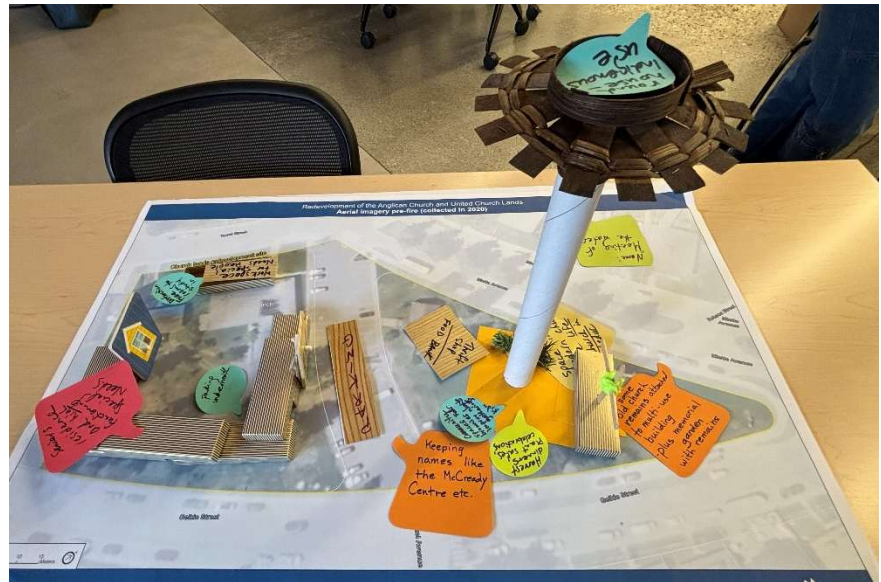




What We Heard Report

Church Sites Redevelopment

August 2026

Land Acknowledgement

The Town of Jasper respectfully acknowledges that we live, work, and gather in a beautiful valley where three rivers meet - this place we cherish is Treaty 6 and Treaty 8 territory, and within the Jasper House Métis District. For generations, this land has been a place of movement and connection - a meeting ground, gathering place, travelling route, home and ancestral burial grounds for the Dane-zaa, Aseniwuche Winewak, As'ini'wa'chi Ni'yaw, Nêhiyawak, Anishinaabe, Secwépemc, and Îyethka Nakoda Wîcastabi along with Mountain Métis and Métis peoples. We honour and recognize these deep and enduring relationships with the land - relationships that continue today and have existed since time immemorial.

Contents

- 1 Introduction 1**
 - 1.1 Background 1
 - 1.2 Memorandum of Understanding..... 1
 - 1.3 The purpose of engagement..... 1
 - 1.4 The site 2
- 2 Who we heard from 3**
- 3 What we heard 4**
 - 3.1 How **did the church sites contribute** to community life in Jasper? 4
 - 3.2 How **could the church sites serve** the community of Jasper into the future? 6
 - 3.3 What is **possible** on the church sites? 8
 - 3.4 3D models of what is possible..... 10
- 4 Themes of possibilities 25**
- 5 Next steps 25**

1 Introduction

1.1 Background

The 2024 Jasper Wildfire destroyed the Anglican Church and United Church structures located at 301 Miette Avenue and 701 Turret Street. These sites were important gathering places for many in Jasper. Interim housing units were temporarily placed on the United Church lands in 2026 to house displaced Jasperites.

1.2 Memorandum of Understanding

The Anglican Church, United Church, and Municipality of Jasper signed a Memorandum of Understanding in 2026 to explore redevelopment opportunities of the church lands. The churches and the Municipality recognize that redevelopment involves an opportunity to work together to:

- Rebuild a worship space
- Develop community infrastructure and housing
- Develop a sustainable financial model that is a gift to future generations
- Honor the history and legacy of the churches in the Jasper community
- Honor the tragedy of the 2024 wildfire

1.3 The purpose of engagement

The results of the engagement will support the Anglican Church, United Church and the Municipality of Alberta as they decide how to proceed with the redevelopment of the church lands.

1.4 The site

The lands within the boundary on the map below were the focus of engagement in June 2026. The Anglican Church and the United Church are leaseholders, and the parking area in the center is municipally controlled.



2 Who we heard from

In June, Jasperites explored three questions:

- How did the Anglican Church and the United Church sites contribute to community life in Jasper?
- How could the Anglican Church and the United Church sites serve community needs?
- What is possible on the church sites?

46 individuals participated in the workshops.

Two public workshops were hosted in the Quorum Room of the Jasper Municipal Library. In general, the majority of participants appeared to be Caucasian and over the age of 50.

Workshop 1 29 people attended	Workshop 2 17 people attended
Date: Thursday, June 18, 2026 Time: 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM	Date: Friday, June 19, 2026 Time: 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM

9 individuals contributed to the online public forum.

An online public forum was hosted on Engage Jasper to collect ideas of individuals unable to attend a workshop. The forum was active from June 5, 2026, to July 5, 2026.

3 individuals shared their input in other ways.

One individual prepared a model of the site and shared it at the workshop on June 18. The individual also shared a Conceptual Design Study they had prepared for the reconstruction of the St. Mary and St. George Anglican Church.

One individual shared their ideas through a letter.

One individual shared their digital model of a 2024 wildfire memorial through an email.



Image of a 3D model created by workshop participants.

3 What we heard

3.1 How did the church sites contribute to community life in Jasper?

Input received through the workshops, online public forum, model submissions, and letter/email submissions are summarized into the following themes.

Ceremonies

- Baptisms and confirmations
- Blanket ceremonies
- Celebrations of life and death
- Weddings and receptions

Community safety and emergency response

- Community muster point
- Emergency center
- Refugee assistance

Gathering space

- Elections space
- Low overhead rental space
- McCready Centre was a functional space and easy to keep clean
- Rental space for groups such as AA Meetings, Bible Study, Book Studies, Friends of Jasper National Park, Lions Club, Social Connection Teas, and Tia Chi
- Rental space for private events such as birthday parties and family gatherings
- School groups stayed overnight in the McCready Centre

Faith/worship space

- Church services, including Christmas and Easter services
- Housing for church leaders
- Place of worship and a spiritual space for people to gather
- Sunday School

Food gatherings, programs, and supports

- Community kitchen and cooking classes
- Jasper Food Bank and Jasper Food Recovery Program
- Group meals such as pancake breakfasts, harvest dinners, and Christmas tea

History

- Historical and architectural points of interest
- Reflection of history through heritage plaques, memorial windows, and tributes to Edith Cavell and the Queen

Music and art space

- Concerts, music recitals, performing arts, and community choir
- Incredible acoustics
- Music lessons

