







## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Click on the following [links](#) to go directly to these sections

<a href="#"><u>From Our Lead Pastor</u></a> .....	5
<a href="#"><u>Our Mission</u></a> .....	6
<a href="#"><u>Building</u></a> .....	11
<a href="#"><u>Partnership</u></a> .....	20
<a href="#"><u>Project Financials</u></a> .....	26
<a href="#"><u>Responding</u></a> .....	31
<a href="#"><u>Response Period Dates</u></a> .....	41
<a href="#"><u>Contact Info</u></a> .....	42
<a href="#"><u>Praying Together</u></a> .....	43



...; La Vina student;  
 ... rendering of the  
 building expansion;  
 ...; La Vina building



# FROM OUR LEAD PASTOR

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for engaging in this project with us. In the two decades since we planted this church, we've seen God do many amazing things! Through great times and tough times, God has poured so much into us as a church... and **now He's inviting us to reinvest those gifts.**

What excites me is not a bigger building, but rather how the expansion will affect the lives of more and more people for many years to come. I see our new lobby filled with people – some in deep conversation, some laughing and catching up, and others in small groups praying for each other. Then, heading downstairs (giving a fist bump to the youth in their new room along the way), I see the little ones in classrooms that are created and designed just for them!

God is inviting us to  
reinvest what He has  
already given us

As we work on the building, we'll also be part of exciting opportunities to expand our impact with current partnership ministries and pursue new ones along the way. We'll see how God can move as He grows us in generosity. And we know God will use us as He challenges us to bring more of His Kingdom both inside and beyond our walls!

It's not just the finished project that will move people toward Jesus...**we believe the process itself will bring us closer to Him.** This expansion project is ultimately a spiritual one for our church. It's an incredible chance to grow in faith as we respond to God's invitation. **We want each of you to hear God in a fresh way so you can find your part.** And we pray this process will lead to more faith for what God is doing, peace about how to respond, and joy in being part of God's work together in this next season for our church.

We hope this booklet will help you in your process. If there is ever anything you have questions about or would like to discuss, please let me know.

Looking forward to what God is going to do!

David Stark

# OUR MISSION:

## Moving Every Person Toward Jesus

**God is so good.** He's drawn us to Jesus through many different paths, but all of us who call the Vineyard home know He's used this church to work His plan in our lives.

Over the years, God continues to reveal His purposes for our church. We see adults with all kinds of religious and non-religious backgrounds come to experience love, healing, freedom, calling, and God's presence, many for the first time. Children learn how to bring God's power through prayer into everyday situations while growing in knowledge of Scripture. Youth become passionate about their faith and seek to follow Jesus with their lives. Outside the church walls, we see many opportunities to bring God's Kingdom, both locally and globally, with family, friends, co-workers, and strangers (some we may never meet). We see that Jesus is drawing all of us closer to Himself, no matter where we are coming from.

God has given us a mission, and it's summarized like this:

***Moving every person toward Jesus.***

How does the mission get accomplished? God has shown us that too. We do it by bringing **four ministry essentials** (God's Love, God's Presence, God's Truth, and God's Power) in all kinds of environments and venues... everything from Sunday morning services to various

### Moving every person toward Jesus *by bringing...*

#### God's Love

Connecting all kinds of people into community  
Developing authentic, caring, meaningful relationships

#### God's Presence

Drawing near to Jesus and seeking Him intentionally  
Welcoming and worshiping God in all environments

#### God's Truth

Communicating the Gospel message in many ways  
Building reliance on the Bible for all of life

#### God's Power

Working to bring signs of God's rule and reign  
Depending on the Holy Spirit to move supernaturally

small groups to one-on-one meetings and from personal times with God to massively social settings.

Bringing **God's Love** means we're looking to connect people in authentic relationships. We want to have environments where all kinds of people feel welcomed and safe enough to be honest, no matter where they come from or what's in their past or present. This doesn't happen by accident! It comes by hearing each other's stories, reaching out to care for one another, and choosing to value relationships above our own desires.

# 4 Ministry Essentials

In **bringing God's Presence**, we acknowledge our need as children to be close to God. We make choices to welcome more of His presence into our lives by engaging in everything from high-volume communal worship to silence and solitude. We set up our environments to point to God's presence and invite Him into everything we do.

When we **bring God's Truth**, we affirm that we are not the source of truth, but instead that God's message is the key to gaining wisdom in life and takes us into greater relationship with Him and with others. Communicating the Good News – that Jesus sacrificed Himself to offer life in place of death – and all of its applications is one of our greatest privileges. We seek to do it well.

Among the most amazing parts of these essentials is that we get to **bring God's Power**. Even though we're sinful and flawed humans, God chooses to use us in supernatural ways to demonstrate His Kingdom rule and reign. We don't just wait until the next life to gain relief from the pain of this world, but instead we can live in the tension between "the now and the not yet" and see Heaven break into our world today.

## Expanding Our Capacity for the Four Essentials

Our desire is for these Four Ministry Essentials to be equally strong in our church through the different venues and environments where we live out our mission. We aren't bound to particular vehicles or strategies for ministry as long as we are seeing the essentials play out. We also believe that ministry happens a lot more easily and with greater impact with good support structures.

**This expansion project gives us significantly better structures from which to grow in these Four Essentials.** Just to name a few examples:

- We will have much better spaces for connecting people within the building, both on Sunday mornings and throughout the week. Expanding our involvement in our partnership ministries also provides numerous opportunities to develop relationships that come from bringing **God's love**.
- A remodeled sanctuary and stage will support our corporate worship, and worship will also be easier for the youth and the kids in their new spaces. Comfortable places to sit (some with a view!) provide even more opportunities for the church building to become a space to experience **God's presence**.
- Real classrooms for each age group of kids, a lobby doubling as an adult meeting space during the week, and a new room for small groups provides larger and much more conducive environments for learning **God's truth**.
- Having a larger space for the kids to pray for each other each week and better spaces around the building for prayer ministry will help us see even more of **God's power**. In addition, greater generosity is often the catalyst for more of God's power because they are both related to faith, and we believe we'll see more power through our partnership ministries as we give.



*Praise & Prayer in tight spaces*



## Our Mission FAQ

*When and how did our church start?*

Vineyard Community Church officially held its first public service on October 5<sup>th</sup>, 1997, with about twenty-five people in an Elementary School in Creve Coeur. David and Debi Stark, along with their church planting team of 7 others had been sent out from a Vineyard Church in Palo Alto, CA in October of 1996. David had been clearly called to be a pastor and God led the Starks specifically to this area of St. Louis County. The church grew steadily after that first service and several years later moved to a bigger space at Parkway Middle School. In April 2007, we renovated and moved into our current building.



*The original team (with kids!)*

*Are we trying to become a big church?*

We want to be an obedient church that knows how to hear and respond to Jesus. God has always called us to have a very high value on relationships that are safe enough to be “real” with each other. A smaller church can be helpful so people don’t get lost as easily, but ultimately we know God always wants to reach more people. How many? He hasn’t told us! Our sense is that a church of 300 to 400 will allow greater degrees of ministry to flow out in ways that aren’t quite within reach now, including planting new congregations!

What we know is that we won’t lose the identity God has given us. Through some difficult years in mid-’00s, in a period when we saw lower attendance, God poured into us more health and spiritual maturity and used that time to form in us a clearer picture of who we are as a church. This identity is described in what is now our Vision Statement: *to become an authentic community of fully devoted followers of Christ who experience, demonstrate and tell all people about the reality of God’s Kingdom in everyday life!*

*What new things will we be involved in as the church grows?*

Again, our main goal is to be obedient to whatever God calls us to! One of the exciting things about this process is that we believe God will speak to some of us to birth new ministry areas or grow existing ones (the Partnership section contains some examples). We also anticipate the new building will be used more regularly for conferences and ministry opportunities with other churches, which are great environments to see the Holy Spirit move in significant ways.

