

March 2, 2017



To Our Lakeside Church Family,

I am writing to you today as one who is so thankful for our history in establishing the first true Gospel teaching church in our city of Syracuse. This accomplishment has been a great work of God alone and we have all joined in the sacrifices that have been necessary to make this happen.

Years ago, when we had no options for a place to meet, we prayed desperately for God to provide. When our property became available, we all had to make deep sacrifices to be able to purchase it. Over the last 9 years that we have called our property home, the main advantage to having this property, is that we have had a permanent, 7-day-a-week presence in the community.

It's not secret that our property hasn't been completely ideal. Maintenance and upkeep, a lack of worship space and the overall lack of visual appeal have been concerns, but overall, we have remained thankful for what God has provided. Perhaps most notably, the property has provided a home for 3 different pastors over the last nine years, which has been a tremendous blessing for those families, which includes my own.

We have envisioned for some time now a space that is more representative of the kind of work we see God doing in our city, and better assists in our mission to reach lost people. To that end, we have been dreaming of a new building project happening on the property. Prayers have been said, plans have been developed, and people have given toward that goal.

However, 6 months ago, our leadership reluctantly came to the decision that this vision was unlikely to be realized. The main factors were escalating project costs, and not enough traction on fundraising, particularly externally. Since that time, we have been praying about what is next for us concerning our facility needs.

Because we no longer have a realistic vision for building on the property and we no longer need a home for our pastor, we feel that our facility costs could be better spent on a facility that more adequately serves our needs and mission. The time has come for us to move on. We feel that we should sell our property and move into retail space in the middle of the city. A

good retail space will be more visually appealing, more visible to our community and much easier to maintain so that our time resources can be focused on Kingdom building.

On behalf of our Shepherd Leaders and Stewardship teams, I am proposing that we affirm the idea of selling our property and leasing retail space in the city of Syracuse. To accomplish this, I am proposing that we empower our Shepherd Leaders and Stewardship Team members to negotiate on our behalf in this regard as long as the following conditions are met:

1. The property won't be offered for less than we owe on it.
2. The retail space is located in the city of Syracuse.
3. The cost structure of the lease does not increase our current budget by more than 10%.
4. A letter is drafted to all those who donated toward the building project that clearly communicates the change and asks for permission to release those funds to be used for this similar purpose moving forward.

This proposal will be limited to the conditions above. If any of these conditions can't be met, it would require a separate proposal from leadership and affirming vote from the church.

I appreciate your prayerful attention to this matter. I have, like you enjoyed our time on this property. I remember with fondness every baptism, every baby dedication, and every victory we have celebrated together. What I want to assure you of is that our leadership is united on this and we feel that because of the generosity of our people, we are in a great position to find a wonderful new place to call home with several advantages over our current location. There are several options available and we will be inviting you all to consider those options with us before any decision is made. This will be an exciting time for us as we continue to put God's mission to establish his kingdom first. I promise you that we will all be stretched during this time, but I believe we will emerge from it more unified than ever before.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matt Jones', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Matt Jones

Lead Pastor, Lakeside Church