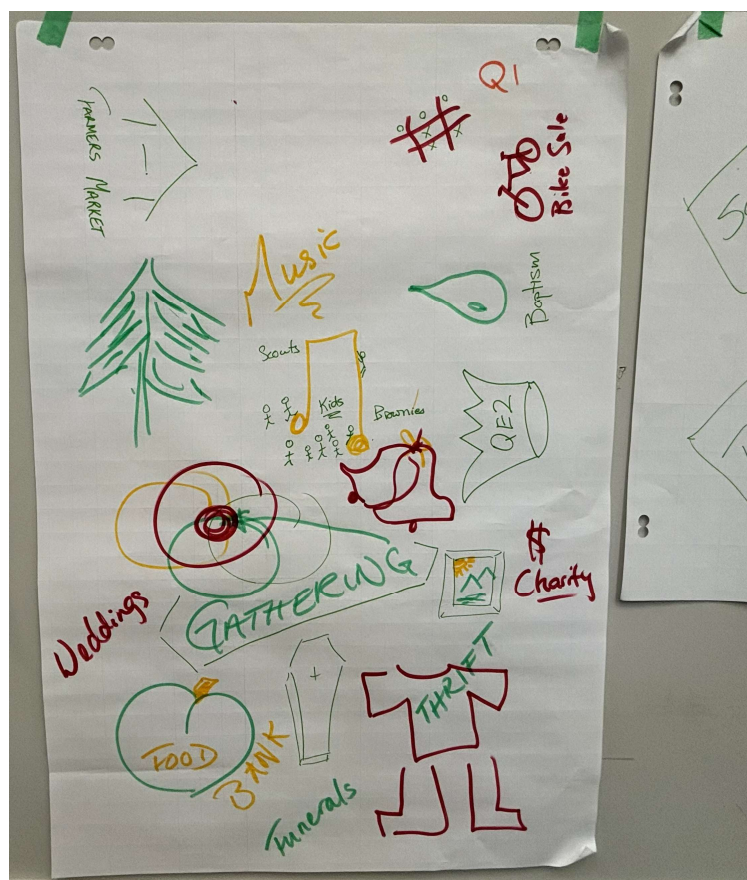
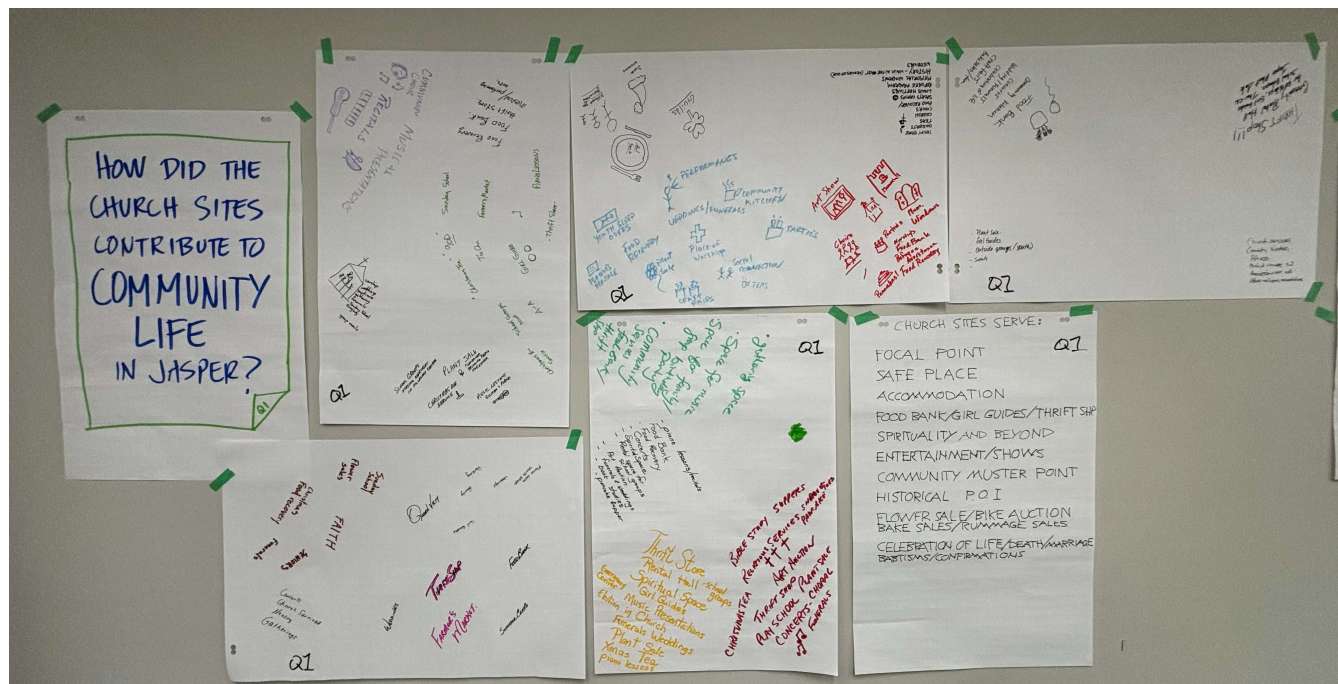
Sales of community goods

- Art auctions and craft fairs
- Farmers Market and bake sales
- Plant sale fundraiser brought people together
- Rummage sales and bike sales
- Jasper United Thrift Shop

Youth programs and groups

- Brownies, Girl Guides, Cubs and Scouts
- Fiddle camp and sports/summer camp
- Learning playroom for special needs individuals
- Play school and drama classes

What We Heard Report | Church Site Redevelopment



"Both churches served the community in valuable ways"

"McCready Centre was invaluable for many groups"

"I miss both places very much"

"The Anglican Church was a unique structure in Jasper"

"Performances were held at the church because of its incredible acoustics and beautiful space"

Online public forum comments

Images of chart paper from both workshops.

3.2 How could the church sites serve the community of Jasper into the future?

Input received through the workshops, online public forum, model submissions, and letter/email submissions are summarized into the following themes.

Arts and entertainment space

- Movie theatre
- Theatre for performing arts, musicals, and exhibits
- Permanent stage/conference style facility

Community centre

- Design considerations for accessibility, acoustics, lighting, accordion seating (like the Performing Arts Theatre of Hinton), and easy to clean floors
- Maintain the McCready Centre name
- Multi-functional rental space that could be reconfigured for different purposes such as funerals, weddings, and AA meetings (example facility is the Spire in Kingston, Ontario)
- Multi-generational gathering space with meeting rooms
- Seniors' society space with classes

Community supports and programs

- Share shop
- Thrift shop
- Women's shelter

Faith and spiritual space

- Place of worship for all denominations
- Religious services
- Spiritual space

Food gatherings, programs, and supports

- Commercial kitchen space for weddings, funerals, teas, and community meals
- Jasper Food Bank and Jasper Food Recovery Program

Housing

- Affordable housing
- Nightly rental rooms with adjustable beds
- Seniors' housing that is accessible, non-profit, and designed for comfortable living, with features such as balconies, elevator access, and underground parking
- Two-bedroom apartments for seniors and young families

