

**St. Paul's United Church ~ Community of Faith**

*A spiritual hub for creativity, discovery and growth*

# Moving Forward Together

our Church ♦ our Community ♦ Our Journey



**2017-2022**

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## Our Mission

Our church is a welcoming, inclusive Christian community of faith on a journey that nurtures meaningful spiritual growth to make a difference in our lives and in our community.

## Our Vision

Moving forward towards a future in which St. Paul's is:

- Welcoming and affirming of all with respect to: race, gender, age, family status, cultural background, sexual identity, socio-economic status, faith tradition, mental or physical ability, accessibility
- A safe place where people can express and explore their spirituality through worship, discovery, service and outreach
- A nurturing community of belonging, friendship and fellowship for all generations
- Busy, vibrant and open for a wide range of church and community activities
- Appreciative of the time, talents and support by all
- Respectful of our heritage while embracing our future
- An appealing, accessible multi-purpose building
- Technologically up-to-date

## Our Values

At St. Paul's we value:

- Belonging, sharing, volunteering, friendship
- Practicing right relationships
- Spiritual practices, United Church traditions
- Creativity and innovation
- Openness and transparency
- Diversity
- Social justice
- Cultural heritage

## Our Plan for Moving Forward Together

**Our Mission:** Our church is a welcoming, inclusive Christian community of faith on a journey that nurtures meaningful spiritual growth to make a difference in our lives and in our community.

	<b>Celebrate Diversity</b>	<b>Foster Strong Communication</b>	<b>Engage Youth</b>	<b>Encourage Volunteerism</b>	<b>Spiritual Growth</b>	<b>Create a Sense of Place</b>	<b>Financial Sustainability</b>
<b>WEaving the Fabric of Our Future</b>	Build a community of faith that respects, celebrates and affirms the differences among us.	Foster strong communication between the church council, its teams, the congregation and the greater community.	Encourage youth to be active participants in the church and the broader community.	Encourage volunteerism, and recognize and thank all those who offer their time, talent and gifts to the life and work of St. Paul's.	Provide opportunities for spiritual growth for all ages, and foster a sense of connection, purpose and fulfillment in our lives.	Create a sense of place in the community that is safe, welcoming, open to all, physically accessible and appealing.	Ensure St. Paul's is financially sustainable over the long term through stewardship and careful money management.
<b>Examples of Possible Action Items</b>	<p>Form a hospitality group that reflects the diversity of the community to welcome newcomers.</p> <p>Use a variety of worship styles (non-traditional, youth-oriented etc).</p>	<p>Develop and implement a communication plan to raise our profile with the broader community.</p> <p>Advertise that we have space available for a wide range of community activities and events.</p> <p>Reach out to all generations.</p>	<p>Develop unique, relevant and engaging programs defined by and for youth.</p> <p>Provide energetic and enthusiastic leadership for youth programs.</p> <p>Develop a bursary program for students.</p>	<p>Identify the most pressing needs in the community (e.g. hunger, housing).</p> <p>Establish a plan and timeline for our involvement in community outreach, mission and service.</p> <p>Partner with other community organizations.</p> <p>Recognize the gifts and contributions of all volunteers and members.</p> <p>Encourage congregants to identify their talents, gifts' and special interests.</p>	<p>Use a variety of reflections and worship styles in Sunday services.</p> <p>Use art, dance and other forms of artistic expression for worship.</p> <p>Offer small groups to explore our spirituality and life journeys with one-another.</p> <p>Offer one-on-one spiritual mentoring.</p> <p>Learn more about other cultures and lifestyles (and religions?)</p>	<p>Upgrade our building and technology to meet future needs, while conserving the church's heritage attributes.</p> <p>Update the sanctuary for multiple uses.<sup>1</sup></p> <p>Make aesthetic improvements (e.g. paint, artistic expressions).</p> <p>Install a digital sign outside the church.</p>	Develop tools for spiritual and financial sustainability.

