

## Current Trends in (Re)Planning Places of Worship



# SESSION FORMAT

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- / Key drivers for change and common typologies for Places of Worship in Canada (Stephanie)
- / Challenges and approaches for policy responses for Places of Worship (Jaime)
- / Case studies for legacy Places of Worship in Canada (Barbara)

# RELIGIOUS PARTICIPATION IN CANADA

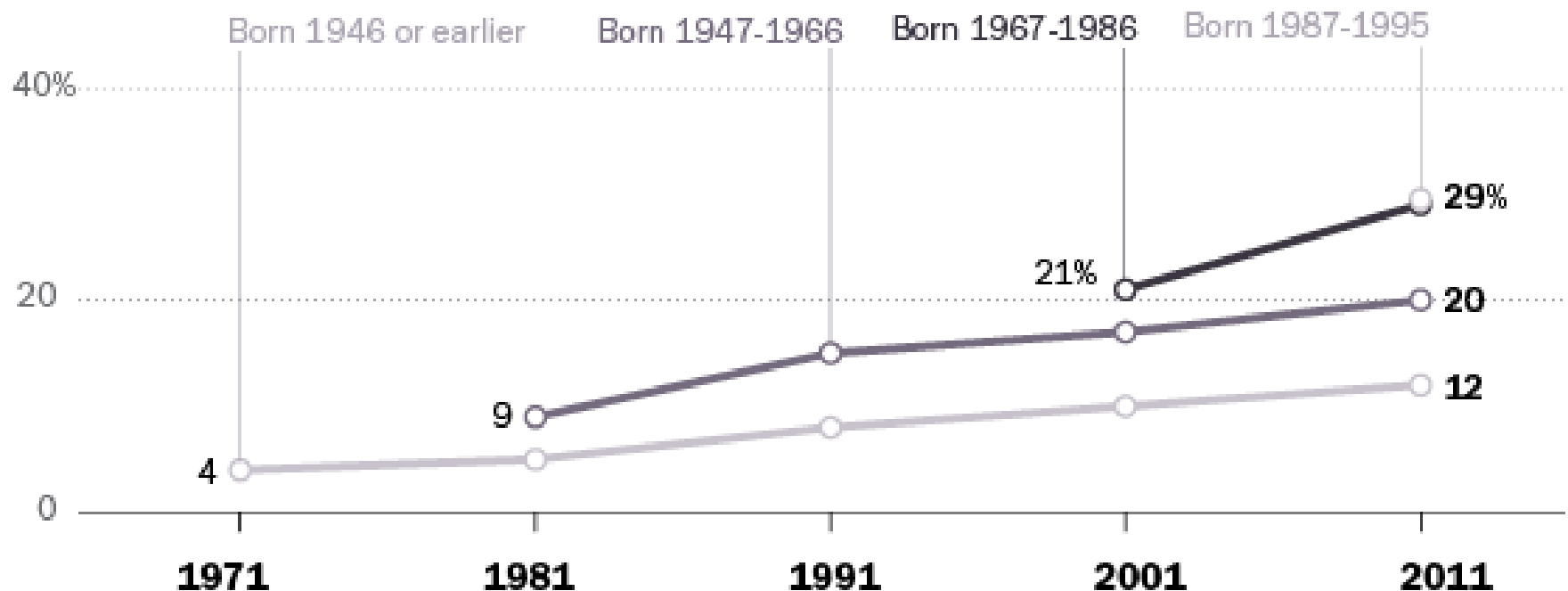
Percentage who do each of the following “once a month or more”:					
	All Canadians	Spectrum of Spirituality			
		Non-Believers	Spiritually Uncertain	Privately Faithful	Religiously Committed
Pray to God or some higher power	40%	1%	7%	58%	97%
Attend religious services (other than weddings or funerals)	20%	3%	1%	14%	69%
Talk about faith or religion with family	21%	6%	3%	18%	62%
Read the Bible, Quran, or other sacred text	15%	2%	0%	6%	58%
Feel you experience God’s presence	26%	1%	1%	22%	89%

Source: Angus-Reid, “Religion in Canada 150”, 2017.