Memorial

- Fire memorial garden
- Shrine made from original stone structure

Music

- Music centre for concerts and music lessons

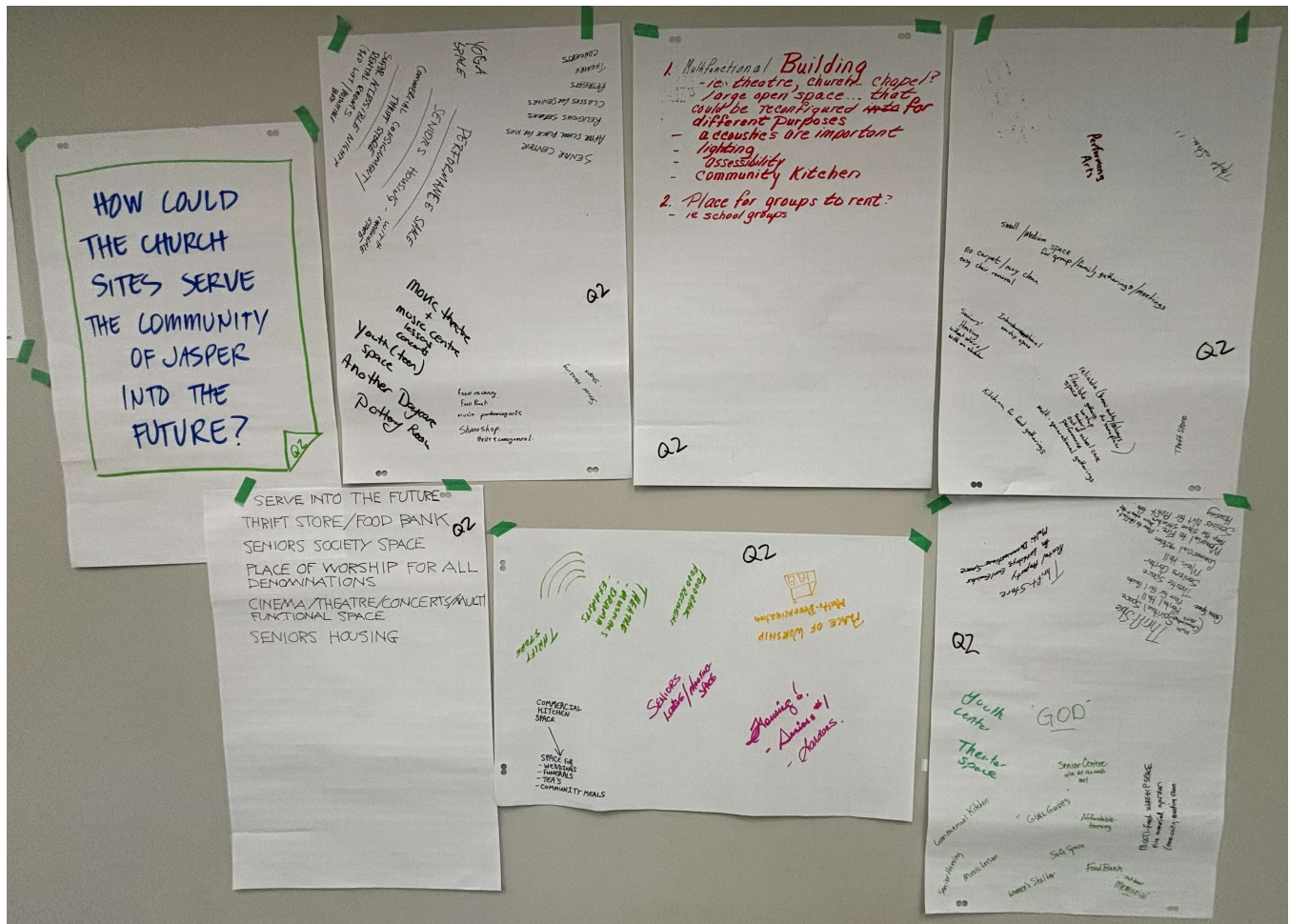
Recreation

- Green space
- Pottery room
- Yoga space

Youth programs and groups

- Ballet and Girl Guides
- Daycare and after school place for youth
- School groups accommodations
- Teen space

What We Heard Report | Church Site Redevelopment

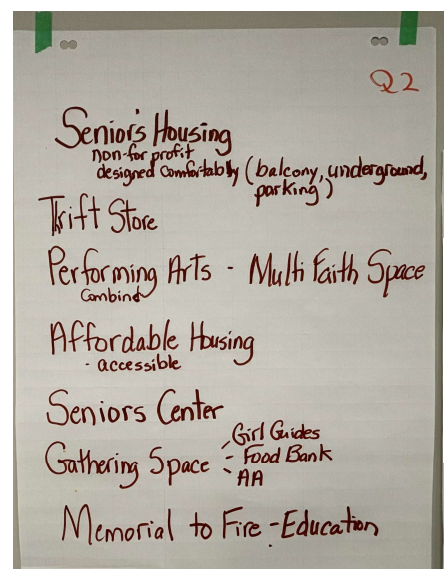


"A performing arts centre would be a wonderful opportunity to bring our community together for joy, healing, and happiness"

"A gathering place to celebrate and gather - with a kitchen."

"Jasper needs a performance space where chairs don't have to put away every night"

Online public forum comments



Images of chart paper from both workshops.

3.3 What is possible on the church sites?

Input received through the workshops, online public forum, model submissions, and letter/email submissions are summarized into the following themes.

Arts and music

- Multi-purpose flexible theatre and performing arts space for drama groups, music lessons, art gallery, concerts, movies, musicals, and schools

Community centre

- Designed for universal and wheelchair access
- Meeting space like the McCreedy Centre
- Multi-purpose community centre with a commercial kitchen, seniors lounge, hobby rooms (wood shop, sewing, and arts), and meeting rooms
- Place for yoga and cooking classes

Community supports

- AA meetings
- Safe house and women's shelter

Faith and spiritual space

- Multi-denominational place of worship
- Spiritual space
- Religious services

Food

- Commercial kitchen
- Jasper Food Bank and Jasper Food Recovery Program

Gatherings

- Birthday parties
- Community tea
- Social space for all ages

Housing

- Affordable housing
- Co-op housing for individuals with special needs that includes work spaces
- Housing for all
- Rental rooms to accommodate groups visiting
- Seniors' housing that is accessible and non-profit

Memorial

- Commemorative space around the stone pillars
- Memorial garden about the disaster

Parking

- Covered or underground parking

Recreation

- Gardens
- Yoga space

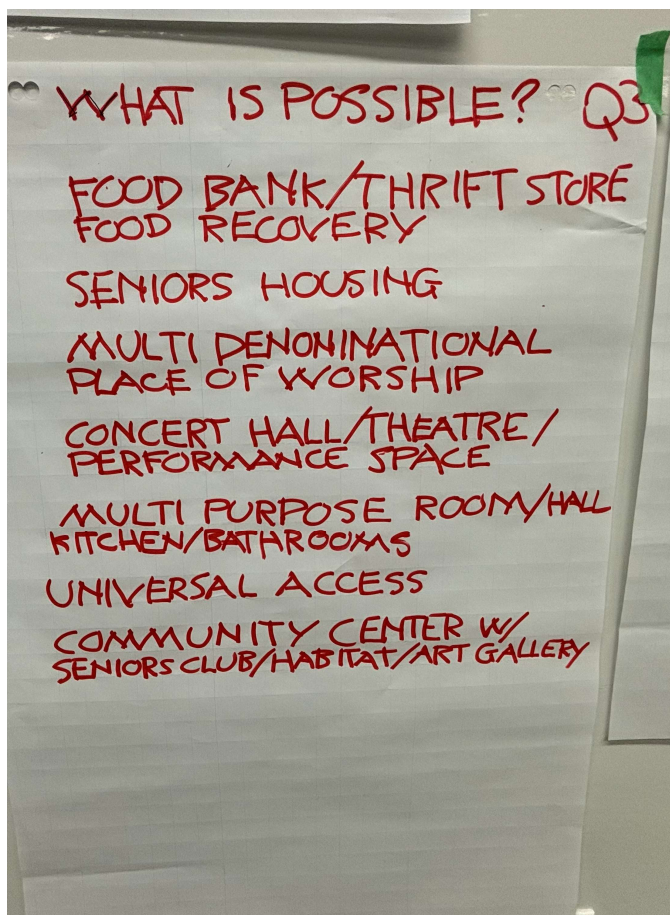
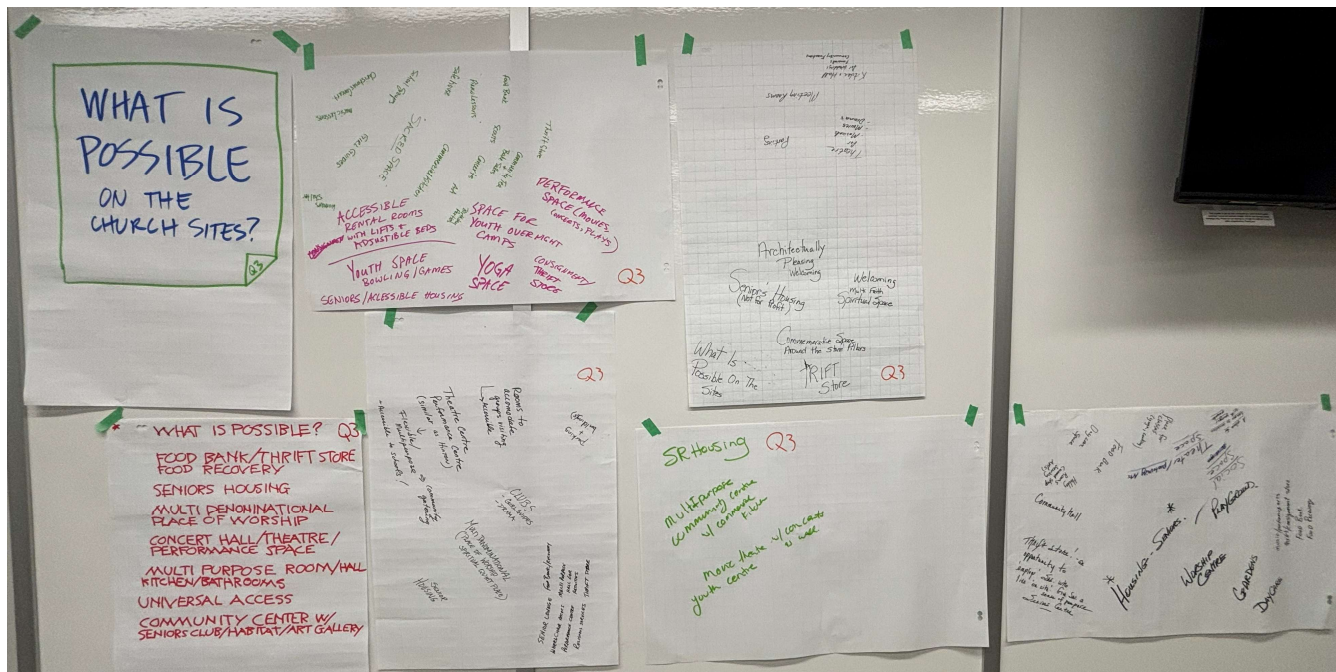
Sales of community goods