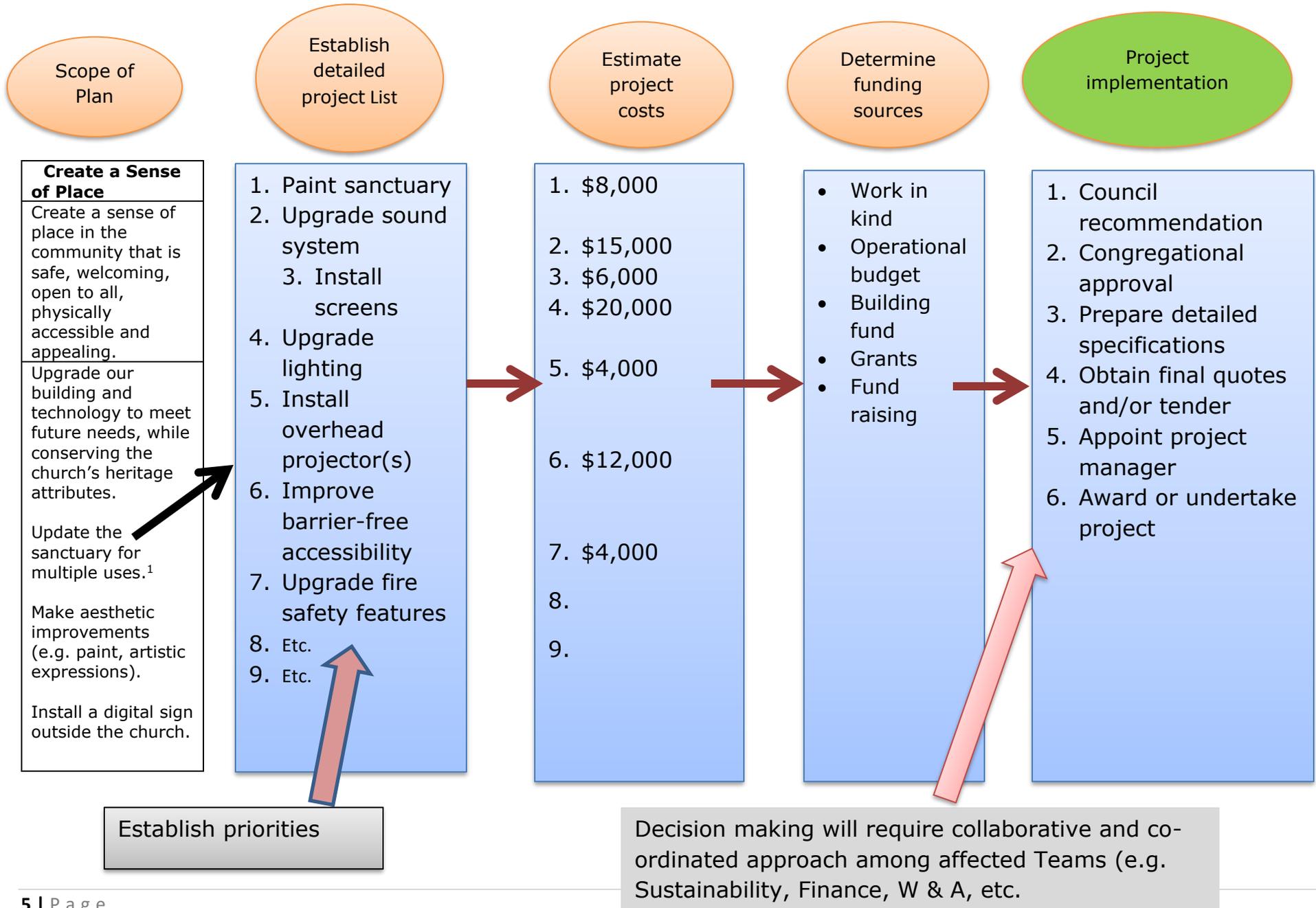
1. Multiple uses includes such things as worship, weddings, funerals, concerts, movies, and theatre. Upgrades include such things as sound and lighting, better accessibility, audio-visual equipment, painting, window repair and air conditioning.

## The Steps to Implementation

Moving Forward Together will be implemented through working together as a community of faith making the best use of our time, our energy, our talents and our financial resources. Implementation will require us to set some priorities for new projects while carrying on with many programs and activities that have been a part of who we are at St. Paul's for many years. The sketch sets out the basic steps of implementation.



# Detailed Steps of Implementation (example only)



## Strategic Directions & Objectives (Previous Version)

Area	Diversity & Inclusion	Communication	Youth	Volunteerism	Spiritual Exploration	Facilities	Sustainability
<b>Strategic Direction</b>	Enhance the diversity of our congregation by ensuring St. Paul's is welcoming to all.	Encourage a wide range of people and groups to use the church for a wide range of activities.	Encourage youth to be active participants in the church and the broader community.	Promote opportunities for community engagement and volunteerism.	Provide a variety of opportunities for personal growth, connection and spiritual exploration.	Modernize the building to accommodate a wide range of activities.	Ensure St. Paul's is sustainable as a hub of creativity, discovery and growth well into the future.
<b>Action Plan</b>	<p>Form a hospitality group that reflects the diversity of the community to welcome newcomers.</p> <p>Use a variety of worship styles (non-traditional, youth-oriented etc).</p>	<p>Develop and implement a communication plan to raise our profile with the broader community.</p> <p>Advertise that we have space available for a wide range of community activities and events.</p> <p>Reach out to all generations.</p>	<p>Develop unique, relevant and engaging programs defined by and for youth.</p> <p>Provide energetic and enthusiastic leadership for youth programs.</p> <p>Develop a bursary program for students.</p>	<p>Identify the most pressing needs in the community (e.g. hunger, housing).</p> <p>Establish a plan and timeline for our involvement in community outreach, mission and service.</p> <p>Partner with other community organizations (e.g. YAK, The Table).</p> <p>Recognize the gifts and contributions of all volunteers and members.</p> <p>Encourage congregants to identify their talents, gifts' and special interests.</p>	<p>Use a variety of reflections and worship styles in Sunday services.</p> <p>Use art, dance and other forms of artistic expression for worship.</p> <p>Offer small groups to explore our spirituality and life journeys with one-another.</p> <p>Offer one-on-one spiritual mentoring.</p> <p>Learn more about other cultures and lifestyles.</p>	<p>Update the sanctuary for multiple uses.<sup>1</sup></p> <p>Make aesthetic improvements (e.g. paint, artistic expressions).</p> <p>Install a digital sign outside the church.</p>	Develop tools for spiritual and financial sustainability.
<p>1. Multiple uses includes such things as worship, weddings, funerals, concerts, movies, and theatre. Upgrades include such things as sound and lighting, better accessibility, audio-visual equipment, painting, window repair and air conditioning.</p>							