

## **New Church and Residential Tower Proposal to provide needed services and housing for the local Community**

For several decades, Bridlegrove Bible Chapel has been serving Toronto's L'Amoreaux neighbourhood from a red-brick building set well back from the southeast corner of Finch Avenue East and Pharmacy Avenue. The original building was completed in the mid-1970s, and is not only home to our church fellowship, but also the daycare centre that has operated on site for the past 43 years.

But now, with a plan for expansion, Bridlegrove Bible Chapel is proposing a highly visible and welcoming new community hub and chapel, right at the corner of Finch and Pharmacy, rather than where the church currently stands, behind a sprawling lawn and parking lot. The proposal also includes a new 20-storey condo tower on part of the 1.5-acre parcel of land it occupies at 2575 Pharmacy to assist with the funding requirements and even more importantly, provide badly needed housing during a GTA wide housing crisis.

Overall, the proposal includes a three-storey church building, with a ceremonial courtyard as a buffer between the two structures. The plans for the church building include a main-floor gym/auditorium, offices and classrooms on the second and third levels, and a rooftop amenity for the daycare, which would continue to operate in the new chapel and benefit from an outdoor playground towards the back of the lot, too.

The variety of units in the newly proposed condo reflects Bridlegrove Bible Chapel's desire for a family-focused development, with 72 two-bedroom units and 25 three-bedroom units proposed. The remainder are bachelor, one-bedroom, and one-bedroom-plus-den dwellings (19, 51, and 77, respectively).

Discussions about possible programming for the future community hub are ongoing, but Bridlegrove Bible Chapel could, in addition to a new day care centre, also potentially host a community drop-in for kids after school, seniors activities, resources for new immigrants, including ESL classes. It's a community in need of various services and facilities, and there's an opportunity for Bridlegrove Bible Chapel to be a valuable resource centre for the broader community.

The new church building would also be far more accessible than the existing structure. Right now, there is no accessibility in the current building, and with an aging population, this newly proposed chapel will have full accessibility, elevator access, underground parking — those are huge benefits in the long run.