



FIRST EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH
RELOCATION PROJECT



LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

Greetings! I am so glad you are taking the time to read about our exciting relocation story. It has truly been a journey of faith and miraculous provision as we have followed God's leading one step at a time.

Our mission at First Free is to make, mature, and multiply followers of Jesus Christ among all people. This includes the **bold and clear proclamation of the gospel of our Lord Jesus, and building the people of God up in their faith through the preaching and teaching of God's Word.**

First Free has been proclaiming this message for over 125 years and we believe that God would have us continue to be a testimony of His saving grace to the people of Colorado Springs for many decades to come. That is why we have adopted the phrase, *Building on the PAST, in the PRESENT, and for the FUTURE* as the theme for our relocation campaign.

Remember, this isn't about buildings and parking lots. This is about people and their eternal destinies. This is about people and their walk of faith while here on earth. This is about people and the grace, comfort, peace, joy, and perseverance that they need while living out their faith. **We believe this new facility is part of the infrastructure that will enable us to minister effectively for many years to come** as we build on the past, in the present, and for the future.

Whether you are a member, attender, or friend of First Free, I would invite you to participate with us in this exciting adventure, as together we invest in the Kingdom of God for His eternal glory!

Rob Caminiti

Pastor, First Evangelical Free Church

The motivation of First Evangelical Free Church is to be more effective in carrying out the Great Commission of the Lord Jesus Christ. This call to action, reflected in our church mission statement, is at the heart of our core values and provides the necessary foundation for our relocation journey. Our new facility is designed to provide an optimal environment to make disciples of all ages for decades to come.

The mission of the First Evangelical Free Church of Colorado Springs is
to make, mature, and multiply followers of Jesus Christ
among all people.

OUR CORE VALUES

GUIDE OUR RELOCATION JOURNEY

GLORIFYING GOD God created and redeemed us for His glory.

GOD'S WORD As His authoritative revelation to us, the Word of God is our standard for what we believe and how we live.

GOD'S WORD TRANSFORMS LIVES
Because God's Word is powerful to save and sanctify, our ministry is Word-centered and Word-focused.

LOVING GOD As Creator, Savior, and Lord, we owe God our deepest love.

LOVING PEOPLE Love for others is the second greatest commandment and is characterized by a commitment to consider one another as more important than ourselves.

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS
We believe God created us to be in loving relationships with one another and in that context, we find strength, encouragement, and support to grow in our relationship with Christ.

LOCAL AND GLOBAL EVANGELISM
Jesus' final command while on earth was to go into all the world and make disciples of all nations.

Our faith is not just an emotional desire for a certain outcome, but rather is a confidence that comes from knowing God and how He works, as revealed in Scripture. As you read over these biblical promises, join us in believing they will be fulfilled as we make this journey together.

WE TRUST IN A GOD WHO...

GIVES VISION. We believe that God has given us vision to relocate and carry out the Great Commission in our new strategic location .

Matthew 28:18-20 Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

ANSWERS PRAYER. We believe that God delights in answering the prayers of His servants and wants to accomplish His goals for us.

1 John 5:14-15 And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.

IS ALL POWERFUL. We believe that God performs mighty acts on our behalf if we earnestly seek Him.

Matthew 19:26 Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

GIVES WISDOM. We believe that God will make us wise in understanding His will and making Spirit-led decisions along the way.

James 1:5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

PROVIDES. We believe that God will provide the resources we need.

Philippians 4:19 And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

IS FAITHFUL. We believe that what God has started in providing for our new property, He will finish with the completion of our relocation.

Philippians 1:6 And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

IS LOVE. We believe that God desires that our love for Him and one another will motivate us to work together in unity, harmony, and self-sacrifice to accomplish the goal He has set before us.

John 17:21 That they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

GRANTS FAVOR. We believe that God will work in the hearts of all third parties involved in the project to show us favor from start to finish.

Genesis 39:21 But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison.

BUILDING ON THE PAST

1885 Our church's story began when a group of Swedish immigrants began meeting for Bible study together.

1895 First Evangelical Free Church of Colorado Springs was incorporated as the Swedish Evangelical Bible Mission. Its first permanent location was in downtown Colorado Springs on East Boulder Street between Weber and Wasatch Streets.

1956 The church purchased a one-acre site and an additional lot for a parsonage at the corner of Fontanero and 30th Street in the Pleasant Valley neighborhood of West Colorado Springs.

