

JASPER PARK BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP (JPBF)/KURIOS JOINT PROPOSAL



BACKGROUND:

Jasper Park Baptist Fellowship (“JPBF”) has ministered to Jasper since the 1960’s. We are currently based at 300 Patricia Street though structural issues with our building render it unsuitable for our future needs. The property is currently used for three services on Sunday, a book study every Monday night, and a games night every Tuesday. The JPBF congregation has an average attendance of 14 per Sunday and a balanced budget. Roy Nickel is the pastor of the church and has been for the past 10 years. JPBF has a long history of youth ministry with the “Bedford Inn” coffee house ministry operating since the 1960s providing a weekly connection with the youth and young adults of Jasper for decades.

Kurios is an 8-month discipleship program for young adults based in Central Alberta. It is designed to prepare 25 recent high school graduates to enter the next stage of life after high school through prayer, reflection, education, and spiritual guidance. Kurios is built around developing 9 core values: Leadership, prayer, maturity, relationships, evangelism, church, identity, authenticity, and scripture. This model has been implemented across the globe and research shows it is highly effective in helping young people prepare for their next stage of life. See attached **Schedule A** for more information on Kurios.

JASPER’S NEED:

Jasper has a deep need for spiritual support and outreach and Jasper’s churches are best positioned to offer this.

Jasper’s population is generally young and transient with workers staying a few years before moving on. The park hosts nearly 4 million visitors a year from across the globe and JPBF

has hosted visitors from over 60 countries. The community is ripe for youthful outreach programs that support workers and visitors and any program in Jasper could have global impact. Jasper's churches are eager to serve their community, but small congregations and limited volunteers have stunted our ability to serve the community as well as we would hope.

Jasper's churches need an influx of energetic volunteers devoted to service in the community. A local program devoted to spiritually mentoring young people and empowering them to serve their communities through service in the church and local organizations would provide the eager hands required for Jasper's churches to meet the deep spiritual hunger of the community while preparing the next generation for a life of service.

PROPOSAL

We envision continuing Jasper Lutheran Church's ("JLC") legacy of serving the Jasper community by offering a young adult program from the JLC property focused on spiritual development, outreach, and community service.

This would be accomplished through a partnership between JPBF and Kurios to enhance the reach and sustainability of each organization and while providing significant benefit to the community of Jasper. JPBF will sell its existing property and become the owner of the JLC sanctuary and manse. The proceeds from the sale would be used to fund a replacement of the manse and establish a heritage fund to ensure needed maintenance projects for the sanctuary are completed as they arise.

Kurios would relocate from Central Alberta to Jasper to run a 25-student discipleship program from the JLC property. Students would gather most weekdays in the sanctuary for lessons from leaders and teachers. Kurios would connect the students to needs in the community to live out the lessons from class. The students would eat, play, and rest together in the new facility built behind the sanctuary.

THE BENEFITS

Preserving JLC's Legacy

The JLC sanctuary was built by the Catholic diocese of Edmonton in 1924. In 1967, the building was transferred to JLC to continue its use as a church building after the Catholic congregation moved down the road. Its iconic corner setting, backdrop of Pyramid Mountain, red brick exterior, and beautiful wooden door set the sanctuary apart as one of Jasper's most architecturally striking buildings.

The Lutheran building's legacy is not just in its architecture, but its use for nearly 100 years as a Christian gathering place in Jasper. Our proposal honors the legacy of this structure by ensuring it continues to be used regularly as a place of Christian worship long into the future.

At 100 years old, the sanctuary will need care and respect to ensure it lasts. A building will only be properly cared for if it is regularly used. Our proposal would see church services occurring 2-3 times each Sunday with the space used during the daytime almost every weekday by Kurios throughout the winter. This will ensure the space continues to be valued and that essential maintenance continues to be completed to keep the building as a beautiful icon for generations to come. Both JPBF and Kurios will be sources of income to ensure resources are available when essential maintenance needs to be done.

As part of our proposal, we want to ensure the Lutheran congregation's history is preserved and we would like to work with members of the congregation to commemorate the ministry's long influence in Jasper. Tangibly, this could include permanent external signage, internal displays "telling the story" and preserving the history and ensuring artistic pieces such as the lectern continue to be used as designed. We would hope JLC would not see this as the end of its ministry, but an exciting new chapter in its service to the community.

Growing Spiritual Communities in Jasper

There is an irreplaceable beauty in worshiping with a group of fellow believers that draws attendees to worship gatherings week after week. This is a challenge for local congregations that struggle to reach a critical mass of attendees at a service to provide the camaraderie, spiritual experience, and mutual support that we seek from a worship gathering. The largest churches in the area see barely a dozen attendees at a service. For many who move to town, the prospect of such small gatherings leads them to give up on attendance entirely or commute to neighboring communities further depriving worshipers of a shared experience.

