we need to spend \$1.6M just to keep things as they are.

3 SAFETY

- In any major renovation project, we are required to bring the whole facility **up to current building code**. (Including things like a sprinkler system, more washrooms upstairs, and potentially needing to address the floor slopes from the lobby to the Xtreme Kids wing and the auditorium.) The cost to accomplish this is would be likely \$100's of thousands of dollars over and above the \$1.6M noted above.
- Our building configuration is not well configured for **maintaining safe supervision of our children**.

JESUS ONCE SAID, "I TELL YOU THE TRUTH, UNLESS A KERNEL OF WHEAT IS PLANTED IN THE SOIL AND DIES, IT REMAINS ALONE. BUT IT'S DEATH WILL PRODUCE MANY NEW KERNELS - A PLENTIFUL HARVEST OF NEW LIVES."

JOHN 12:24 (NLT)

4 HOSPITALITY

- We can't effectively host more than one event or training program at a time. Our primary purpose is equipping our people, yet our building significantly limits our ability to do that.
- We have **no dedicated space for our youth**, who we say are the centre of what Jesus is doing amongst us.
- The **location and design of our kitchen** is not optimally situated to best serve our hospitality needs throughout the building.
- We want our church to be a place of hospitality and fellowship, yet **we only have space 60 people to be seated in our lobby**, which is our only social space.
- We want prayer to be central to all we are and do, and we currently have **no dedicated prayer space**.
- **Our office configuration** (with reception on the second floor, requiring a security code to access) does not communicate a welcoming environment.
- As Jensen Lakes grows around us, our current building aesthetics will increasingly stand out in an unhelpful way, communicating exactly the opposite of what our heart for our city actually is.





INVITATION
to the
ADVENTURE

FROM THE OUTSET IT WAS CLEAR that this building redevelopment project was to be about much more than a building.

Our sense is that Jesus wants to use *The Seed Project* to **teach us to put Him first in every area of our lives**, and particularly in the area of finances.

We shouldn't be surprised that Jesus wants to do deep work in the area of our finances considering our city has one of the highest household incomes for a municipality in Alberta*(which makes it one of the highest in the world).

We believe that Jesus is calling each of us at St. Albert Alliance Church to a particular role of generosity in His Kingdom, something He has been preparing us for through events like Share and Wear, Hamper Day, our support of the local Food Bank, our Benevolent giving, our mission partners, mission trips and church plant in Old Strathcona. True generosity requires sacrifice that is not easy or normal for most people and requires a radical trust that Jesus and not our own resources, will meet our needs.

* <https://stalbert.ca/exp/heritage/fast-facts/>

“THE PRIMARY REASON I AM ASKING YOU TO ENGAGE IN THIS PROJECT IS BECAUSE THIS IS A MEANS BY WHICH I WILL TEACH YOU HOW TO PUT ME FIRST IN EVERY AREA OF YOUR LIVES.”

- JESUS

Our sense is that Jesus is inviting us to discover the truth of 2 Corinthians 9:6-8 in a way that changes us as a faith community:

A STINGY PLANTER GETS A STINGY CROP; A LAVISH PLANTER GETS A LAVISH CROP.

I WANT EACH OF YOU TO TAKE PLENTY OF TIME TO THINK IT OVER, AND MAKE UP YOUR OWN MIND WHAT YOU WILL GIVE. THAT WILL PROTECT YOU AGAINST SOB STORIES AND ARM-TWISTING.

GOD LOVES IT WHEN THE GIVER DELIGHTS IN THE GIVING. GOD CAN POUR ON THE BLESSINGS IN ASTONISHING WAYS SO THAT YOU'RE READY FOR ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING, MORE THAN JUST READY TO DO WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE.

2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-8 (MSG)

Through creating the need for a new building, Jesus is actually doing something much more important: **He is shaping us as a church family and calling us as individuals to be people who genuinely trust Him...**





DISCERNING GOD'S WILL

- 1 DON'T RUSH YOUR DECISION**
Give yourself time to hear from God. The more time you give to consider your commitment, the more God will build your faith.
- 2 PRAY**
God is more interested in you trusting Him than in the amount you give... so seek His desires. If you're married, pray together with your spouse.
- 3 SPEND TIME IN GOD'S WORD**
Read through the passages provided and consider the implications of what you're reading. (See page 12 for a list of verses)
- 4 REMEMBER EQUAL SACRIFICE... NOT EQUAL GIFTS**
Obviously not everyone in the church has the ability to give the same dollar amount and thankfully God doesn't expect that. God does want us, however, to make a genuine sacrifice for His purposes, which will be a different amount for each of us. King David proclaimed ' I will not sacrifice to the Lord an offering that cost me nothing.' (2 Samuel 24:24)

JESUS ONCE SAID:
“STILL OTHER SEEDS FELL ON FERTILE SOIL, AND
THEY PRODUCED A CROP THAT WAS 30, 60,100
TIMES AS MUCH AS HAD BEEN PLANTED!”
MATTHEW 13:8 (NLT)

5 DETERMINE IF YOU WANT TO GIVE BY REASON OR REVELATION

When I give based on reason, I simply look at how much I have and figure out a “reasonable amount” to give. While it’s unselfish to ask, “what can I afford to give?” there is a better way to give.

