New Ethnic Places of Worship and Urban Planning Challenges

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Outline

- Introduction
- Research questions
- Community profiles
- Findings
  - Planning challenges/trend
  - Types of services
- Suggestions
Introduction

- Phases in the evolution of places of worship
  - Being run from individuals’ homes
  - Matured and have found a temporary/permanent location
  - Well established and is expanding its facility further or move to another site

- What is Faith-based ethnic community?
  - Planned
  - Organically-evolved

- Faith-based community – a planning challenge
Faith-based communities
Research questions

- What are the planning challenges such places of worship face?
- What are the services provided by the places of worship?
- How do local municipalities deal with the growth of such communities?
The Ahmadiyya Community

The Hindu Sabha Community

The Nanaksar Community

The St. Clare of Assisi Community
Method

- Case study approach
- Municipal documents
  - Officials plans
  - Staff reports
  - Application for development
  - Ontario Municipal Board decisions
- Interviews with
  - Municipal planners
  - Religious leaders
  - Local politicians
Ahmadiyya Mosque
Hindu Sabha Temple
Planning challenges/trends

- Places of worship are becoming bigger, ethnic or non-ethnic, turning into regional worship centres.
- Current allocation of reserved spaces by municipalities are not enough for the new places of worship.
- Places of worship face challenges mainly related to traffic, noise and parking.
- Places of worship are moving into industrial areas at a rapid pace.
- Many have bought lands in the rural tracts of municipalities. Some have already moved in to these areas.
- Multiple uses lead to further complications with respect to parking. They open themselves up more stringent rules like food guidelines and environmental regulations.
Types of services

- places of worship provide a number of social services to their congregants
  - Settlement services
  - Services to its congregants
  - Services beyond its congregants
Conclusions/Suggestions

- Places of worship moving into industrial areas affect the economic well-being of municipalities.
- Revise parking standards
- Revise size of the space allocated for places of worship. Variety of sizes, placing them on the arterials or major collector roads rather than neighbourhood roads or inside of subdivision.
- Those that are moving in rural areas are consuming prime agricultural land, adding to the sprawl and causing burden on the City’s infrastructure.
- Explore Public private partnership in providing services
- Prepare Block plans in advance
- Provide more location options – in all land use designations, other than environmental features.