



CEDAR HEIGHTS

CHURCH



OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S GENEROSITY

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AN INVITATION

Jesus has done so much in seven and a half years to grow his church. As we reflect on what God has done, we are floored by God's grace. That is the only thing we can attribute anything of value that we have seen over the years – God's grace! He has allowed us to be a part of something truly special.

When we were first beginning as a team of 33 adults from Vine Church in Carbondale, IL, risking to obey Jesus and sacrificing to leave jobs, school, homes, family and friends, we asked ourselves, "Is all the sacrifice worth it if Jesus would even save one?" By his grace, we have watched Jesus save many people and have had the great privilege of baptizing 72 adults!

As people come into the church, we pray that the truth from the Bible would affect them in such a way that their whole life would be devoted to Jesus and that it would play out in the midst of the local church. Our hope has never been to draw a crowd, but rather a church full of authentic disciples who are willing to sacrifice everything for the people God has yet to bring. We remain fiercely committed to doing whatever is necessary to provide a space for those who would come to Jesus. Our leaders believe this is a next step of obedience that Jesus is asking of our church.

While we are thankful for all the locations we have been able to hold church services – school auditoriums, parking lots, gymnasiums, fields, other church facilities – we believe that God has led us to this facility to be a permanent home for Cedar Heights Church. God's amazing provision also comes with a crucial test for us as disciples as we sacrifice and trust Him with everything, for the sake of those He is going to continue to draw to himself.

We believe we have seen a glimpse of what is to come. We pray that God will give us the grace to make disciples for Jesus here in State College for many years, and many generations to come. Please join us in prayerfully considering how you can sacrifice and invest in what Jesus is doing next at Cedar Heights Church.

"...And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved." – Acts 2:47



WHO WE ARE

Our desire is to be a church where people can learn about Jesus in a way that is impactful and life changing. We believe that the local church should be a place where people can experience:

Truth - We hold to the Bible in all that it teaches as the very Word of God.

Following Jesus - Our intent is to be people who believe Jesus’ words, hold to His teaching, and live in obedience to Him.

Worship - Because of all that Jesus has accomplished for us on the cross, we sing of His excellence, beauty, and grace.

Small Groups - We gather in small groups during the week to apply the Bible to our lives, pray together, and enjoy new friendships.

Prayer - We pray for each other and we present our needs to Him, believing that He hears us and responds.

Multi-ethnic - We are committed to love and unity among people of many cultures, races, and nations together in Christ.

Multi-generational - We have a heart to reach college students, but a biblical church also has grandparents, families, young professionals, youth, & children.

Relationship - A biblical church is made up of people who grow in real, loving friendship that is lived out in unity of purpose.

Leadership - Jesus gives leaders to equip, instruct, encourage, and protect His church.

Church Size - We don’t attempt to be mega-churches or do multiple sites. We believe the ideal size for a relational local church may be under 1,000 people.

Church Planting - We constantly train church planting pastors, worship leaders, and planting teams to start new churches in other cities.

Mercy - The church is to be a place of healing, restoration, freedom, and new life.

This is not something that we just hope for. For the last 7.5 years we have experienced a deposit of these wonderful things, and we believe that in the days ahead, God will continue to change lives in our community.



To connect with students, we have regularly spent time on campus hosting events and giving away free stuff.

Seven years of setting up and tearing down all of our equipment to pull off our church services in the State College school facilities.