## About Our Project Theme: More of You, Lord

From Caleb Chou, Project Lead

*As this project was first gaining steam, I began thinking about a unifying theme of some sort – something to tie together the three components of the project (building, partnerships, and response). Unfortunately, I didn't have any ideas I didn't hate! I was ready to give up on it until one day while in the car, the Holy Spirit came in a powerful way.*

*I was listening to "We Need More", a song I had heard many times from Vineyard Music (UK). As the Spirit prompted me to listen to it over and over again, I wept as God reminded me how much we've seen Him do in our church. But the lyrics also encompassed so much of what we're still longing for... that we truly want God's Kingdom to come into our world and that we desperately want more of Him.*

We come with expectation  
It's Your Glory we long for  
We come with hearts wide open  
Come invade this place oh Lord

You are comfort for the broken  
There is healing in Your name  
Let the God who filled the oceans  
Flood into our hearts today

We can see that You're moving here  
Lord, we long for

Your Kingdom to reign  
So come and heal our hearts  
With waves of mercy  
We need more  
We need **more of you, Lord**

*That's really what this project is about. While we're so thankful for all that God has done for us as individuals and as a church, God is stirring us to desire more! We want space for more people to experience God's glory and the comfort and healing it brings. We want to see people changed by God's Kingdom. We want to become a more generous church, both for our local community and across the globe. We want God to multiply and send out the gifts He's given us to bring more people closer to Jesus.*

*We need More of You, Lord!*

# BUILDING

**As our church has grown, more and more has been demanded of our building.** You might not realize it, but there is almost always something (and often several different things!) happening in the building throughout the week in addition to Sunday mornings.

Our priority has never been to have the biggest and best building, but we do want to make sure all of our support structures, including our building, do a good job of facilitating God's work in our church. **We can now see that our building is holding us back from moving even more people towards Jesus.** This project will create a building with a more conducive combination of sanctuary seating, children/youth spaces, offices, and community areas. Having a "right-sized" building will allow significantly better functionality for us today and support growth into the future.

## **Children's Ministry Areas**

**Now:** Plenty of chaos! We technically have five classes for children from infancy through 5<sup>th</sup> grade (nursery, preschool 1, preschool 2, K-2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>), but we have only four "spaces", so the two preschool classes have been combined. The space they use is the partitioned portion of the community room. It's noisy (no wall) and too small for even an average number of kids. Downstairs, we have a nursery that is small and very difficult to access, with one of the elementary classes meeting in the hallway next to the nursery. God has done truly amazing work through our KidZone Team despite the space, but it's definitely a challenge!

**After:** We will have six dedicated classrooms for children's ministry, allowing not only the preschool classes to have their own spaces, but also allowing a future Kindergarten class to have a smaller space of their own. The extremely small Praise and Prayer area where elementary classes gather at the beginning of each service will be expanded as well. Plus there will be more space for the centralized kids' check-in to reduce traffic jams and help visitors feel much more at ease.

God has done so much in tight spaces. Just imagine how the kids will grow when our awesome, dedicated teachers have four walls and a door!

-Kitty Cramer  
Children's Ministry Pastor

## Youth Ministry Space

**Now:** Youth ministry space? Doesn't really exist other than a small storage room. The youth groups (middle school on one night, high school on another night) currently meet wherever there is space, but have no dedicated home.



*Youth Retreat 2017*

**After:** The Youth are a vital part of what God is doing next in our community, so the teenagers will gain dedicated space to make their own. The space will be large enough to gather for meetings and to hang out. Our middle school and high school students are experiencing and demonstrating more of God's Kingdom all the time as they meet with each other and as they join adults and children in ministry. We want them to feel right at home here as a place to have fun and participate in God's work!

## Community Spaces

**Now:** The lack of a real gathering space outside the sanctuary on Sunday mornings makes it difficult for newcomers to find their way around and feel welcomed. Those of us who have been around for a while may have gotten used to having conversations in cramped hallways with kids whizzing by, but it is challenging to connect when everyone is spread throughout.

**After:** A warm and inviting new lobby space that brings together a welcome center, hospitality service, hang-out space, new bathrooms, and a nice view of the valley below, allowing everyone, especially newcomers, to better connect in a central location. The new lobby space will also double as our adult classroom space during the week. One other great feature: we'll maintain three small group spaces (heavily used during the week) including a new larger room off the lobby.

## Offices

**Now:** There's not much space! The office "suite" is essentially one office that three people share plus a small reception area. Our fantastic staff team makes the most of this cramped space, but they have definitely outgrown it. The existing space also suffers from being designed long before the proliferation of computers, copiers, and wireless devices.

**After:** The office suite will double in size providing a mix of enclosed offices and open/flexible workstation space. We'll also update all the wiring and setup for electronics as much as possible to bring the office up to modern standards.

## **Worship/Stage Area**

**Now:** A split-level stage with very little space for the speaker to maneuver and a mess of instrument cables which is not only unsightly, but tough for the worship team to work with as instruments change week to week.

**After:** A fully wired stage with most cables running underneath the stage (which won't be concrete like it is now) and a teaching area that is in front of the worship team to allow the speaker more flexibility and engagement with the congregation. The wired stage will better serve a constantly changing worship team by reducing setup time.

## **Sanctuary**

**Now:** Our sanctuary typically has 135 chairs. We can take it to 145 when necessary, but it gets very tight after that. Any time people fill up to 75% of the chairs in a setting like that, the room feels completely full, and newcomers don't feel there's space for them. For our larger services like baptisms, we often push up and through that limit. The leaky sanctuary roof and ancient HVAC are also in need of replacement.

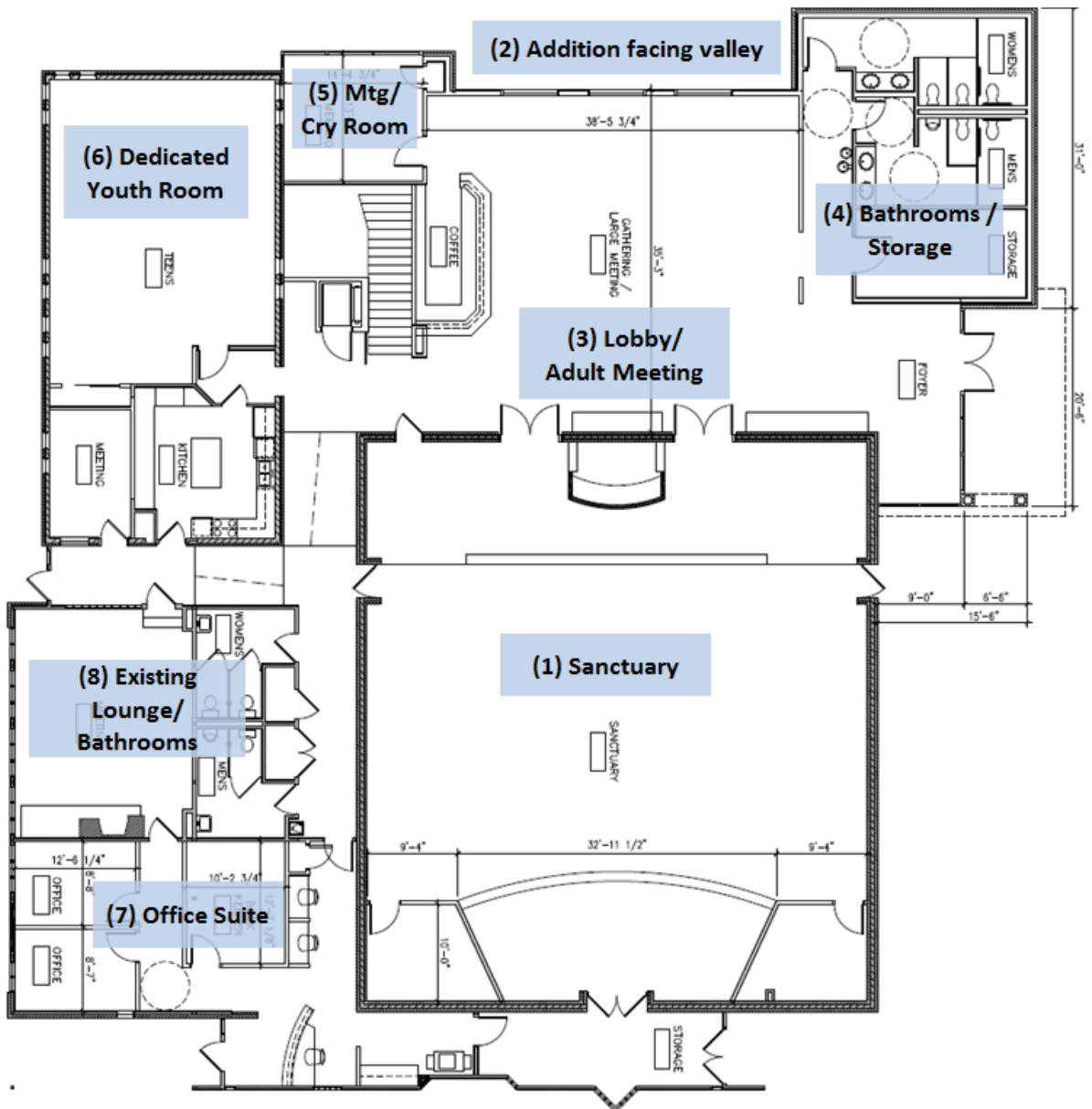
**After:** Though the sanctuary footprint is not increasing in size, we will gain some seating by flipping the direction of the stage and then removing the brick partitions to free up the corners of the room for seating. We'll be able to fit around 185 chairs comfortably and more if we want to cram them in! A new roof and efficient HVAC will also help improve the sanctuary environment.