1959 A congregation of 29 began services in a new building on North 30th Street and Fontanero under the ministry of Pastor John Hedlund. Many of the families mortgaged their homes or borrowed against assets as a step of faith believing that God had called them to the west side of town. The parsonage was built first, where they worshipped for a period of time, followed by our current kitchen and gymnasium, which accommodated the growing church's needs.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF FIRST EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH OF COLORADO SPRINGS

1972 The church moved into its present sanctuary. Growing and thriving under the pastorate of Robert Wessel, the church began feeling a need for more meeting and ministry spaces, as well as more parking.

1988 Pastor Don Leigh led the church to prayerfully consider whether it should begin planning to accommodate growth. It was decided at that time that our growth strategy would continue to be through starting other churches rather than expansion, as it did in the 1970's with the start of Austin Bluffs Evangelical Free Church.



THE FIRST STEPS OF OUR RELOCATION JOURNEY...

1992 Under the leadership of Pastor Greg Fell, the church once again considered its growth strategy. It decided to explore a parcel of land on Elkton Drive near North Chestnut Street. The project was discontinued when it was discovered that there was considerable neighborhood resistance to a church and the likelihood of underground mines on the property.

2002 Pastor Brian Kluth led a project to purchase a commercial building on Mark Dabling Boulevard between West Fillmore Street and Garden of the Gods Road. The site provided a central location, but the building itself required considerable renovation to be useful as a church. The project lacked traction among the congregation and fund-raising efforts did not meet the minimum requirements for starting. The project was abandoned.

2011 The church considered a six-acre industrial site near the intersection of Garden of the Gods Road and North 30th Street. It looked promising until it was discovered that the covenants for that particular development did not permit a church. The location was removed from consideration.

2013 In November we became aware of a beautiful tract of land available at the corner of West Fillmore Street and Mesa Road. Situated between two schools and a future senior health care facility, it promised great outreach potential.

2016 Under the leadership of Pastor Rob Caminiti, on March 7, the church completed a cash purchase of three parcels totaling 15 acres. In retrospect, it is clear that God was preserving this special location until it could be given to First Free at the proper time and under the right circumstances.

The perseverance in these relocation attempts demonstrated purpose and resolve to see our mission carried out. Little did we know that He would provide a future location for us that was better than anything we had considered or envisioned. **In all these efforts, we felt strongly that God was saying, “Have patience; I have the right place for you.”**

Our present facility has been a welcoming place for generations of God's people in our community, as well as a base of support for numerous missionaries abroad. For the past fifty years, the Lord has consistently provided for our ministry needs in this property. However, even with faithful maintenance and strategic improvements, our current property has limitations that may now hinder the future growth of our ministry.

BUILDING IN THE PRESENT

SOME CURRENT LIMITATIONS

The size of our current sanctuary requires us to meet in two services which prevents us from worshipping together as one body. We believe one service would better serve the church because it would gather everyone, of all age groups and stations in life, into one worship service allowing everyone to minister to one another.

Rob Caminiti
Pastor

We currently use all of our available space to host AWANA, VBS and other large kids' events. There is little room for expanding and attracting large numbers. In addition, playing outdoor games can be challenging because of our limited yard space and the busy streets nearby.

Inadequate parking is an issue that has no good solution at our current property.

JoAnna Jones
Children's Ministry

Peter Poirson
Building and Grounds Team

Wayne Anderson
Young At Heart

The storage room used by Young At Heart is shared with many other ministries and there is always a problem getting to the space allocated. The inconvenience of having to make several trips through the Bible Study room to get to the supplies is not good. Members have been keeping supplies at home rather than having to deal with the challenges at the church.

The Fellowship Team is challenged to properly host events since the two separate kitchens are not adequate on their own to meet the needs of the events. There are currently two storage areas that are separate and not convenient for staging.

Gary Volkmar
Fellowship Team

The majority of our equipment is aging or failing, resulting in inconsistencies in how we conduct our worship. Lighting, sound, projection, and space management as well as the challenges inside our tech booth and congregational seating are all in need of updates to meet the communication needs of our congregation.

Zach Kellner
Worship Pastor

One of the major challenges for the Missions Team is the limited amount of space for providing information for missions-related activities and interactions. There is much to communicate through a missionary wall: prayer requests, missionary needs and many other related items. The new facility will provide greater visibility for missions-related activities.

