



City of  
**Peterborough**

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**To:** Members of the Peterborough Architectural Conservation  
Advisory Committee (PACAC)

**From:** Erik Hanson, Heritage Resources Coordinator

**Meeting Date:** June 11, 2015

**Subject:** Report ACHAC15-020  
Places of Faith Presentation

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## **Purpose**

A report to introduce a presentation on the state of places of faith in Peterborough.

## **Recommendation**

That the Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee approve the recommendation outlined in Report ACHAC15-020, dated June 11, 2015 of the Heritage Resources Coordinator, as follows:

That the presentation by the Heritage Resources Coordinator on the state of places of faith in Peterborough be received.

## **Budget and Financial Implications**

There are no budgetary or financial implications associated with the recommendation.

## Background

In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, communities across North America are facing increasing challenges in protecting historic places of faith. Dwindling congregations are disbanding or amalgamating, unable to afford the maintenance costs associated these large and complex structures. But these buildings are often landmarks with strong associations with the public history of the community. Moreover they exist in a type of quasi public ownership due to charitable giving laws and preferred tax status. Most places of worship are not formally protected by heritage legislation and religious groups typically resist designation because it is often the land, not the building that is valuable to a denomination. If a church is protected, it is perceived as being worth less economically.

Agencies at the provincial and federal level are working to create strategies and models that faith communities, congregations, heritage advocates, and community stakeholders can use to help keep historic places of faith alive in various forms. The Heritage Resources Coordinator will provide a presentation on the challenges facing Peterborough congregations.

Submitted by,

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