## **Parking**

**Now:** It doesn't take more than a passing glance at our parking lot to notice that it is literally falling apart. Once we were reasonably sure an expansion was imminent, we intentionally held off on repairing and re-paving our lot since it would be more cost effective to work on the lot in conjunction with the expansion project. Currently, we have 95 parking spots, which includes 3 handicap spots.

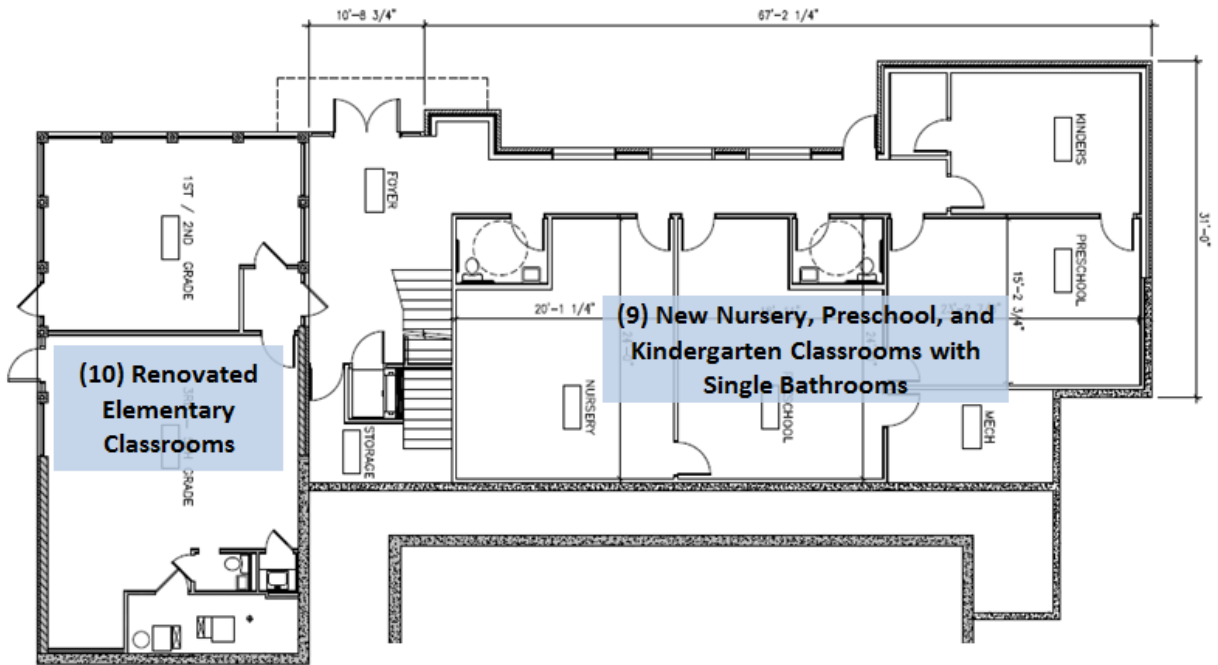
**After:** No more tripping and driving over broken chunks of pavement in the south lot! The parking lot will not only be newly paved, it will be expanded into the edges of our green areas to add at least 12-14 more parking spaces. We'll also have our professionals explore additional options for traffic flow and adding more parking in the future.





## Main Floor - Schematic Design Drawings

(Subject to Further Revision)

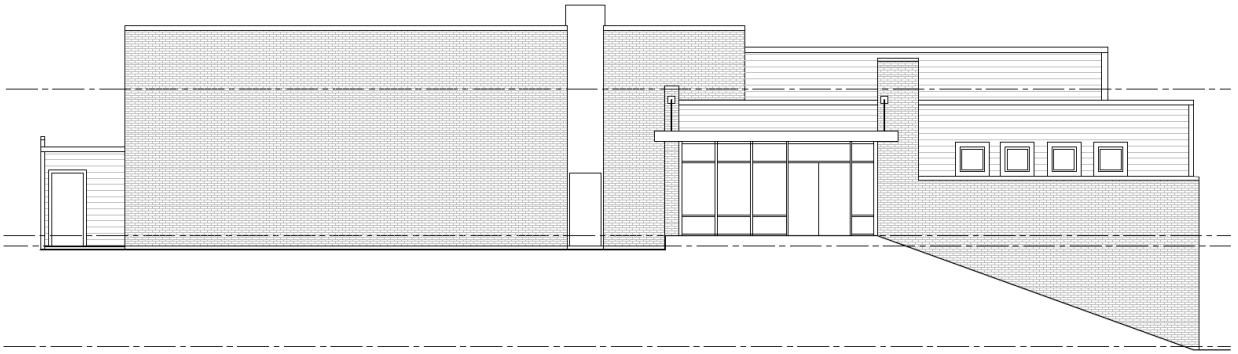


## Lower Level - Schematic Design Drawings

(Subject to Further Revision)

### Notes on Plans

- 1.) Sanctuary seating direction flipped with a new stage where the entrance is currently and additional seating on what is now the stage after tearing down the decorative brick walls on both sides
- 2.) Two story addition behind the sanctuary building (towards the valley)
- 3.) Lobby/community space with a large hospitality bar also functions as the main adult class space (like the Community Room today)
- 4.) New ADA-friendly bathroom and storage for the multi-function community space
- 5.) New small group meeting room overlooking the valley, doubles as cry room
- 6.) Current community room converted to be the youth room
- 7.) Office suite renovated to provide one more closed office plus workstations
- 8.) Kitchen, lounge, and existing main bathrooms remain untouched
- 9.) New dedicated kids' classrooms, including nursery next to stairs
- 10.) Existing lower level renovated to better accommodate elementary classes



① WEST EXTERIOR ELEVATION  
SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"

## Exterior View from Main Parking Lot

- New main double doors with glass foyer and canopy, just to the right of the existing sanctuary building
- New two-story addition to the right, cut into the existing hill facing the valley



① SOUTH EXTERIOR ELEVATION  
SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"

## Exterior View from Back Parking Lot

- New lower level double-door entry from lower parking lot with canopy, perfect for families with check-in for all kids' classrooms just through those doors
- Large windows in the main floor lobby/community space overlooking the valley

## Building FAQ:

*The sanctuary is not always full on Sundays. Are you sure we're outgrowing our space?*

Our primary space issue with the building right now is not the number of seats in the sanctuary, but rather the children's ministry areas. With our typical ratio of adults to children, the sanctuary does not need to be full for the kids' classes to become very cramped, making teaching and prayer quite challenging. When the sanctuary does fill up (which now happens during second service fairly often), the kids' areas are no longer the welcoming and functioning spaces that we need. The many other benefits of expanding the building are covered above.

*If we need more space, why don't we add a third service instead?*

Because the mix of kids' space to sanctuary seats isn't what we need, adding a third service now would just require 50% more children's ministry staffing before we were really ready to provide that number of volunteers. Once the building is "right-sized", it will more appropriately serve the ratio of kids to adults that we see in one service. We could then more readily add a third service if God led us down that path.