Warren Jaeger
Missions Team

Our current church facilities do not have sufficient space for student ministries which is needed for developing a vibrant student ministry.

Bill Jones
Pastor

We have been called to evangelism and outreach in our community. The current property imposes limits and constraints in almost every church ministry. While any single identified limitation would not prohibit the effectiveness of the church, the combination of these shortcomings impact current and future ministries and may hinder the church's ability to efficiently carry out its mission. We believe God is opening doors for a new facility that will better accommodate our needs for many generations to come.



BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

We believe our relocation will help us more effectively fulfill our mission through:

A more strategic location. The hilltop location will provide greater visibility of the Light we share to our community.

Benefits of unified worship. Worshiping together as one congregation will foster a greater sense of unity and fellowship.

Ability to attract and retain. Studies have shown that inadequate parking can be a significant decision factor when visitors evaluate whether to return to worship. Our new location will have plenty of welcoming parking spaces.

Greater functional effectiveness. The site allows our church to build a larger, modern facility designed to meet specific ministry needs.

Opportunities to expand our reach. The space to serve greater numbers makes it possible to expand our ministry's reach, both locally and globally.

Enhanced local ministry opportunities. Our new location's proximity to Holmes Middle School, Coronado High School and the Healthcare Resort will facilitate more effective ministries that serve those populations.

A STRATEGIC LOCATION

CORONADO HIGH SCHOOL

Part of School District 11, with approximately 1,580 students, Coronado High School provides a perfect opportunity for ministering to our neighbors. The church has already supported the high school with several work days and sports-related activities, and our new location will facilitate other partnerships and outreach endeavors. Our building has been designed with midweek youth activities in mind.

SITE FEATURES

The site provides room for our beautiful and spacious new facility and ample parking space for more than 300 vehicles with access to Fillmore Street, Mesa Road and Grand Vista Circle. The valley can be developed into future recreational and parking areas. The open space will have numerous walking trails for relaxation, exercise and meditation among the many trees, beautiful vegetation and the meandering creek.

HEALTHCARE RESORT

Our neighbor to the northeast provides recuperative care and assisted living. Members of our church have already begun visiting with residents, establishing meaningful and caring relationships. Our church has sponsored a number of caroling events at Christmas. Our proximity is an opportunity to be a spiritual resource, form intentional relationships, and encourage residents in their faith.

HOLMES MIDDLE SCHOOL

Approximately 730 students in grades 6 through 8 attend Holmes Middle School. Our location puts us in a great position to support the school with sports and after school activities. We hope to continue to bless teachers and staff with resources and encouragement and to expand our tutoring program.