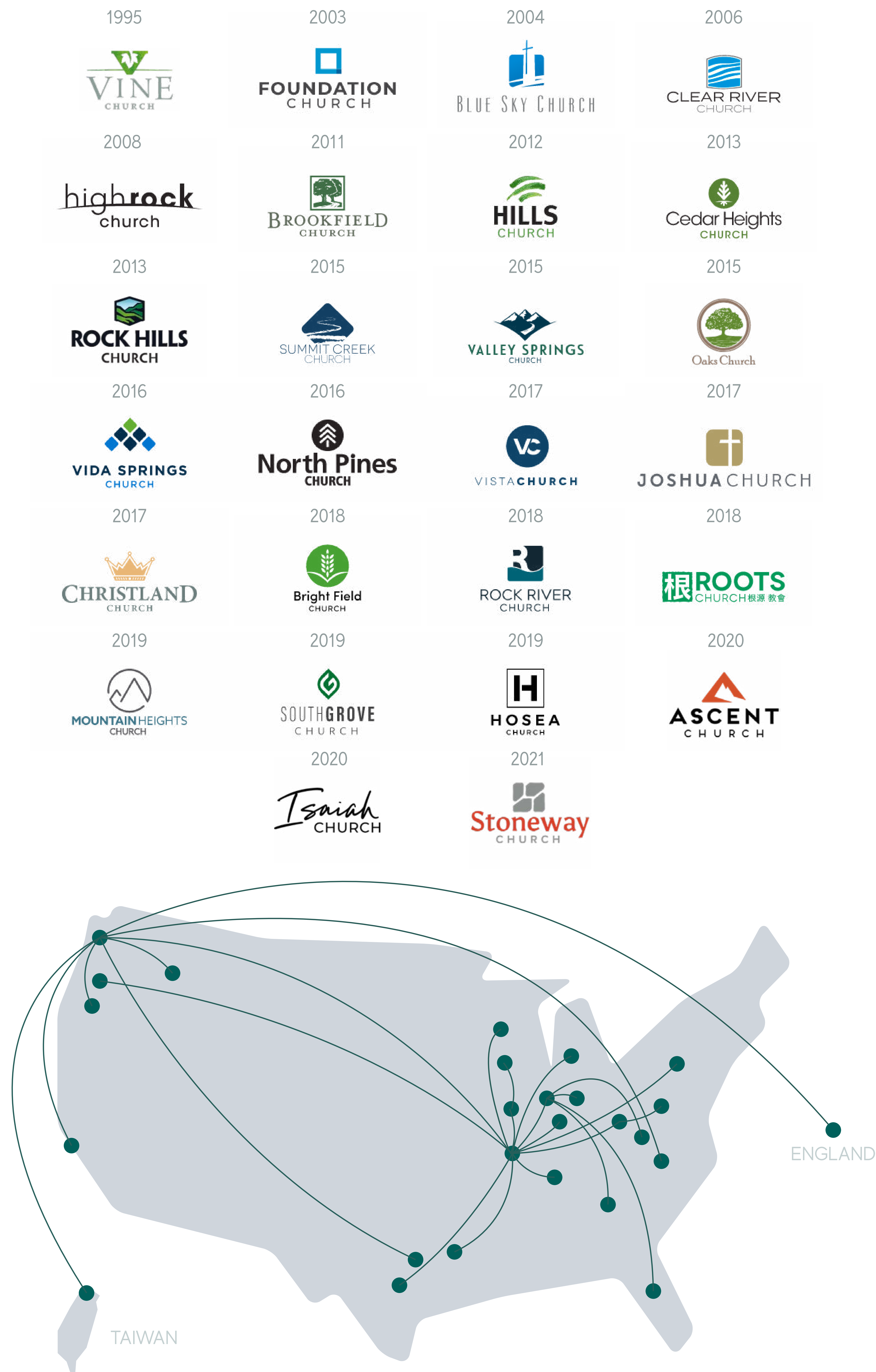


In December of 2013, we celebrated the first salvation at Cedar Heights as well as our first baptism. Since then, we have seen many more and have baptized 72 adults.

Events and church-wide parties allowed us to build community with one another and invite friends to join.



In our kids program, our children learn about Jesus in age-appropriate ways.



WHERE WE ARE GOING

Local Church

We understand the local church to be Jesus's primary vehicle for carrying out His mission of making disciples for Himself. We also believe that the models found in the New Testament for the local church are simple and functional. We aim for functional church structures with real people and relationships where God is worshiped, the Bible is clearly preached, leadership is developed, new believers come to Jesus, maturing disciples are trained and equipped in small groups and new churches are planted.

Church Planting

A major part of our vision at Cedar Heights is church planting. Local churches should be continually giving themselves away through sending well prepared church planters and teams to start new churches in other cities. Planting is the most effective way forward in making disciples for Jesus; it is simply an essential part of the greater mission that Jesus would be known and glorified.

