



Jeremy Graham
Church Planting
Minister

Joel Strecker
Church Planting
Associate Minister

A Mission to Multiply

ST. JOHN'S MISSION

At St. John's, we exist to bring God glory by reaching our communities with the gospel of Jesus Christ. We strive to be a community of contrast, gripped by that gospel, living our lives as a testament to His faithfulness. Because of this commitment, and our desire to see more people come to Christ, we believe it is time for us to plant another church.

PLANTING TEAM

After serving on staff at St. John's Vancouver for more than eight years, Jeremy and Kimberley Graham are excited to partner with Joel and Audrey Strecker to plant a gospel-centred Anglican church. For the past year, their families have prayerfully discerned a church planting partnership under the direction of St. John's leadership, and they are excited to begin the journey of planting a parish with the people of St. John's.


STRATEGIC LOCATION

We plan to plant in a strategic location between East Vancouver and New Westminster. There is currently no Anglican Network in Canada (ANiC) church between East Van and Langley, so there is plenty of room to grow. It has been eight years since St. John's partnered with St. Peter's Fireside in planting a church downtown, and thirteen years since St. John's Richmond was planted.

Dwindling Christianity in Metro Vancouver

There has been a 56.3% drop in self-identified Christians in the last two generations. Among Metro Vancouver's 2.4M people, only 74,000 regularly attend a service.



SCALE  Each icon represents 3,000 people

SERVICE ATTENDANCE  Non-Church-goers  Sunday Church-goers

A vigorous and continuous approach to church planting is the only way to guarantee an increase in the number of believers, and is one of the best ways to renew the whole body of Christ. --Tim Keller



01 PURPOSE

Bringing Hope to the People of Metro Vancouver



THE NEED

Christianity is in sharp decline in our culture. Few in Vancouver belong to, or meaningfully participate in, the church of Christ. Despite this collapse, belief in a god or higher power continues to persist, and the largest religious demographic now belongs to the so-called Nones: those who are open to spirituality, but deeply suspicious of traditional modes of religious expression. In the spiritual vacuum left by declining institutional religion, people are expressing their spirituality individually, disconnected from - or in open rebellion against - healthy spiritual community built upon the life-giving hope of Jesus Christ.

THE OPPORTUNITY

There is a tremendous opportunity in our city to proclaim God's words of life in the context of warm hospitality and servant-hearted friendship. Many are hopeless, rootless, and weightless in their search for meaning and purpose. No one can bear the terrible burden of having to create their own meaning; meaning and purpose are received from Christ, in the relational context of his body the Church. As his servants and friends, it is our joy and privilege, depending on the Holy Spirit, to step outside of our comfort zone and share the truth of the gospel with those who desperately need to know the love of God.

02 IDENTITY

Building Community through a Missional Church Plant



WHY PLANTING IS CRUCIAL

This means that we plant in order to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ. The heart of church planting is evangelism, because the data resoundingly demonstrate that it is the most effective way to reach the lost. There are hundreds of thousands of people in Vancouver who do not know that Jesus loves them and gave himself for them in order to offer eternal life.

MISSIONAL COMMUNITY

Reaching the lost requires intentional mission, so church planting needs to be done in an emphatically missional and deeply relational way. Some models of evangelism emphasize attractional growth: people come to the congregation because the benefits of the church are self-evident. In a profoundly sceptical landscape, where people think they have moved beyond Christianity, this approach is less effective. If our neighbours are unwilling to darken the door of a church building, we need to go out to them, and invite them into our homes to see us live the truth of the gospel. Missional models of church strongly emphasize the sending of God's people into neighbourhoods, for the purpose of fostering a true community built on the sacrificial love of Christ.

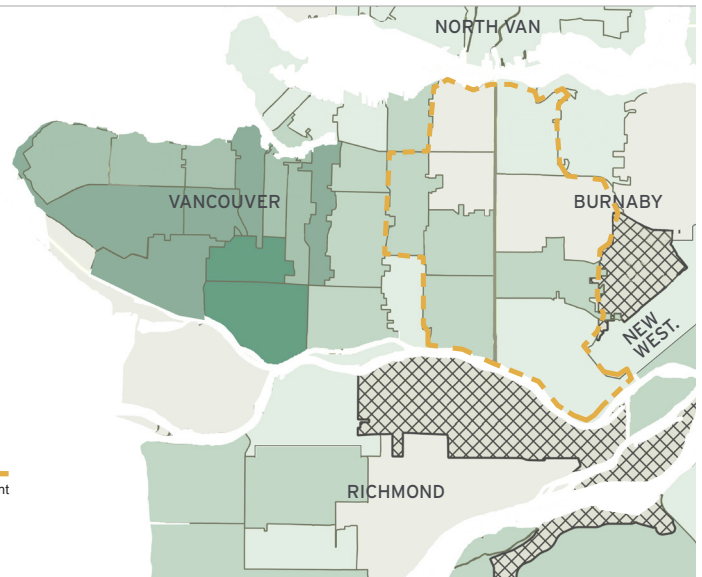
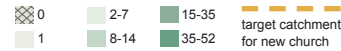
03 GOAL

Joyfully Serving & Sharing Christ

LOCATION

We are targeting neighbourhoods with both current SJV members & also significant potential for gospel growth. There are ~70 SJV households in our search area.

