

Christ Community Covenant Church
Moving Forward in Christ
Pastor Dave Scherrer - August 12, 2012

All this summer we have been speaking to our mission and our values. We have talked about our mission to **Love God and Love Others and Advance the Kingdom Together**. And now we have unpacked our '5 Stones' – our five core values, non-negotiable principals that we use to define who we are and what is important.

When I think of the leadership team here at 4Cs through the years I have served as Senior Pastor, first and foremost I think of Elders who seek hard after Jesus and desire to follow His will for our church. In large part a very significant part of our journey for the last 8 years has been the pursuit of God's will as it comes to our church building home. At times this pursuit has been exhilarating, other time frustrating. They have been moments of profound victory and also of deep disappointment. Most recently what we have been experiencing is a holding pattern. Days and week and months of waiting for the Lord to show us what our next steps are to be. We have been convinced that this must be a house of the Lord, not something that we are building for our own glory. Scripture says that is a bad plan:

Psalm 127:1

Unless the LORD builds the house,
They labor in vain who build it.

For the sake of getting on the same page:

Brief history: 2001 to 2010

October 2001	Sold 82nd and Simms property and approved the purchase of property at Hwy 72 & Indiana Street
November 2002	Zoning and traffic flow issues halt Indiana Street effort
November 2004	Land purchased at 100th & Wadsworth
June 2006	Construction funding failed
March 2007	100th and Wadsworth land put up for sale

We sold half the land to a group called Markham for the purpose of putting in a Senior Living campus. That land sale would have allowed us to move forward with our original building plan on half the land. But as the economy failed that doomed the deal for Markham. Once again our plans were not God's plans. Since 2008 we have been trying to sell the land in hopes of finding a building that we could lease or buy and then renovate.

2008 to today could not have been worse for the sale of Commercial Property. So we have been playing a waiting game; and not a very fun waiting game. So many plans have been put on hold because we had the land under contract and then the buyer pulled out. That has happened three times. The perfect storm of skyrocketing construction prices, failing economy, banking crisis all hit at the time we were trying to build a church. And things have been put on hold.

Recent History

November 2010	We learned that APEX had found funding for the west side of our property and we had to downsize or move
February 13, 2011	Our first Sunday worship service in the newly remodeled east side
March 2012	APEX decision to not extend lease in 2014 – we need to move!

Options:

- Disband – Not an option we considered strongly, though over time churches have extinguished
- Cell/Home churches

From the first to fifth century this was the norm for the Christian church, but as persecution faded and it was legal to gather, church buildings became necessary to enable the rapidly growing population of believers to meet together at the same time – this is the light on a hill idea. Church building architecture became an expression of the greatness of God and of his majesty. Still today some of the world's finest architecture is the result of the desire to glorify God in the building of cathedrals and basilicas.

- Rent by the hour – “Church in a box”

We have not found property available to our church and big enough for our church in the 3 to 5 mile demographic of our church. We felt that it would be a complete change in style of church life and would not be a good fit for us moving forward.

- Renovate and Lease
- Buy and Renovate

The difficulty in moving forward with these last two options were the lack of available property for this purpose, rezoning issues with the city and the expense of investing money that we would never get back.

- Build on our land

This began to have traction again as the commercial market has changed and lending has freed up some. We have seen that it is possible for us to exist on a smaller footprint than we previously had thought.

- Merge/Partner – I have been praying that it would be possible to partner on this venture and to perhaps merge with a struggling church that would benefit by joining us. Luz of Hope is one example, but I continue to pray that a school or non-profit ministry would want to share land to the mutual benefit of each.

Values:

- To have a permanent home – as attractive as the flexibility is of leasing the downside of leasing is just too critical
- To build what we can afford
- To strategically design our space for our needs
- To have the options of expanding
- To redeem the past giving and investments in 100th and Wadsworth - Kingdom

Why having a building is important

Reason 1 – It gives us a place to do business from

Reason 2 – It is a place of refuge and prayer and support – the “Ecclesia”

Reason 3 – It is a light on a hill

But still there are costs to be weighed; “Counting the cost of building the tower”

Luke 14:28

For which one of you, when he wants to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if he has enough to complete it?

Successfully building means addressing the three legs of this stool

- 1. Funding – This can be done**
- 2. Land Sale and Re-Zoning**
- 3. Stewardship Campaign**

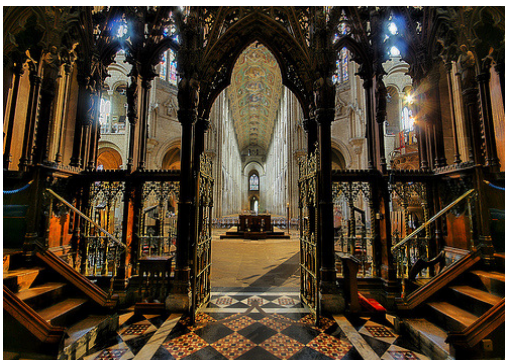
What building means when it comes down to it:

2 Corinthians 5:7

For we walk by faith, not by sight

I am so ready to move forward.

Illustration: Ely Cathedral 1083 to 1375



People began to quarry rocks and cut huge granite bricks more than a hundred years before they would be actually laid on foundation. Great black walnuts and oaks were planted close to the land of the cathedral so that it would be easier to harvest them and use them later. They knew that it would take 100 years for them to mature. But that was ok because they wouldn't be needed for 150 years. These were people with a passion and these were people with a vision.

We are not planning for a 200 year building, but we are planning for a 200 year church. A church fellowship that practices Kingdom principles based on God given values. For us the test isn't 200 years but more like 6 months. These next six months will test our resolve and our faith as we try to specifically market the land, seek funding and engage the church in the stewardship campaign. I am excited to face them with you – to advance the Kingdom together with you. I am willing to lead you in sacrifice and service. I am willing to stand beside you in fellowship and prayer.

Let's hold hands across the aisle and will you pray with me? Join with me in silence as I pray for us from God's Word:

Prayer

