

Aspen Strategy

At Southview Alliance Church, we desire to see God's kingdom expand in a way similar to an organic grove of Aspen trees.

Why is an Aspen Grove a fitting metaphor for Southview?

Aspens are "communal" trees. A grove or colony of aspen starts with a single tree, but off of this tree other trees grow.

Aspens are inter-dependent. Once a new aspen tree grows into maturity, it stays connected to the parent tree and the rest of the colony. If one tree in the colony weakens, it gains strength, sustenance and resource from the other trees of the colony.

Aspens display similar behaviour. Although each aspen tree is unique, all of the interconnected trees in a colony are a single organism.

Aspens are extremely resilient. Although a single tree in the colony may only live for 50 - 150 years above ground, the root system in some cases live for many thousands of years.

The Aspen Strategy expresses our desire to efficiently and effectively further ministry. We desire to see many other gatherings that are extensions of Southview Alliance Church. We believe that healthy organisms grow. So we want to continue to grow - and not just numerically. We want to grow in maturity in Christ, in reflecting His image individually and as a body. But we also do want to grow numerically, because we want to lead as many as possible to passionately follow Christ.

Our desire is to join God in what He is doing in our midst. We can best discern how we should move into the future by discerning how God is currently working among us and our community.

What will our growth look like?

We have established our parent campus off of which other branches of Southview will grow. Some of these branches already take place on-site. While our main worship services continue, we also provide other services on-site that have different styles or formats. Some of the other future expressions would be additional off-site in rented or owned facilities, similar to imago dei, which meets at a school in south Calgary. Others might meet in locations such as a restaurant or a home. One or more of the following objectives would be true of every new expression:

- The new expression would be within the existing parent campus with similar or different styles or forms (e.g. Traditions, Alternative, Fold, Liturgical)
- The new expression would meet off-site and would reach out to new regions in south Calgary
- The new expression would be connected through education, national or international common purpose.

Some of the benefits of this strategy:

- We'll be able to maintain a smaller church feel and sense of community while providing support ministries and resources of a larger church.
- We can accomplish more together than we can separately by not having to duplicate certain administrative and ministry provisions.
- It allows for the possibility of a campus moving out as a new independent church once it reaches health and critical mass.
- Enables us to offer a breadth of ministry expressions, styles and neighbourhood locations.
- Like the yeast of the kingdom, it is expansive in nature.
- It is the church moving out to the people in their communities, not us waiting for them to come to us.

This is a strong expression of our heart, history, calling and leading as a church body. We encourage you to pray with us and ask how God wants us/you to lead as many as possible to passionately follow Jesus Christ.

