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Story Vignette **That All May Be BUILDING: 1945-64**

Narrator: The post-war years were a booming time in Canada. Economically the country was riding the wave of a dramatic industrial output from the war effort and companies began to shift from war production to the consumer economy. As soldiers began to return home to family, to the growing economy and greater disposable income, there was, of course the post war baby boom. Patterns of growth shifted even further from rural to urban and now sub-urban areas of population growth. New neighbourhoods and developments grew quickly and sought to offer all the necessary amenities that people were looking for. Churches benefited from and contributed to this cycle of growth, building and general prosperity.

Planner: Well it looks like we are just about finished laying out this new neighbourhood here. Here's where the park will go (*points off*). The school will be there (*points to a different area*). Shopping plaza over there (*points to different area*). Oh yes, and the United Church of Canada has a new congregation that wants to purchase some property to build a church. I wonder what they will be looking for...

Worker: Well I give you some input on that one. My family and I are a part of the church and we have some thoughts about what should go into our new and expanding church. First of all we want a modern building with all the modern amenities that are needed in a modern church. For that you are going to need bricks (*places a box on the stage*).

We are also going to want to have LOTS of space for children and youth programs like Sunday School, Young People's Union, CGIT (*places second box*).

We should probably start looking at what we are going to be teaching those young people, might be time for us to start developing a 'New Curriculum' of some sort (*places a third box down*).

Parents of those children are going to want to have involvement in the church as well. Women's Associations and Women's Missionary Societies will be busy in kitchen, reaching out into the community and supporting missions overseas as well. Won't it be great to see all the women working together for growth and mission, United Church Women are amazing! Oh, and of course the men too! AOTS (As One That Serves) is growing and ministering as well (*places a fourth box down*).

We are also going to need to have training centres to prepare lay leadership ...

Planner: Wait a minute now! I don't have anything in my plans for training centres! By the way, what IS a training centre?

Worker: Take is easy! I am not just thinking about A church building! I am talking about the WHOLE United Church of Canada! We are going at a pretty good rate and we need places that will offer effective training for all sorts of ministries. A training centre is where we can put on those programs for a variety of people. In fact the Atlantic Christian Training Centre has just broken ground in Tatamagouche! It is a very exciting enterprise (*places a fifth box down*)!

Planner: Wow! You United Church people are really busy and on the go!

Worker: That is true. You'd never know that at the end of the war we were only 20 years old as a church and look at us growing.

Planner: You seem to have things under control. You look like you are going to be busy for a while. Don't get too involved in focusing on your planning and building, though. I can tell you as an urban planner, trends change at a moment's notice. If you are too intent on what you are doing yourself, you might not see what's growing up next to you!

Worker: That is true! Thanks for reminding me of that! We were born not only to be a UNITED church but a UNITING church as well! We have been in pretty constant conversation with our sister and brother denominations, and we were part of the founding of the World Council of Churches. I guess we need to keep our minds open to how we can continue to be a united AND uniting church (*places sixth box*).

Planner: Looks good! Say if I want to be included in this United Church of Canada, how could I do that?

Worker: Just come through the door! (*boxes are turned to reveal a door*) We are trying to include everyone!

** Instead of boxes, a visual stone was laid on the center screen as noted in the script, until finally the frame for a church door appeared, and then the door itself.*