

“I” On the Vision

We've heard you!

Many of you have responded to our recent requests for your input through Town Hall Meetings, through your voting and comments on our proposal, and through dialogue with us at the Vision 2010 Information Expo. Some have even continued the dialogue by contacting us personally. This is what we need! Thank you!

Here are the broad themes that have come forward in large numbers as we have heard from you:

- We see that our building is in serious disrepair, as well as inadequate for our ministries on several fronts, and we would like to see it replaced.
- BUT we are concerned about selling some of our land assets AND going too deeply into debt, and the potential impact this could have on our budgeting for ongoing and expanded ministries into the future.
- AND we are concerned about building a facility that might limit our growth for the future--we want to be sure it is big enough and easily expandable.
- We want the opportunity to exercise our FAITH FIRST by committing ourselves and our finances to the vision, and let God do something big to provide for the financing of a new facility, so that we don't have to saddle ourselves with debt or limit our growth potential unnecessarily.
- If we must sell land, we would like very much for it to be used for a ministry purpose.

We agree! Here is our response:

- Our Design and Construction Team, under the new leadership of Danny Tyndell, is looking at ways to modify the design of the building to accommodate our current needs more completely, and to provide for future growth and expansion. The team is also considering how to incorporate other suggestions you have made.
- The Finance Team, under the new leadership of Wayne Bandy, is planning a fundraising campaign for the spring of 2006 to ask members to make faith-filled commitments for giving to the vision of a new building. The experts tell us the best times for such campaigns are fall and spring, and we feel we can be most adequately prepared if we don't rush to do it in the fall.
- After we have received donations and commitments we will take another look at our remaining needs and make decisions about the need to sell land and/or secure a loan. We will strongly consider the priority of keeping debt to a minimum.
- If we do decide as a church body that we need to sell some of our property, we will give every consideration to potential buyers who would use the land for ministry, understanding that we would need to receive fair market value for it in order to provide the resources for our building. Our mandate is to facilitate Southtown's current and projected ministries. Once we have done so, the possibilities for future use of the remaining land are as vast as they have always been.

We've received some challenges from some of you who are wondering how we came to the recommendation we did, and why we did not inform the church of each of the options that we considered.

Any of us would gladly speak personally with you about how we progressed from pursuing add-on space to our present facility, to building a freestanding multi-purpose building that could be added onto in phases, to building an all-new facility. We looked carefully at the costs and implications of each for addressing our ministry needs into the future, and concluded that an all-new facility would be the best stewardship of our resources, and would most completely meet our needs.

Having decided to pursue an all-new facility, we carefully considered options for funding that centered around four concepts:

- Selling all the property to purchase new land and facility
- Selling some of the property to fund a new building
- Leasing some of the property to fund a new building
- Borrowing and fundraising alone to build

There were many details and much information processed with regard to each of these concepts, and the leadership team spent several months meeting weekly or bi-weekly to discuss them. We did not consider it appropriate to ask the entire church body to sift through these matters because this complicated task had been entrusted to us. We have a diverse team, and each of the options was advocated for passionately by at least two or three members. In the end, the proposal we brought to you in May was wholeheartedly endorsed by a 75% majority of our team as the one that we felt best facilitated the church's mandate, and is now being reshaped because of your input. [Additionally, the one proposal we had for a lease of our property, Athlete Village, has been taken off the table by the Athlete Village leadership.]

We appreciate those who have supported us, as well as those who have addressed concerns they have with us. We are, and will continue to be accountable to the church body. Please be sure to come to us directly with any suggestions, questions or concerns you have as the process moves forward. It is most helpful when these are brought to us as soon as they arise, so they can help shape our thinking in the midst of our planning rather than as an afterthought.

Vision 2010 Information Expo Questionnaire Results

The Information Expo held on July 10th was a success as evidenced by 42 completed questionnaires. Here are the highlights:

- Overall, the Vision 2010 Information Expo has helped clarify information, addressed my concerns, and allowed me to share my opinion. **76.2% said YES** (2.4% said NO and 16.7% left this question blank)

The Vision 2010 Information Expo helped me understand the reasoning and process behind recommendations in the following areas:

- The new building will be sufficient for all current ministries, including projected growth. **71.4% said YES** (14.3% said NO and 14.3% were either blank or said not sure)
- The land we retain will be sufficient for all current ministries, including projected growth. **76.2% said YES** (7.1% said NO and 16.7% were blank)

As for your responses to “**What part of our vision resonates with you?**”: (multiple replies acceptable – will not add to 100%)

- 61.9% impacting the world for Jesus Christ
- 59.5% being a vibrant church (healthy and growing)
- 33.3% being a diverse family of faith (cross-generational and multi-ethnic)

And you responded to “**Which of the future plans most excite you?**” with: (multiple replies acceptable – will not add to 100%)

- 35.7% Awanas
- 35.7% Possible additional worship services
- 33.3% Possible expansion of small groups
- 23.8% Free bottled water give-away at Bloomington Summer Festival in 2006
- 16.7% Upward Basketball
- 16.7% ESL beginning in September
- 11.9% “Southtown 201 – Discovering Spiritual Maturity”
- 9.5% Smoke alarm battery community distribution in 2005
- 7.1% The BIG Event in September 2007

Finance Team Survey Results

Many of you who visited the Finance Team’s “booth” also took time to respond to their survey to gauge your support for the various methods of funding the Vision 2010 recommendation. This is what you said:

- **83.3%** said YES, “I would support fundraising for the 2010 recommendation”
- **75%** said YES, “I would support hiring a fundraising professional”
- **79.2%** said YES, “If necessary, I would support a loan to finance the 2010 recommendation”
- **66.7%** said YES, “If necessary, I would support the sale of up to ½ the land to support the 2010 recommendation”

May it be said of us, “The believers at Southtown are patient and kind. They do not envy, they do not boast, they are not proud. They are not rude, they are not self-seeking, they are not easily angered, and they keep no record of wrongs. The believers at Southtown do not delight in evil, but rejoice with the truth. They always protect, always trust, always hope, and always persevere. Through them, God’s love never fails.”