

Church of the Apostles 'Stand With Us' Capital Campaign

Case Statement - '*A New Kind of Church: Creatively Engaging Culture, Context, Community and Cause*' (1.27.08)

Need and Opportunity: In her book *The 'None Zone' Religion & Public Life in the Northwest*, Patricia O'Connell Killen notes that when asked their religious identification, more people answer 'none' in the Pacific Northwest than in any other region of the United States.

This is very true of the Fremont neighborhood in Seattle, a community of 20,000 people who identify as spiritual, while 90% are not church going or active in any organized religious tradition, making Fremont among the most non-churched districts in the entire United States, and more non-churched than many of the overseas countries where our denominations send missionaries.

Therefore God's mission, and our cause, is to *embody God's love in ways that matter* and speak to the people here at the center of the 'None Zone,' a place of where God is very busy, and where the church must also be, if the church is to take active part in what God is doing.

Mission: *Church of the Apostles, is an intentional, sacramental community, in the Way of Jesus, 'wholistically engaging and peaceably incarnating God's welcome, love and salvation, within our local context and culture, and in service to our neighborhood community, as our full, active and conscious participation in the Mission of God.*

Impact and Accomplishments: Church of the Apostles as a five year old, emerging church community, is among a small number of mainline churches, nationally know for pioneering a new kind of church with a highly developed 'missional ecclesiology' and capacity for 'God-spotting' in emerging culture.

God-spotting is not seeking to 'bring God' into an area where God is absent, but is developing the capacity to: re-cognize the outpouring of God's activity within postmodern and post Christian culture, engage people within their culture, respect people's spiritual experiences, invite people to orient their lives in the way of Jesus Christ and provide a lively faith community to accompany them on the journey where God is taking them to mission and service.

Church of the Apostles ministry been profiled in a number of books including '*Emerging Churches,*' (2005) '*The Relevant Church,*' (2004) '*Inside the Organic Church*' (2006) and '*Listening to the Beliefs of Emerging Churches,*'(2007) '*Rising From the Ashes,*' (2007) '*The New Christians* (2008) and via it's small, parish based *Praxis Mission Center* (praxisctr.org) Church of the Apostles has hosted

and continues to host and provide resourcing to hundreds of pastors, seminary interns, church planters and congregational evangelism and outreach teams from many denominations across North American and from overseas, seeking to: experience new forms of church, learn new methodologies for engaging contextual mission, and gain new competencies for doing effective ministry in our emerging, postmodern and post Christian culture.

Goals: 1. *To grow in faithfulness as a community living the way of Jesus, and embodying God's welcome, love, and salvation within the Fremont neighborhood community.*

2. *To expand our capacity and impact as an emerging mission learning center, hosting and providing training for pastors, seminarians, church planters and outreach leaders who come to Church of the Apostles from across the nation seeking to learn with us.*

3. *To develop means of sustainability for our ministry in Fremont, so that God's mission can continue to be served.*

Strategies: 1. *To purchase and renovate our Fremont Abbey building to serve as a ministry outpost and missional training hub for Church of the Apostles, and as a non-profit arts and neighborhood 'commons' space with open doors where God's love can be experienced and renewed human community can be developed and nurtured among the 20,000 people in Fremont.*

2. *To work in partnership with our non-profit arts center and new non-profit cafe, sharing space, generating non-profit, ministry sustaining income and dividing expenses within the Abbey facility, enabling sustainability for God's mission and the church's ministry to provide ongoing space and place for Christ centered life and renewed neighborhood community in Fremont.*

The Future and Your Investment: A catchphrase we sometime use to describe Church of the Apostles, is '*agents of future.*' With an average age of twenty-six, Apostles is four years younger on average than the average citizen in Fremont (age thirty).

Many mainline churches, and our own Episcopal and Lutheran denominations are on average twenty five to thirty years older than the average American Citizen (age thirty two). Apostles' effectiveness in reaching out to emerging generations and the emerging culture can be evidenced partly in our demographics that mirror the population around us. Being able to incarnate and speak the Gospel as 'natives' within the emerging culture around us, will allow for a long and ongoing missional horizon for our church.

Our currently rented Abbey facility presents ongoing challenges and hardships for the active, mission futuring ministry and community service we feel called to do. - The Abbey building (built in 1914) has an antiquated and inefficient heating system, no insulation, an underpowered and overtaxed electrical system, faulty locks and security, poor lighting, water expanded doors and fittings, old and failing wiring, and a myriad of other shortcomings that are a hindrance for God's mission and our ministry.

In January 07, eight seminarians that came to Church of the Apostles for a live/work course in urban missiology had to shiver while staying in the building, bundled up in coats and around space heaters as they learned with us, because of the sub par conditions of our old building facility.

The purchase and renovation of the Abbey is a matter of good and wise stewardship of God's resources, to allow for long term viability and sustainability of our ministry and to provide a welcoming surroundings for our church community, interns, students, children, seniors, and Fremont community members of all ages, to gather and experience God's love and renewed community in an environment that is safe and hospitable.

Your prayerful financial investment in helping us purchase (and renovate for sustainability) our ministry hub facility with pay forward 'Kingdom dividends' for many years to come, enabling us to increase the reach and effectiveness of our ministry by provide a hospitable environment for incarnating God's love and welcome in our neighborhood, and for hosting and equipping many others who come to learn with us towards similar mission and service across the nation and beyond.

Financials: We need to raise **\$ 205,000** to purchase the Abbey building and **\$ 900,000** to renovate it, for a total of **\$1.1 million**.

We are in need of '**mission friends**' who can give gifts up to \$1,000, '**mission partners**' who give gifts up to \$10,000 dollars, and '**mission builders**' who can make a lead and substantial gifts up to \$ 100,000 and beyond.

Major donors can be recognized with plaques and name designations for rooms within the Abbey building for funding larger cost needs including:

Heating, electrical and sprinkler systems 75 k
(Sustainable and efficient)

Elevator and new front entrance 120 k
(For neighborhood and ADA access and safety)

Pipe organ restoration - 50 k

(Supporting high/classical arts alongside pop/low arts)

Commercial kitchen - 35 k

(Allowing the opening and operation of a sustainable, non profit cafe)

Cafe space flooring, fixtures, furnishings – 40 k

Music studio – 30 k

(Supporting, new church music development and youth music training)

Offices spaces and equipment – 30 k

(Allowing church and non-profit arts staff to work effectively and efficiently)

Main hall multimedia, sound system and lighting - 30 k

(Support for media, arts and culture programs for all ages)

Main hall floor leveling, fixtures and furnishings - 120 k

(Providing community gathering space that is hospitable)

We are very excited to ask for your partnership in God's mission and in Church of the Apostles' ministry, to serve God's future and our neighborhood of Fremont with hope, and we welcome you to *visit* Church of the Apostles for worship (each Saturday at 5 pm) and online at www.apostleschurch.org

CHECKS CAN BE SENT and PAYABLE TO 'COTA'

(Noted bottom left: 'Stand With Us Campaign')

P.O. Box 55399

Seattle, WA 98155

Donations are tax deductible.
COTA is a registered 501c3 non-profit church organization.

If you are able to become
a **'Mission Partner'** or **'Mission Builder'**
and give a larger or lead gift,
contact Pastor Karen Ward
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