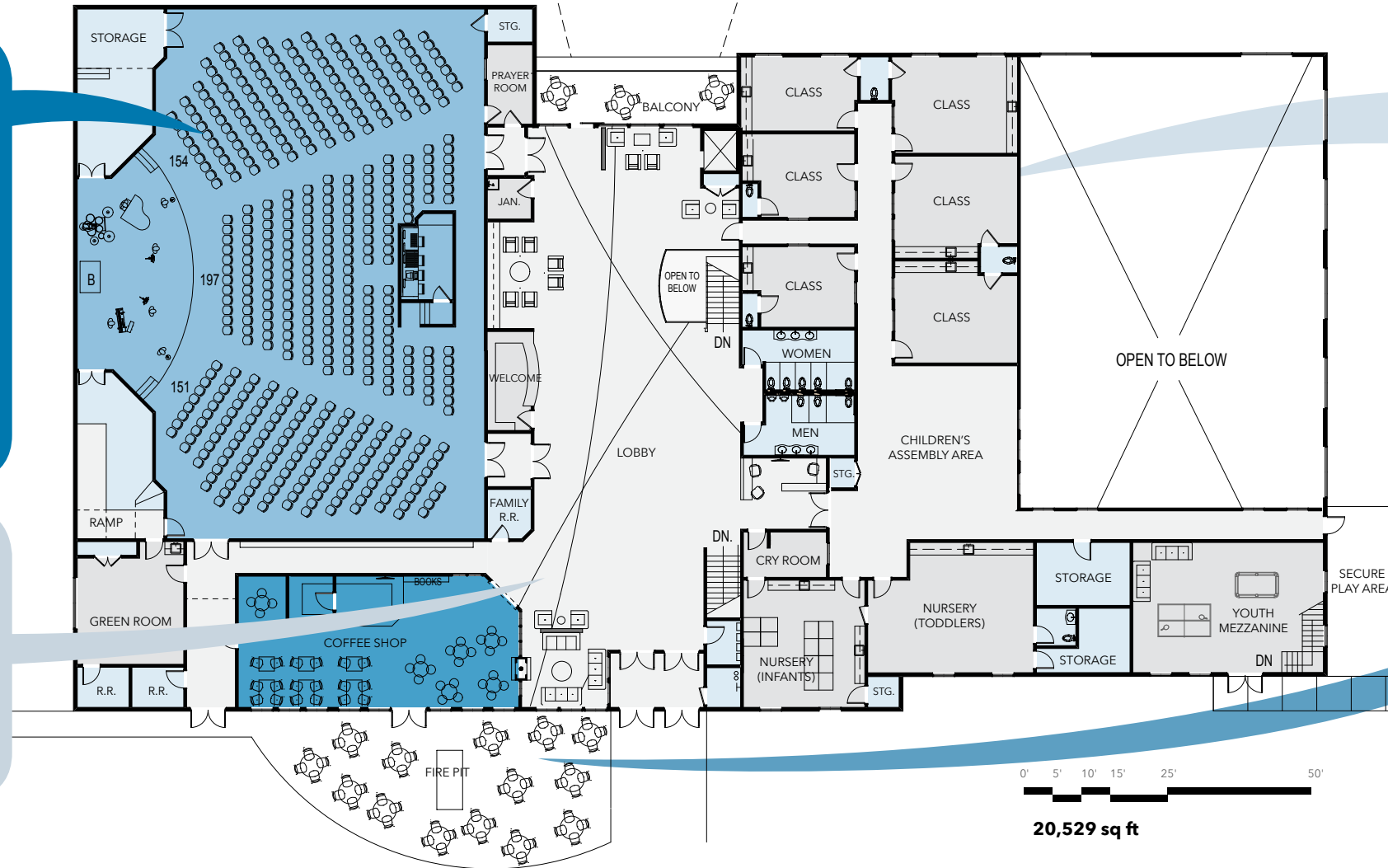
FIRST EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

WORSHIP CENTER *Exodus 25:8*

The church sanctuary is a key component in accomplishing our church's mission. It is an attractive space in which our fellowship of believers can gather to hear the preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ, receive teaching from the inspired Word, worship the triune God, and communicate with Him through prayer and praise. It is designed to seat 500 people in a room whose environment can be controlled using the latest technological advances.

LOBBY *Hebrews 10:24-25*

Connections happen in the lobby. This is communication central and a critical relational space. Our design incorporates a welcome desk, information wall, sitting areas, restrooms, coat storage, and an outdoor balcony.



SECURE KIDS AREA *Matthew 19:14*

Proximity to the sanctuary, security features, large classrooms, convenient parental drop-off and pickup, generous storage, and a large area for gathering the children together were some considerations driving the design of the children's area.

THIRD SPACE *1 John 1:7*

No space in our new facility has more potential for intersecting with our community than the coffee shop, which functions as a "third space." This is a non-threatening place outside of home and work for conversations without the often unfamiliar context of Sunday church. This is a versatile space for discipleship, community interactions, church events, and more—a space to "make, mature, and multiply followers of Jesus" in our community.

