



Church Planting Prospectus

SUMMER 2023

Prepared and Presented by
Chris Pignatiello
Associate Pastor

Crestwood
Presbyterian Church



An Introduction

I am grateful to share with you my hopes for a new church plant in Edmonton, and I am honoured that you would take time to read this. My convictions for Christ's Church stem from the foundation that God deeply loves his church. Jesus gave himself up for the church and is making her a radiant bride.

Along with this, God is at work through his church in the city of Edmonton. The faithful presence of his people has existed for a long time in this city and yet Edmonton, like all major Canadian cities, is becoming less churched each year, providing a unique opportunity to plant a church that is both faithful to the scriptures and to the Great Commission. I pray that you might help make this a reality for the glory of God and the good of Edmonton.

Grace and Peace,

Chris Pignatiello

The Need and Opportunity

With a city population of over 1.2 million people and the presence of hundreds of churches, why does Edmonton need another church?

Because like any major city, the world is rapidly changing. New residents, sociocultural groups and brand new immigrants are moving to Edmonton each year. Demographic studies are showing that although around 50 percent of Edmontonians identify with some affiliation to Christianity, the city is becoming more unchurched each year. Edmonton is also becoming one of the most affordable cities in Canada for its size and because of this is seeing an influx of millennial growth in those searching for upward mobility.



- Edmonton is the northernmost city in North America with over 1 million people.
- The Edmonton River Valley is the largest urban green space in North America. At 7,300 hectares, it is larger than all of Manhattan in New York City, or 18 times larger than Stanley Park in Vancouver.
- Edmonton is known as the City of Festivals because it hosts so many annual festivals.
- There are 20 bible believing churches in South Edmonton. Half are either ethnically driven or attractional driven churches.
- 1/3 of Edmontonians would consider themselves to have no religious affiliation.
- Edmonton is one of the fastest growing and affordable cities in Canada.
- Edmonton is the fifth largest city in Canada and capital city of the province of Alberta

In a time where people are feeling confused about faith and spirituality, a new church rooted in the reformed faith tells a story bigger than ourselves that is rooted in the scripture and the ancient creeds of the church. Where there has been the personality driven church, reformed worship is participant driven blending the Word, Sacrament and Spirit to form us into who we were made to be – lovers of God and neighbour. We are asking the Lord to grow a new branch in this city to offer the life of Christ, to the people of Edmonton, for generations to come.

