

(June 2021 Update)

Where we've been

From ECF's inception in 2001, utilizing schools to gather was part of a strategic plan to control costs and to also find, and invest in, organic serving opportunities through the school community. It has become a significant part of our identity and a major outlet for us to Love, Serve and Connect with our broader community. In 2013, ECF almost closed on a deal to purchase a church building in Kirkland, but at the last minute the other church decided not to sell. Since then, ECF has continued to meet in Rose Hill Middle School and remain faithful to the service opportunities God has provided as a result of that model.

Where we are

Obviously COVID-19 threw a sizable wrench into our model, but through God's continued grace and provision, we have been able to function and host in-person worship and other gatherings since September 2020 at the ECF Event Center, while continuing to pursue our way back to Rose Hill Middle School.

Where we're going

In November of 2020, a small group of our legacy members approached our leadership with a kingdom-centered desire to gift ECF with over one million dollars through a donor-directed fund, with the hopes of re-engaging the process we walked through in 2012-2013 to find a permanent home for ECF. After a few months of prayer and preliminary findings, our elder team made the decision to officially launch this search and see what other doors God has ECF walking through in this season. We have formed a **Project Next Door** Team and are now gathering information through networking and seeking counsel from those who are in relevant areas of expertise on the eastside. We're calling this endeavor Project Next Door simply because we've seen throughout our existence God's way of bringing us doors to walk through, and throughout the process growing our faith and trust in His goodness. We see this as similar to when we began our search for our next lead pastor which had its own set of open and closed doors, and ultimately led us to Joseph Rahm, who became our lead pastor on February 01, 2021.

We want to be very clear; we are not only on a quest to buy a building. Our quest is to walk through this door that we believe God has opened and see where He leads. At the same time, we will continue to be focused on our ministry vision to **love, connect, and serve our community**. Our commitment is to walk through this door faithfully and to follow God's direction. **We have not predetermined an outcome; we have predetermined to be faithful** (as a church).

Possible scenarios being investigated (next page)

- *Coming along side another church with an existing building*
- *Light Industrial Buildout (similar to our current office/EventCenter)*
- *Raw land buildout*
- *Inclusive of our target area (generally Bellevue, Kirkland, Redmond and South Bothell)*

Cost

Current cash on hand in our Building Fund (raised in 2013) and the funds pledged by the small group of member's totals approximately \$1.5 million. Now, if we do find a building to purchase, we anticipate it costing more than our previous opportunity (2013) to buy an existing church building which you may remember was \$3.2 million. We will be much more specific as opportunities arise but suffice it to say we anticipate needing to raise another one to two million internally through faith pledges in order for our total monthly cost to stay within our **current operating budget**, which is a priority our elder team has made very clear to the PND team. With that being said, we don't ever want to get ahead of God's plan which may include something different and better than we ask or imagine.

What are some other specific ways you can be involved?

[Join our Prayer Team](#)

Network

(Connect with us if you or others you may know who can help us with this process)

- Local Churches that you may be aware of that are in transition
- Commercial property that you see may be available for purchase
- Christian brothers and sisters that are in the Construction/Remodel industry
 - If you have a skill that you'd like to contribute

Recap

No predetermined destination...just steps of obedience, with hopes of continuing to grow in our effectiveness in sharing Jesus with our community through words, acts and love!

Questions/Comments:

Call or Email our Associate Pastor & PND Project manager any time!
206-640-9257 / kasrasoltani@myecf.org

(July 2021 Update)

- A. Recapping where we've been, where we are today and where (*through God's leading and continued provision*) we're going.
- B. Share the various scenarios in consideration (*known to us currently*) and update each one accordingly:
 - Partnering with another church: *We have completed drafting a general introductory letter that we hope to send to churches (strategically chosen, based on a criteria) by the end of this month and begin the follow up process in a couple of weeks.*
 - Light Industrial Options: *Currently following up on listings that come our way (still not in contract with an agent), but our radars (and you radars hopefully) are active!*
 - Raw Land: We also continue to look and consider this option, if location and costs make sense to us.

- C. John and Dave having completed and submitted the documents requested by our contact who offered to do our free initial assessment in regards to various borrowing opportunities has told us that we could qualify for 1.5-2 mil. At approx. 4%. The monthly payment plus our estimate of other operating costs would allow us to keep our monthly out-of-pocket expenses very similar to what we budget for the office/EventCenter and RHMS. This will obviously all depend on our ability to raise additional funds above and beyond the approximately \$1.1 million from the small group of members and the \$300,000 ECF has reserved for this use.