- Bake sales
- Thrift store

Youth programs and events

- Daycare and playground
- Girl Guides and Scouts
- Space for youth overnight camps
- Youth centre with games and bowling

What We Heard Report | Church Site Redevelopment



"Whatever is built needs to serve the whole community."

"Should the lands be repurposed to provide housing, I encourage decision-makers to think beyond only seniors or families with young children."

"A cultural center and a place to bring people together in body, mind and soul."

"We do need affordable living spaces, affordable because they are small and well-designed."

Online public forum comments

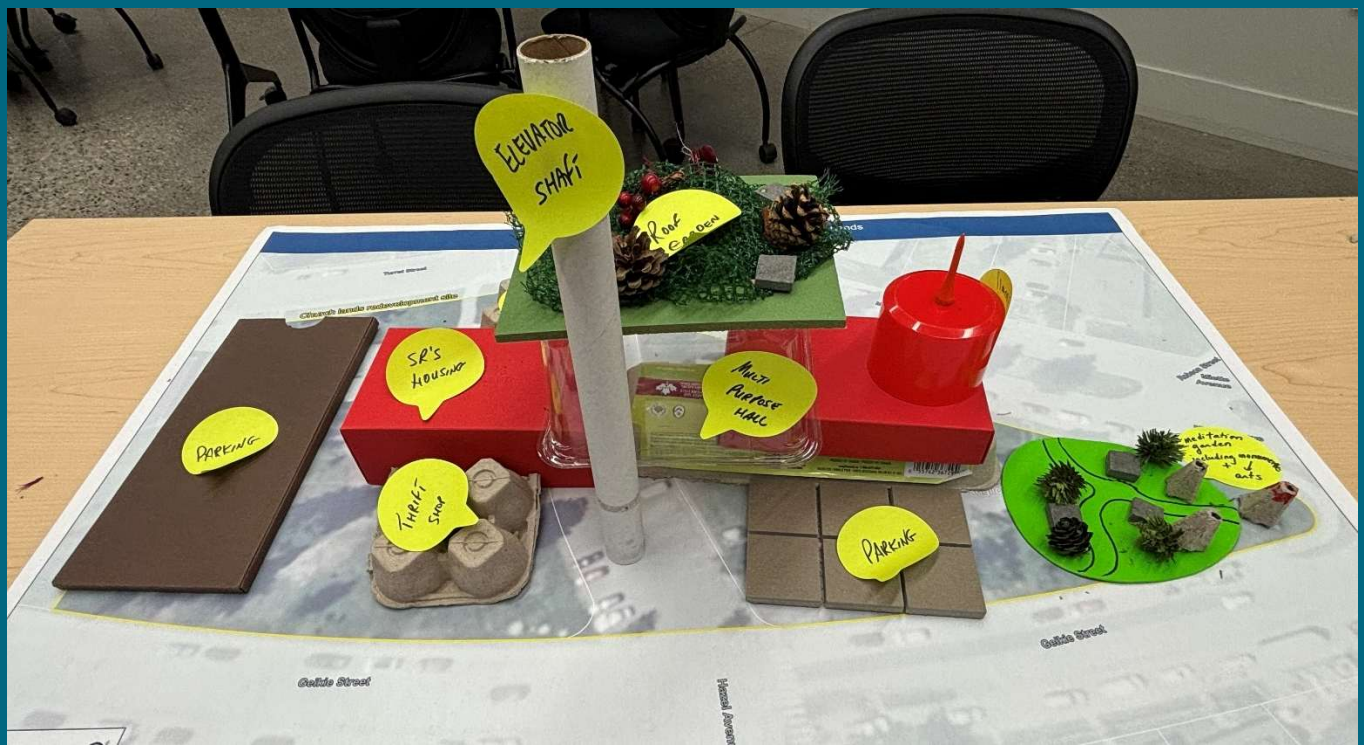
Images of chart paper from both workshops.

3.4 3D models of what is possible

Workshop participants were tasked with creating 3D models using recycled materials to show how the church site can serve the community into the future. A total of 10 models were created across both workshops. One additional model was prepared ahead of time and delivered to the Thursday workshop. One digital model of a memorial to the 2024 wildfire and Morgan Kitchen was shared.

Images and descriptions of each model are provided below.

