

THE WELL



CASE FOR PARTNERSHIP

LOOKING TO ACCELERATE OUR VISION & IMPACT

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THE BACKDROP - GOD AT WORK

When The Well was planted in 2012, we had a big dream to see 100 churches planted nationally, 100 churches planted internationally, and to be a resourcing church in the city, blessing individuals, churches, and organizations around us with ministers, materials and mission. To be honest, this seemed a little... ambitious for a church of 11!

God is good! We have seen Him do extraordinary things as we pursue our mission to make much of Jesus by reproducing disciples who impact the world for the glory of God. Over the last 8 years of our existence, we have aimed to make our focus that very mission: Exalt, Disciple, Send. We have seen God's hand at work in us and through us as a church body in a number of different ways. As we thought back on the years, we couldn't help but celebrate all that God has done. Even over this past year, we've seen God's faithfulness to us, and movement amongst us as a church. For example, just this last year we:

- Planted our first national church plant, Refuge Church, through Josh and Rachel Guerrero.
- Planted our second church overseas in Barcelona, Spain.
- Saw 54 people profess new faith in Christ and 29 get baptized.
- Saw our church go from 11 core team members when launched in 2012 to over 1,000 regular attenders worshipping with us on a Sunday, many of them becoming Covenant Members and being faithful in the call towards discipleship.
- Saw our Community Groups grow from 8 groups to 25, with over 500 people fighting for community weekly.

And, as we thank God for what he has already done, we believe the best is yet to come, and there is still a lot of mission left to accomplish! We are still believing in a future that includes planting 100 churches nationally, 100 churches internationally and resourcing other churches and organizations around us. We still aim to be a blessing to the community, to see what the city could be, and work to help Austin become this. We still are striving to be a diverse community that foreshadows our true home, heaven. We still seek to be a family together, showing others what the church truly could be. There's still a lot of vision, a lot of dreams that we feel God has called us towards. With all of these aspirations and on the heels of a very difficult year in our country, we face a big challenge as a church.





OUR CHALLENGE - REAL ESTATE IN AUSTIN

As we discussed in our Covenant Member Business Meeting in September 2020, we are **no longer a small church plant**. We have **continued to grow year after year** and, what can we say, people keep having babies! :)

With a congregation of at least 1,000 people in attendance each Sunday pre-COVID, we cannot simply save rent money buying just any building in town. We **estimate needing a 45,000 sq. ft. building** to be able to house our current church family and more family members to come. And, we live in a city where a building of that size, in the central area of the city where we feel called to serve, is just plain expensive.

It would be easier to move into the suburbs, but with so few people reaching the city...we feel convicted to stay.

While our goal is not to become a mega-church, we do want to have the space to welcome in new people. Our desire to **take root in this community** has driven us to look for a place in a specific area, mainly, **the urban core of Austin**. We believe that being in the **center of the city, near UT**, in a **diverse community**, and around the hundreds of thousands of **young adults and growing families** will be **key in helping us plant churches in the future**, with those very same people...accelerating our vision and impact.

Plainly stated, it would be **easier to move into the suburbs**, but with so few people reaching the city, and with the ability to send from the city into surrounding areas, we **feel convicted to stay**.



THE OPPORTUNITY - A BUILDING EMBEDDED IN OUR COMMUNITY

It has been an amazing journey so far! God has continued to allow us to see the path forward, so we [move ahead with confidence in God as we practice wisdom](#). The opportunity that has presented itself has checked a lot of boxes for us:

- ✓ Parking Availability
- ✓ Flexible Space For Ministry
- ✓ Urban Calling

The landlords are believers and have been extremely cooperative, demonstrating their desire in wanting to partner with us.

The large space has plans to include a school and a pregnancy center that we could partner with...there's a beautiful convergence of what God is doing.

Additionally, the large space has plans to be a [mixed-use space, to include a school and a pregnancy center](#) that we could also partner with. So, there is a [beautiful convergence of what God is doing in this part of the city](#). The access to nearby neighborhoods from this location will continue to provide opportunities to reach many, many more as well!