# GENERATIONAL DIFFERENCES IN RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION

## Trends in Canadian Disaffiliation, by Generation

*% of each age cohort that is religiously unaffiliated*



Sources: 1971-2001 Canada census; 2011 National Household Survey

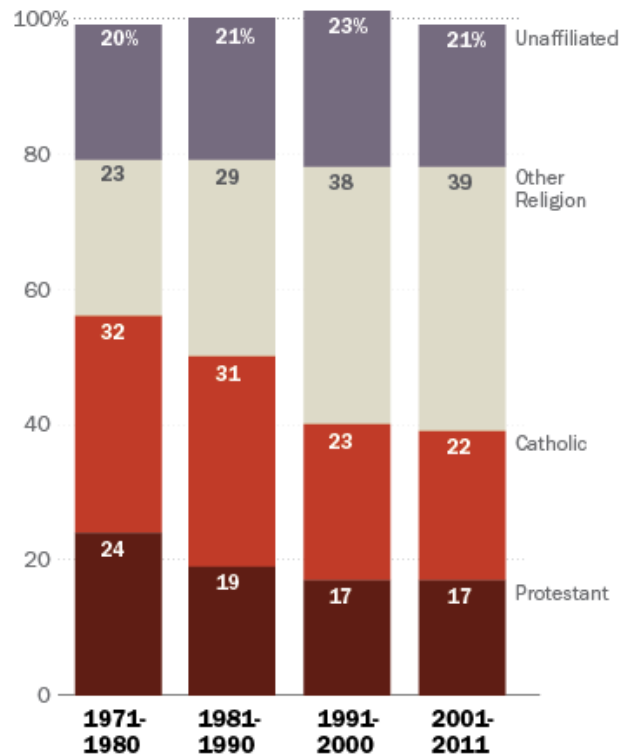
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# IMMIGRATION AND RELIGIOUS PARTICIPATION

## Religious Composition of Immigrants in Canada, by Decade of Arrival

% of immigrant population that identifies as ...

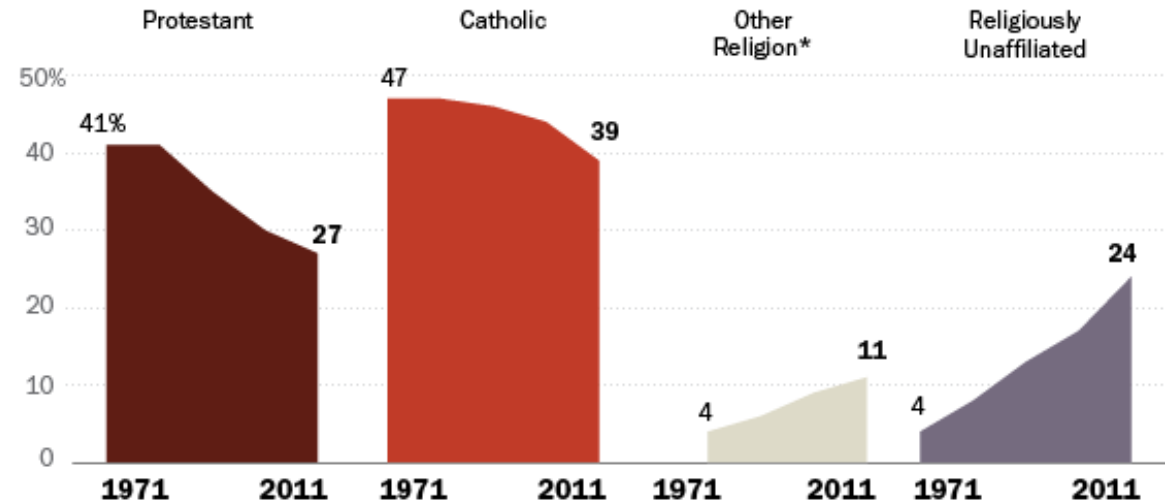


Source: 2011 National Household Survey  
Percentages are calculated from unrounded numbers and may not add to 100 due to rounding.

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## Canada's Religious Composition, 1971-2011

% of Canadians who identify as ...



Sources: 1971-2001 Canada census; 2011 National Household Survey

\*Data for the "Other Religion" category in 1971 are not shown because the figure is not comparable with the figures for 1981-2011. Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

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Other religions include Islam, Hinduism, Sikhism, Buddhism, Judaism, Eastern Orthodox Christianity, etc.

# KEY TRENDS

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- / Decreased participation for some Christian faiths.
- / Increase in immigration from Asia, particularly to the suburbs of Metropolitan areas.
- / Higher rates of religious affiliation for immigrants.

# KEY ISSUES FOR PLANNERS

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- / Assisting legacy religious facilities in central areas that cannot be supported by declining congregations.
- / Protection of heritage resources for places of worship in high land value areas.
- / Determining appropriate sites for new places of worship and institutions moving out of central areas.
- / Integrating new places of worship with surrounding communities with flexibility to accommodate needs of various faiths.