Model 1



This model includes the following:

- Meditation garden including monuments and art
- Multi-purpose hall with an elevator and a roof garden
- Parking
- Seniors' housing
- Small chapel (weddings and funerals)
- Thrift shop

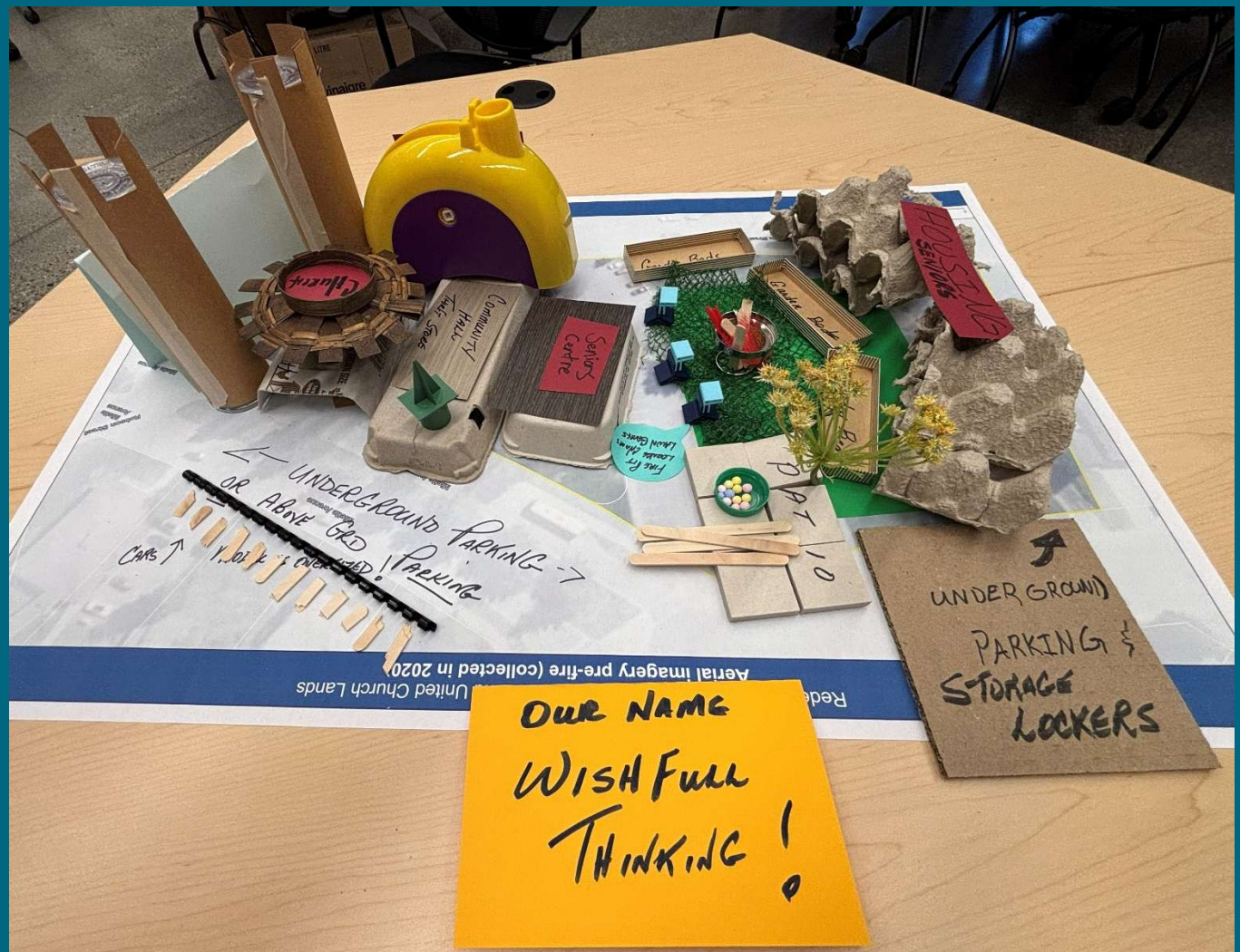
Model 2 - A Place for Everyone



This model includes the following:

- Food bank and thrift store
- Memorial outdoor heated theatre
- Parking
- Place of worship
- Seniors' and accessible housing

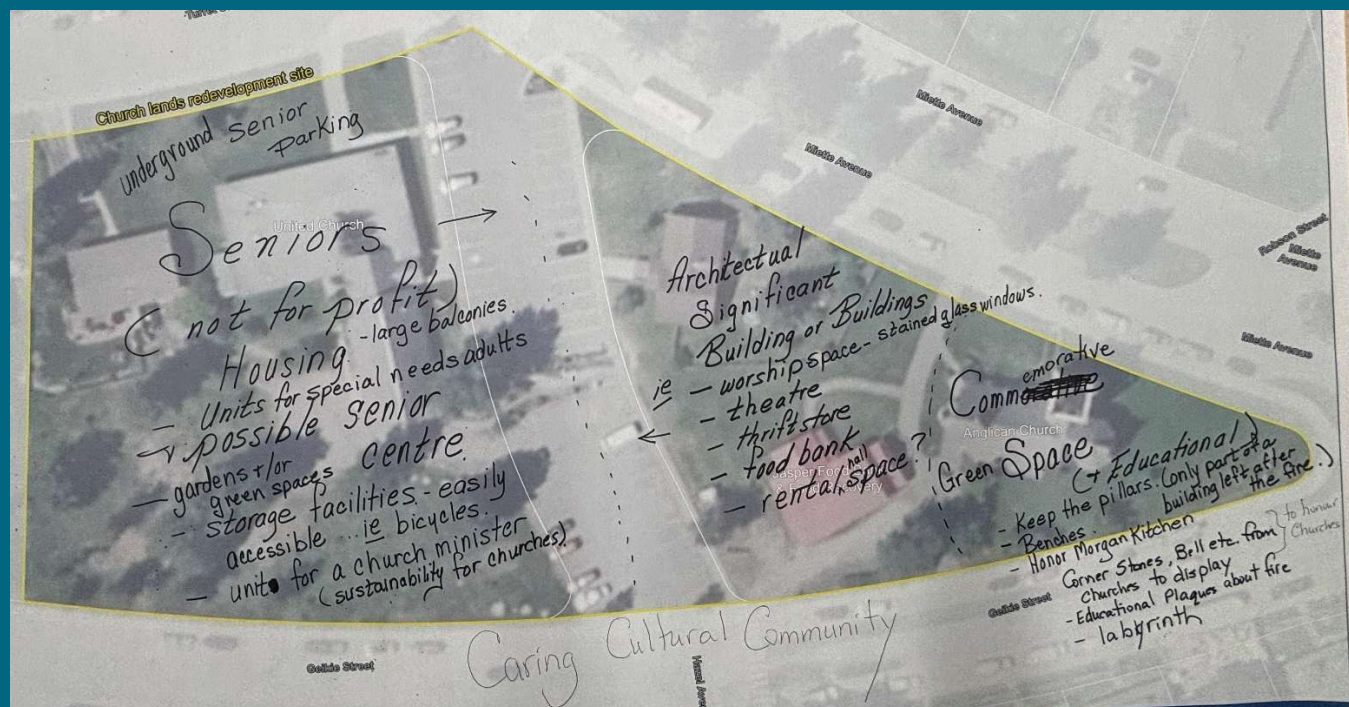
Model 3 - Wishful thinking!



This model includes the following:

- Aboveground and underground parking with storage lockers
- Anglican Church towers as a legacy of the 2024 wildfire
- Church
- Community hall
- Patio space with a fire pit, lounge chairs, lawn games, and garden beds
- Performing arts space
- Seniors' housing and centre
- Thrift store

Model 4 - Caring Cultural Community



This model includes the following:

- Architectural significant building or buildings
- Commemorative and educational green space that keeps the pillars with benches and honors Morgan Kitchen
- Display of the Anglican Church remains (corner stones and bell)
- Easily accessible storage facilities (i.e. bicycles)
- Educational plaques about the fire
- Food bank and thrift store
- Green spaces with gardens and a labyrinth
- Housing for seniors (not-for-profit and with large balconies), special needs adults, and a church minister
- Rental hall space
- Senior centre
- Theatre
- Underground parking for seniors
- Worship space with stained glass windows