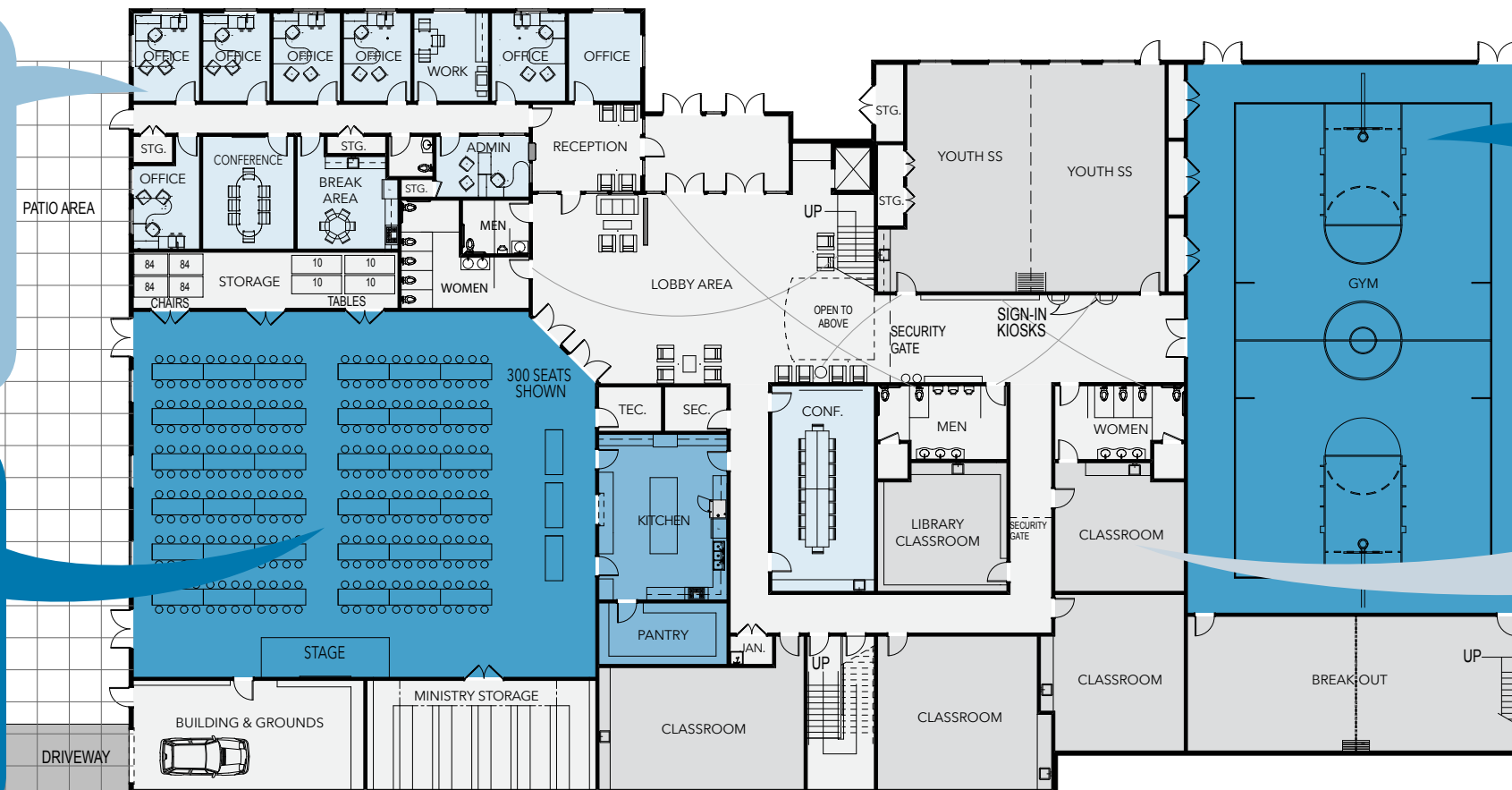
UPPER LEVEL PLAN

INTEGRATED OFFICE SPACE *Eph 4:11-16*

The new church office is integrated into the design of the building, with eight offices and three group work spaces. Throughout the week, visitors will enter through the reception and receive direction from the administrator. Like the coffee shop and gym, the office area can be used without needing to open the rest of the building.

KITCHEN AND EVENT SPACE *1 Cor 10:16*

Our facility will have a large fellowship room with seating for 300 people, served by a fully equipped kitchen, a program stage, and storage for tables and chairs. There is a nice outdoor patio where we can take advantage of the beautiful Colorado Springs weather or enjoy outdoor programs in an amphitheater-like setting.



GYMNASIUM *Matthew 5:16*

Our new gymnasium will be a large multi-purpose area for sports and other gatherings. It will play an important role in our youth ministry, augmented by several classrooms and an upper-floor game room. During the week, we will be able to open the gym and youth space for ministry while keeping the rest of the building secure.

ADULT CLASSROOMS *Colossians 3:16*

Five adult classrooms can be used for teaching, fellowship, seminars, and other events. The coffee shop can be used as an additional teaching space or small event venue. One of the classrooms will double as a church library.

LOWER LEVEL PLAN

24,742 sq ft

FUNDING

We are dependent on God's provision in raising the necessary contributions for completion of this project. The projected total cost of the fully constructed and equipped facility is approximately \$12,000,000. While this number may seem daunting, we know God is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us (Ephesians 3:20).

This is a lofty endeavor that we firmly believe the Lord has led us to complete. Will you join with us in seeking God about the part He would have you play in this faith journey?