*It doesn't look like we're adding a lot of parking spots. Will that be enough?*

Unfortunately, with the topography of our property, there's only so much we can do with the parking before each additional space becomes very expensive to add. It is certainly possible that parking will be a limiting factor in the future especially as the building expansion allows more people to attend services. There may be further options to explore as that happens or we can also encourage more carpooling if necessary!

*How will construction impact our week-to-week operations? Will we have to meet somewhere else for a time?*

This is something that will need a LOT of prayer and wisdom. In fact, we all need to be praying for that right now! Generally speaking, we anticipate building the addition first and leaving the current building undisturbed for as long as possible. At some point renovations on the sanctuary will likely mean we cannot meet in that space for a period of time. Whether that means we somehow meet onsite or potentially offsite, we are praying this period will be short

and that God shows us clearly what we should do in that time! We'll update everyone frequently as we get closer to that time.

*Who are the professionals working for us?*

Our architect is Chad Jones with Advantage Architecture, our civil engineer is Mike Buescher, and our general contractor is John Hooker with JHooker Construction. We went through an extensive selection process and we're very grateful to have an excellent team working on our project! JHooker in particular has a long list of work on local churches (many similar to ours), all with excellent results.

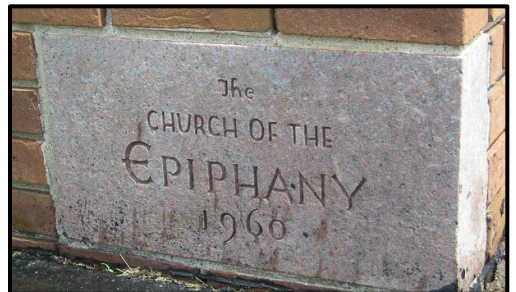
*How long will construction take? When will construction be done?*

Construction is estimated to take 6 to 8 months at best. We hope to start sometime in the summer of 2017, but delays on projects like this are common and to be expected. Pray for things to go unusually (supernaturally!) smooth. Project managers are fond of saying that you can have two of following three things (at best): on time, on budget, and on spec (getting what you want). Of course we want all three, but we can tell you that being on budget and on spec are our higher priorities. After all, we're doing this for the long-haul!

*How old is our existing building? What is its history?*

This building was built by Episcopalians and was called the Church of the Epiphany. A fun fact is that it was designed by the famous modernist architect Harris Armstrong. Construction on the sanctuary structure began in 1958 and was completed in 1960. The two-story brick building was constructed in 1965, followed by the office/lounge area and the hallway enclosures in 1978. God was very generous to us in allowing us to purchase the building from the Episcopal Diocese in 2007 for a fraction of what the property was worth.

The property's location in Kirkwood/Des Peres right off the highway makes it very desirable. We don't plan to ever sell the building, but if we ever did, we think expanding and modernizing the building would prove to be a great investment!





### *Why does the project include renovations and repairs to the existing building?*

At the time we bought the building, we completed some mostly cosmetic renovations. We've also done numerous maintenance and improvement projects through the years. (Many thanks to Rob Geary and many others along the way!) Still, the building shows its age in many ways and is in need of significant updating to continue performing well into the future. That's partly why this project includes work to existing parts of the building such as new HVAC for the sanctuary, remodeling the badly outdated office, and repaving the parking lot. Some of these projects have been needed for quite a while, but had been delayed in anticipation of the larger expansion project to be as cost effective as possible.



*The expansion goes here!*

### *Why aren't we remodeling the kitchen?*

The kitchen is definitely dated and needs some help to be more fully functional. However, keeping the kitchen out of the project has a lot of advantages from a cost and permit standpoint. With the new hospitality area in the lobby serving as the main preparation/serving area week-to-week, we do not have a pressing need to renovate the kitchen as part of this project. That said, we recognize that a fully functioning kitchen would have a lot of great uses for our various ministries. Renovation is certainly something we will consider again, perhaps in the near future.

# PARTNERSHIP

At the first hint that it might be time to expand the building, we knew **God would use this season not only to grow our ministry capacity here, but also to expand our impact for the Kingdom in this city and beyond.** As God has always told us... our building is a home base for a mission that extends well beyond its walls.

Our church has always had a value on giving to various ministries and needs God puts in front of us. Whether it's benevolence for people who are struggling financially or supporting church planting, local ministries, and international missions, God has graciously enabled us to be part of His wider work as we set aside 10% of our annual operating budget for those purposes. Now with our expansion project, God is giving us the chance to significantly bless some of our ministry partners by giving at least 10% of our expansion project offerings to the partnership projects described in this section and other projects to come.

At least 10% of our offerings for this expansion will go towards partnership projects

**God's timing is a wonderful thing.** We realized two things as we headed into this expansion project. First, while we are giving money as a church, a much smaller percentage of us are actually engaging our time and energy in our partnership ministries. Second, very few people actually know where our giving goes, much less the vision for our partnerships. We never want to be self-promotional, but we seem to have the opposite issue – partnerships flying under the radar!

At the same time, God has been stirring in more and more individual leaders in our church to focus time on ministering outside our established church ministries. **We know now that just as the building expansion will be a structure supporting our ministry activity here, God wants to use this project to give us better structures for how we engage our partnership ministries together.** This will bless our partnerships and move all of us toward Jesus too!

God is asking us to do two things: first, to invest more deeply and encourage our current ministry partners by meeting some specific needs, and second, to explore and expand our role as a church in some new ministry areas that have impacted our city for a long time.

## Expanding Partnership: Christian Activity Center (Local)

**Christian Activity Center (CAC)** is located in East St. Louis with a mission to prepare youth in their community for successful futures. CAC provides spiritual, academic and physical care to approximately 400 youth and their families in an area overwhelmed by poverty, crime, and decay.

### Our Current Involvement

- Partnering with CAC since 2013.
- Support has included financial gifts, a book drive, and school supply drives.
- Helped create an onsite library for the youth.
- Individual members have given their time volunteering/tutoring onsite.



### Expanding our Partnership

- CAC is currently using a 20-year-old van to meet its daily transportation needs, including picking up children from Edwardsville to attend their programs, field trips, and extended summer trips.
- Because the van is so unreliable, many staff members are using their personal vehicles to meet their needs.
- **We feel God is inviting us to support CAC by giving approximately \$20,000 towards the purchase of a 15-passenger van.**

## Expanding Partnership: La Vina Bluefields (Nicaragua)

The **Vineyard Missions Nicaragua Partnership** (part of Vineyard USA) works to identify indigenous leaders and pastors, provide them with hands-on training and to equip them to plant churches in Nicaragua. **U.S. churches, like ours, work alongside Nicaraguan churches to support and encourage the work they are doing in the communities they serve.**

Thanks to the work done by VCC members Jeff and Shea Braiser and their nonprofit organization, The Global Village Project (TGVP), VCC has formed a relationship with the La Vina Church and School in Bluefields, Nicaragua. A partnership began in 2012 between TGVP

and La Vina Bluefields to strengthen their one room school of 125 students. Being the second poorest country in the Western Hemisphere with 45% of the population living on less than \$1 per day, most families are unable to afford an education for their children. In Bluefields, children receive an average of three years of education. Since TGVP's support began 5 years ago, La Vina has been able to grow to 360 students. Students have even graduated to middle school by God's grace, a remarkable feat in a country where 21 out of every 100 children leaves school in the first grade.

## Our Current Involvement

- VCC officially joined the Nicaragua Partnership in 2016. This commitment includes annual financial giving and annual mission trips to the country.
- David Stark and the Braisers attended the Nicaragua Partnership Conference and visited La Vina Bluefields in the summer of 2016.
- Each December since 2013, VCC has partnered with La Vina Bluefields through TGVP to sponsor the schooling of 154 students to date including 63 in 2016.

## Expanding our Partnership

- La Vina Bluefields currently needs repairs to reinforce an aging wood infrastructure in the building used as a nursery (estimated cost of \$16,000).
- The school also needs an additional building (estimated cost of \$20,000) that would allow them to expand teaching through the middle school grades (currently they can only serve children through 5<sup>th</sup> grade).
- **We feel God is inviting us to support La Vina Bluefields School by funding their building expansion alongside ours (~\$36,000 over the next three years).**



## Expanding Partnership: Oasis International (Local)

**Oasis International** is a locally founded Christian organization whose mission “is to love and care for those who seek refuge from a war-torn country.” Oasis international provides practical support to refugees in St. Louis by providing furniture, household items, and clothes. They also offer educational support with English, citizenship and computer classes. Perhaps, the greatest blessing they offer is opportunities to develop community, friendship, and kindness with a population that is statistically rarely befriended by an American.

