

Ministry Room Renovation Update

September 6, 2026

Church Family,

One of the unexpected opportunities that has come out of the fire is the chance to make some significant improvements to our building while we are displaced. While insurance is repairing what was damaged, we have been asking a bigger question: How can we use this opportunity to create a space that will serve our church really well for years to come?

Bathroom Upgrade: Meeting a Desperate Need

If you were part of Fort George before the fire, you know our main-floor bathrooms were simply not adequate for a church of our size. On a typical Sunday we could have around 200 people gathering for worship—with only two bathroom stalls available on the main floor. Beyond the inconvenience, our existing washroom facilities did not meet current code requirements for a gathering space of our size.

We are excited to say that this is changing!

The renovated space will include five individual washrooms, each with its own toilet and sink. One will be a fully accessible washroom, including an adult change table, and another will be designed with parents and infants in mind, including a baby change table. The entire space will be fresh, bright, accessible, and designed to accommodate the number of people God has been bringing through our doors. This is an upgrade we have needed for a long time, and we are thrilled to finally be able to make it happen.

The Ministry Room: Creating Space for Community

The second part of the project is about more than renovating a room. It is about intentionally creating space for Christian community.

We have learned something interesting during our time at the Playhouse. Before the fire, it was common for people to still be standing around the Ministry Room talking an hour after the service ended. At the Playhouse, that rarely happens. In fact, our lock-up crew can sometimes leave within 15 minutes of the service finishing.

Part of the difference is simply the space. The Playhouse is an excellent facility for what it was designed to do: people arrive, watch a production, and then leave. It wasn't designed as a place where people naturally linger, grab a coffee, sit down, and spend time together. That has reminded us of something important: Christian fellowship is not an optional perk of church—it is a central part of following Jesus together. A room cannot create community, but we can create spaces that make community easier and more natural.

That is the vision behind the Ministry Room update.

We will be replacing the old fluorescent lighting—including several fixtures that had already burned out—with new lighting throughout the room. We are also creating a comfortable seating area and installing a new coffee and welcome bar that will include a sink, dishwasher, fridge, and storage.

This will also give us something we have needed for a long time: functional kitchen space on the main floor. Our basement kitchen worked extremely well when our meals and gatherings happened downstairs. Now that these events increasingly happen on the main floor, this new space will make potlucks, fellowship meals, receptions, and other church functions much easier to host.

What Will This Cost?

The total budget for these improvements is approximately \$100,000. This is a significant investment, but we believe it is an investment that will serve our church for many years to come.

The bathroom rough-in plumbing has been quoted at approximately \$25,000, with another \$10,000 needed to finish the washrooms. New lighting will cost around \$10,000. The coffee and welcome bar is estimated at \$25,000, the seating area at \$10,000, and appliances at approximately \$10,000. The remaining amount provides for the many smaller materials and incidental costs that come with a project of this size.

We are also hoping to bring that total down. There are a number of parts of this project where volunteers from our church can provide labour, reducing the amount we need to spend while giving us the opportunity to build this space together.

Some of these improvements are necessary. Others are things we are choosing to do because we believe this is a unique opportunity. While our building is already closed and under construction, we have the chance not merely to put things back the way they were, but to ask: What kind of space will help us become the church God is calling us to be?

Our hope is that when we finally walk back through those doors, we won't simply be returning to the building we left. We will be coming home to a space that is better equipped for worship, hospitality, fellowship, and ministry for years to come.

We are incredibly excited to see it come together!

Come See the Progress!

We would love to invite you to a **Fundraising Dessert Night on Tuesday, September 29 at 6:30 p.m.** at the church. Come enjoy dessert together, walk through the Ministry Room, and see firsthand what has already been accomplished and what still needs to be done. We'll share more about the vision for the finished space and give you an opportunity to help us bring this project across the finish line. We would love to see you there!

Please RSVP using our church app here