WHAT'S MY PART IN THE STORY?

You have an important part to play in this relocation journey! We invite you to:

- 1) **Pray daily** for this project, our church and God's clear leading.
- 2) **Ask** God what He would have you give.
- 3) Respond with your **letter of intent** indicating what you feel God is prompting you to do.
- 4) **Obey**—fulfill your pledge, and see how God uses it for His glory.

These three types
of pledges will
help the campaign
team plan the way
forward in the
building process.

1 IMMEDIATE GIFTS Whether large or small, immediate gifts will help jump-start the building project.

2 REGULAR GIFTS Commit to giving monthly, quarterly or annually over a designated period. This pledge should be in addition to your regular giving.

3 FUTURE GIFTS If you need time to get your contribution and gift together, a written commitment of your future donation will help determine how we should move ahead with the building project.

For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have.

2 Corinthians 8:12

ADDITIONAL GIVING IDEAS

GIVING ASSETS

Any asset of value may be given to the church and an appropriate value may potentially be used as a tax deduction. Here are some ideas of types of assets that can be given towards the building campaign.

| | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| IRA/401(k) | Mutual Funds | Commodities |
| Gold | Bonds | Exercise Equipment |
| Silver | Jewelry | Instruments |
| Stocks | Appliances | Motorcycles |
| Coin Collections | Artwork | Partnerships |
| Real Estate | Boats/Water Craft | Rental Properties |
| Donor Advised Funds | Business Interests | Vehicles |
| Certificates of Deposit | China or Crystal | |

SKILLED LABOR

Many individuals have abilities and skills that can contribute “sweat equity” into the project. These opportunities will be communicated as they arise.

Immediate and future gifts to the building program do not need to be limited to cash. Here are some ideas to pray about:

ESTATE PLANNING

Consider leaving a legacy through naming the First Evangelical Free Church as a beneficiary for a specific amount in your will or estate plan.

IRA QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTION

A QCD can be made from an IRA by an individual who is 70 ½ or older. The donation is paid directly to the church’s building fund from the IRA and is not taxed. The QCD may reduce the impact on certain income tax items, including Social Security and Medicare. You can also satisfy your IRA annual Required Minimum Distribution (RMDs) by using a QCD.

BUSINESS CONTRIBUTIONS

Friends of First Evangelical Free Church from the community can encourage and support the project by providing materials, equipment, supplies and/or discounts to the project.

Depending on the size and type of asset, it may be wise to seek expert counsel from experienced estate planning professionals to determine how to most effectively and affordably donate the asset to the building program. Careful planning with experienced professional counsel can evaluate tax and estate planning issues and maximize the value of this gift to you and your family as well as to the building program.

The church reserves the right to limit the acceptance of certain gifts depending upon the ability for the church to administer each individual gift.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. What happens if we are unable to raise sufficient funds to build the desired facility?

There has not been a time frame established for the end of the capital campaign. The campaign will continue to accept donations until the goals are reached. New initiatives are expected to be part of the ongoing funding effort. The church leadership in conjunction with the relocation committee will continue to monitor and evaluate the decision on when to build.

2. How long will it take to build the desired facility?

It is anticipated that it will take approximately 1-2 years from the date of the first movement of dirt to the first worship services in the building.

3. Are we planning to borrow any money for this project?

There are no plans or desire to borrow permanent funds for the construction of the desired facility. It is the Capital Campaign Committee’s recommendation that we have all funding for the construction of the church to be covered by the capital campaign results. Leadership may consider a short-term loan secured by our existing property which would be fully repaid once the current property is sold.

4. What happens to our existing church properties?

Based on current appraisals, our property with the offices and the youth annex would suggest an asking price of \$1.7 million dollars. As we get closer to reaching the funding goals needed to start construction, decisions will need to be considered by the congregation on when to put our church property up for sale.