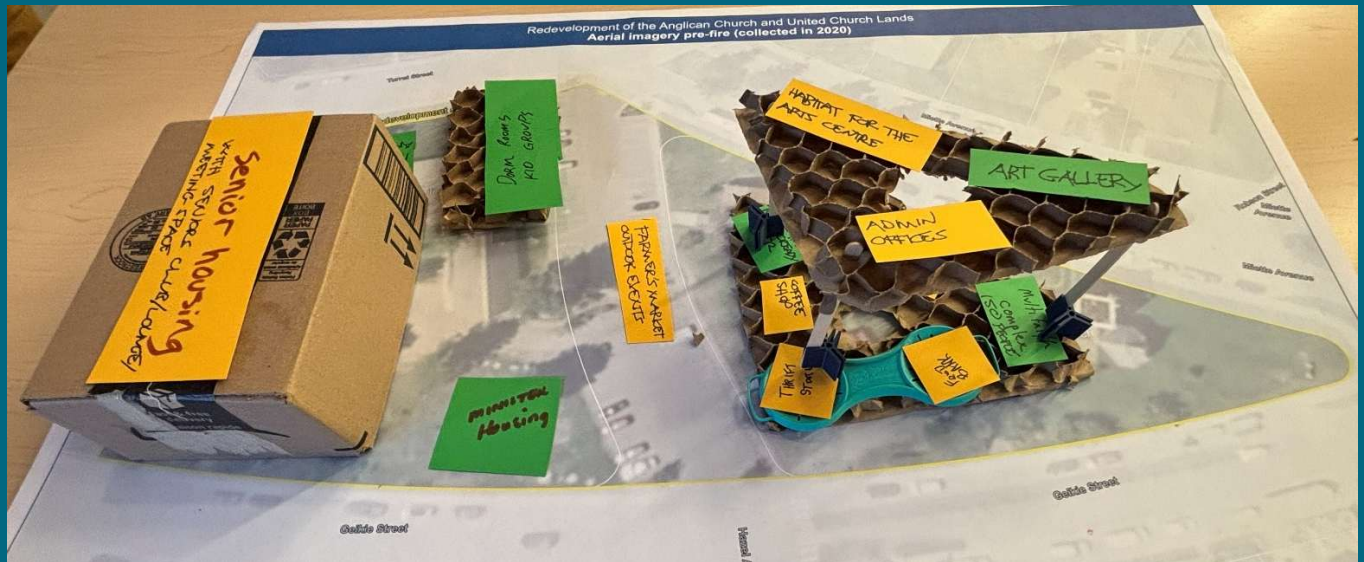
Model 5



This model includes the following:

- Memorial garden
- Multi-purpose building (theatre, concert, music space, community rental, and chapel)
- Parking lot for visitors and public
- Seniors' housing (non-profit + special needs + parking)

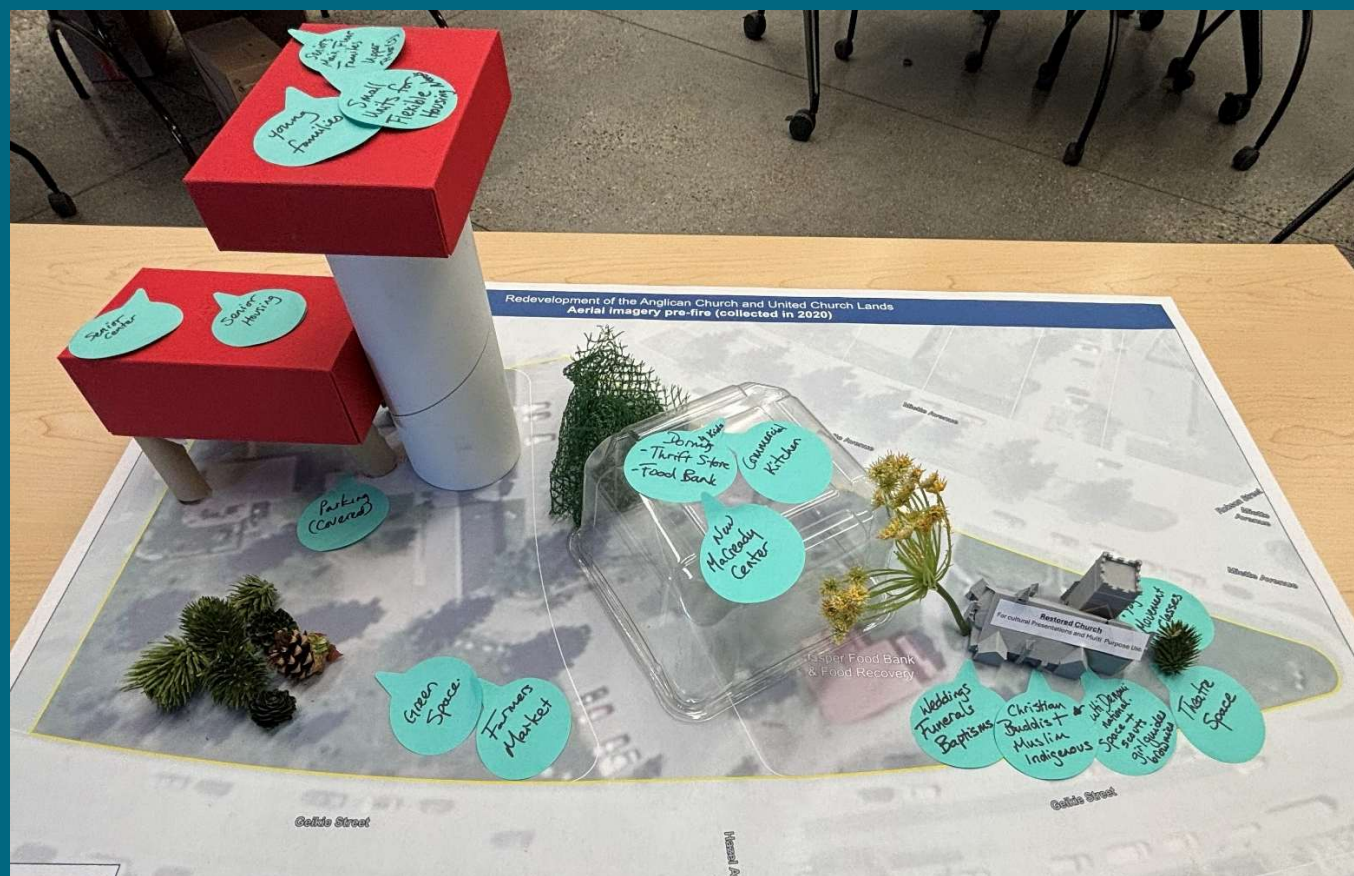
Model 6



This model includes the following:

- Dorm rooms for kid groups
- Minister housing
- Multi-purpose building with an elevator and space for Habitat for the Arts Centre, an art gallery, admin offices, a multi-faith complex for 150 people, food bank, thrift store, and coffee shop (like the McCready Centre)
- Outdoor exercise, meeting space, and gardens
- Seniors' housing with a club, lounge, and meeting spaces
- Space for a Farmers' Market and outdoor events

Model 7



This model includes the following:

- Farmers' Market
- Green space
- Housing for seniors (main floor) and young families (upper floors) with small units for flexible housing needs and covered parking. The building includes an attached seniors' centre.
- New McCready Centre with dorms for kids, thrift store, food bank, and community kitchen
- Restored Anglican Church for cultural presentations and multi-purpose uses such as multi-denominational space, weddings, funerals, baptisms, theatre events, and yoga/movement classes

Model 8 - Meeting of the Waters



This model includes the following:

- Above and belowground parking
- Community spaces for Brownies, improv nights, gatherings, and kids
- Harvest dinners, plant sales, and celebrations
- Keeping names like the McCready Centre etc.
- Old church building remains incorporated into a multi-use building and memorial garden
- Round house - Indigenous use
- Residence for seniors and individuals with special needs
- Theatre space in a modern church like the Life Church in Leduc
- Thrift shop and food bank
- Workspace for individuals with special needs