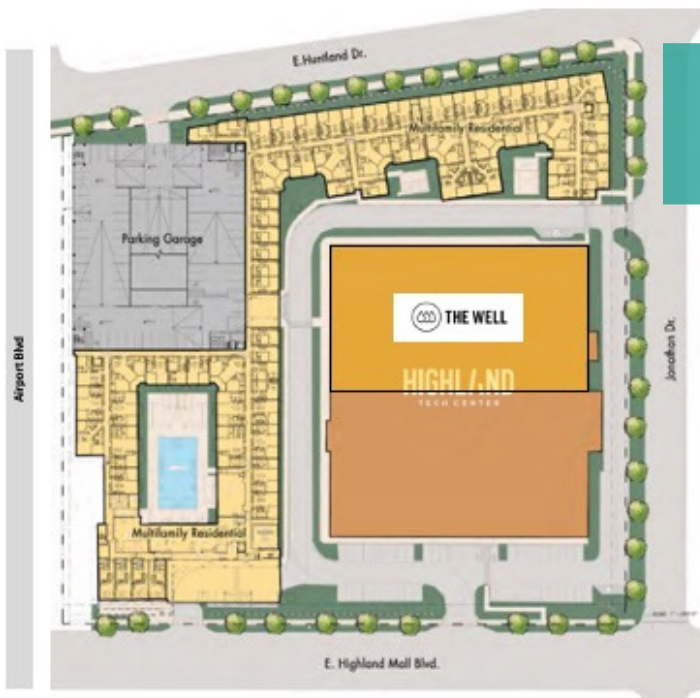
** If you'd like to [watch a clip](#) from the Business Meeting where we presented this [building opportunity](#) to our Members, please [follow this link to view the video presentation](#).





CITY LOCATION

- *Urban core*
- *Near major public transportation*
- *I-35/Airport Blvd*
- *Diverse area*



IMMEDIATE NEIGHBORS

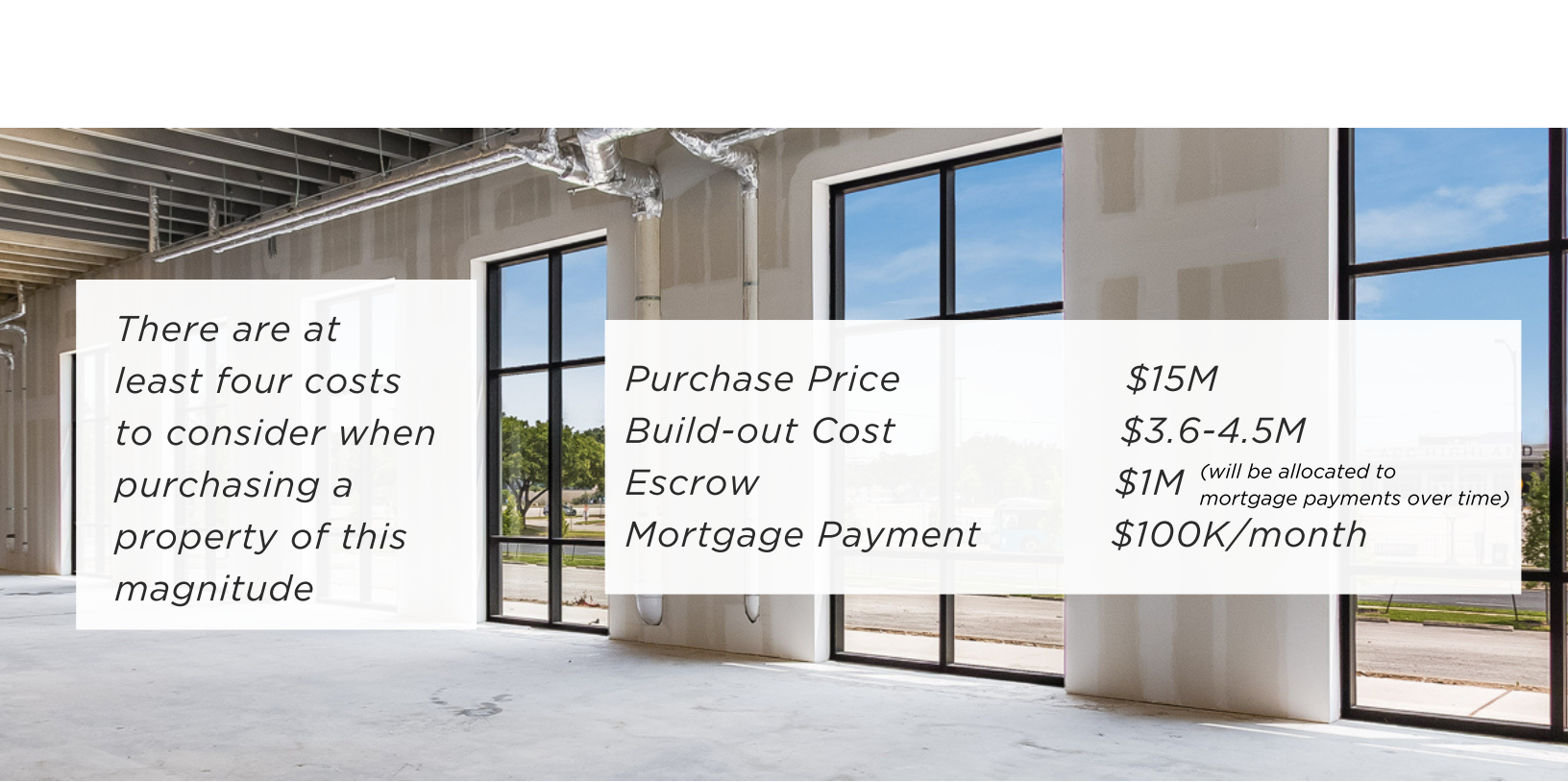
- *Across the street from ACC campus*
- *Near UT*
- *Growing neighborhood*
- *Apartment complexes*
- *Mixed generations*



