



## PROJECT OVERVIEW

“Ninety-three years ago, Dunbar was a very young community. It was during this time that St. Philip’s Anglican Church, our **Champion of Dunbar Village**, was founded. The church has meant and continues to mean many things to many people. [It] serves people at all times of their lives.”

—DunbarLife Magazine: June-August

Those who know St. Philip’s are familiar with the many different and unique aspects of this unassuming facility tucked away on a side street in the heart of Dunbar Village. Since 1925 St. Philip’s has been committed to the people and the community of Dunbar, not just as a place of worship but also as a venue open to use by the greater community, and as a parish committed to reaching out to support individuals and organizations, both local and global.

Those less familiar with this special place would not know that two preschools have had their home at St. Philip’s for over 70 years, or that there’s a two-lane bowling alley in the basement—created as a community resource still in use today.

As a venue, St. Philip’s regularly hosts musical performances and many local organizations, including the Dunbar Residents’ Association, Community Arts groups, Scouts and Girl Guides, martial arts groups and Alcoholics Anonymous.

While the boundaries of the parish are the same as they were almost a century ago, what has changed is that almost half of current parishioners live outside those boundaries. The St. Philip’s of today is a more diverse and widespread community of talented individuals supporting many ministries and projects—a reflection of both the local Dunbar community and the larger community of Vancouver itself.

Recently, the St. Philip’s community welcomed the arrival of a new rector, Rev. Stuart Hallam, whose breadth of experience in pastoral care, youth and young adult ministry and community development fuels a passion for inclusivity and a vision of change. Change will be essential to the future of a parish that must become an even stronger champion of the Dunbar community in order to thrive in a society and community that is being marked by change.

# This is St. Philip's



“New times provide opportunities for new relationships of belonging. The community and St. Philip’s Church have a unique opportunity to move together into a satisfying and fulfilling future in which the lives of all our citizens can be enhanced.”

—Rev. Stuart Hallam [in DunbarLife]

## Our Current Reality

Central to all that goes on at St. Philip’s is the facility itself—the place where people and programs have come together in many different ways through decades past— but today the concern is about the future.

Many different spaces within this historic facility are aging, and some of the critical infrastructure is reaching the point where extensive work is required.

While the obvious priority is to maintain the beautiful and historic buildings, much loved by many people in Dunbar, the parish now wants to look to the future with a much broader vision. Simply maintaining what exists is not enough.

In the context of St. Philip’s truly being a 21st century place where people and programs come together,

# Our Plans: Place, People & Programs

**PLACE** This magnificent church facility needs to be used more often, and in new and different ways, to bring even greater benefit to the entire community. The first step in this plan is to repair vital parts of the building, and then renew and reconfigure spaces that welcome people in.

**REPAIR**—A professional assessment has been completed and several critical issues have been identified, including the need to replace the roofing material of the church and main hall as soon as possible. The potential for leaks and water damage is far too great to ignore, as constant patching and repairs would damage our church and interrupt church and community activities. The detailed assessment of needed repairs is available on the church website for anyone looking for more information.

**RENEW**—There are several areas that also require immediate attention, from the boiler room chimney and removal of a hazardous chimney stack to replacing concrete stairs to improve safety. Other areas of the roof structure will also require new membranes and shingles in the

near future, and there are many smaller needs both inside and out in terms of better maintenance, repairs, and the potential to redevelop unique assets like the bowling alley that would open them up to greater use and enjoyment.

**RECONFIGURE**—One of the first initiatives of Stuart was to literally ‘open’ the doors of the main church during the day to allow people to simply enter and experience the unexpected magnificence of this historic place.

In a changing world of spirituality and worship, we also envision physically ‘opening up’ the interior of the church.

The current configuration only allows for traditional Anglican services, but by replacing the traditional pews with more flexible and comfortable seating for parishioners, the church interior

can be transformed into a multi-purpose space that allows for different configurations which would appeal to diverse groups as well as for those who would see themselves as being spiritual, but not religious.

It would also allow St. Philip’s to explore a wide variety of spiritual practices, including becoming a more beautiful venue for music, theatre and dance events. Creating a flexible space means opening the church up to a whole new range of spiritual experiences, while providing comfortable seating for more traditional services.

### **ESTIMATED COST TO REPAIR, RENEW & RECONFIGURE:**

The professional assessment estimates the cost of these various repairs and renovations to be \$1 million, invested over the next decade to ensure long-term viability.

# ✝ St. Philip's Anglican Church

we have developed a concept plan to repair, renew and reconfigure the physical building. This will enable and embrace a vision to expand staffing and resources to support existing and new program initiatives.

In order to improve the health of the historic buildings and more importantly, to expand their flexibility and provide new opportunities to

support the Dunbar community they serve, St. Philip's needs to increase its financial capacity. The plan to repair, renew and reconfigure St. Philip's is about making an investment in the future and ensuring we continue to succeed.



## PEOPLE

Investing in St. Philip's as a 'physical place' is about more than just continuing to do the same. Our vision is to employ additional staff to benefit young people, families and the greater community in support St. Philip's becoming a centre for spirituality and social justice.

This parish has always been a facilitator for other groups and seeks to develop new partnerships that will orient the church more towards the community. Having the resources to create new staff positions will be an important step in bringing our vision to life.

### **ESTIMATED COST—STAFF RESOURCES:**

Increasing the level of support from current part-time staff as well as creating at least one new position to support new initiatives is estimated to cost at least \$300,000 over the next three years. Key to this is establishing a more permanent source of funding, possibly through endowment and legacy gifts.



# Our Plans: Place, People & Programs

## PROGRAMS

The vision for St. Philip's is for the church to be open to more active participation from and engagement with the wider community. This vision can become a reality if the church has both the space and staff resources required.

In addition to reinvigorating existing programs such as the Seniors Café, the potential for new programs ranges from ideas such as groups that explore spirituality through the arts, to activities that engage individuals and families in the Dunbar area, to bring people of all ages and backgrounds together in the spirit of St. Philip's as a place of God.

**ESTIMATED COST—PROGRAM RESOURCES:** Without making a commitment to specific programs and initiatives, the objective of the campaign is to have upwards of \$200,000 available over the next three years to support the development and implementation of a variety of new initiatives and exciting possibilities.

## Investing in the Future of St. Philip's

St. Philip's Anglican Church is proposing to under-take a fundraising campaign to raise \$1.5 million in donations and pledges over the next three to five years, to support the repair, renewal and reconfiguration of the church and the growth and new activities this will enable.

PLACE: Repair, Renew & Reconfigure	\$1,000,000
PEOPLE: Increased human resources	\$300,000
PROGRAM: New & existing activities	\$200,000

The plan is for these initiatives to be implemented over the next three years, starting with the major repair of the roof as soon as possible. The reality is that we need to maintain the physical assets of St. Philip's. The ultimate objective is the long-term growth and stability of St. Philip's church community and the many people it serves.

With a secure facility, St. Philip's can invest in new opportunities central to our vision for the future in addition to continuing the many outreach programs already in place, such as programs supporting those in need, refugee sponsorship, and support of the local Neighbourhood Ministry, which serves the homeless.

Our future must also include reaching out to our indigenous neighbours by involving and informing our community of the need for ongoing Truth and Reconciliation initiatives with all First Nations peoples in our area.

This vision cannot be achieved in isolation and so the church is now looking to the wider Dunbar community, those already connected to us and those yet to find us, to partner with us so that we can continue to serve Dunbar well into the future. By focusing on the needs of our community and beyond, St. Philip's can continue to be the 'beating heart' and the 'Champion of Dunbar Village' for another 90 years.