Our Network

Cedar Heights is part of a group of church-planting churches that strive to obey Jesus' mission to make disciples in each of their cities. Together, we are like-minded in doctrine and style, yet not a denomination. We are friends who support and encourage each other, start new churches, and follow Jesus together. There are currently 26 churches in this group of churches.

Our Future

By the grace of God, we expect that Cedar Heights will continue to grow as we carry out our mission of disciple making and get to take part in the joy of sending out new church plants to other cities as God leads. The work we are doing now in making disciples who will risk and sacrifice for Jesus is absolutely crucial so we can be entrusted with more in the future.

HOW WE GET THERE

While buildings don't make disciples, staying in temporary space creates many challenges as we strive to grow into the kind of church Jesus is calling us to be. We believe stepping forward into permanent space will be a significant tool to keep going forward.

- Intense serving demands of countless hours spent setting up and tearing down exhaust serving teams, cut into valuable time for rest and family and take attention from the primary work of investing in people.
- Having a space that we will not be displaced from will allow us to maintain consistency.
- In many of the spaces that we have met for service, our worship quality and sound has been limited due to the room not being designed for that purpose. Not only will the quality improve, but having a space that is dedicated to worship and prayer will foster a welcoming environment for the presence of God to move as lives are transformed.
- Our desire is to grow more as a multi-generational church, but as people age, it often feels riskier for them to try out something that appears temporary or unestablished. In our group of churches, we've found that getting into permanent space is a significant marker in growing in this area.
- Event options are extremely limited with Sunday only rentals, which has kept us from being able to host gatherings like Christmas Eve services, Good Friday services, events, conferences and weddings.
- Most notably, at our current size, there is a very real tension between maintaining a small church community at the expense of growth, or growing at the expense of real relationships. In our group of churches, our solution to helping growth while still maintaining a small church relational feel is to start what we call Discipleship Communities. These are a cluster of small groups that meet on the same night that get together once a month to share a meal, worship together, have a short teaching, pray for one another and have a focused set of relationships. This is a significant need for us as a church in the coming years, but it requires having mid-week access to a building.



We were planted out of Vine Church in Carbondale, Ill, which started as a small group in this tiny rental house in 1995.

A church of 100 people, who were mostly college students, sacrificed to give \$187k for the first building which has since been expanded on.



Now with an average Sunday attendance around 1,200, Vine has seen many come to Jesus and has had the joy of sending 11 church plants to new cities.

A team of people moved from Vine to State College and Cedar Heights Church public services started in the fall of 2013. The first semester ended with attendance in the low 90s.



We have held services in the High School, the Middle School, outside and at State College Assembly of God and have still grown into a church of over 200 people.