Bringing Kurios to town will give many churches the critical mass they need to draw others to come and worship with them. An essential aspect of Kurios will be regular attendance at a local church. An additional 8-9 regular attendees at each church in town would bring the necessary energy to the service that would draw community members to return and make worship part of their weekly routine. Part of the Kurios program will see these students volunteering in these churches on a weekly basis. Whether it be greeting people at the door, running a children's program, or leading music, churches will be better empowered to serve their congregations through these volunteers.

Another key component of Kurios will be spiritual outreach. Most people in Jasper in need of spiritual support would never think of attending a worship service. The Kurios students will lead games nights, prayer nights, and social nights to build connection in the community and demonstrate what it looks like to live as a Christian. This will be an opportunity for residents of Jasper to learn more about their spiritual needs and how their local church can serve them.

Serving the Jasper Community

Our proposal won't just benefit spiritual communities in Jasper, but the community as a whole. We have budgeted funds to upgrade the landscape and potentially include amenities such as a gazebo and reflective garden spaces.

A key aspect of the Kurios curriculum will be service projects in our community. Over time, we expect to develop partnerships with many community organizations to provide the additional hands they need to serve Jasper. For example, this could include leveraging our 25 students to serve the Evergreens Foundation, clear trails on the Pyramid Bench, or repainting the museum.

Another facet of the curriculum will be employment in the community. The students will be expected to work part-time while in the program to learn to implement what they are learning in daily life. This will benefit local businesses and help alleviate Jasper's chronic employee shortage. The students anticipate interacting with other young adults in the community to create relationships of support and encouragement and contribute to the health and wellness of the community. They will use these relationships to invite their peers into the renewed facility as a supportive and welcoming space.

We would also expect to make the sanctuary available for walk-in visits for prayer or site-seeing and for scheduled community use on evenings and weekends. Kurios would use the sanctuary primarily in the winter and during the day. This means the space will still largely be available during the prime periods (summer and evenings) to rent for community events such as theater performances, galleries and first aid classes.

Our current plan is also to make the new facility available for local business staff accommodation during the summer when Kurios isn't running to help alleviate the chronic housing shortage over the busy summer months.

PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Management Plan for the Building

The JPBF/Kurios partnership is committed to maintaining and managing the building for the benefit of the Jasper Community. Our vision is to see the facility in regular use as described in this proposal, and made available for community use as often as possible. The plan budgets for a ¼ time operational manager, sets aside significant funds for upkeep of the building and property, and demonstrates the long term viability of the facilities. See the Operating Budget for details.

Legal Considerations

JLC's lease and zoning is currently limited to "church purposes" and any deviation from this use will require administrative approval. Preliminary discussions with Parks have provided us confidence that Kurios will be considered a church purpose and we should not require a variance.

The "need to reside" is also a concern with any project that brings people to town long-term. Our preliminary research shows precedents for educational institutions in Banff meeting these requirements and we are confident Kurios will be able to comply with any need to reside as an educational institution and by requiring students to work in the community.

2. SUMMARY

Our proposal is for JLC to transfer the sanctuary and manse to the JPBF. JPBF would then sell their existing property and use the proceeds to preserve the existing sanctuary and build a new housing facility that would be home to 25 students attending the Kurios young adults discipleship program.

The sanctuary would continue to be used for worship gatherings every week and for lessons during weekdays. The space would be available for community events many evenings.

Our project includes a significant budget to preserve the sanctuary on an ongoing basis. The program will meet the spiritual needs of the community through outreach activities, contributing participants to local churches, and providing a space for people to gather together to worship. During the summer months, the new facility could be used to help address the community's housing shortage by providing affordable accommodations during the season it is needed most.

This proposal ensures the JLC sanctuary and property continue to be a valuable asset in the Jasper community for generations to come.

Schedule A – About Kurios

KURIOS ESSENTIALS

Kurios (koo'-re-os) is the Greek word for Lord, which means master and ruler. This experience is all about "kurios-ity": seeking Jesus together and pursuing Him as Lord of all.

- Designed to grow young Christian disciples and leaders (typically aged 17-22)
- 28 weeks from September until April
- Includes a 5-week immersive, cross-cultural experience in Central America
- Home base located in central Alberta with adventures in BC, SK, and MB
- Kurios completion entrance credit awarded by select colleges

Apply today at kurios.ca

KURIOS-ITY

KURIOS sounds a lot like 'curious' and that fits the experience perfectly. KURIOS creates an environment in which deep, meaningful questions are taken seriously and where space is given to seek God's answers.



KURIOS

CBWC GAP YEAR EXPERIENCE

28 WEEKS