# TYPOLOGIES

## LEGACY DOWNTOWN CHURCH

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Cathedral Hill, Ottawa

# TYPOLOGIES TRANSITIONAL



St. Jax, Montreal



# TYPOLOGIES

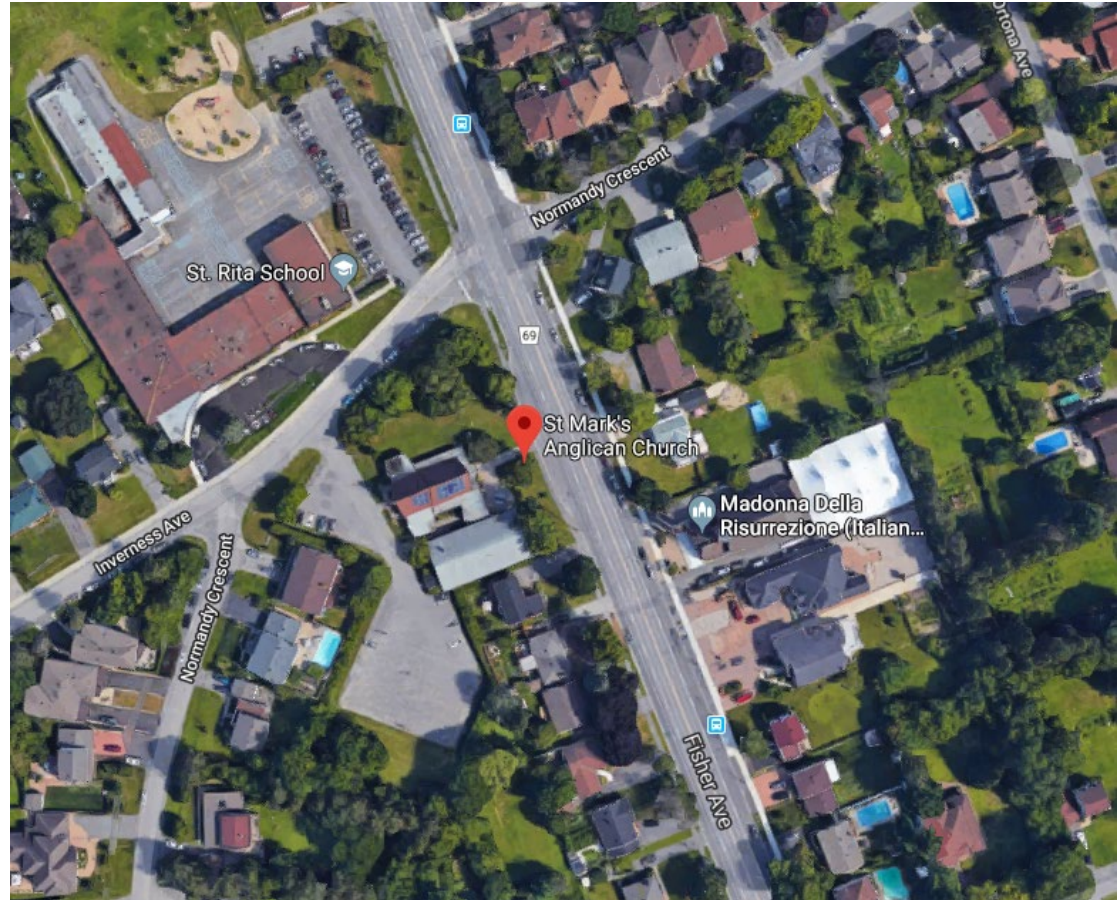
## MEGA-CHURCH



Metropolitan Bible Church, Ottawa

# TYPOLOGIES

## LOCAL SUBURBAN (MIDCENTURY)





# TYPOLOGIES

## LOCAL SUBURBAN (RECENT)

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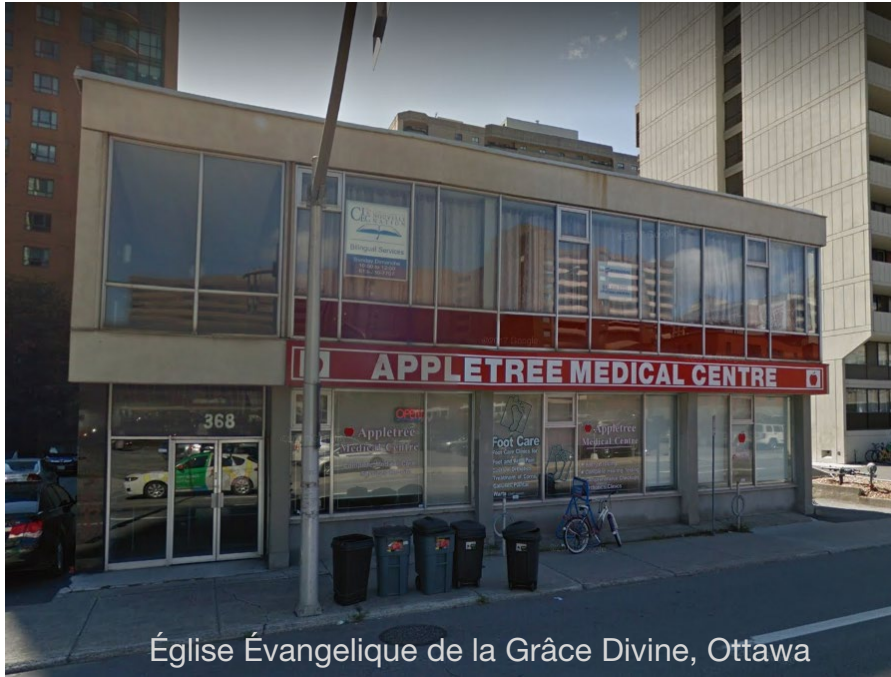
Ottawa Torah Centre



# TYPOLOGIES IMPROVISED SPACES



# TYPOLOGIES TENANT SPACES



# **POLICY + REGULATORY RESPONSES**

**How should professional planners respond?**



# HOW CAN PLANNING VIEW PLACES OF WORSHIP?

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- / Institutional Use
- / Private Use
- / Community / Education Spaces
- / Provider of Community Services
- / Heritage Resource
- / Asset for “Aging in Place”
- / Venue for Socialization
- / Community Focal Point
- / Aesthetic Value
- / Provincial Interest (Ont.)
- / Traffic Generator
- / Tax-Exempt Land Use
- / Performance Space

# ONCE UPON A TIME

- / Geographic & Symbolic Focal Point
- / Multi-Modal Access
- / Limited Parking / Street Parking
- / Tallest Building



# HOW TIMES HAVE CHANGED...

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- / Declining Urban Congregations
- / Peripheral Areas
- / Private Vehicle (“Faith Commuters”)
- / Architectural Variety



# NEW APPROACHES

**Creative Solutions to New Problems**

# DEFINITIONS

<b>Conventional Approach</b>	<p>“A place of worship is...”</p>
<b>Innovative Approach</b>	<p>“A place of worship is... <b>and may include...</b>”</p> <p>Auxiliary vs. Accessory (integral to worship)</p> <p>Size criteria (community vs. institutional scale)</p>
<b>Challenge</b>	<p>Full range of uses?</p>





