



Frequently Asked Questions

Background

1. What was the genesis of this project? What got it started?

Late in 2020, a small group of deeply committed ECF members approached the Eldership offering to set aside ~\$1.1M in a charitable giving account to be used toward a permanent home for ECF. Honoring that very tangible commitment, the Elders put together a group to evaluate the real estate market to see how feasible something like this would be. After a few months of research, talking to market professionals, prayer, and discussion the Elders have made the decision to put together a team to pursue a permanent home for ECF.

2. How is the consideration of a new building connected with our mission/vision?

We feel that with any decision that impacts our longevity and maximizes our resources, will always put us in a better position to accomplish our mission to LOVE, CONNECT and SERVE.

3. Are there any ministry limitations with our current facilities model?

Outside of a global pandemic (one of the drawbacks of relying on a public building to conduct services), we have been able to maintain most of our ministries with the exception of being at our usual capacity and offering a full kid's ministry offering on Sunday mornings.

4. How does this impact our relationship with and investment in Rose Hill Middle School?

It is our hope and desire to continue to come alongside RHMS and support their families in need and any other opportunity that helps us to connect with our broader community.

5. Why now? What makes this timely, especially given everything we have all been dealing with since March 2020?

The Elders have prayerfully interpreted the unsolicited offer of funding from the ECF member group as an open door put that God has called us to walk through in faith. We are stepping forward in faith and looking for the next open door. Our mandate is to make disciples for Jesus and if a building will help us do that better, then we will walk through the open doors when and if they appear. It is also clear that our dependance on a third party, in this case the Lake Washington School District, to permit us access to the facility where we meet as a church has been a challenge. And while we do not expect events such as the Covid 19 pandemic to be frequent, this last year and a half has made the cost of such dependance very tangible.

Facility

6. What is our target search area?

Our primary search area includes strategic areas of Bellevue, Kirkland, Redmond, and South Bothell which is where roughly 80% of our members live.

7. What options for a permanent facility are we considering?

Currently our team is researching the following possibilities:

- *Coming along side another church with an existing building*
- *Light Industrial Buildout (similar to our current office/EventCenter)*
- *Raw land buildout*

8. What are the facility priorities at a new space?

Philosophically, we desire to invest in a flexible space that can be utilized the "other 6 days" of the week and not be only centered on our Sunday worship gatherings. Practically speaking, we need a setting to host our Sunday worship service, adequate parking, classroom space for student and adult Christian education, staff offices, storage and a kitchen for food related events and gatherings.

9. Is the intent to find/build for growth, or disperse as we grow?

With this investment, we believe it is prudent to plan for our current size/needs along with an anticipated increase. Long-term we would love to see a church plant that is birthed out of ECF, because with God's blessings, healthy things grow.

Funding

10. How much will this endeavor cost?

The ultimate cost will be highly dependent on the facility. However, considering what we know about the current real estate market we can envision up to \$1-\$2 million in renovation or expansion costs on the low side if we were to partner with an existing church. On the high side, if we were to purchase an existing building and renovate, or purchase raw land and construct a building it is reasonable to expect the cost to approach \$6 million. The estimated cost of any project undertaken will be shared with the church prior to the initiation of any work.

11. Are we going to increase our annual operating budget?

Our Elders, the Project Next Door team, as well as the small group of ECF members that helped initiate this project believe very strongly that we should not exceed our current facilities operating costs. Additionally, we know that since we currently lease our facilities they will continue to increase in cost over time. Our hope would be to decrease our facilities costs over time through ownership.

12. Will a capital campaign be used to raise funds?

Yes, we anticipate conducting a capital campaign targeted to the specific needs of the opportunity. We recognize that each member will need to take this matter up in prayer and seek God's guidance. We also know that this will require a financial sacrifice by each of us and demonstration of our faith in

God's provision. God has faithfully provided for ECF over the years and we know that if we continue to seek His will in this project He will lead us to the correct decision. We are also incredibly amazed and thankful for the memberships' on-going faithfulness in its tithes and offerings that sustain and continue kingdom work through ECF.

13. Will we utilize debt to pay for this project?

It is possible that we could utilize debt for some portion of the funding for this project. Interest rates and terms are very favorable at this time and therefore debt might be appropriate for this project. We are currently investigating sources and terms for debt financing and have preliminary indications that we could have access to debt funding of \$1.5 - \$2.0 million at 4.5% - 5%. Debt available to churches typically has a term of 7 – 10 years over which we would plan to fully repay during that time through additional capital campaigns.

14. What is a faith pledge?

We could just say “pledge”, but we recognize that for many, voluntarily pledging a level of contribution to this effort does represent a big step of faith. So, a faith pledge is just that...a voluntary statement, in faith, of the intention to give a specific amount towards this building project.

Personal/Family Involvement

15. Can I make a faith pledge even if I am not currently able to give?

Yes, this is an opportunity to trust in the Lord's provision, even when it is not in our timing.

16. Can I revise my faith pledge over the time of the campaign?

We know that finances change over time and that some of us may find opportunities to increase our pledges and some of us may experience unplanned challenges. We ask that, as in all aspects of our worship and devotion to God, we keep our pledges in prayer and follow His leading.

17. What can I do to help?

First, please pray for the Elders and for the Project Next Door team. Pray that we have the insight to discern the open doors, and to always put God's mission for us ahead of any individual desires. Second, in the meantime, stay laser focused on the care of one another and the ministry we have to our Rose Hill community.

General

18. How long will this project take?

At this early stage it is simply too early to know for certain. What we can tell you is that we are actively pursuing all the scenarios listed in #6 above. There are many unknowns and potential scenarios but it could be very short if we were to find an existing church facility and easily two to three years if we were take on a significant remodeling or construction project.

Ultimately we all know that we are not the ones controlling the time frame but we will move faithfully through each door God opens for us to peak into.