When I give based on Revelation, I ask God what He wants to give through me. This is based on trusting Him for His response, then in faith committing to believe Him as I commit to that amount. This type of extravagant giving is seen in the way God honours the people of Macedonia, “they gave not only what they could afford, they gave even more than they could afford.!” (2 Corinthians 8:3)

6 ANALYZE YOUR FINANCIAL HABITS

Where are you allocating the money that you earn? What can change in order to make a financial commitment?

7 INCLUDE YOUR FAMILY

This is an incredible opportunity to teach family members about generosity, faith and compassion.

8 COMPLETE THE COMMITMENT WORKSHEET IN THIS BOOKLET





FAITH & FINANCES



READ 1 Chronicles 29:10-19

What does this story tell us about the source of our finances? In the story, what motivates a generous response from the people?



READ Matthew 6:19-21

What does Jesus say about the investments we can make? What are the implications of this truth?



READ 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

What do you think Paul means about sowing sparingly and generously? What's the difference between being a cheerful giver and an obligated giver?



READ 1 Timothy 6:17-19

Summarize the directions that Paul is giving to Timothy in this text. What does this passage teach about wealth and being rich?

With all of these texts in mind, how would you summarize God's view of money, His call to generosity and the biblical values of wealth? _____

For more information on Faith & Finances listen to past podcasts of our Good Life Sermon series (October 4 - 25, 2015 sermons)



GIVING GUIDE

DID YOU KNOW? Giving at any level provides a significant tax benefit. We are privileged to live in a country where our government promotes giving. Did you know that when you give over \$200 in a tax year, the tax credit to you is approximately 50%? See the guide below to see the net cost of giving to you.

THE SEED PROJECT COMMITMENT OVER 12 MONTHS

Weekly	Bi-weekly	Monthly	Total Pledge	Less Tax Credit *	Net Cost of Gift
\$ 10	\$ 20	\$ 43	\$ 520	\$ (210)	\$ 310
20	40	87	1,040	(470)	570
50	100	217	2,600	(1,250)	1,350
100	200	433	5,200	(2,550)	2,650
200	400	867	10,400	(5,150)	5,250
350	700	1517	18,200	(9,050)	9,150
500	1000	2167	26,000	(12,950)	13,050

*This is an approximation and we recommend you discuss your situation with a tax professional. Please view the Charitable Donation Tax Credit Calculator @ www.cra-arc.gc.ca for more info.





IDEAS & SUGGESTIONS

GIVING TO GOD HONOURS GOD. We are responsible to support God's work - to give back to God out of gratitude for the blessings of life we have received. If you have not yet begun a lifestyle of stewardship, now is a great time to get started. If you are already giving regularly, perhaps sacrificially, and are wondering what you can do in addition to support *The Seed Project*, consider these ideas:

1

Postpone.

- **Wait on that major purchase**, that new appliance, home renovations, or new car.
- Find a more **economical way to spend your vacation**

2

Change Spending Habits.





- A **latte** every day
($\$5/\text{day} \times 12 \text{ months} = \1825 or $\times 36 \text{ months} = \5475)
- Weekly **family dinner** out
($\$60/\text{week} \times 12 \text{ months} = \3120 or $\times 36 \text{ months} = \9360)
- Extended **cable** channels
($\$80/\text{month} \times 12 \text{ months} = \960 or $\times 36 \text{ months} = \2880)
- **Manicure/pedicure**
($\$40/\text{month} \times 12 \text{ months} = \480 or $\times 36 \text{ months} = \1440)
- **Movie theatre** & snacks
($\$50/\text{month} \times 12 \text{ months} = \600 or $\times 36 \text{ months} = \1800)

3

Earn Extra Income.

- **Rent** an extra room
($\$400/\text{month} \times 12 \text{ months} = \4800 or $\times 36 \text{ month} = \$14,400$)
- Part-time **job**
($\$350/\text{month} \times 12 \text{ months} = \4200 or $\times 36 \text{ months} = \$12,600$)
- **Garage sale** and donate proceeds



-  **ONLINE** @ staalliance.org/giving
(3.5% fee per transaction)
-  **PRE-AUTHORIZED GIVING** Pick up a form today or go to our website and fill out the form
-  **IN-PERSON** on Sundays (cash, cheque & debit accepted)
-  **THE StAAC APP** - Give through our APP within minutes!
(Approximately 2.3% fee per transaction)

There are also a number of ways you can give to *The Seed Project* through investments such as RRSPs, life insurance policies or estate planning. For more information about this and all of the options available for giving - please contact our Director of Operations or email [**giving@staalliance.org**](mailto:giving@staalliance.org)

SOS PRAYER:
GOD- MAY YOU SOFTEN OUR HEARTS,
OPEN OUR EYES, & STRENGTHEN
OUR OBEDIENCE.





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