# SAMPLE DEFINITION:

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“A place or building or part thereof, **including accessory buildings or structures** that are used for the regular assembly of persons for the practice of religious worship, services or rites. It **may include accessory uses** such as classrooms for religious instruction, including programs of community social benefit, assembly areas, kitchens, offices for the administration of the place of worship, a single residence for the faith group leader, and a small-scale day nursery, but **shall not include** a cemetery or more than one dwelling unit.”

- Brampton, Ontario Zoning By-law

# POLICY APPROACH

<b>Conventional Approach</b>	General Permission
<b>Innovative Approach</b>	Specific Use Guidelines  Recognize Existing Typologies
<b>Challenge</b>	Permit in which policy designations?



# ADAPTIVE RE-USE

<b>Conventional Approach</b>	If a place has worship, it's a place of worship
<b>Innovative Approach</b>	Encouraging Mix of Uses  Conversions  New Uses (e.g. Performance Space, farmer's market)
<b>Challenge</b>	Loss of Institutional Space



# PARKING

<b>Conventional Approach</b>	Based on pews / seats
<b>Innovative Approach</b>	<p>Consideration of floor area (“per-person”)</p> <p>Worship Space vs. Auxiliary Uses</p> <p>Account for Different Behaviours</p> <p>Shared Parking</p>
<b>Challenge</b>	Too Much vs. Not Enough



# LOCATION

<b>Conventional Approach</b>	Private Use
<b>Innovative Approach</b>	Reserved Sites  Commercial / Storefront Sites  Early Consideration of Site Functionality
<b>Challenges</b>	Reserving the Right Site  Competition with Other Uses  Developer Unit Targets



# OUTREACH

<b>Conventional Approach</b>	Private Use  No Outreach  Standard Neighbourhood Consultation
<b>Innovative Approach</b>	Raise Awareness of Options  Adapted Consultation Techniques to Increase Comfort
<b>Challenges</b>	Competing Values & Priorities for All Parties  Interpreting Feedback