### Our Current Involvement

- Began partnering with Oasis to serve local refugees in 2008.
- Support has included on-going and one-time financial support as well as blanket, clothing, and furniture drives.
- Participation has included hosting BBQ’s for refugees during the summer.
- Individual members have given their time teaching English, helping at events and organizing baby showers for expectant refugee mothers.

### Expanding our Partnership

- Oasis is in need of two drivers for a recently donated 2<sup>nd</sup> delivery truck for furniture deliveries to newly arrived refugee families.
- **We feel God is inviting us to increase our giving to Oasis by up to a total of \$31,200 over the next three years to allow Oasis to hire two drivers from the refugee community.**



*An Oasis International Delivery Truck*



## Expanding into New Partnerships

As we prayerfully sought God's guidance on how our church can be a blessing to the communities around us, He strongly laid on our hearts some additional areas that greatly affect our city, our neighbors and our local body – specifically **orphan care** and **racial reconciliation**.

Many in our church have been involved in these areas for years and we feel God is now equipping us as a church body to provide more prayer support and where helpful, financial resources as well. While the Partnership team is still developing this area, we are beginning conversations within our church about these possible new growth areas. If you have a heart for these areas, please begin praying about how God wants to use our church to impact our city and please reach out to someone on the Partnership team (contact info in the FAQ below).

## Partnership FAQ:

*How much money are we looking to give to the partnerships during this project?*

Besides the estimates stated in the project descriptions above, the total amount dedicated to partnerships will depend largely on the level of giving for the expansion project. We know it will be at least 10% of the funds brought in during the 3 year offering period. God may steer us towards an even higher number as we continue to pray and as our church engages in new opportunities. This is in addition to the percentage of our annual operating budget that goes to giving which the Board is looking to continue increasing over time (it is set at 12% for the 2017 budget year).

*How do I learn more about the organizations we are partnering with?*

Each organization has a website (listed below) with much more information than we are able to include here. Take some time to look at their sites so you can become more familiar with their mission and impact. Even better, spend some time talking with the folks in our church who have been involved with these ministries to get a real sense for what God is doing.

- Oasis International: [www.oasis4refugees.org](http://www.oasis4refugees.org)
- Christian Activity Center: [www.cacesl.org](http://www.cacesl.org)

- Nicaragua Partnership: [www.vineyardmissions.org/nicaragua](http://www.vineyardmissions.org/nicaragua)

*How do I get more involved in the partnerships?*

Great question! We would love to have you involved. Simply reach out to the VCC contact person that corresponds with the area God is highlighting for you. They look forward to hearing from you. You can also make a note in the last section of the Response Card.

- Oasis International: Contact Tanya Dunlap at [tanyadunlap@gmail.com](mailto:tanyadunlap@gmail.com)
- Christian Activity Center: Contact Susan Tarr at [susantarr@gmail.com](mailto:susantarr@gmail.com)
- Nicaragua Partnership: Contact Shea Brasier at [sheabrasier11@gmail.com](mailto:sheabrasier11@gmail.com)

*How can I be part of engaging in the new growth areas?*

Your time, energy, and prayers are definitely needed. If you are interested or just have more questions about the new growth areas, please contact one of the following leaders.

- Orphan Care: Contact Anna Schulte at [queenanna25@gmail.com](mailto:queenanna25@gmail.com)
- Racial Reconciliation: Contact Alicia Johnson at [aliciamjohnson@yahoo.com](mailto:aliciamjohnson@yahoo.com)



*The library at CAC (past project)*



*Class in session at La Vina Bluefields*

# PROJECT FINANCIALS

**God has faithfully met all of our financial needs** from the very beginning of this church! This has been evident in many ways, including:

- Bringing in enough to cover our expenses each and every year and often exceeding our budgeted contributions
- Giving to many ministries and needs outside our operating budget
- Paying off early the debt that we carried from purchasing our building in 2007
- Currently maintaining a healthy cash reserve (~4 months of operating expenses)
- Building up substantial funds for the building expansion, missions partnerships, and future ministry needs

It has been truly incredible to see God come through time and again. **His provision through our faithful givers puts us in a strong financial position as we begin this project** (feel free to ask for updated details). Seeing what God has already provided makes it easier to have faith for what He's calling us to next!

## **Building Expansion Cost Estimates**

After assessing the project in multiple ways and through multiple sources, **the estimated cost is from ~\$1.0M to \$1.2M** for the full scope of the project as it is currently designed.

Construction projects often see cost overruns and/or time delays. We'll need to be prepared for both! But we are grateful to have found and hired a general contractor with an excellent track record with many local churches. He will provide a guaranteed maximum cost when we have concluded the construction documents phase (before construction begins). We will be able to see all the sub-contractor bids, making cost/benefit decisions along the way, and any savings versus the guaranteed max will be returned 100% to the church.

Here's how we think the costs will break down:

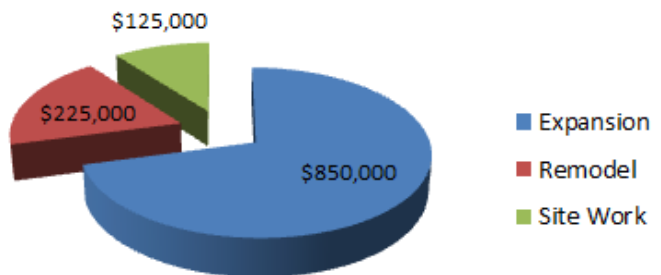
Expansion: ~4800 to 5100 sqft over two floors  
*Cost Estimate: \$725K to \$850K*

Remodel: Sanctuary (~3000 sqft), including new stage, new roof, and HVAC  
Offices (~550 sqft)  
Kids Lower Level and Youth Room (~1900 sqft)  
*Cost Estimate: \$175K to \$225K*

Site Work: Add 12-14 parking space at minimum and completely repave entire lot  
Investigate feasibility of Ballas exit (not included)  
*Cost Estimate: \$100K to \$125K*

Total: \$1.0M to \$1.2M

In addition, remember that we are dedicating at least 10% of all incoming gifts to our partnership projects. We are praying we'll be in a position to give an even higher percentage as the Lord provides.



*Building Cost Estimates (High End)*

## Funding This Project

**This project will be funded in the same way everything we do is funded: by God's provision through all of our givers!** We don't have an endowment or any outside sources of income. We are not expecting to generate income through rentals or any other means that would take away from our ministry purposes.

We are trusting God to provide a large percentage of the funds through the project offering. Beyond that we are willing to take on a conservative amount of long-term debt relative to our annual budget. Many churches in America use 25% or more of their budget on loan payments, but our figure should be in the 5-10% range if we have any long-term debt at all. Remember that at present, our operating budget doesn't have a loan to service, so any long-term loan would need to be taken on as an additional expense.

We will also work diligently to keep the project cost effective. Our approach to the expansion, as with all our financial decisions, is to pray for wisdom and seek out the best values available. This expansion is likely to be the last major work anyone does to this property due to the constraints of the land, so we want to make sure the functionality and finishes will stand the test of time even while minimizing costs.

## **Financials FAQ**

*How much are we hoping the offering will bring in?*

We feel a “check” on setting a target. Maybe that’s because we’re adverse to fundraising thermometers and raffle tickets! But it could also be because God wants to show us something unexpected in this season. In the past, other Vineyards and like-minded churches have often seen pledges over 2-3 year terms ranging from 1.5 to 3 times their annual contributions (our 2016 contributions totaled ~\$470K). In some cases, God has blown through those averages! The Central Illinois Vineyard saw 8 times their operating budget come in during one of their capital campaigns about a decade ago. God does crazy things sometimes! It really just comes down to what He’s doing in us as a church. We will trust Him with that.