Postal Codes of Existing St. John's Members



VALUES

Worship Together

Gospel-centred, welcoming, Anglican worship



Life Together

Discipleship through-missional community groups



Mission Together

Reaching out with the good news in creative ways



FORMING & BUILDING THE TEAM

Church Planting Task Force

Committee for church planters' accountability and for fostering a St. John's planting culture.



Core Team

A leadership team gathering for prayer, training and discipleship before the launch.



Launch Team

The new congregation sent by St. John's made up of about 75 people



COMMUNICATION STRATEGY & IMPLEMENTATION

| PHASE | GATHER | GROW | LAUNCH |
|---------------------------|--|---|---|
| CALENDAR | JAN-MAY '22 | JUN'22 - FEB'23 | SPRING '23 |
| Communication Plan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Intro Announcement - Info Sessions - One on One Followups | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Updates - Announce Location - One on One Followups | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Updates - Testimonies - Sending Service |
| Team Building | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Begin Core Team - Disciple Missional Community Groups (MCG) - Train for evangelism | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Begin Launch Team - Begin additional MCGs - Welcome new members | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Launch Team 75+ - Solidify leadership team - Missional outreach |



Missional means being a missionary without ever leaving your city.
--Ed Stetzer



Planter Profile

Jeremy & Kimberley Graham

Jeremy and Kimberley met at St. John's Vancouver 23 years ago and have been serving in ministry together for almost 20 years.

From 2008-2013, they were part of the leadership team at St. John's Richmond, a church plant of St. John's Vancouver. Jeremy has been on staff at St. Johns Vancouver for 8 years, while Kimberley has served in a variety of ways, including Director of Women's Ministry.

Jeremy and Kim grew up in Vancouver, know and love this city and are excited to reach out with the gospel to new, under-reached areas. They share a passion for warm hospitality in the name of Christ, and missional discipleship that equips the church family to share the good news and live for Jesus in daily life. They are joined in the great adventure of church planting by their three children Lucy (16), Toby (14) and Naomi (11).



Joel & Audrey Strecker

Joel and Audrey have been married for six years. She was born and raised in Manila, Philippines; he in Calgary, Alberta. They have two children, Hanna and Ruby, ages three and one.

Joel was ordained into ministry several years ago, and has been a curate at St. John's Vancouver since the fall of 2018, primarily overseeing community group ministry. Audrey works as a marketing consultant, and has a passion for bringing form and function together.

They are excited about the challenges and opportunities of planting a new parish, as they seek to serve Christ in all that they do.



The average new congregation will bring six to eight times more new people into the life of the body of Christ than an older congregation of the same size.

-- Tim Keller





C2C collective

Partnerships

St. John's Vancouver

St. John's vision is to be a church planting parish which regularly and intentionally trains clergy and congregation members to plant new churches for the sake of reaching the lost. As the sending church, St. John's will provide both financial resources and a church planting congregation to support this project.

The Anglican Network in Canada

St. John's is part of the Anglican Network in Canada (ANiC), a diocese which is firmly committed to growth through the planting of gospel-centered parishes, clearly reflected in their 5 Priorities, and reaffirmed by the recent Harvest Task Force report. Oversight from ANiC is undertaken by Canon Alastair Sterne, who led the planting of St. Peter's Fireside in 2013.

C2C Collective

C2C Collective is the official church planting partner with ANiC. They offer robust and time-tested assessment and training for church planters across Canada, developed out of a partnership with Tim Keller's Redeemer City to City organization. Jeremy & Kim and Joel & Audrey were assessed and approved as church planters by C2C in June 2021. You can find out more on C2C from their website: <https://c2ccollective.com>

We Need Your Support

1

Prayer

Join our prayer team by emailing joel@sjvan.org

2

Participate

Reach out to express an interest in joining or supporting this project by emailing jeremy@sjvan.org

3

Financial Partnership

(tax deductible)

WEBSITE

stjohnsvancouver.org/churchplant