5. Is there a date imposed by the city for us to start construction? How long do we have?

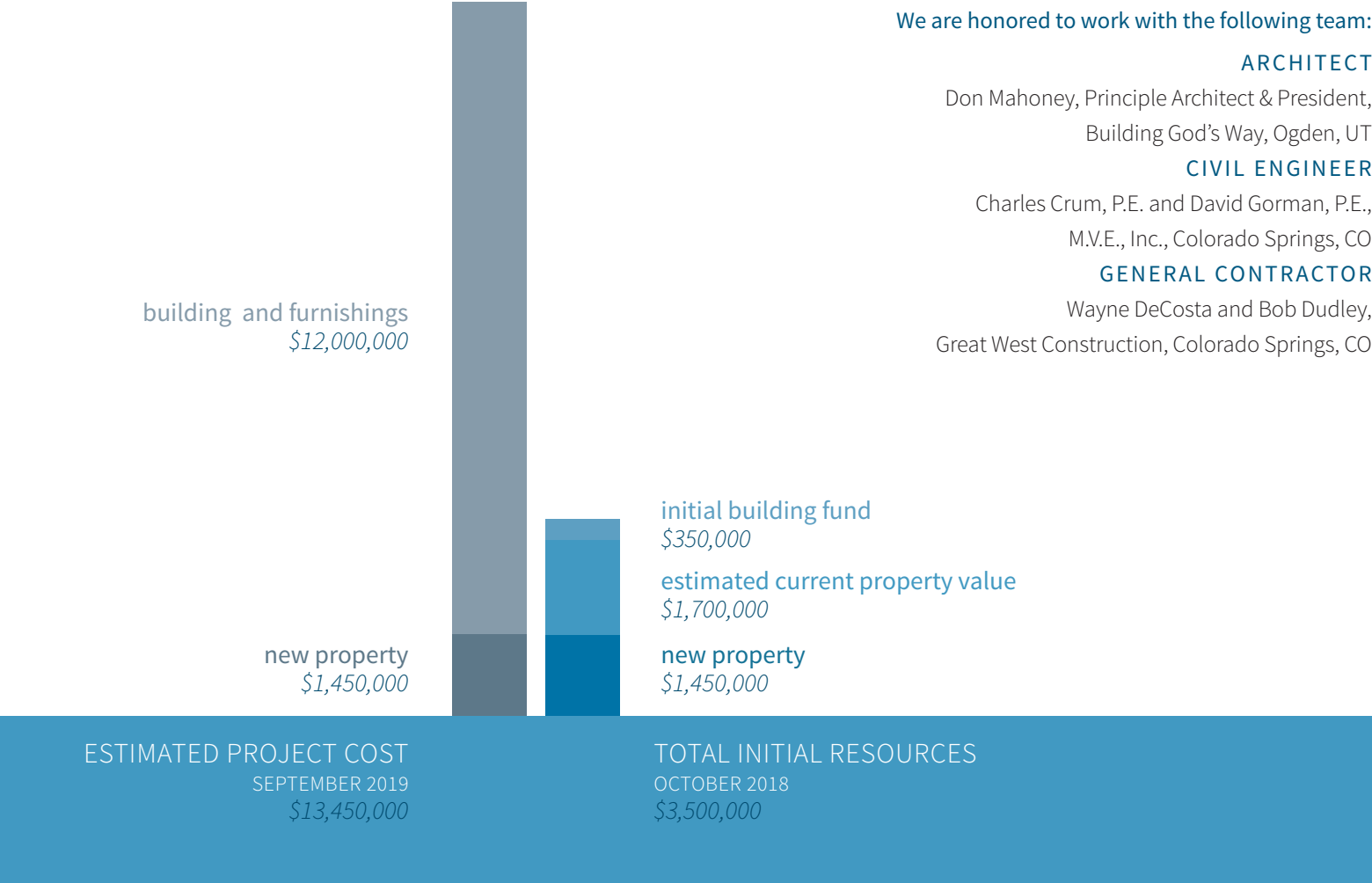
Yes. The City has a requirement that the church must begin construction of its approved project within 6 years of the approval of the development plan.

6. How will schedule delays and inflation affect the overall cost of the project?

The building contractor estimates that build costs may increase 1.5-3% every 3 months for the foreseeable future.

7. How do I participate in the capital campaign?

It helps with planning if you can complete a Letter of Intent. These can be requested from the church office. You can give directly to the capital campaign by designating gifts to the “building fund.”



We are honored to work with the following team:

ARCHITECT

Don Mahoney, Principle Architect & President,
Building God’s Way, Ogden, UT

CIVIL ENGINEER

Charles Crum, P.E. and David Gorman, P.E.,
M.V.E., Inc., Colorado Springs, CO

GENERAL CONTRACTOR

Wayne DeCosta and Bob Dudley,
Great West Construction, Colorado Springs, CO



MORE QUESTIONS?

Contact the First Evangelical Free Church Office
phone **719-634-3144** | email **office@1freechurch.org**