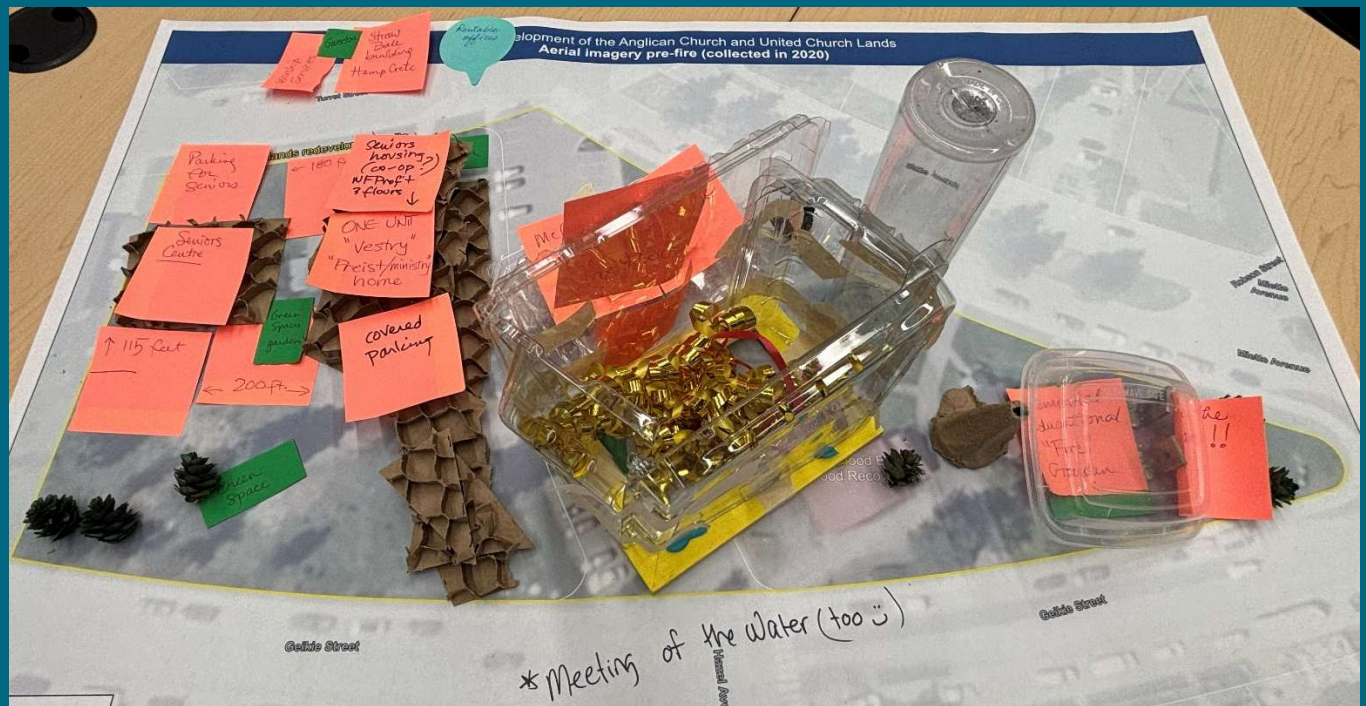
Model 9



This model includes the following:

- Arts building with a food bank and thrift store in the basement
- Co-op housing for seniors and individuals with special needs
- Replicated Anglican Church or a multi-faith gathering centre if the church is not replicated
- Shrine with local stones and history of names

Model 10 - Meeting of the Waters (too ☺)



This model includes the following:

- Commercial kitchen
- Covered parking and parking for seniors
- Green spaces with a gazebo and gardens
- McCready Centre rentals
- Memorial and garden that uses the pillars and is educational about the "Fire"
- One unit for "Vestry" or "Priest/ministry" home
- Performance theatre with workshop spaces
- Rentable offices
- Seniors' centre
- Seniors' housing with three floors (co-op or not-for-profit)
- Straw bale building (hemp crete)
- Thrift store and food bank
- Worship services

Model 11 - One individual prepared a model of the site and shared it at the workshop on June 18



Model 11 - One individual prepared a model of the site and shared it at the workshop on June 18

The roots of this proposal for Anglican land may be found in Option 2 above. Option 2 was one of the options presented for those of us who attended the last "Rebuild" meeting held under the auspices of Anna Blubel in the basemen at the museum.

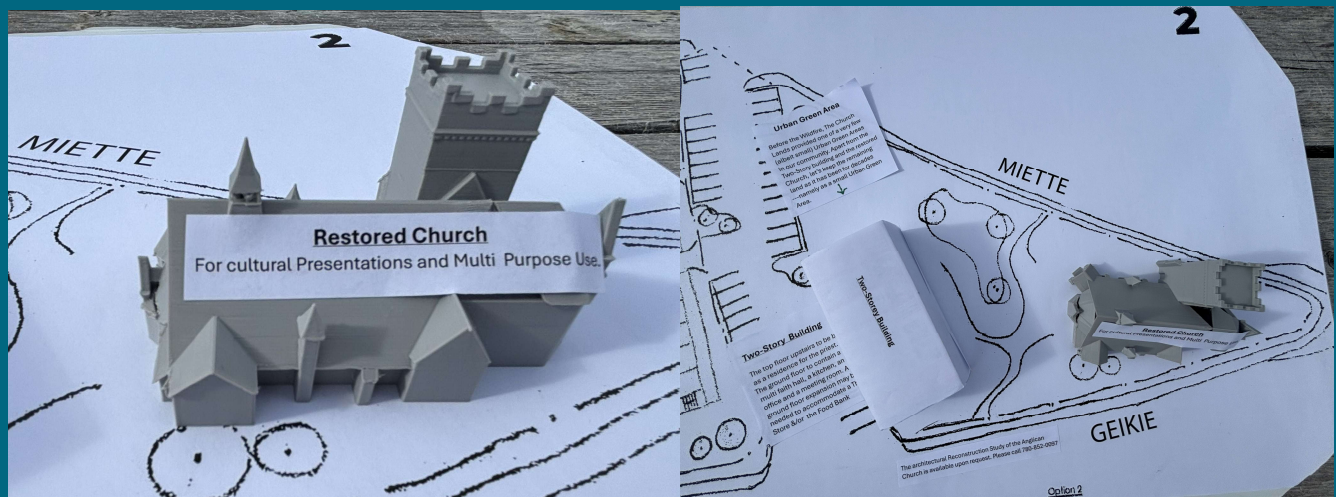
At the conclusion of the meeting, we were asked to select one of three options by posting our preferences on a board for all to see. While no official ranking of the options was announced, Option 2 was well supported and forms the basis of this proposal.

The two churches are desperately in need of a "home" for their activities. Whether or not this proposal is accepted, the final choice must be acted upon forthwith.

If more than one building is selected, the "home" for the churches must be built first.