# KEY TAKEAWAYS

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- / Shift in religious participation in Canada
- / Key typologies emerging
- / Policies should be flexible to respond to changes in demographics and place of worship typologies
- / Policies should provide more direction for how places of worship can continue to function in a changing landscape

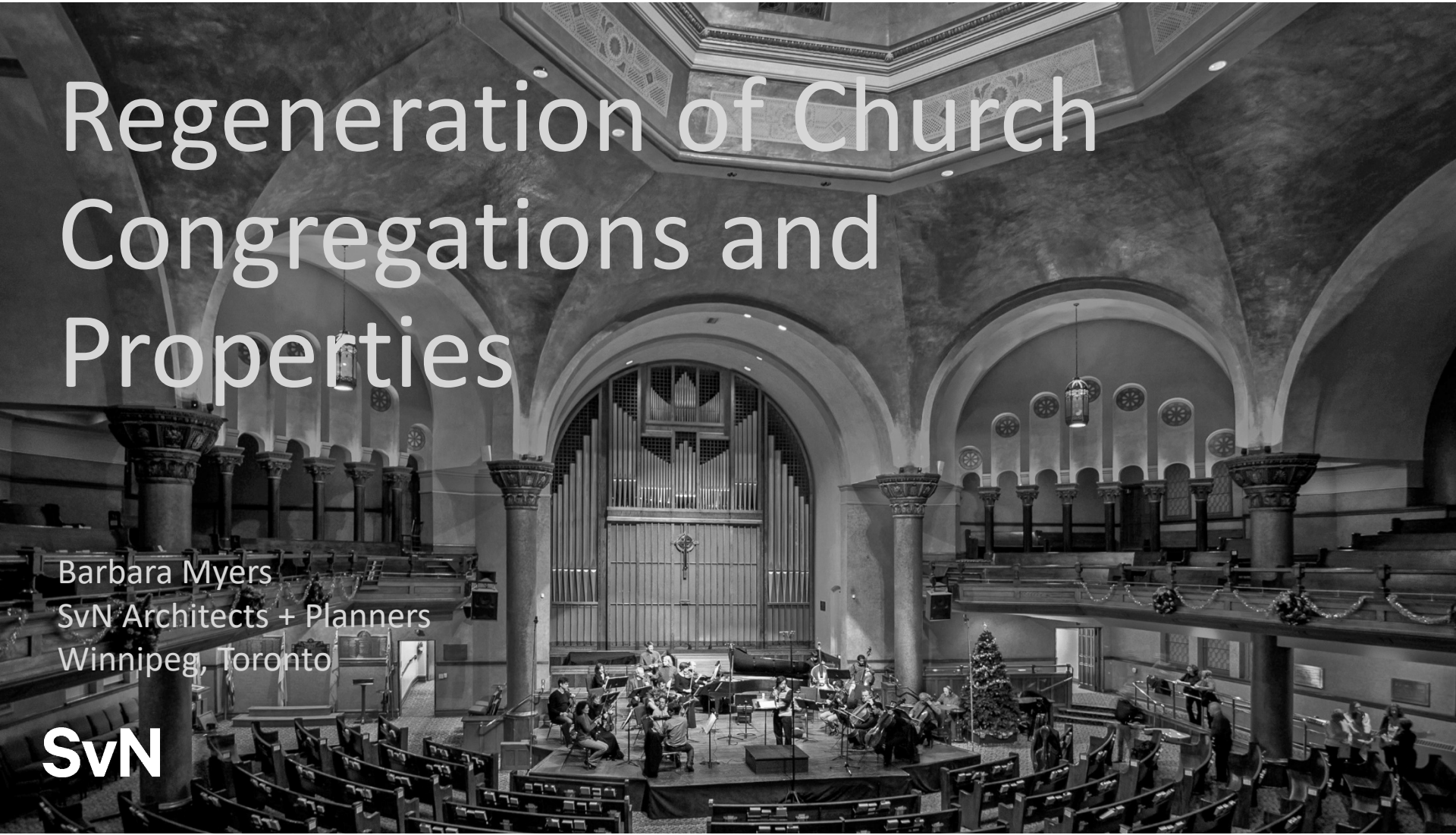




# Regeneration of Church Congregations and Properties

Barbara Myers  
SvN Architects + Planners  
Winnipeg, Toronto

**SvN**





St. Paul's United Church, Oakville, ON



The Church of St. Mary & St. Martha





Dominion-Chalmers United Church, Carleton University – Ottawa, ON



Grace Space





Augustine Centre, Augustine United Church, Winnipeg, MB





Westminster United Church





Immanuel Village, Immanuel United Church & Discovery Homes, Winnipeg, MB