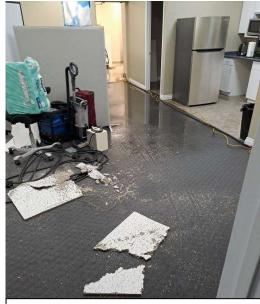


We had a bit of scare this month when the SE Open Doors building froze up. It got (mostly) sorted out within the week but it highlights how vulnerable our church finances can be. Our major tenant, Open Doors Learning Services (www.learnitnow.ca), lost 40% of their working space. We also shut down the church for casual rentals while the fire alarm and sprinkler system was disrupted.

The Open Doors lease and our casual rentals make up half of our church's income. To see both of those disrupted so quickly was a bit sobering. As we worked to get the mess cleaned up our main concern was to get everything back and working as soon as possible. There is a lot that goes on in our church and even though we may not see all the activities, they all contribute to our church.

This month has given us pause. It has shown us how quickly our situation can transform. Keeping a vibrant church community going requires a steady and reliable income. Our annual canvass is about securing our income for the next church year. Half of our income may come from rentals and leases but the other half comes from you.

As members of this church we <u>covenant</u> to "Share the ministry of the congregation through our gifts of time,



A space transformed in an instant.

talent and money." Once a year we ask all members to complete a pledge of their financial gifts to the church. This is that time.

Please provide us with an estimate of your financial gifts to your church by completing a pledge form by the end of March.

Thank you!