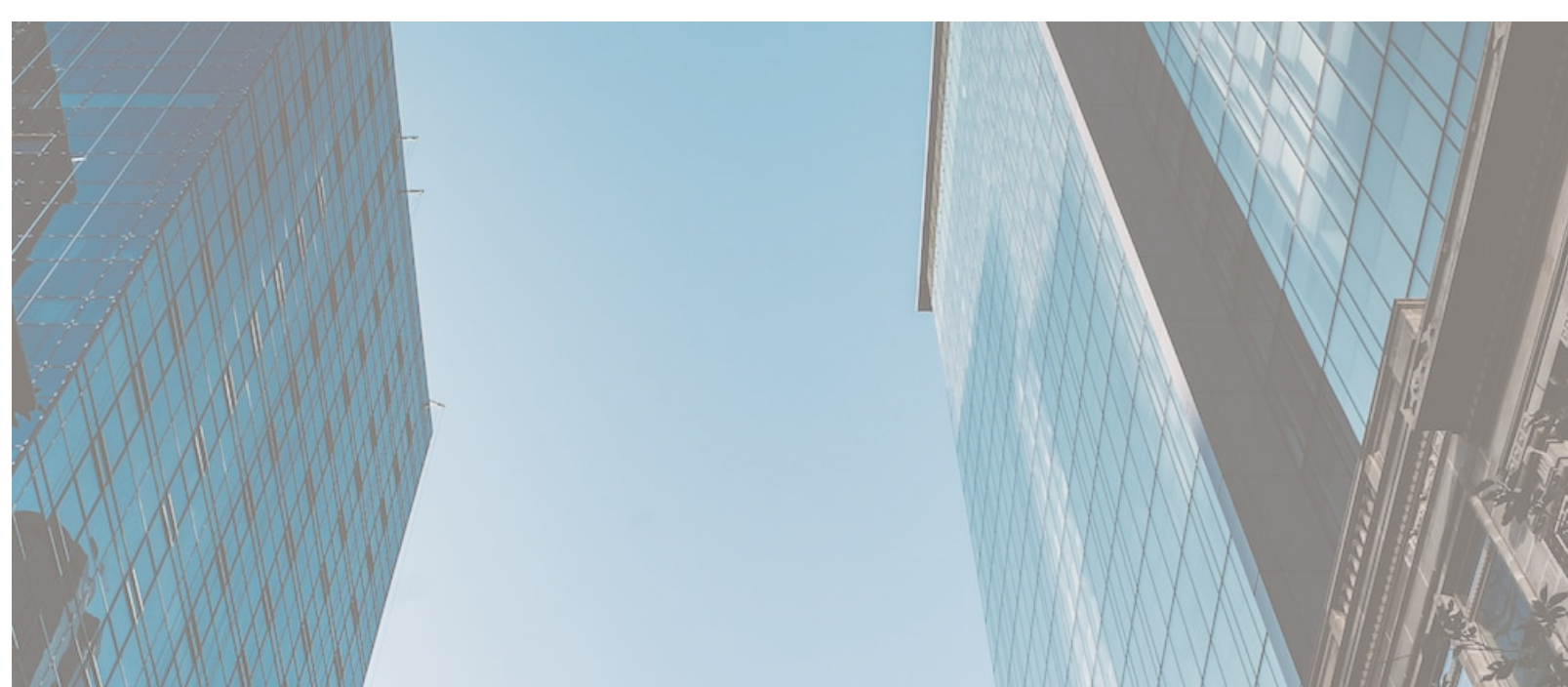
Why plant another Church in Edmonton?

Firstly, we believe that taking the seed of Crestwood Presbyterian Church and planting a new spiritual work in the south part of Edmonton is both a fruitful and strategic endeavour. Fruitful because Crestwood has existed for 75 years in the city and has long prayed that the congregation might bless and send a mission church as part of its growing witness in Edmonton. Strategic because South Edmonton is a rapidly growing part of the city where a host of CPC families currently reside. It also reflects great spiritual diversity, with few bible believing churches.

Secondly, we believe that we can add to what God is already doing in Edmonton. With a surging population in South Edmonton and other surrounding communities many are searching for meaning outside of God's story. We must go and share the good news of Jesus Christ and the hope he alone can give to a searching and broken world.. This is not "only" the work of one, two or even ten churches.

Thirdly, we believe South Edmonton is a growing, affordable part of the city sharing suburban rhythms, ideal for growing families and an aspiring sense of community. We see this as an excellent place for our family to put down roots and practice the hospitality of Christ by extending his welcome of grace in our neighbourhood.

Fourthly, we believe as Christians that Jesus' essential call was to plant churches. Virtually all of the great evangelistic challenges of the New Testament are basically calls to plant churches. The Great Commission (Matt. 28:18–20) is a call not just to "make disciples" but to baptize. This means being welcomed into worshiping community with accountability and boundaries. (Acts 2:41–47)



Our Vision

"We envision a church centred on the life of Jesus that overflows his redeeming presence of grace and justice to our city and world."

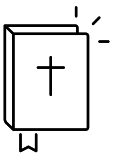


Values



A Worshipping Community

The most powerful thing the church does is worship! Everything we are and do as Christians stems from our worship to the triune God.



A Discipling Community

Christians are saved to be conformed to the image of Christ. We believe that everyone is called to be a disciple of Christ living under his word and making disciples of Christ, encouraging the growth of the whole body.



