

# THE FIRST 100

## BOLD VISION

In 1920, a courageous group of Christians gathered on the southern edge of Kansas City to form a new congregation. Their bold vision began above the drug store in Brookside and quickly grew into a church of 4,000 members worshipping in a brand new sanctuary they built at 61st Street and Ward Parkway. The Spirit of God has been revealed in this community through:

- Commitment to global, local and international missions and service
- Open minded thinking about God's presence in the world and a welcoming place for all people
- Forming the faith of children and youth
- Spiritual guidance and strong friendship for adults
- Dynamic preaching and stellar music ministry

## SPIRITUAL HOME

What is now a spiritual home both to our members and the wider community comprises five buildings renovated over 100 years. The church broke ground on the center building in 1921, added the sanctuary in 1926, the education wing in 1951, and the youth center in 1969. The chapel was built in 1962 as a place to embrace all people, regardless of spiritual background, and welcomed voices from different faith traditions in the first week of its opening.

## HOSPITALITY AND GRACE

In addition to serving and inspiring its members, the church has extended God's hospitality to thousands through its preschool, wedding ministry, and scouting ministry. The grace of God has been proclaimed through voices of world renowned theologians in our pulpit, and weekly broadcasts of sermons on radio, live stream and podcasts. In times of grief and sorrow, God's hospitality is revealed through funerals and support groups. The 2014 exterior restoration secured the safety and beauty of the façade, creating a welcome not only for those who pass by but a wonderful place for outdoor worship.



# THE NEXT 100

## BOLD VISION

As we celebrate our 100th anniversary, we have the opportunity to claim a bold vision for our shared future. Although Kansas City looks different today than it did in 1920, God's call to love and serve each other and the wider community has not changed. As we stand at this historic juncture, what bold steps might we take to proclaim the good news of God's love for today, and empower future generations to experience the life changing presence of God in our midst?



## SPIRITUAL HOME

To live into a bold vision, we need to address challenges that exist in our spiritual home so that we may more effectively serve and connect with coming generations.

## HOSPITALITY AND GRACE

We have the opportunity to make the interior of the church as hospitable as the exterior, to create an entrance on the East side that is welcoming and inviting, and a building that is safe and prepared for ministry in the future.



# CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

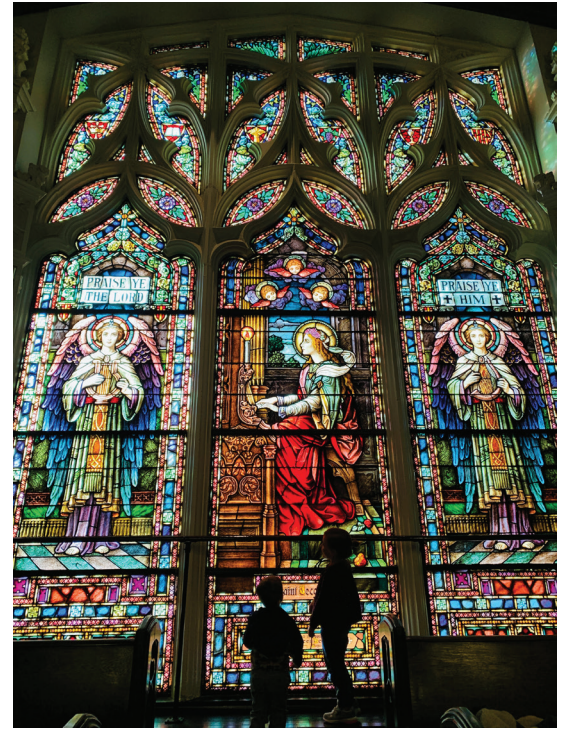
Now is the time for us to pass on a legacy of faith to the next generation. Together, we can follow in the footsteps of our founders whose courage to build a place to welcome all into a spiritual home with hospitality and grace inspires us. To do so, we have identified the following areas of challenge and opportunity.

1. **WELCOME.** The main entrance six days a week is tucked in the back alleyway behind the playground and difficult for visitors to find. Creating an East Main Entry, exterior pedestrian plaza, and lobby will allow us to truly welcome all and become a central community asset.
2. **ACCESSIBILITY.** One outdated elevator makes it difficult to move between the sanctuary, social hall and other gathering spaces. To increase utilization of the building by the community and allow for growth of our congregation, we propose replacing the existing elevator and adding two more; adding an east entry to the social hall from a pedestrian plaza; creating a drop-off area on 61st Street; and updating sound and lighting and visual capabilities.
3. **SAFETY.** The building lacks an interior sprinkler system and other safety features. Improvements include a sprinkler system throughout; emergency safety systems; and door closures to children's areas.
4. **ENVIRONMENTAL.** The HVAC and other mechanical systems are dated, inefficient and costly to run and maintain. Updating or replacing aging mechanical and electrical systems will improve energy efficiency and sustainability, reducing future operating costs.
5. **CHILDREN AND YOUTH SPACES.** We have a wait list of dozens of children in our Parents Day Out program but we lack adequate space to expand this ministry. In addition, the children's area needs to be made more secure for improved safety. The children's and youth ministry spaces have been partially renovated but need additional updates to facilitate a growing program. Adding two new classrooms will expand and improve the preschool and parents day out program. Updating existing classrooms allows us to implement programs such as a neighborhood service corps for teenagers, and to grow our ministry with families.
6. **ADULT CONNECTIONS.** Our large social spaces such as the parlor and social hall are often too small for weddings, funerals, dinners and other special events, and we have no spaces for an emerging small group ministry to meet. The kitchen was built for an outdated model of food service. Renovating the social hall and parlor and adding small group meeting spaces will create opportunities for growth in our small group ministry, for launching programs such as a dinner church, and hosting opportunities for community events and concerts.
7. **MISSION.** As we take care of our own spiritual home, we can also provide safe homes for others. By partnering with strong community organizations, we can assist in constructing new affordable, low-income homes for some of the most vulnerable households in Northeast Kansas City. These residents are often negatively affected by the housing-rental market policies and practices. By helping to provide these homes, families can have economic security, stability of children, and a new opportunity to move into self-sufficiency.

# NEXT STEPS

The Centennial Steering Committee was appointed by the Chairman of the Church Board in 2018. Led by chairpersons Peter and Lesley Holt, and Kay Barnes and Tom Van Dyke, honorary chairs, the Steering Committee includes a Gifts Committee, a History Committee, an Events Committee and Building Committee and a Mission Subcommittee. An architect was hired to create a master plan for the building beginning with a review of the mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems and to access safety needs.

To meet the challenges and opportunities before us, we have partnered with Horizons Stewardship, who will be conducting a Feasibility Study. Their report will provide insights that will help us to determine the next steps that we will take on the journey that lies ahead. Horizons will also empower us to grow our Endowment Program, which has provided a place for many to invest in our church's future beyond their own life, and with sustained growth, is vital to our goals for the next 100 years of ministry.



## BUDGET ESTIMATE

WELCOME	Main Entrance/Plaza/Lobby	\$4,716,177
ACCESSIBILITY	Elevators/Social Hall Entry	\$2,348,821
CHILDREN AND YOUTH SPACES		\$2,751,099
CONNECTIONS	Social Hall/Parlor/Kitchen/Small Group Spaces	\$9,313,549
MISSION INITIATIVE	Affordable Housing in Northeast KC	\$500,000
TARGET OVERALL		\$19,629,645