



Frequently asked Questions

- 1. What is this journey about?** Being faithful to the great commission through the principle of reproducing and multiplying ministries, South Side has been faithful to this in the past in helping to plant several churches in the Springfield area and in New England. Through multi-site ministry, we are currently pursuing this now. Our main emphasis is to experience growth through the replication of our connection groups, future leaders, ministries, and even locations. Our major challenge currently is to make the Southwest campus, which has been a very effective tool, a permanent part of the makeup of our ministry in Springfield so that it can also replicate itself.
- 2. Why are we taking this journey?** Reproduction is essential to the sustaining of life. Not only that, but we are commissioned by God to make disciples of all nations, starting with where we are. There are still plenty of people in Springfield that are lost without Christ. However, there is a great need for unique and unconventional methods of reaching those people who may not be comfortable in a traditional church setting. The Southwest campus is enabling us to reach some of those people through our unconventional approaches!
- 3. Why do we need to purchase the Southwest Campus facility now?** Under our current contract for deed we must purchase the facility on or before August of 2011 in order to continue using the building. This fall we are gathering three-year pledges that will go toward the purchase of the facility. In November, we will be collecting our First Fruits offering, which will be the initial offering for the three year time period.
- 4. How much will it cost?** This mission needs \$1,600,000 to insure that the ministry of the Southwest Campus will have a permanent home into the future.
- 5. How will the money be used?** After paying for the costs of the campaign, 100% of all funds collected will be used to pay for the facility at 3040 Hamlin Avenue. If debt is incurred to complete the purchase, funds will be used to pay

off that debt as they are received over the three year period of the campaign. Any funds collected above and beyond what is needed to purchase the facility will be used for physical improvements to either the MacArthur Campus or the Southwest Campus.

- 6. What are you asking me to do?** Each of us is on a journey of faith, and together we are on a journey as a family of disciples at South Side. We ask you to join together in taking a step of faith by asking God how you might be involved in The Journey Forward. We trust that God will lead you as you consider how you might be able to participate over the next three years. We simply ask that you will be open to God and obey his leading. As we all do, we will see God do more than we could all do in our own efforts. We ask you to join us on a spiritual journey resulting in a three year financial commitment over and above our regular giving, beginning on November 21, 2010. This next step of faith seems daunting. It is a step that is beyond any of us as individuals, but it is not beyond what God can do through the collective efforts of those within his church. When we are faithful to Him he can and will do great things!
- 7. Are leaders doing what you are asking me to do?** Yes. The elders, ministers, and campaign leadership will all prayerfully consider where God is leading them on the journey and make a pledge accordingly. The total commitment of the leaders will be shared with the congregation prior to asking the membership at large to make a pledge toward The Journey Forward.
- 8. Is this commitment confidential?** Absolutely. We also want you to know that as you pray about your commitment, it is also ok to say no. However, we do ask that you prayerfully consider what direction God may be leading you as we follow him as a church.
- 9. How long is the commitment period for?** The Journey Forward campaign is a three year commitment to sacrificial giving. Pledges to the campaign will be from December 2010 through December 2013.
- 10. Is this an “over and above” commitment?** Yes. The church operates on a daily basis through the faithful giving of our congregation. In order to successfully continue ministry and take this large step forward, we need people to commit over and above their regular giving and tithes.
- 11. What does “sacrificial” giving mean?** Sacrificial giving means that we consider not just what we can currently give, but what God may ask us to give. He may have ways for us to give that we had never considered, such as hosting a fundraiser, collecting pledges for a bike-a-thon, etc. Sacrificial means that we

commit to follow God's leading as our Lord. Since many people do not automatically have a large margin from which to draw for their giving, it may also mean that some short term lifestyle changes may need to be made in order to give financially.

- 12. What are some ways I can give "sacrificially?"** There is no limit to how God leads us in our sacrifices. In the Bible, Barnabus and others were commended for the selling of property and other possessions. Others went to lengths of going without certain amenities and even food. Simply ask God, "Lord, what do you have in mind for me as I consider the future of your church?"
- 13. What if I can't make a commitment at this time?** If you cannot make a commitment at this time, we understand. Please commit this undertaking to prayer. If circumstances change in the future, please consider how you may be able to participate.
- 14. Can I adjust the commitment if circumstances make it necessary?** Of course! Every day we have to make alterations in life, and this is no different. Simply let the church know as soon as possible that you need to make a change in your commitment. This would obviously apply whether it be an increase or decrease in your pledge.
- 15. How often should I make my contributions to the campaign?** This is up to you. You may make a pledge on a weekly basis, monthly basis, yearly basis, or some combination of the three. However, fiscal wisdom tells us that the more money we have up front the better.
- 16. When will it end?** Pledges for the Journey Forward Campaign will end in three years, in December of 2013. Our journey of faith as individuals and a church family is a lifetime endeavor.
- 17. What other funds are available?** We have been blessed as a congregation to be the beneficiary of an estate gift. While this gift has not yet been received, we anticipate that South Side will receive \$575,000 in the fall of this year. As a leadership, we are allocating the majority of the gift to the purchase of the facility at 3040 Hamlin.

18. Are we borrowing money? The leadership of South Side is receptive to the responsible use of debt to purchase property or facilities for ministry use when necessary. We are absolutely opposed to the use of debt to fund day to day ministry operations. A mortgage of \$308,000 was incurred to purchase land adjacent to the Southwest Campus. That loan has been paid off in its entirety. As a matter of history, South Side has had a mortgage of one kind or another for most of its history.

If we are able to raise enough money to meet the needs of this vision, there will be no debt incurred to purchase the facility. If it is necessary to secure a mortgage to complete the purchase, we will only consider a debt obligation that the congregation can manage. Even so, there are variables involved that we cannot predict, such as future interest rates, the timing of cash flow from our capital funds drive and the financial status of the congregation if and when the time comes to take out a mortgage loan.

From a purely logistical standpoint, a short term mortgage will likely be necessary even if we receive commitments and gifts of \$1,600,000 as we will need to allow the congregation enough time to meet its pledges. The congregation must close on the 3040 Hamlin facility no later than August of 2011. We must pay the total due at closing, so a loan will probably be necessary to bridge the time for the commitments to come in over a three year period.