OUR NEXT STEP

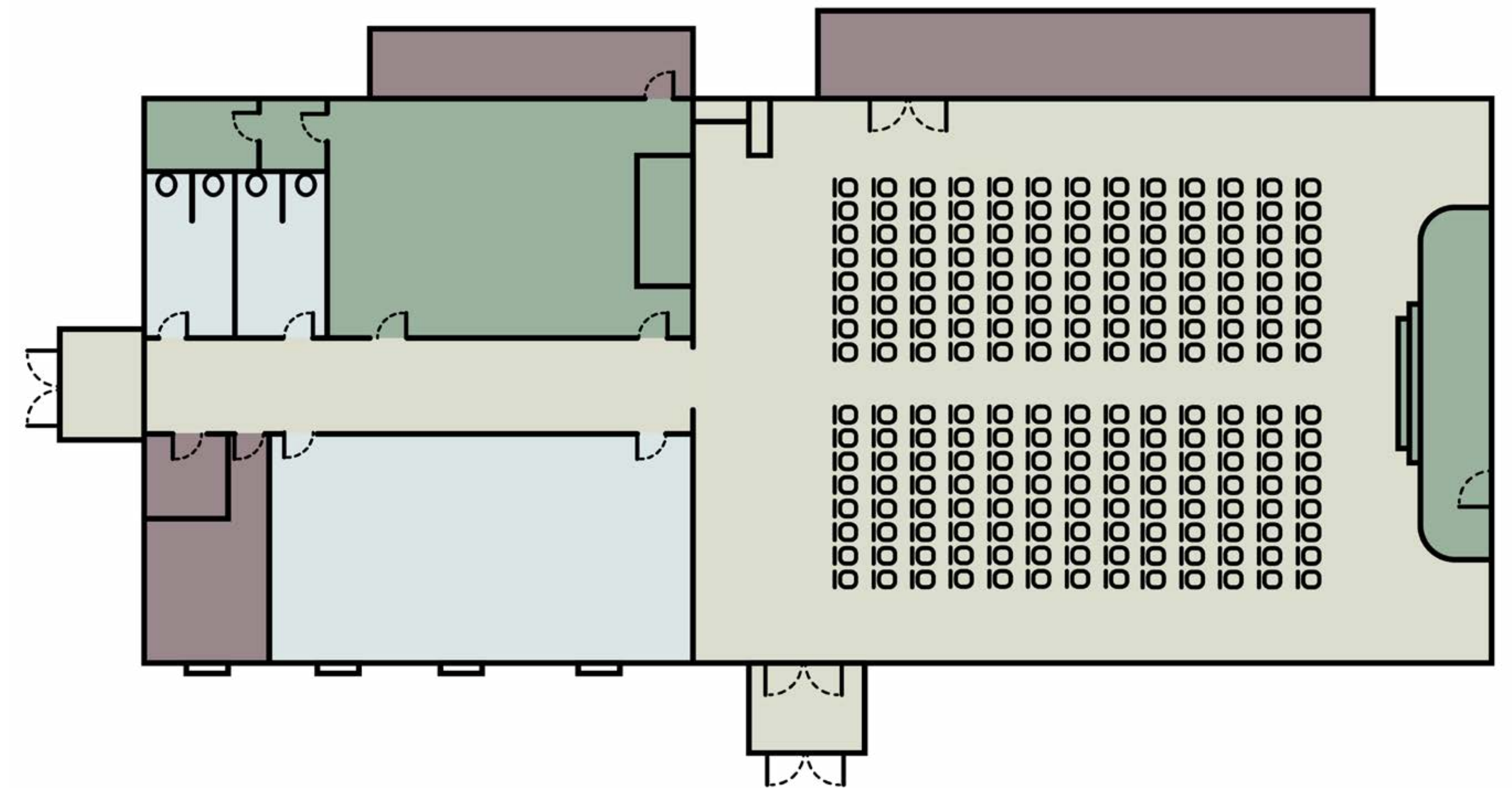
The property that God has highlighted allows us to foster our values for worship and reaching students and families, while also creating an environment that is comfortable and welcoming. Centrally located in State College and in a thriving and expanding part of town, we believe Jesus has provided an ideal location for us to continue growing as a “multi-generational, multi-ethnic, disciple-making church for students.”

This unique property has two buildings. The first would be our main gathering space with 7,200 square feet including a 3,500 square foot auditorium. As is, the space will allow us to grow to be a church of 500 with two services. There is also room for future expansion. The second building would be our kid’s space with 4,000 square feet. We would be sharing that space with a daycare. This would help offset our mortgage costs. All together, the property is 2.5 acres right on the corner of Blue Course and Stratford Drive, which puts us in the heart of a thriving, diverse community that is easily accessible to anyone in the State College area. We have so much faith for what God has planned for this location.