*Can this project be done in stages in order to reduce up-front costs?*

We are planning to do everything in the current project scope all at once because it will be most efficient from a construction perspective. The building expansion itself cannot be phased... it’s all or nothing on that portion. The sanctuary renovation is also integral to the expansion, so it’s hard to see how that portion could be separated. Other pieces of the renovation could potentially be delayed, but the cost savings up front may not be worth it in the long run. The site work (parking lot) is the piece that could be most reasonably phased. We will prayerfully consider all of our options as we move forward with design, construction bidding, and financials.

*How much of a “stretch” financially is this project for our church?*

A project this size is definitely a challenge, but it’s very doable given the size of our church and the financial position we’re in. Relative to other churches in the St. Louis area, the cost of this project is at the low-end of church expansions/acquisitions. Smaller churches have taken on

projects that cost as much or more. Larger churches have taken on expansions that are much larger even on a relative scale. Ultimately it's about doing our best to follow where the Lord leads, but we feel this project fits well within the fiscally conservative nature of our church.

*This seems like a lot of money. Is it worth it?*

Any time a project carries a big price tag like this, it's good to be sure you're hearing God correctly! Even though there's always risks involved with doing something like this, the reality is that this is a "high-payoff" project, meaning that the additional benefit for the mission of the church makes the cost more than worthwhile. Even though many of us have grown used to it, the building as it stands really doesn't function well in many respects because it wasn't designed for how we want to use a building. It does not do a great job providing the welcoming atmosphere to line up with our mission and values (see the "Building" section earlier in this booklet for more details). The impact from the partnership projects is also tremendous and we're very excited to see how God moves us forward through these opportunities!

*Why is the church willing to take on debt?*

We have always been conservative on debt because we see that as wisdom from Scripture. Our experience owning our building and being debt-free also shows that it's a great place to be in! (Renting a space comparable to our current building would cost more than \$10K/month.) Still, we realize that secured debt (debt that is more than backed by the property value) can be a helpful tool for churches to expand God's Kingdom. Vineyard churches as a whole share this view.

*What debt has the church had in the past?*

When God led us to purchase this building in 2007, we took on a \$430K loan when our church had less than half its current attendance and interest rates were higher. God provided and we were able to pay this off in ~6 years. That said, we want to carry as little debt as possible on this project and pay it off as quickly as possible. It's certainly possible for God to provide enough through the project offering that we wouldn't carry any long-term debt at all. Pray for that!

*What kind of loan will we take on and what will be the impact to our budget?*

Because of our strong financial position and the relatively modest scope of the project compared to our annual budget, banks will likely be willing to lend us more money than we are interested in borrowing. We will need a construction loan to get the building built, but beyond that our level of long-term debt will depend on what God provides through the offering and the final scope of the project.

Just as a point of reference (our actual long-term loan could be higher but will hopefully be lower): a \$500K loan at 5% interest and a 25-year amortization (typical for church loans) results in a \$2,900/month payment, which would be about 7.5% of our 2016 income.



# R E S P O N D I N G

Now that you've gotten familiar with the project, what comes next?

Our primary goal is for each of us to have a rich and authentic conversation with God about the response He wants us to have to this expansion project. This includes addressing everything we have at our disposal: time, energy, and money. The conversation may take some time to process and may be challenging, but if God is in it, that's exactly where we want to be!

**Our Goal: For each of us to have a rich, authentic conversation with God about our own response.**

## **What God Has Already Done**

**In many ways, we've already started to respond as a church to God's invitation into this project.** One thing newcomers often notice when they attend a service is that we specifically ask guests not to contribute to the offering. We've always wanted to stay away from manipulation and be sensitive to the many people in our community not yet committed to Jesus. That's why we've mostly avoided talking about finances and giving, especially on Sunday mornings.

But when we first felt God leading us towards the building expansion, God started to speak into how we view talking about finances. We realized we had not emphasized financial stewardship and generosity, an aspect of discipleship and faith God clearly sees as being critical to moving closer to Jesus. Even though we've always had a high value on being "real" with each other, money had somehow been mostly left out of the conversation, taking on almost a taboo status.

**Churches often have fundraising campaigns for building projects, but God made it clear He would instead use our expansion project for a larger purpose – to grow us in the area of finances and generosity well beyond a single event.**

Even though by many measures we are already a generous church, we know now that God wants to further reshape our attitude and approach to giving on a spiritual level. Among other things, He wants us to go to a new level in learning:

- How to both be wise and truly put our trust in God for our provision (Matt 6:25)
- How giving helps us keep God as our greatest priority (Deut 14:23, Matt 6:21)
- How to be Spirit-led stewards who experience the rewards of extravagant generosity (Luke 6;38, 2 Cor 9:6)

The “Everything is Yours” sermon series in the fall of 2016 kicked off that process. As a result of this series, many of us began new or renewed conversations with God about finances. Some began to give consistently for the first time. Others had their faith for giving reinvigorated. The church board also began evaluating how to increase the percentage of our



budget given to minister beyond our own operations. Finances for 2016 ended on an incredible note... our general giving increased by 9% over 2015. We were able to increase our giving percentage earlier than expected and set aside additional funds for this project. Sometimes God just likes to show off!

We also set out to shift the culture in our community. As we learn how to view finances in a Biblical way, we’re learning how to share with each

other in love, without judgment, and toward greater faith in a generous God. It’s a process we’re just beginning, but we’re grateful for all that God has already done!

## Two Aspects of Your Response

With that in mind, let’s set out towards our goal: for each one of us to have our own conversation with God about the response He wants us to have. We challenge you to consider both these aspects as you are processing:

- 1.) **Financially** – God will invite many of us to give sacrificially for this project, not because He needs us to, but because He wants to give us more of His Kingdom! As described below, **the giving for this project would be above your normal giving to the church.** We know that God will not instruct every one of you to give financially and that’s 100% okay! God’s answers could come in a variety of forms, including (but not limited to):

- Giving sacrificially above your normal giving to the church for three years
- Giving nothing to the project, but increasing your normal giving to the church

- Increasing your normal giving to the church and giving a one-time gift
- Committing to give a percentage of additional income (bonuses or asset sales)
- Giving nothing to the project, but committing to get out of personal debt and begin giving regularly

**2.) Non-financially** – Aside from financially giving, God will also invite many of us into new or expanded roles for His Kingdom. **Is there an area that God is putting on your heart as “more” for you in this next season?** Whether you are committing to give financially to the project or not, we want each of us to ask God if there is something *more* for us to commit to in this next season of our church. God’s promptings can go in many directions including (but of course not limited to):

- Committing to pray and/or fast regularly throughout the duration of this project
- Getting involved (or more involved) with one of our partnership ministries
- Responding to something God is stirring you towards in the near future such as becoming more involved in small groups, serving on Sundays or for the project needs, exploring your gifting through the Ministry Discovery class, or even developing a new ministry area
- Considering God’s longer-term calling on your life

## The Process of Responding

What does it look like to have a conversation with God about this project? What would “More of You, Lord” really look like for each of us? It will be different for every individual and family, but here are some steps you may consider as you seek God.

1

### Gather the Facts

We hope this booklet and the other forms of communication will help you understand the opportunity that we have in front of us with this project. Please also take advantage of the scheduled events to get a sense for the physical changes and get more questions answered (see the last pages of the booklet for an event list). And feel free to send any questions to [expansion@stlvineryard.org](mailto:expansion@stlvineryard.org).

## 2

### Process

We would love for every person to put some concerted time and effort into an evaluation (or re-evaluation) of two things:

- *Your general beliefs and practice of giving...* What is your personal philosophy on finances and generosity? Where did that come from and how well does it line up with Scripture? What's the next step of faith for you practically? How does God speak to you about giving your time and energy for His purposes?
- *Your perspective on this particular opportunity...* What do you think of expanding our church building? How about the partnership projects? What degree of faith do you have for what God is doing in our church? Are you feeling drawn towards engaging more in that work?

We want you to find good places to process with others (a trusted friend, mentor, or pastor). If you're married, talk about how this process looks for each spouse and how you'll come to agreement.

**We want to be challenged by the Spirit and to learn how to be in it with each other when it comes to these big questions without fear of being judged and being free from judging others.** This is not something we will do perfectly, but we believe this is a major component of what God wants to build into us.

## 3

### Listen for God's Voice

We can learn and evaluate, but in the end, it always comes down to "What is God saying to me?" and trusting Him enough to obey. Wrestle with God as needed. Spend the time it takes in prayer and have the discussions you need to have with others so you can have a good sense of where God is taking you on this. Of course we never hear God perfectly, but that's part of what faith is all about!

