

December 2020 Phase One Relocation Update: 12/17/2020

History of Relocation and Updates: <http://fbc-brenham.org/about-us/relocation/>

Last Sunday, December 13, we had the opportunity to hear from the co-chairs of the Relocation Committee, David Baker and Brandon Musser. We also had the opportunity to be reminded of the vision that God has given us for this project and to thank God for His provision. You can watch the service, including the update from David and Brandon, by clicking on the following link:

<https://vimeo.com/489614723>. Below is an update about where we are in the process and information about where we need to go as we move forward:

Construction Update

Because of the great weather and the hard work of our contractors, we are 4-6 weeks ahead of schedule! This is important not only as it relates to our schedule but also provides potential cost savings as we move forward. We are currently completing the steel work of the main structure and the remaining part of the parking lot should be poured this week. The hope is that the building will be dried-in by late January – February. The anticipated completion date for construction is late summer – early fall.

One important reminder: As we noted in the information sent out when we began construction in July, Phase One (main building and youth building) will be built in phases. Therefore, because of our budget, we are focusing the first part of the construction on the main building (worship center, commons, children's area, Sunday School rooms, and offices). Nevertheless, the youth building is extremely important. The reason for phasing within Phase One is budgetary and because we are building without debt. We are prayerfully hopeful that as we continue with construction, numerous cost savings will be found, our church will respond in generosity, and we can begin construction on the Youth Building soon. We are actively thinking through some creative, more-cost-efficient ways to build the youth building. When we have the "Sign the Steel" events on December 20 and 24, the location and outline of the Youth Building will be marked so that you can see where it will be.

Financial Update

God has been gracious to us in providing funding over the years for this relocation. When we began construction in July, we knew we did not have all the money we need to finish the project. You can learn more about this funding and relocation journey by going to <http://fbc-brenham.org/about-us/relocation/>. On Sunday, December 13, we announced an exciting update for our three-year capital campaign, Faith Building, that began in December 2017:

Pledged: \$2,989,743

Raised as of 12/06/2020: \$3,096,463.85

We are so grateful to God and the generosity of this church to be where we are right now! THANK YOU to everyone who has so faithfully given over the years!

As noted in the service, we still have a ways-to-go before we have the sufficient funding we need to complete the totality of Phase One. Here is what was discussed on Sunday, and the numbers are intended to be conservative/"worst-case-scenario" cost-wise numbers::

- \$750,000: complete the main building (commons, worship center, children's ministry area, etc): most of this is the costs associated with Audio/Visual/Lighting (AVL), which will range from \$400,000-500,000: Our hope, of course, is that we will find substantial cost savings along the way that reduce the need to raise this amount
- \$750,000: complete the youth building: we are working hard to come up with strategies to do this building in a more cost-effective strategy

Please know the committee is working diligently and prudently to be good stewards of the financial resources given.

As we discussed the funding needed to complete Phase One, it was also noted that Phase One is part of a bigger picture of completing the relocation of our all our ministries. Namely, our First Baptist Church School and Early Education Center (our daycare) will remain in our downtown facilities until we sell our downtown facilities and develop the plans for Phase Two (gym, fellowship hall, office suite, classrooms, etc.)¹. Therefore, any funding remaining from Phase One will help provide the seed money for the planning of Phase Two. We also approved the five members of our Ad-Hoc Downtown Property Committee on December 6, and they will be tasked with the following: "(1) Recommend to the church a real estate agent, if needed, to represent the church in the sale of our downtown property; (2) receive and process offers for the downtown property before recommendation to the church; and (3) work closely with the school and any committee involved with constructing our new buildings in terms of transitioning the school to the new property, timelines, etc."

Finally, please be in prayer about how God is calling you to financially support this faith journey of relocation for our church. As noted in the service, God calls us to give the first fruits (tithe) to General Fund. The General Fund (Budget) is the engine that fuels the day-in-day-out ministries of the church. As a church, we also model tithing and give 10% of unrestricted giving to the Independence Baptist Association, the Baptist General Convention of Texas, and the Southern Baptist Convention (Cooperative Program Giving). God also calls us to give over-and-above this giving in different ways. One of those ways is the different mission giving opportunities like the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering we are doing right now. God also calls people to give to our relocation. As we close out the year, can you please pray about how God may be calling you to give "over-and-beyond" to support the Faith Building capital

¹ The floor plans for Phase One and the Master Plan can be found at <http://fbc-brenham.org/about-us/relocation/>.

campaign? Year-end giving to this will greatly help us as we discern the funding needed for the future construction costs in 2021. THANK YOU!

Here are a few more items as it relates to finances:

- If you pledged to the Faith Building Capital Campaign, and you want to be reminded what your pledge is, please contact our financial secretary, Chelsea Steele, at csteele@fbc-brenham.org or by calling the church office at 979-836-2807.
- When we move into 2021, there will be two places you can give to help financially support the relocation:
 - The Faith Building designated fund will remain open for gifts until the end of 2021 in order to provide continued funding for Phase One and/or complete campaign pledges for those who desire to do so.
 - You can give to the Building and Growth Designated Fund, which is the ongoing designated fund for major building projects and will be the fund that helps complete funding for Phase One and provide some initial funding for Phase Two (please note: if a contribution is noted for “Forward in Faith,” it will go into the Building and Growth Designated Fund).
 - Both of these giving options are available on the church envelopes (“Faith Building Fund” and “Building & Growth Fund”) and online at <https://fbc-brenham.org/give/>.

Next Steps

The most important next step for our church’s relocation is to pray. More specifically, please pray about these four areas:

- 1.) Please pray that this relocation journey will glorify God through encouraging our faith as we trust God to do what only He can do. When we have our first Sunday on the new property, our prayer is that we will praise God and say, “Look at what God has done!”
- 2.) Please pray that our new buildings are used by God for His glory as ministry tools to further His mission of people coming to faith in Christ Jesus. That is, what is most important about these buildings is what will be happening inside these building over the years: lives, families, and generations impacted and transformed by Jesus Christ!
- 3.) Please pray for God to provide strategic cost reductions and abundant financial provision to complete Phase One.
- 4.) Please pray about your role in this relocation journey and how He may be asking you to support this opportunity.