With that said, our leadership continues to be committed to staying within our current expenditures and protecting our ability to use God's resources for kingdom purposes and expansion. But if there are scenarios that require some of the funds to be borrowed, repayment would be built into our multi-tiered faith pledges that we're still developing.

- D. A [Frequently Asked Questions document is now available](#) on the website and App for you to interact with and find some more clarity on items you may be curious about. Along with other PND documents and previous updates.
- E. After the service, some PND Team members, myself, Joseph and other elders on-site will be available to host a Q&A in regards to this adventure. (LOCATION: Stage room)

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A. Financial Update/Review

This is information some of you may already be familiar with and it may be new to some of you, so in our ongoing effort to always be on the same page, here's what we know. Our current cash on hand (ECF savings & donor-directed fund) equals 1.5 million. Based on preliminary info gained through a loan specialist, given our current income, we can qualify for 1.0-2.0 million dollars. Lastly, given the potential total cost of a building, we're looking at an additional 1.0-2.5 million to be raised through our collective faith pledges. (More on this later). Of course, given our varying range of potential opportunities (partnering with a church that owns a building/light industrial/raw land), the total project cost can vary greatly. As a leadership, we continue to be committed to not exceeding our current facilities expenditures, and also shopping within our means (cash on hand + loan + faith pledges).

B. Current sites in consideration

In our preliminary search, we've had the opportunity to walk through 3 distinct properties located in Woodinville, Kirkland, and Bellevue. The Woodinville property (Country Day School) off of Woodinville-Duvall road across from Cottage Lake, sits on almost 4 acres of clear and wooded areas. There are currently 2 main structures (a large building housing 4 large spaces and a 1600 sq. Home). The amount of land certainly lends us plenty of space to construct a sanctuary and room for ample parking. Some of the prohibitive items are location (on the outer edge of our target area) and given the purchase price and expenditures required for building and relocating septic, we would be on the high end of our total project cost estimate.

The second site we have visited (HR2 Research Building) located off of Bel-Red Road in Bellevue is a mixed-use office space, with the potential of creative architecture maneuvering lending us the ability to utilize the space as a sanctuary/classrooms/offices/storage, leaves us with a couple of challenges. Parking (29 spaces on-site), but surrounding offices that are dormant on Sundays, could lend themselves to a mutual understanding of shared usage. The other challenge with this site is parts of the structure that are not movable (according to the owner) and the overall age condition of the exterior and interior of the building.

Lastly, some of the PND team members and our staff have toured a building (Derian Building) located at 124th and Willows Rd. in Kirkland. This mixed-use complex is 2 stories (offices above and a large open space below). The building was retrofitted and brought up to current codes in

2007 and is in overall good shape. It's turn-key in a lot of ways which ECF is currently functioning at the EventCenter (with even more classroom spaces), but with 2 major limits being the areas of parking (20+ spaces) and potential open space limitations (we estimate about 100 seats) in an auditorium context. A potential solution to the parking may be the usage of a technology building across the street, which our broker is investigating for us.

All 3 of these initial sites present challenges and opportunities. Not just as what a physical space could function as for us, but how can the mission of ECF (Love/Connect/Serve) in our community continue to perpetuate and grow, even in new ways we haven't imagined yet. This is the exciting part. A building is just a building, but how God's people can redeem it for the kingdom, and use it as a tool and conduit to grow and to invite others into the adventure, is what really should get us excited, church! Amen?

C. Prospectus & Faith Pledges

Our PND team has been working on a booklet we're calling the Project Next Door Prospectus. with the simple goal to capture this whole adventure on paper (and of course digital means) to help inform and be used as a tool for all those involved and committed. Everyone will be handed one of these as you exit today, but at the end of this prospectus, is a page titled "Your Faith Pledge".

We know most of you have been talking to Jesus about this, but we're asking all of us to go to the next level and faithfully pledge to an amount that God has placed on our hearts. This is a total amount for the duration of the project that may be given in different iterations throughout a span of time. Our hope is to collect these (anonymously) in about a month as we continue looking for possibilities. The opportunity before us is a clear one...we all can participate in perpetuating the experiences, relationships, community impact for the next 20 years in new and exciting ways. So we hope that your approach isn't "what can I do" but rather "what can God do" through our collective resources.