

**FXCC Vision Forward – Elder Feedback
September 17**

***Please be aware that some of the responses below
may change as more information becomes available.
We are committed to sharing that with you
as soon as we have changed information.***

Why are we even thinking about a building project?

Our facility was built in 1973, with the addition completed in 1995. We've done a great job of maintaining it, but we can only do "patch-work" for so long; additionally, bringing the building up to current code would require a significantly large investment. Rather than invest equivalent funds to keep essentially what we already have, the thought is to invest that same amount of money into developing a more modern, flexible facility.

With an annual budget over \$1 million, why aren't we able to take better care for our current building?

We are maintaining our current building in a frugal and responsible way; however, our maintenance costs are projected to rise in the near future. Since we're sure to spend a significant amount on the building no matter what, it only makes sense to consider a building project that incorporated upgrades now.

Jesus threw the money lenders out of the temple. Why are we considering having a business on church property?

The money lenders at the 1st century Temple occupied the Court of the Gentiles. God intended that the worship space reserved for people not yet fully part of His covenant. Jesus threw out the money lenders in part because they obstructed worship by "outsiders." Our intent is the opposite. We hope to encourage those outside the church to learn more about Jesus through a potential business endeavor. Unlike the 1st century Temple, we do not expect commercial business activities during worship.

What does financial sustainability mean for our church?

BGW explains it like this:

Church facilities have traditionally been among the least utilized buildings in America, sitting empty throughout most of the week. What would happen to our ministries if we used our buildings 7 days a week and began to view them as profit opportunities instead of financial liabilities?

BGW has partnered with Mission Based Sustainability Solutions, a faith-based development company, to help ministries integrate for-profit business models that can not only reduce the ministry's existing cost structure, but can also become a true catalyst for ministry growth and Kingdom impact.

What about the profits?

The profits are not 'for us'--they are to build the kingdom, to find new ways to meet the needs of our community so that we can build relationships with them and share Jesus with them. It will also help fund the new addition, support missionaries, and whatever other ministry opportunities we see both in and out of our community that we are currently saying no to because of lack of funding or physical space limitations.

Is the sustainable approach to raising revenue meant to replace giving and/or tithing?

No, not at all. Giving is a part of Christian discipleship. Your charitable giving (of money, time and talent) is part of your spiritual work. We pray that you give freely as you have been blessed. The purpose of the sustainable approach – is the creation of a secondary source that generates income – to reduce the amount allocated from our giving that is spent on the building upkeep, and focusing our contributions on the many other good works FXCC could support.

Is there a scriptural basis for a “sustainable” model?

The New Testament doesn't actually say anything specifically about church buildings. Scripture does, however, encourage us to be good stewards of our resources. Reducing the expense of a church building to free up funds for other Kingdom works we believe is good stewardship.

What will happen to Stepping Stones Preschool (SSP) if we build a new early learning center?

SSP would close. The current SSP employees are aware of this and will be given first consideration of employment at the new center.

Responses on Learning Care Group Child Care center

Who will operate the Child Care center?

The Learning Care Group will manage the center and staff it. Current Stepping Stones Preschool staff and FXCC members will be given priority during the hiring process.

Who will be in charge of the faith elements at the center? What will this include?

Members and staff at Fairfax Church of Christ will be responsible for the faith-based elements during school hours.

The Learning Care Group recognizes the unique situation by being located within a church facility. Included in the contract will be elements of faith, chapel, prayer, and Bible stories during story time. There will not be an opt-out for chapel or any of the faith-based elements at the child care center.

How will the church work with the child care center?

The Learning Care Group will hire a person on their staff to be the Family Relations Manager (FRM). The FRM will act as a liaison to FXCC and work with the ministry staff to coordinate both school and church outreach events. LCG would prefer this to be a member of FXCC.

Has outreach to the Stepping Stone families been successful? If not, why do we think we will have successful outreach with an early learning center run by an outside group?

(FXCC has not over the last several years made the best of the opportunities with SSP. The leadership is working to take steps to make every effort to open up opportunities to serve the Stepping Stones families starting this year.) The sustainable building options can only provide an opportunity for outreach. Whether FXCC takes advantage of that opportunity is entirely up to the members. Even if FXCC should fail at this outreach opportunity – which would be very sad – that would not cause the building project to also fail.

What control will FXCC have over the material taught or events hosted at a potential early learning center?

FXCC staff and members will be fully responsible for teaching Christian values, Bible stories, and hosting chapel at the early learning center, which is a much bigger responsibility than we currently have with SSP. We will have full control over what faith components are included for these children. Additionally, the daily lesson plans in the classrooms will have to meet state standards for preschool learning. These concepts include Creativity, Collaboration, Critical Thinking, and Communication.

What about a Christian school (perhaps K-12) instead of an early learning center?

The first report gave us the best options for sustainable opportunities for our community, property, and facility; a K-12 school was not a feasible option. The market research indicates that a Christian primary or secondary school is not sustainable given our building site and location.

If the church becomes part of a business enterprise, what will happen to our tax status?

FXCC and any business enterprise will remain legally separate. Our tax status will not change. Any taxes on the business entities will be part of their usual profit and loss.