



# GOOD FUTURES

## Reimagining CHURCH PROPERTY

WITH CO-HOSTS SHANNON HOPKINS AND REV. MARK ELSDON



Igniting Imagination Podcast Season 13 focuses on church property transition. Hosts Shannon Hopkins and Mark Elsdon discuss the challenges and opportunities churches face with underutilized buildings and shifting demographics.

Experts estimate a third of US churches will sell or repurpose buildings in the next decade. This shift is due to changing patterns of religious engagement, finances, and deferred maintenance.

### KEY THEMES

#### 1. Purpose Before Property

Church property decisions are ultimately about **mission and discipleship**, not maintenance or monetization. This season reframes the conversation.

Property isn't the end goal—**God's purpose is.**

#### 2. Land as Sacred Partner

Church land is not just an asset to be managed but a partner in ministry. We are called to follow Jesus **all the way to the dirt**, remembering that church is place and not just space.

Listening to the land helps us act **with reverence, history, and hope.**

“... inviting churches to say *yes* to transformation, collaboration, and the unexpected joys of faithful reinvention.”

— BOB SMJETANA  
SEASON 13, EPISODE 2

#### 3. Start Small, Start Now

The best way to reimagine church property is taking **thoughtful action**. Listening walks through the neighborhood and hosting “meanwhile projects” are great ways to make progress.

There is time to be intentional. **Discernment is a journey.**

#### 4. Resistance Is Part of the Work

Listening deeply and staying **anchored in purpose** allows us to navigate and respect differing viewpoints with grace and courage.

Change invites resistance *and* **fosters transformation.**

#### 5. The Neighborhood Is the Unit of Change

The church is no longer the sole driver of community transformation, yet it remains a vital **agent of renewal** for neighborhoods.

This season affirms that preserving the church happens through **partnering with all those around you.**

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LISTEN NOW:

# Church Property: Imagining Good Futures

SEASON 13



**EPISODE 1**  
**CHURCH PROPERTY: IMAGINING GOOD FUTURES**  
 With Shannon Hopkins



**EPISODE 2**  
**WHY ARE WE TALKING ABOUT CHURCH PROPERTY?**  
 With Bob Smietana



**EPISODE 3**  
**HOW DOES THEOLOGY SHAPE CHURCH PROPERTY DECISIONS?**  
 With Rev. Dr. Willie James Jennings



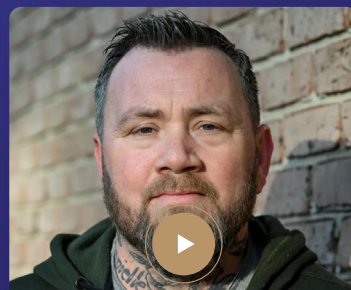
**EPISODE 4**  
**WHAT'S THE PATH TO CHURCH PROPERTY CHANGES?**  
 With Pastor Jessica Lowry



**EPISODE 5**  
**HOW DO WE HANDLE RESISTANCE TO CHURCH PROPERTY CHANGES?**  
 With Rev. Sharon Core



**EPISODE 6**  
**BESIDES HOUSING, WHAT ARE OTHER IDEAS FOR RE-IMAGINING CHURCH PROPERTY?**  
 With Rev. Chrissy Ennen



**EPISODE 7**  
**HOW CAN RURAL CHURCHES INNOVATE WITH THEIR BUILDING AND LAND?**  
 With Pastor Kevin Riley



**EPISODE 8**  
**WHAT CAN PARTNERSHIPS UNLOCK FOR CHURCH PROPERTY?**  
 With Brenda Halverson and Rev. Staci Maurice-Wheeler



**EPISODE 9**  
**HOW CAN CHURCH PROPERTY SERVE THE NEIGHBORHOOD?**  
 With Joe Bowling



**EPISODE 10**  
**HOW CAN CHURCH PROPERTY BRING REPAIR?**  
 With Rev. Chris Dela Cruz and Rev. Melissa O'Keefe Reed



**EPISODE 11**  
**ARE TAXES DISTRACTING US FROM BIGGER CHURCH PROPERTY ISSUES?**  
 With Rev. Dr. Patrick G. Duggan



**EPISODE 12**  
**HOW DOES LEGACY SHAPE CHURCH PROPERTY DECISIONS?**  
 With Dr. Joseph W. Daniels, Jr.