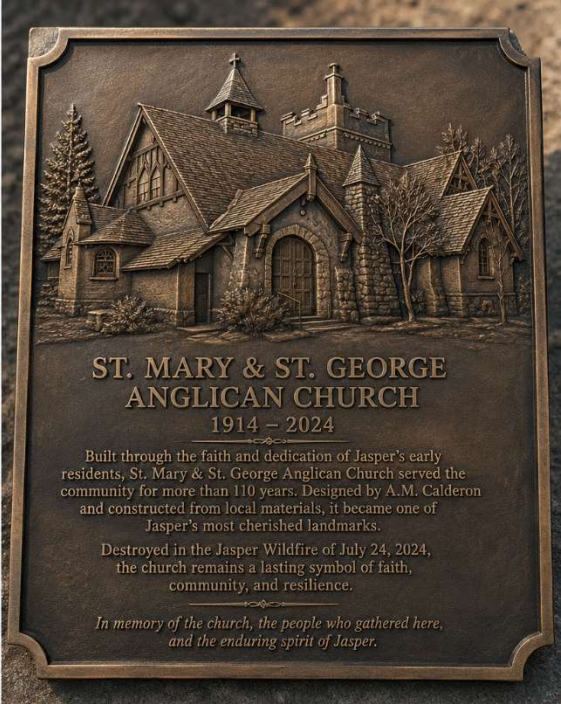
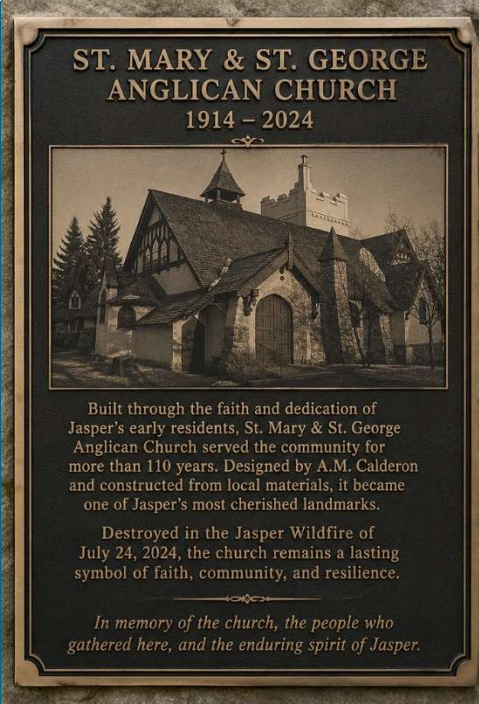
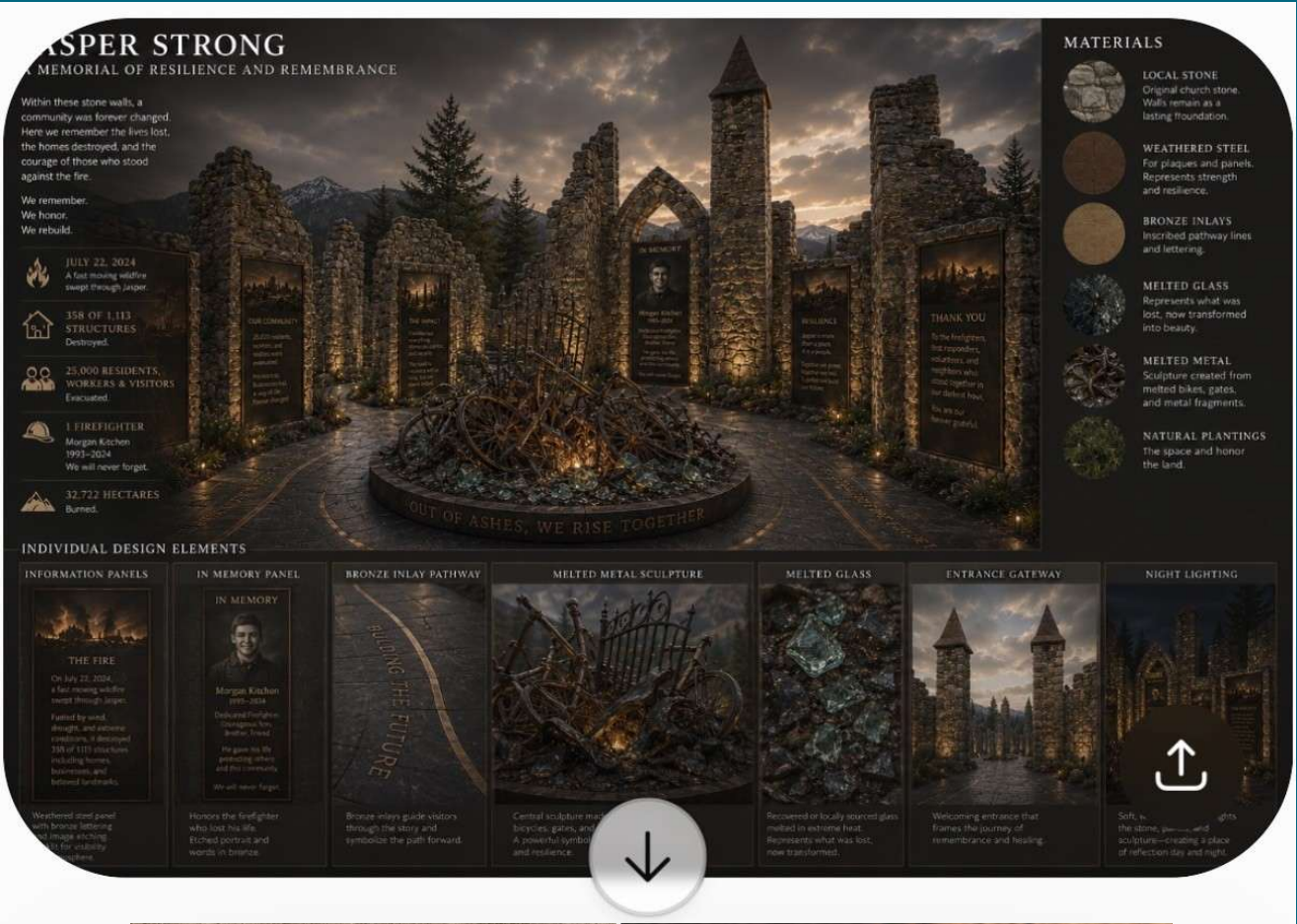
Model 11 - One individual prepared a model of the site and shared it at the workshop on June 18



This model includes the following:

- Restored Anglican Church for cultural presentations and multi-purpose use
- Two storey building with a priest residence on the top floor and a multi-faith hall, kitchen, office, and meeting room on the ground floor. An expansion to the ground floor may be needed to accommodate a thrift store and food bank.
- Urban green area

Model 12 - One individual shared their digital model of a 2024 wildfire memorial through an email



Model 12 - One individual shared their digital model of a 2024 wildfire memorial through an email



This model includes the following:

- Memorial for the 2024 wildfire and Morgan Kitchen
- Use of the remaining Anglican Church structure in the memorial
- Shares information about the disaster
- A sculpture made of melted metal, glass and other items that were transformed by the fire
- Plaque options about the history of the Anglican Church

4 Themes of possibilities

Participants in the engagement activities confirmed that, at minimum, redevelopment of the church sites should include space for the following:

- Multifaith worship
- Housing
- Community service

Beyond these three key ingredients, additional redevelopment possibilities include:

- Community centre/hall
- Garden space
- Housing (i.e., vestry, seniors, families, special needs)
- Memorial for the wildfire
- Memorial for Morgan Kitchen
- Multi-purpose flexible performance space
- Outdoor event space (farmers' market, etc.)
- Seniors' centre

While many participants seem to be interested in turning the ruins of the St. Mary and St. George Anglican Church into a memorial to the fire, a few desire to restore the church to its historical form.

5 Next steps

The results of the engagement will support the Anglican Church, United Church and the Municipality of Alberta as they decide how to proceed with the redevelopment of the church sites.

Project updates will be shared on Engage Jasper:

engagejasper.ca/church-site-redevelopment