



About a month ago I updated you on the work of Riverside's Development Committee. The Development Committee was assembled by the Riverside Leadership Team more than a year ago to evaluate Riverside's current facility usage and future needs in response to Riverside's growth. As has been discussed in our congregational forums, the Development Committee has explored many possibilities, including: doing nothing, expanding our current facility, building a new building on our existing property, purchasing vacant land, purchasing an existing structure, and several other options. Most recently the Development Committee recommended the acquisition of the white house, which now houses the Riverside offices and Jr. and Sr. High youth.

Recently, a seller agreed to sell Riverside a piece of property at the corner of Klondike Rd. and the forthcoming Cumberland Ave. extension. We have been given six weeks to decide if we would like to purchase the land. This development presents Riverside with several viable options and Riverside's leadership desires for all of Riverside to seek God in choosing amongst our various options. Those options are: A) remain in our current facility and make decision later, B) remain in our current facility and purchase surrounding property, C) move to another existing facility, or D) purchase vacant land with the potential to build a new facility in the future.

There are advantages and disadvantages to each of these choices and it will be essential that we seek God's will collectively in making this decision. We have been blessed with both spiritual and numerical growth in recent years and we must be wise in pursuing a path that enhances our gifts and identity. It will be essential for us to theologically examine who we are and why God has placed us together in this time and place as we make this decision.

You can follow [this LINK to a document](#) that outlines the four available options that the Development Committee has arrived at, along with some of the advantages and disadvantages to each.

Please examine these materials and begin praying for discernment. We will begin this process of discernment with intentional prayer. Following the worship service this Sunday, July 11, we will gather together as a community and pray. Childcare will be available. We also encourage you to take a few minutes on Wednesday, July 14 at 6pm to pray with your family. Fasting during the dinner time or throughout the day may also be helpful. We want to hear from God.

Then, beginning on Sunday, July 18 we will have a series of forums to discuss what God has revealed and our available options. Childcare will again be available for these forums.

Since several of our available options are time-sensitive, our hope would be to have a collective sense of God's direction by the middle of August.

As a guide to your initial discernment, please prayerfully consider the following questions?

- Which option has the potential to most effectively represent Riverside's God-given uniqueness?
- What is the purpose of a church facility?
- How does/will our facility location and structure affect our church identity?
- What choice demonstrates God's call to us as a congregation?
- How do we ensure that our facility (current or future) is not a monument to ourselves but to God (Genesis 11)?
- In which direction do we find congregational harmony? (Psalm 133)

Please contact [Pastor Dan](#) or the [Leadership Team](#) if you have any questions.

Riverside Covenant Church can be found on the web at www.rcovenant.org

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