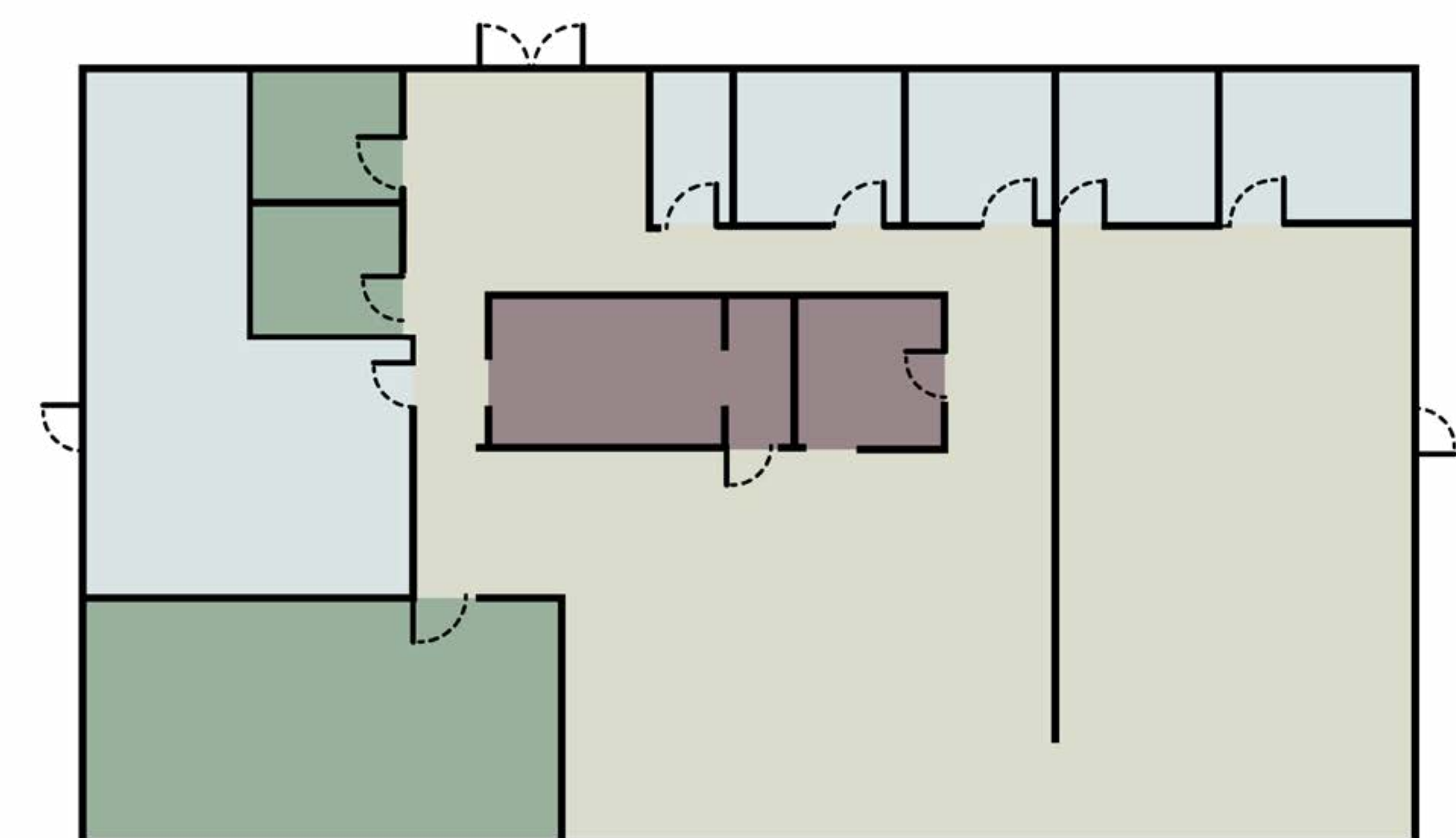


FLOOR PLANS

MAIN BUILDING



KID'S PROGRAM



FAQs

How long until we're in the building?

We plan on closing at some point in May with hopes to begin services in the facility early this summer.

How much will the project cost?

The purchase of the whole facility (11,200 square feet) will cost \$1.65 million. Initially, the church needs a 20% down payment in addition to the closing costs. This will be approximately \$380,000. We are able to cover \$50,000 of that amount with our current reserves. The bank has requested that 5% of the sale price (\$82,500) be held in an account for two years. This accounts for a substantial amount of our remaining reserves. This means we as a church need to come up with \$330,000 to secure financing for the purchase.

How will the building be paid for?

