

# TRANSFORMING FUTURES

## Readers Digest Version

### Sanctuary

Setting up our hall as a sanctuary when needed. This might simply be chairs, and tables and some cool drinks and a snack. It may require, sleeping facilities, which would need showers, partitions and cots.

### Education and Communication

These programs need an organizer or coordinator who works with the community and the parish to publicize, sell tickets, or book space. Educational programs provide



an opportunity to fully utilize our hall spaces and create a sustainable income.

We may be able to encourage creative young people to get involved with Web site or video editing and production. Reaching many people through Social Media.

### Six Options

Your TF team has been working hard to improve the congregation's understanding of the Transforming Futures project. The team has designed this short description of each option to help people discern which is the best option for Saint Peter Quamichan.

#### Sanctuary

The summers are getting hotter. Forest fires are increasing. Some people in the Cowichan Valley are finding it stressful. They have very few contacts in the community. Some may have respiratory problems and may need a break from the smoke. They may not have air conditioning. This can be a time to mingle with others for spiritual and emotional engagements. They may just need a quiet place to contemplate.



#### Education and Communication

COVID-19 has provided the parish of St. Peter with a wake-up call and with golden opportunities for improvement and expansion of our communication tools and educational programs. We need to become more user friendly with the digital world, from simple things like paying bills and making donations to creating a vibrant useable website, streaming live services, and providing educational opportunities for parishioners and community members.

If we just look at one aspect of providing education to others, we see Messy Church. A program already active at St. Peter. In addition to that our facilities are able to provide space for other parent and child programs, programs that address current social issues such as drug use, homelessness, money management, etc.

#### Alternate Energy

Our church spends about \$9000 per year on energy. We are working hard to reduce these costs by upgrading our heating systems and

## Alternate Energy

- Change from natural gas to heat pumps.
- Purchasing Renewable Natural gas
- Reducing our carbon tax.
- Upgrading our lighting to LED
- Consider Solar electricity
- Batteries or Generators

## Green and Growing

### Community Garden.

This will encourage local growing. Its a great place for people to meet. It will promote local grown healthy food. The excess given to food banks.

### Urban Farming.

Urban farming would employ several people creating organic, year round high quality food for restaurants and home use. Urban farming would bring in much needed income into the parish.

## One Stop Shop



changing our lighting. It is possible for Saint Peter to generate enough energy from the sunshine that falls on our buildings to supply all our needs. Should we invest in solar energy? This would fix our costs at 1/2 our current expense for the next 35 years. Should we consider a backup generator for the times when the power is out for more than a few hours, in the case of a major disaster? In spite of COVID, climate change has not gone away and Saint Peter should do all it can to help reduce our impact on the environment.

## Green and Growing

Vancouver Island only produces about 10% of the food we eat. Our food security is dependent on many factors. It is interesting how the COVID 19 pandemic has impacted our meat packing and fruit packing plants. We have political uncertainty in the United States. Our borders where closed to nonessential travel. What would have happened if the US had decided to completely close them?

One way to enhance our food security is with community gardens. We have room for this on Saint Peter's property. This will allow local people who live in apartments and townhouses to set up garden plots. The plots are rented by the season and produce a modest income for the parish.

Another option is Urban Farming. In this option people are employed to work the farm. Church land or nearby house lots can be used.

The idea is to maximize productivity in a small area. This option could deliver a substantial income to the parish. There would be a greater startup cost than the Community Garden and less community input.

It is possible to do both Community Gardening and Urban Farming at the same time.



## One Stop Shop

Thirty one percent of children in Duncan are living in poverty . Forty seven per cent of status First Nations children in Canada live in poverty. B.C. has the highest child poverty rate in Canada.

Poverty and homelessness are the biggest social issues in the Cowichan Valley. These people currently have access to a number of different organizations that provide a range of supports. Can Saint Peter be instrumental in bringing all these organizations together under a single roof. We want, with other churches and agencies, to

## One Stop Shop



## Housing sustainability

Picture a 3 story building, on the NE corner of our lot, with two lower floors of 40 suites sized like Crescent Homes, all facing onto a central garden setting.

Commercial rentals will be needed to fortify the subsidized rents and ensure the mortgage gets paid. Place a convenience store and daycare on opposite ends of the ground floor. The 3<sup>rd</sup> floor would be all commercial, a bistro, a gardened breeze way gathering area, 2 meeting rooms, 2 offices, and a large multifunction hall for public gatherings like weddings, quilters, yoga, guides, scouts, an emergency shelter in case of local floods or forest fires, or possibly used as alternate worship space. All under grassed simple shed roof like our local VIU campus.

provide a drop-in centre for some of Duncan’s most economically disenfranchised people: people who struggle with homelessness, mental illness, addiction, and other challenges.



A One-Stop-Shop where all their needs could be met. Food, clothing, shelter, spiritual and pastoral care. Room to develop relationships to help foster social inclusion. Health consultations with a registered nurse.

Shelter, toilets, showers, a gathering hub, laundry services, phone charging, basic life skills training, 12 Step Groups and referral to Mental Health services, Foot Clinic, Food Bank, etc.

### Housing Sustainability

You asked for more low income housing for seniors and the physically handicapped. The Cowichan Valley has a huge housing need, while BC and Feds have incentives. The major impediment is finding land. We have land. Our Queen of England too has land, she doesn’t sell, she loans it as a leasehold.

Remember St John the Evangelist Anglican in Ladysmith? That plot will soon have 36 units to aid moderate income families, seniors, and persons with a development disability. If our new Bishop agrees, the diocese will loan the land in return for paying the annual maintenance expenses of the church, grounds, and cemetery.

We need your permission to find similar minded Valley organizations, searching out housing initiatives. With demonstrated local support from the Rotary, other churches and the CVRD



helping with a \$25K grant, the committee can commission a professional application to meet BC and Canada funding requirements. Like St John the Evangelist, it may take several years to be built.

# TRANSFORMING FUTURES

## Voting Form

**The Transforming Futures team has;**

- Reviewed Saint Peter’s recent Visioning exercises;
- Evaluated the primary needs of the church and the Cowichan Valley as a whole;
- Reached out to other organizations that may have complimentary goals; and
- Researched technologies that could enhance our future goals.

After looking at all of your feedback, the Transforming Futures Teams developed six options that will meet some or all of the goals of our transformed future. We now need input from the parish to decide which of these the parish would like to pursue. In non-COVID times we might do this at an annual parish meeting. Instead we are using YouTube, email and mail to do the same thing.

Please consider the information provide here and in the video. You will be able to vote on November 22, at either of the Sunday services or by using the form below.

**Please Mark any Two Options you Favour.**

OPTION	VOTE
Sanctuary	
Education and Communication	
Alternate Energy	
Green and Growing	
One Stop Shop	
Housing Sustainability	

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