

Presbytery of Barrie
Buy, Sell, or Borrow Guidelines
to assist congregations in fulfilling PCC policy

PCC Policy: *In section 200.8 of the Book of Forms, it states that congregations looking to buy or sell property, or obtain a loan for a capital expenditure must first obtain the permission of the Presbytery. This means that a congregation must have permission from the Presbytery before any legal action to buy, sell, or borrow is taken.*

The rationale for this legislation is to ensure that congregations, when making a major financial decision, have covered all their bases. In reviewing a request, the Presbytery wants to know if the proposed plan is prudent, viable, legal, ethical, and whether it is being implemented following due process.

In order to obtain permission from the Presbytery to pursue a major capital project, first, contact the Clerk of Presbytery and the Team Leader for the Congregational Development and Revitalization Team (CDRT) and let them know about your church's plans at least a month prior to when Presbytery will meet to discuss your proposal. They will help walk you through the process.

In order to present your request to the Presbytery, the Presbytery will need to have the following information ahead of time and in printed form.

1. What is the proposal your congregation wishes to pursue? Please include hard financial figures.
2. Why do you want to do this? What is the history that has led you to this decision? How will this proposal advance the mission and ministry of your congregation?
3. What are the options that you have considered?
4. What were your reasons for choosing the recommended option?
5. Where will the money come from to finance this project?
6. Please state your church's annual income, annual expenditures, cash reserves, and other valuable assets it may possess (e.g. land).
7. Are there any legal considerations with this proposal (e.g., zoning, bylaws) that the Presbytery should know about?
8. Are there any ethical considerations with this proposal that the Presbytery should know about?
9. Has this proposal been approved at a duly constituted congregational meeting with the necessary two thirds majority vote as mandated by section 162.1 of the Book of Forms? When did the meeting happen? How many attended. What percentage were in favour of the proposal? Was there any significant opposition to the proposal that the Presbytery should know about? Please state the motion(s) that were made at the congregational meeting.
10. Please be prepared to submit further documentation as requested by Presbytery.