If as a church we can learn to hear God about money, we will be able to hear Him about anything.

God wants to use this project to encourage each person in our church to start or continue down a grace-filled journey towards greater freedom and purpose when it comes to giving. Our job is to do our best to listen and obey Him in faith. In fact, one thing we felt the Holy Spirit said in this season was that if we, as a church, could learn to hear from God about money, we would be able to hear from Him about anything. Now that's exciting!

Three things we want from this response process: **faith** for what's next, **peace** about having heard from God, and **joy** from seeing more of Jesus at work!

We believe the Holy Spirit has something to say to every one of us during this season, from the person who has significant financial struggles to those who thought they had finances figured out already, and from the newcomer to the old-timers. Through this process, God will show us how exercising faith will further our mission and bring us more joy in walking with Him!

## **The Approach to Special Offerings**

Giving should not be done under compulsion, but it should be done intentionally (2 Cor 9:6-11). The offering for this project will be above our normal giving. We see examples of special offerings both in the Old Testament and the New Testament. In many ways, this parallels how we grow spiritually in other aspects of our faith. We seek to spend time alone with God on a regular, day-to-day basis, but also take extended time away for retreats. We worship together every Sunday, but have times of longer worship nights to soak in God's presence. We read the Bible daily, but tremendous growth also comes from conferences or classes where we engage in God's truth in a more focused way.

Giving can be the same way. We set a foundation for recognizing God's provision by giving regularly, but special offerings, as led by the Spirit, raise our faith and our level of trust in God. We get to take another step toward surrendering all of our resources to our good Father.

Following Jesus is never about universal formulas. No one can say how many minutes a day a Christian should spend in prayer, or how many chapters of the Bible to read each week. No two believers will have the same history of serving in the church or preaching the Gospel to the nations. Giving is no different. It really is not about a percentage, but rather about relationship. **So when we say we want every person to have a conversation with God about finances and specifically about this offering, we really do mean it.** You should never feel any pressure, manipulation, or guilt from the church, and if you do we encourage you to discuss that with David or one of our Pastoral Council or Leadership Community Pastors (see contact

info at the end of this booklet). Be led by the Holy Spirit. Seek counsel and support from others. And whatever you do, do it by grace and in faith.

## Recording Your Response

We have provided two ways for you to communicate to us about what your response will be.

- Filling out your response online at: [stlvineyard.org/expansion/response](http://stlvineyard.org/expansion/response)
- Filling out a physical response card which is available at the Project Display by the office, or by contacting [expansion@stlvineyard.org](mailto:expansion@stlvineyard.org)

Your financial commitments, which will only be seen by our bookkeeping staff and board members, will be entered into CCB where we can aggregate the commitments and keep track of how we are doing relative to our expected gifts.

As you fill out the response card, **start by writing about what your conversation with God looked like during this process.** We'd love to know not only what commitments you ended up making, but also a bit about why and how you got there. In many ways, that's just as important! Underneath, there's space to address both aspects of commitment:

### 1.) Financial Commitments

We will be looking for offerings to come in between April of 2017 and December of 2019 (33 months). If you decide to give financially, you can structure your offerings any way you choose, but the response card includes spaces for **single gifts, ongoing commitments** over the 33 months or any other period of your choosing, or **other planned giving**. There's also space to indicate other financial responses.

### 2.) Non-Financial Commitments

Whether you are planning to give financially or not, we hope you will also consider if God might have *more* for you in any particular area. Use the space on the card to write down commitments such as **regular prayer** for the project, offering **time and energy**, becoming more involved in our **partnership projects**, or **any other non-financial areas you feel led toward** from your conversation with God, whether it is directly related to the project or not! These responses will be given to Leadership Community Pastors as appropriate for next steps.

## Filling Out the Response Card

As you're prayerfully considering your response, please see pages 31-40 of the Project Booklet for detailed instructions. **Most of all we want you to have a rich, authentic conversation with God about your response.**

*Financial Commitments will only be seen by the board and bookkeepers.*

Or respond online at: [stlvineyard.org/expansion/respond](http://stlvineyard.org/expansion/respond)

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
*Please provide contact info on the back*

As I/we prayed about our response, this is what happened:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

As a result, I/we commit to respond in the following way(s):\*

*Fill in all that apply*

<b>Single Monetary Gift</b> \$_____ given on _____	<b>Ongoing Commitment</b> Given Apr.2017 – Dec. 2019 (33 mos) Or other date range: _____ \$_____ per month x _____ months Or \$_____ per year x _____ years Total: \$_____
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**Other Planned Gifts**  
 Description (50% of bonuses, 75% of stock sale, 100% of hobby income)  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Estimated Value \$\_\_\_\_\_

**Total Monetary Gift** (Single Gift + Ongoing + Other Gift)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I/We feel God is asking me/us to **increase our regular giving** in this way:  
 \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I/We feel God said to do the following in the **area of my/our finances**:  
 \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I/We commit to **non-financial involvement** in the following way(s):  
☐ Regular prayer    ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

\*Your statement of intent may be changed at any time by contacting the church office

**Name(s):** Please also fill out contact information on the other side of the card.

**What Happened:** Let us know honestly about your process and your conversation with God during this response period. This gets at the heart of why you are making the commitment you're making now. That's just as important as the end result!

**Single Monetary Gift:** A one-time gift on a particular date. The more upfront cash we have, the less loan interest we will pay and the better our position with lenders.

**Ongoing Commitment:** A commitment for a regular amount either monthly or annually, for a period of your choosing (up to the 33 months/3 years).

**Other Planned Gifts:** A plan for other future gifts (for example, a percentage of bonuses received, other types of income, asset sales, etc...). Write "TBD" or use a range if the value is uncertain.

**Increase Regular Giving:** If you'd like, you can let us know what God is saying specifically.

**Other Financial Area:** You can comment here if God said anything to you about finances that does not involve giving. Remember it is completely legitimate not to give to the project, but we really desire for every person to hear from God.

**Non-Financial Involvement:** Tell us if God prompted you to commit to praying regularly, or any other outcomes as discussed in these pages such as involvement in partnership project ministries or other stirrings within the church. Feel free to e-mail [expansion@stlvineyard.org](mailto:expansion@stlvineyard.org) if you need more space or use the online response form.



## Responding FAQ

*I need help working through my finances and my philosophy on giving. What should I do?*

First of all, that's OK! God has walked so many of us down the path of financial peace and generosity and we know He wants the same for you. That's why the Bible addresses this topic so frequently. Start a conversation in person with a Small Group Leader or Leadership Community Pastor, or e-mail [expansion@stlvineryard.org](mailto:expansion@stlvineryard.org) and we'll connect you. We also plan to run Financial Peace University again before long. E-mail the office if you're interested in that.

There are also a great number of excellent resources taught out of Scripture to help us sort through this important part of growing in faith. While we don't necessarily align 100% with any specific viewpoint (in fact we like to gain different perspectives), we do appreciate the principals spelled out in these resources:

- *The Generosity Ladder* by Nelson Searcy ([short and practical](#))
- *The Treasure Principle* by Randy Alcorn ([book](#) and [video series](#) on RightNowMedia)
- *Complete Guide to Money* by Dave Ramsey ([practical](#))
- A Generous Life (Inspirational) – sermon series from the Vineyard Church of Central Illinois (<http://thevineyardchurch.us/messages/series/a-generous-life>)
- *The Genius of Generosity* by Chip Ingram ([short book](#) and [video](#) on RightNowMedia)
- *Tithing After the Cross* by David Croteau ([theological](#))
- *Free of Charge* by Miroslav Volf ([philosophical](#), more broadly on giving and forgiving)

While different authors/teachers may approach specific aspects of finances in different ways, the key point that everyone agrees on is that it all belongs to God and that we can trust Him!

*What's the church's view on giving?*

We think regular giving is simply wise. You don't even have to know God to figure that out and experience the benefits. That's just how God has created the world. From the beginning, God always taught His people to give "first fruits", meaning the first and best of what God provides for us.