We plan to pay for the peroperty through the offering that we will collect on April 11th, 2021. The goal is for the church to sacrificially give over and above their current tithes when the offering is collected. There will also be an opportunity for people to make a one year commitment of giving, over and above their tithes, through commitment cards which will be available along with the giving envelopes.

What would a building offering look like?

A successful offering would result in at least \$330,000 in up-front gifts, allowing us to get into the space as it currently exists. Anything beyond this amount would allow us to make improvements and purchase furniture and equipment.

What should I give toward the facility build out?

We want individuals to give freely and not under compulsion. The Bible teaches that "God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:6-8). There are two very different approaches in determining what you should give. One approach would be to look at your checkbook or monthly budget and ask, "What can I/we afford?" This approach simply calculates existing resources and does not require prayer, faith, or God's help. A second approach is to prayerfully ask God what He wants you to give. This requires willingness to risk, listen to God, and then trust Him to provide as you step out in faith and obedience. We give the Holy Spirit fertile soil to grow us when we consider the second approach.

Continued...

What should I give toward the building? (Continued)

- We want each individual and family to experience the thrill of hearing God, and then risk in obedience in a way that causes them to grow.
- We want to have our vision and faith expanded, and experience how God faithfully provides for our needs.
- We want to experience God's power and as a result, love Him more with our lives.
- We believe that this project is a great spiritual adventure that has the potential to deepen our faith and grow us as disciples in order to experience His kingdom more fully than ever before!
- We want to give with faith, knowing that we are investing in future salvations and future generations!

Are there giving guidelines?

Many people have asked for guidelines in praying and discerning God's will as this offering is collected.

STEP 1: Acknowledge that God is the owner of everything on the earth (Psalm 24:1; 50:1-2) and we are the managers of what He has given us. Everything we have - our time, talents, natural abilities, possessions, financial resources, families, health, the places we live and so forth - are essentially a loan from God. It's our responsibility to manage these things wisely, at His instruction, for His purposes.

STEP 2: We want to affirm that God's financial plan for His people (in both Old and New Testament times) includes giving of tithes and offerings. Consequently, we want to encourage those who call Cedar Heights "home," but are not yet tithing to the church, to begin doing so. Tithing is when we voluntarily and regularly give to the church. That is, followers of Jesus are to give the first 10% of all our income to God (Proverbs 3:9; Malachi 3:6-12). Tithe means "a tenth part."

STEP 3: Once church members are faithful to give their tithe, then they are prepared to take the next step of obedience by giving an offering - in this case, in the form of a gift or pledge to the Building Offering.

Biblically speaking, an offering is any voluntary donation that is given with God's leading beyond your tithe. In the Old Testament, not only did the Israelites tithe, but they also gave a number of offerings to God through the course of the year (sin offerings, freewill offerings, the first fruit offering, etc.). The New Testament also teaches that in addition to tithes, the early disciples frequently gave offerings for the purposes of advancing God's Kingdom (see Acts 4:34-35; 11:29-30). We believe that it is the responsibility of every person to ask for God's direction in participating in this exciting step for our church. Specifically, we desire every individual and family to prayerfully consider an offering to the new facility. In the book of Acts, the early church lived out their faith by selling property and possessions and by sacrificially giving and providing for the needs of the church. In order to fulfill the vision God has given us, it will take a great sacrificial effort from the church.

FAQs (cont.)

We believe that God wants equal sacrifice, but not equal amounts.

For some, a one-time gift of \$1000 or a pledge of \$100 a month for the next 12 months will be extremely sacrificial. While others, who have been entrusted with greater financial resources, will give significantly more. The point is that God wants each one of us to give sacrificially, no matter what the actual amount may be. The entire church family now has the opportunity to experience the joy of sacrificially giving, and parents can use this time to teach their children about the joy of giving and financial stewardship. In the end, we believe we will celebrate God's provision for his church through our sacrifice.

How do I give?

At our Sunday service on April 11th, 2021, you will have the opportunity to give a one-time gift and/or a 12-month commitment to the building offering. A commitment card will be provided for you.

