



AWAKENING FLEMING ISLAND CAMPUS F.A.Q.

On Sunday, May 5, Todd Bussey, Fleming Island Campus Pastor, announced on behalf of the church leadership, that through circumstances that can only be considered divinely directed, church leadership has:

- 1. Agreed to sell the Fleming Island Campus (FIC). This decision allows the FIC to relocate, operate and thrive without the burden of debt. By establishing a smaller footprint in a neighborhood, we will continue to serve our church family well AND have the resources to serve and reach more people for Jesus in a growing Clay County.*
- 2. Agreed to sell the Christ's Church Academy Campus (CCA) and to relocate and build a new facility on the grounds of the Mandarin Campus. This decision will reunite the school and church on the same grounds to become an anchor in the Mandarin community.*

Both of these decisions will help our church achieve financial flexibility to meet the needs of our growing communities and changing culture.

Q: Why was this decision made?

A: We have identified three critical reasons for why now, is the time we must act:

1. Rapidly changing culture. We live in the age of disbelief with more non-believers than believers. The regional "come and see" model for ministry is in decline. People are spiritually sensitive, but there is a disconnect to the local church. We have to change our strategies to reach more people.
2. Rapidly growing community. Clay county is a large county projected to grow more than 30% in the next decade. The 795-beltway construction will create more neighborhoods and more opportunities to reach and make disciples.
3. Limited resources. After ten years, the FIC continues to carry a 7.2 million-dollar debt on a 10 million-dollar building. Our stewardship is generally healthy, but the financial obligation continues to handcuff the opportunities to do more and reach more.

Q: Why the accelerated timeline?

A: The timeline and transition came very quickly. When Jason Cullum, Todd Bussey and the staff leadership began praying for clarity on our strategic plans for the next five years, we didn't realize God was orchestrating an opportunity that would immediately eliminate 7.2 million dollars of debt. During the January prayer and fasting time, while we were earnestly seeking discernment, we were approached with TWO offers for our building. The buyers in question were aware that we had been praying about our future and God prompted them to talk with us.

Q: What is the Elder's position on these decisions?

A: First and foremost, it must be understood that the Elder's role is to lead the church into the future, ensuring the mission, vision and practices are consistent with the direction. Every decision the Elders make requires unanimity, all of the Elders in consensus, before a decision is made. After deliberation, prayer and fasting the unanimous decision was made to adjust our campus vision to meet the needs of our growing community, sell and relocate the Fleming Campus and sell the Christ's Church Academy Campus to relocate and build a new facility.

Over the past year, Pastor Jason and the Elders have been working to create a vision for the future of Christ's Church. Part of this vision is for Christ's Church to become a more mobile and local church, capable of being responsive to the calling of Christ to meet the needs of the specific neighborhoods we're serving in. This decision will afford the opportunity for Christ's Church to better meet those ministry opportunities and needs.

Q: How do these decisions affect the overall budget of Christ's Church?

A: These decisions provide the opportunity for Christ's Church to achieve financial flexibility and take a large step into our future. The overall debt of the ministry has been reduced by just under 50%...from 15.4 million dollars to 8.2 million dollars. This relief along with scaling and rightsizing the Fleming Island Campus will free dollars to meet immediate needs, save for the future and fuel more ministry. Selling a piece or all of the Christ's Church Academy Campus will provide the necessary dollars to build a new CCA facility that is modern and state of the art, providing the highest level of security and educational spaces that will foster an environment of learning and discipleship without incurring more indebtedness. It has long been leaderships desire to eliminate debt so that our dollars can go directly to changing lives. These decisions will accelerate the process and move us closer to achieving that reality.

Q: Where will we be meeting in the interim?

A: Our portable location will be located at Fleming Island Elementary. We are currently negotiating the lease for a mid-week space that will allow us to operate all of ministries without interruption. The first worship services will be held July 28.

Q: Will there be more campuses in Clay County and where will future campuses go?

A: With God's grace, YES! The primary reason we freed up resources is so we can serve more and reach into more neighborhoods. Locations are yet to be determined. We would like to you to join with in the research, prayer and discernment for future sites in Clay County and beyond.

Q: How does getting smaller help us reach Clay County?

A: Like the trends we see in retail, people are demonstrating their desire for things to be local verses regional. A small and scalable footprint will allow us to affordably place facilities in communities where people live.

Q: What will be different?

A: In our first phase of transition, we will be a portable church. Worship services will happen in a school and weekday ministries will happen in a separate location until a new facility is built. The BIGGEST difference you will notice is the way we will integrate into our community by serving and addressing felt needs. We will invest more heavily in solving problems and loving our neighbors more intentionally. We want to become the church that is known for its commitment to the community.

Q: Where will the proceeds from the sale go?

A: \$500,000 will be set aside for the future. Another \$150,000 will be dedicated for anticipated relocation expenses. The remaining funds will go toward eliminating debt.

Q: What will happen to the Sharing Tree Preschool?

A: The preschool will continue to operate in the existing building, with the existing staff but under a new name and ownership. It was our highest priority to insure the preschool would continue to serve the community and love the kids with the same staff with minimal disruption.

Q: What will happen with summer programming?

A: All programming will continue as scheduled.

Q: What's Next?

A: Todd and members of the FIC staff will take the month of May to visit Neighborhood Groups, as well as other teams of Volunteers and Team Leaders to take a deeper dive in explaining the vision behind this move. You will have an opportunity to express your commitment to this vision on June 9. June and July will be busy times as we prepare the current building for its new owners and prepare ourselves for our move into the neighborhood!

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Q: What is the healthiest way to support this process?

A:

1. **PRAY.** We are highly dependent on God's favor and have been seeking Him through prayer and fasting for many months. We ask you to join us in doing the same.
2. **STAY ENGAGED.** Commit to the ministry and vision to make disciples.
3. **KEEP INFORMED.** Read the Campus Pastor emails. Jump in with a neighborhood or volunteer group to learn more, or reach out to your Campus Pastor (tbussey@christs.church) directly if you have a question.
4. **GET INVOLVED.** Volunteer, lead, get into this crazy couple of months with us!
5. **TALK TO US.** When leaders present new and bold vision, it is of tremendous value to hear from you directly. It is the only way for us to learn and address concerns.
6. **KEEP THE END IN MIND.** This is a vision to reach others for Jesus and to build a better church for you and your family. We can **ONLY** do that by boldly doing things differently than we have. Change can be interpreted as crisis or opportunity. We are only moving buildings. The church is going with us!