

# The Need



## Young Adults (~18-28)

The most pressing decision for many teens and young adults is education. Career and calling are often seen as a moving and uncertain target. This age group sees career as a reflection of their identity and has trouble choosing a pathway because the question of their identity is often not settled. Studies show between 40-50% of young people who grow up in the church abandon their faith during this time unless they form adult identity with a strong Christian young adult community.

**Young adults need to be discipled as they discover their identity in Christ!**



## The Wider Church

Established churches and ministries are looking for biblically rooted, socially competent, Spirit-filled emerging leaders to fill ministry vacancies - and the number of vacancies is growing. The average waiting time to replace a senior pastor in Canada is currently 2.5 years! Boomers are retiring and the average age of many denominations' full-time ministers is over 55. Although many alternative pathways to ministry have opened up, short-term mission and Bible college are still preferred (and in some cases required) preparation ground for prospective leaders. People entering ministry - both young and not so young - are looking for flexible, practical training options.

**Churches and ministries need more people trained and sent to help their missions!**



## The World

Our awareness of deep social problems like poverty, abuse, racism, political sectarianism, and mental health issues is growing. Over 7400 people groups representing over 3.3 billion people are considered "least-reached", meaning they will live and die without hearing the Gospel unless someone is sent to them. Jesus is and will always be the solution to the challenges we face as individuals and communities.

**The world needs people to bring the Gospel and the lived reality of the Kingdom of God to them!**

Prayerfully considering this and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we have crafted a vision to respond to these needs.

# The Vision

## APPROX. 5 YEARS

Eston College is a ministry launch pad whose students and staff are Word-centred, Spirit-filled, missional co-workers. Our work continues to combine college-level biblical education, ministry training, and spiritual formation as a Spirit-filled community.

Disciple-making is our priority. Graduates reproduce multiplying disciples wherever they go. Our programming bridges the strength of excellent classroom instruction and adventurous, experiential training from short-term ministry trips. We create specialized pathways for different callings such as global evangelism of the least-reached, pastoral counselling, biblical justice, worship arts, and more. Students looking for a foundation in Christ come for 1 year, students looking for advanced ministry training come for 3-4.

We are abundantly funded by a broad, faithful, connected, and enthusiastic constituency which makes it possible to set fees low enough for students to graduate debt-free. We grow to be the preferred college for many denominations while honouring and celebrating our ACOP relationships and heritage. We are a force for unity and collaboration between like-minded ministries.

Personnel and programs are nomadic; courses are offered in geographically distant places, on-campus, and at hybrid campuses. The workload is widely shared with competent and anointed people so that staff can have thriving itinerant ministries which take place where people live their day-to-day lives. We find and support the next generation of Gospel workers during off-site ministry events and on-site

conferences. Staff are generously paid, joyful, professional, and committed.

The combination of our approach to disciple making, itinerant ministry, missional staff, and experiential student ministry gives birth to a growing youth ministry movement in both rural and urban communities. It activates evangelists and spiritual pioneers across the country, leading to empty pulpits being filled, churches planted, and workers sent to the unreached. Graduates flood into careers of all kinds bringing this culture with them and helping to overcome the biblical illiteracy that is afflicting our churches and Christian families.

**Our college was founded and filled in response to revivals, but those revivals have come to an end. By joining with God's new movement we must now become a catalyst for revival in post-Christian Canada.**





# The Plan

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## STAGE ZERO (COMPLETED 2022)

- Launch Eston College Online (ECO)
- Transition to 3-week modular course delivery & integrate experiential learning into courses
- Begin fundraising campaigns

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## STAGE THREE

- Open the first hybrid campus
- Launch one or more adjunct programs
- Solidify funding needs to restructure fees for debt-free graduation
- Launch new professional development programming for second career ministers

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## STAGE ONE

- Develop “Vision Agreements” with ministry partners
- Increase monthly support to over 650 financial partners
- Sell Eston campus & physical assets
- Establish operations in Regina
- Increase ECO course offerings (continues in each stage)

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## STAGE FOUR

- Publish new fee structure for debt-free graduation plans
- Continued development of hybrid campuses, ECO, and adjunct programs
- By Stage Four, we would like to see the fulfilment of the current Vision.

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## STAGE TWO

- Purchase one or more residence facilities in Regina
- Begin facilitating specialized programming for “second career” ministers
- Open Languages Department, teaching both ESL and foreign languages
- Launch first adjunct program\*
- Create the foundation for first hybrid campus

\* Adjunct programs are certifications that are specialized around a particular skill set or ministry competency. Examples such as global evangelism of the least-reached, pastoral counselling, biblical justice, worship arts are listed in our Vision.