Our leaders, overseers, and advisors in our group of churches are all persuaded Jesus is clearly leading in this, and we know He'll continue to lead us as we pray and seek Him, risk, trust and sacrifice in obedience to Him. This is the next great leap for us as a church and we are excited to see how God moves! We consider every one of you an important part of this adventure.

Board of Directors

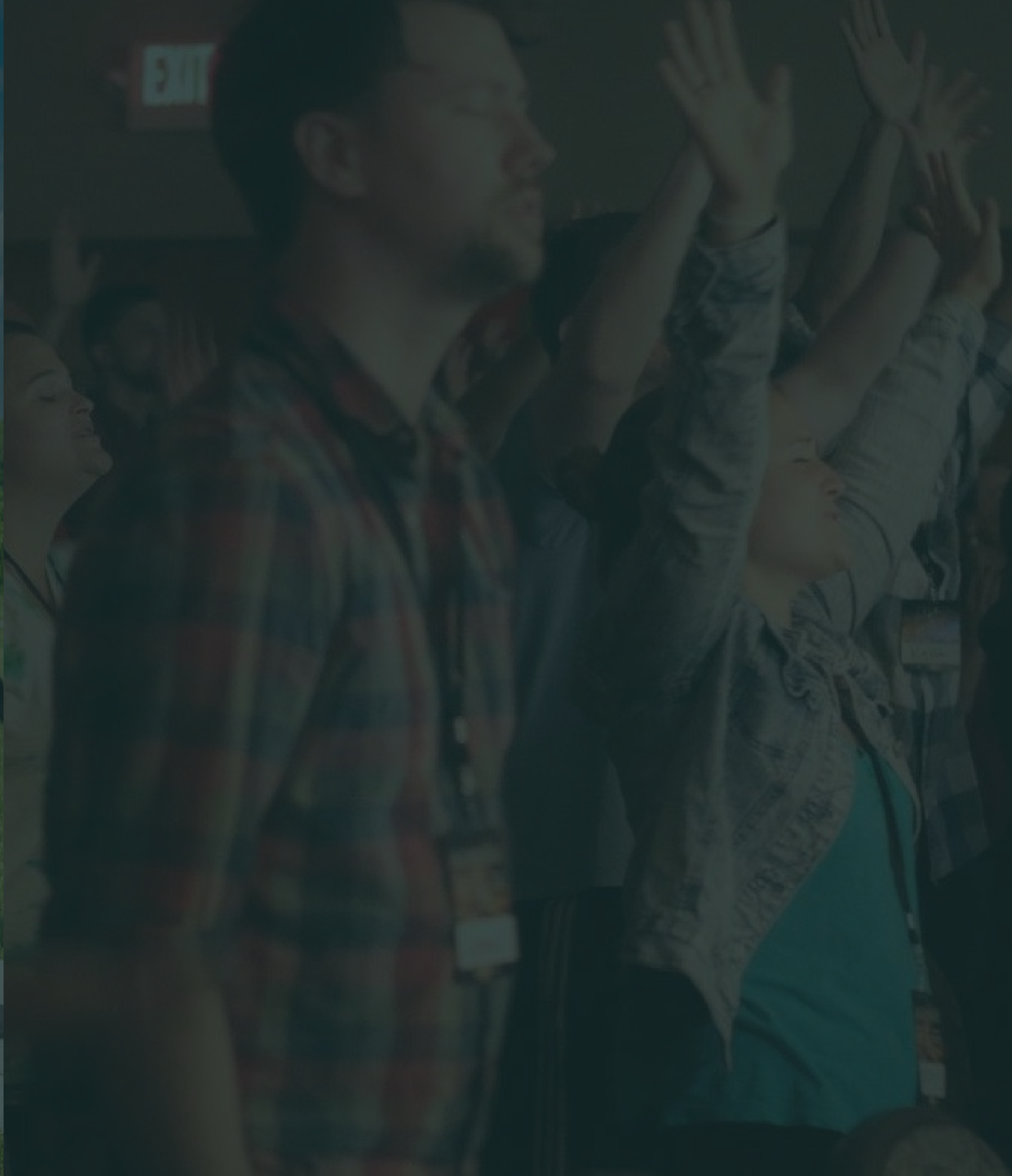
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