God knows we are at our best  
when we give. God is the  
ultimate Giver: "For God so  
loved the world that He gave  
His only Son..." We become  
more like God when we give.  
-Dave Ramsey  
Founder of Financial Peace Univ

Again, we see this simply as wisdom... a reminder of our trust in God and a statement that we want all of our resources to serve and be blessed by God.

During Jesus' ministry on earth, He made it clear that generosity of heart was what pleased the Father, not only giving a tithe to follow the letter of the law. He rebuked religious leaders who were giving their 10%, but their hearts were not responsive to God. They were missing the important things (Matt. 23:23). In many instances, Jesus praised people for or commanded people to give everything they had (Matthew 19:21; Mark 12:43-44). In Acts, we also see many examples of the early church members giving "to anyone as he had need" (Acts 2:45). Throughout the remainder of the New Testament, believers are encouraged to give generously, not just to fulfill an obligation to the law (2Corinthians 8:7).

We don't demand anyone in our church follow a specific set of rules, but many of us have found consistent tithing (10% of gross income given to the local church) and additional offerings on top of that to be surprisingly important and a rewarding part of growing our relationship with God.

*Is this commitment a contract?*

Absolutely not! Remember, we are giving not out of compulsion or even need, but out of a desire to bless God and serve His purposes. As in all parts of discipleship, commitment is important and helpful, but it should not be a guilt-driven burden. You can always change your response card by contacting the office.

*Do I have to give for three years?*

Nope! The three-year structure is just a helpful way for many people to think about how they want to devote finances to this project into the future. It allows more people to participate in more significant ways. It is also helpful for the board in planning/budgeting over the next several years. That said, there's nothing especially significant about three years. If you are more comfortable making a one-time gift now and perhaps considering more later, or just making a commitment over a shorter period, that's totally fine! Have that conversation with God and do what the Spirit is leading you to do.

*Can you help me understand better how much is needed for this project?*

We really are serious about having that conversation with God. We trust that as He speaks to each of us, He'll provide exactly what the church needs. That why you won't see any recommended amounts, or special recognition for people who give more than a certain figure, or even suggestions on how you might be able to give more. If it helps you to have an idea of the scale we're talking about, we'll say this, but only with caution! In theory, to have no long-term debt, giving would need to be doubled for the next three years (2016 contributions of \$470K x 3 years = \$1.4M, which is enough to cover the building and partnership projects). BUT, we absolutely know that is not what God will say to every person. For some, He has given the means to give substantially more. For most, it will be something less, and for others it will be nothing more at all at this time. We're here to follow and trust our Lord with all of this!

*What's the best form of payment on giving?*

Since the church incurs a processing fee on all debit and credit card transactions, giving through CCB with a checking account is by far the most efficient in terms of time and cost. If you have a credit card that gives you cash back or rewards, just keep in mind our credit card processing fees are between .25% - .28% of your donation (so processing fees on a \$1,000 gift will reduce your donation by about \$25).

*How can I be praying for this project?*

Glad you asked! The last page of this book has a suggested weekly schedule that we'd love to be praying through together as a church during this project. You can even tear off the page and stick it somewhere you can see it! If you'd like to receive more specific prayer requests from the project team, e-mail [expansion@stlvineyard.org](mailto:expansion@stlvineyard.org).

# RESPONSE PERIOD

**Response Period Begins:**           **Sunday, April 9**

**Project Open House:**               **Saturday, April 22, 1pm-5pm**

*Join us any time between 1pm and 5pm to walk around the building to see how sections of the building will change in the expansion and ask any and all questions that you may have! There will also be stations to visit to find out more about the Partnerships and Project Financials.*

**Prayer for the Project**               **Sunday, April 23, 4-5:30pm**

*Join the Intercessory Prayer Group as we pray together for the Expansion Project and the whole church as we engage in this Response Period together.*

**Project Q&A Mini-Tour 1**           **Sunday, April 23, 12:30pm**

**Project Q&A Mini-Tour 2**           **Sunday, April 30, 12:30pm**

*If you have to miss the Open House or have further questions, try to make it to one of these shorter Q&A sessions right after church on the following two Sundays.*

**Personal Time with a Pastor or LCP**           **Any Time!**

*If you want some no-pressure time to talk one-on-one with one of our Pastors or Leadership Community Pastors, just let us know! We'd love to help you process what God is stirring up in you in the area of finances, this project, or anything else for that matter! Just email us at [expansion@stlvineyard.org](mailto:expansion@stlvineyard.org) and we'll get a time set up for you.*

**Project Celebration**               **Sunday, May 7, 12:30pm**

*We'll have a great time celebrating together what God has done so far in our expansion project, including an announcement of financial commitments made so far.*

# CONTACT INFO

*As you work your way through this response period, we want to be available to you to answer questions that may arise – about the project, as well as anything else that may surface. If you find you would like to talk to a pastoral person, please feel free to contact any of our Leadership Community Pastors. If you don't know any of them personally, you can email [expansion@stlvineyard.org](mailto:expansion@stlvineyard.org) and we will connect you. You can also use that e-mail for changes to your response card, help with recommended resources, or any other questions you're not sure who to ask.*

## **Leadership Community Pastors:**

David Stark (Lead Pastor): [david@stlvineyard.org](mailto:david@stlvineyard.org), (314) 629-8463  
Caleb Chou (Project Lead, Board): [calebchou@gmail.com](mailto:calebchou@gmail.com), (314) 761-9587  
Bill McKay (Equipping Pastor): [bill@stlvineyard.org](mailto:bill@stlvineyard.org), (314) 605-1059  
Kitty Cramer (Children's Ministry Pastor): [kittycramer1@yahoo.com](mailto:kittycramer1@yahoo.com), (314) 822-3698  
Debi Stark (Building Team, Office Manager): [debi@stlvineyard.org](mailto:debi@stlvineyard.org), (314) 583-8463  
Irene Chou: [lucire78@gmail.com](mailto:lucire78@gmail.com), (314) 504-2457  
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Bob Tarr: [bobtarr02@gmail.com](mailto:bobtarr02@gmail.com), (314) 898-5904

## **Other Contacts:**

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Alicia Johnson (Partnership Team Lead): [aliciamjohnson@yahoo.com](mailto:aliciamjohnson@yahoo.com), (217) 418-0070  
Jerry Orf (Building Team): [jorf1950@aol.com](mailto:jorf1950@aol.com), (314) 503-5147

## **Church Office:**

Vineyard Community Church  
2154 Dougherty Ferry Rd, St. Louis, MO 63122  
[vineyardoffice@stlvineyard.org](mailto:vineyardoffice@stlvineyard.org)  
314-909-7626  
For RightNowMedia or CCB help, e-mail Aimee Baumgartner: [aimee@stlvineyard.org](mailto:aimee@stlvineyard.org)

**Web Site:** [www.stlvineyard.org/expansion](http://www.stlvineyard.org/expansion)

# PRAYING TOGETHER

*Join us in praying together each day of the week throughout the duration of the Expansion Project! Feel free to tear this sheet off and put it somewhere visible as a reminder to pray.*

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Sunday    | For <b>soul-restoring rest</b> in each one of us. Pray for the peace of Christ to rule in our hearts regardless of good or difficult circumstances.   |
| Monday    | For the <b>building project's work this week</b> (design, planning, permits, construction, transition). Pray for wisdom and supernatural solutions.   |
| Tuesday   | For our church to be focused on our mission during this project. Pray that the <b>Four Ministry Essentials</b> (bringing God's Love, God's Presence, God's Truth, and God's Power) would be increased even during the transition.                                     |
| Wednesday | For God to pour out His blessings, both spiritually and materially. Pray that He would empower us in our hearts and hands towards <b>greater generosity</b> .   |
| Thursday  | For our existing partnerships ( <b>CAC, Oasis, La Vina Bluefields and the Nicaragua Partnership</b> ). Pray that they would have all they need and have even greater impact as they follow Jesus. Pray that our church would know how best to engage as well.         |
| Friday    | For God's direction, wisdom, and empowerment in <b>launching new initiatives or expanding existing work</b> both inside and outside the church. Pray that each of us would learn to be sensitive and responsive to the Holy Spirit's leading in big and small things. |
| Saturday  | For God's presence to be unmistakable during <b>Sunday's worship services and with the kids</b> . Pray that every person would experience God's love through us and that God's truth and God's power would come in significant ways.                                  |





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