THE BUILDING

- *45,000 sq. ft.*
- *Scale to our growth*
- *Room for additional classrooms for Children's Ministry*
- *Parking garage access*





There are at least four costs to consider when purchasing a property of this magnitude

*Purchase Price
Build-out Cost
Escrow
Mortgage Payment*

*\$15M
\$3.6-4.5M
\$1M (will be allocated to mortgage payments over time)
\$100K/month*

THE APPROXIMATE COST

We are excited about the possibility of [centering a movement for Christ](#) at this property for generations to come and [accelerating our vision of planting 100 churches nationally and 100 internationally in 50 years!](#) However, in the midst of that excitement, we are sobered and humbled by the sacrifices we all must make to see this become a reality.

After actively searching for over 2 years, we believe this is our [best possible option moving forward](#). We have yet to find a single space that would fit all of our needs, and [believe that God](#) is making good out of this covid season for us, by [presenting this opportunity](#).

The [implication for our congregation](#) is that we need to [raise funds to cover the build-out and down payment costs and also dollars for the General Fund to cover the monthly mortgage](#)

costs until our growth, giving, or both are able to meet all of our monthly operational costs ([approximately 80 -100% more than our current operational costs](#)).

The capital funds raised will go towards the build-out and down payment, and the church budget to service monthly mortgage debt. Additionally, as we search for a more reliable home, we want to be able to [accelerate our vision](#) by raising funds for future church plants and missionaries that will be sent from that new home. So, like our current giving, 15% of all funds raised for the general budget will go directly to church planting and missions. This is a [faith-filled stretch and a financial challenge](#), but we want to take advantage of the opportunity as it has been presented.





NEXT STEPS - PRAY, DISCERN, DECIDE

We are asking our [congregation to be engaged with this journey](#) as we have some big decisions to make in the next few months. Please begin by [committing to pray every day](#) for the future of The Well. We know that our call is more than just a building, but we believe a building will help us fulfill our call.

Our discernment has included due diligence and study alongside real estate experts, lending institutions, builders and architects, and fundraising advisors.

In November, we are conducting a [congregation-wide survey](#) that is an anonymous questionnaire. This will enable us to get a realistic sense of how God may provide

We look forward to seeing God provide miraculously, as He always has, while also using us, His people, as He always has, to make this vision a reality.

the necessary financial resources for us to move ahead. We do not want to presume how you feel about financial support...we want to ask you.

When all of the information has been compiled, we will [present the opportunity to our Covenant Community Members for an official vote in January 2021](#), and Lord willing, will begin to raise the funds necessary to purchase this property, our future home. We look forward to exploring this opportunity with you!

** If you have any questions about the process so far, please contact Paul Carlson at paul@thewellaustin.com or Christy McGriff at cmcgriff@thewellaustin.com to find out more.