A Relational Community

In being united to God in Christ, we also have the privilege to live in community with other Christians practicing the "one another's" of scripture. In a world where forgiveness is fading away, the church has a unique opportunity to live as an outpost of grace and mercy to our world.



A Missional Community

Because God sent his beloved Son into this world for the purpose of redeeming mankind and reconciling all things to himself in the gospel, he has made us a missionary people. We believe every Christian has been sent by Jesus — into this world— in the power of the Spirit to proclaim the message of redemption and reconciliation to this fallen world.

Goals & Timeline

By the grace of God we are seeking to pray, welcome a people, find a place and trust in God's provisions. Instead of wishful dates on the calendar we are seeking certain goals to help us discern when we will be ready to launch public worship.



Prayer

What: 200 monthly prayer partners joining us.

How: Sending monthly prayer updates through mailchimp.



People

What: 50 committed Christians. 20 "Wait and See" Christians, 20 non-Christians.

How: Vision and Neighbourhood Gatherings



Provisions

What: 50% of 1st year budget in the bank, 2/3 of 3 yr budget pledged.

How: Networking, fundraising, Launch team giving.



A Place

What: To Worship, To Serve.

How: Prayer, Explore, Partner



Budget Breakdown



Phase 1: Preparing the Soil

Gathering a Launch Team

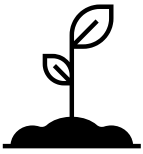
Estimated Budget: – Year 1 (Fall –2023– Spring 2024) Budget: Start-up costs include website, events, group curriculum. Chris' Salary + External (10k)



Phase 2: Planting the Seeds

Begin Public Worship

Estimated Budget: Year 2 (Fall 2024– Spring 2025) Budget: \$250,000 (%50 Internal/ %50 External)



Phase 3: Watering and Growing

Deepening Discipleship and Mission

Estimated Budget: Year 3 (Fall 2025–Spring 2026) Budget: \$275,000 (%75 Internal/ %25 External)

Estimated Total: \$615,000



About The Planter

Originally from a small town just outside of Toronto Ontario, Chris began ministry in the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) in 2014 while completing a seminary internship at Grace Toronto Church. Chris has served in multiple church planting environments in Toronto and is excited to pursue an opportunity to plant in Edmonton, AB. Chris is passionate about bringing the hope of the gospel to others while discovering the beauty of these truths lived out in Christ's church. Chris and Kaila were married in 2014 and have three children: Luca (4), Gianna (2) and Ezra (1 month).

Education:

- MDiv. Pastoral Ministry. Tyndale University and Seminary. Toronto, Canada
- BA Kinesiology, Western University. London, ON.

Experience:

- Associate Pastor, Crestwood Presbyterian Church, Edmonton, AB.
- Church Planting Resident, Christ Church Toronto, Toronto, ON
- Pastoral Resident, Trinity Grace Church, Toronto, ON
- Youth / Young Adult Pastor, Church on the Rock, Toronto, ON



Oversight and Accountability



Join Us

We find our theological heritage in the Protestant Reformation. We are members of the Presbyterian Church in America, a group of churches whose unifying beliefs are summarized in the Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms. While we actively partner with churches of many denominations or no denomination, we believe working within a denomination brings us a healthier level of structure, accountability, and support.



Learn More – Interesting in learning more? Have questions? Feel free to connect with us at chris@crestwoodpca.ca

Pray With Us – We are aiming for 200 prayer partners. Sign up for our monthly prayer newsletter at southedmontonpca@gmail.com.

Connect Us – If you know someone who may be interested in joining this mission please connect them to us so what we may be able to share more!

Give – Donate via Interac e-transfer to: giving@crestwoodpca.ca. "Mission South Edmonton"

Arrange a repeating pre-authorized debit transaction. For more info on this, please email giving@crestwoodpca.ca.

Or, you can mail a check made out to:
Crestwood Presbyterian Church
Mission South Edmonton
14304 96 Ave
Edmonton, Alberta