

Good afternoon. It's great to see so many familiar faces and to get back to some normalcy.

Over the past almost nine years, I've had the privilege, the honour of working alongside of some of the most intense and dedicated people on the EDGE Property committee. Reverend Andy Comar, Reverend Lorraine Newton-Comar, Holly Todd Williamson, Pat Innes, Scott Sinclair, David Snelgrove, Crawford Heritage and Doug Gilpin. This group has been meeting regularly since shortly after the fire in 2014.

In February the EDGE committee met with the Trustees and Church Council to review some of our latest concerns and to get some direction on moving forward. I want to make it clear, that the EDGE Property Committee has been put in place to fulfill the dreams of our congregation, and that our work has always been under the direction and recommendations of the Council.

I want to remind everyone of some of the challenges we have faced over the past nine years. We were surprised at the easement with Bell and the work we would face to clear that easement, and although there is a cost to everything, we did achieve success. We were taken to the OMB by neighbours of the church and through many meetings with the community, town council and lawyers, we were again successful in the outcome. We had five houses on our property that along with the neighbours, we dealt with the Historical Society, some hazardous materials, and were again successful in the outcome. We had concerns about finding a few remains on the property only to have a final count of just over 180. Again, we succeeded in dealing with this issue. And then the pandemic arrived, which again, created many more challenges. In just a few years we are faced with an unexpected increase in building costs of over 50%.

With the agreement in place with Amica, and the underground up to Yonge Street being constructed, we knew that we could not look at redesigning and starting over. This would be impossible. By summer, we will have completed the below grade structure of our church. We need to move ahead. Building permits and approvals are already in place.

With that, we understand the challenges before us, and I would imagine we will be faced with many more unexpected obstacles before we are finished. We will continue to deal with them as they arise. At this point, there is no turning back, we will complete the task at hand, with altered expectations.

The road ahead may be a bit bumpy, but we have so many supporters, all of them with their hands on the wheel from you, the congregation, the Council, the Board of Trustees, our EDGE Property Committee, the community at large and the United Church of Canada. And with all this support, we will get there.

Currently, we are working on a tender package for the above grade portion of our build. It is being produced so that some of portions can be done in phases. This package is expected to go out over the next few weeks, and we have already created a list of potential contractors.

I am ready to take questions and I will do what I can to answer.