

Looking Back

As we prepare to move forward with Phase One of our relocation, it is important for us to look back and be reminded of how God worked and provided through this process:

- **Summer 2013:** During the summer of 2013 and while the church was going through the Intentional Interim Process before Ross Shelton came as pastor, First Baptist Church reaffirmed a commitment to relocate from our current downtown facilities to another area of the city.
- **April 2014:** We purchased 33 acres on South Market Street near 290 and across from the Tractor Supply store. When discussions began in the early 2000s about relocating, this property was the desired location. However, the owner at the time was not interested in selling. This led the church to look elsewhere, eventually buying 51 acres a few blocks west along 290. When the originally desired property went on the market, the church was able to purchase 33 acres of the property and placed the 51 acres for sale. The sale of the 51 acres closed on August 29, 2018, and the church received \$2,340,000. While it took a long time, the church is relocating to the property that was originally desired!
- **Fall 2014:** The Relocation Committee began meeting to discern about the design and construction process to present to the church. This included times of prayer, discussion as a committee, and listening to presentations from architecture and construction firms.
- **February 2015:** By the end of February, the Relocation Committee had met with seven architects and two construction firms.
- **March 2015:** The Relocation Committee, through prayer and reflection, narrowed the search down to two architecture firms. The committee met with both firms for another round of conversations in order to discern whether one of these firms was the one to recommend to the church.
- **December 2015:**
 - The Relocation Committee recommended CMA Architects out of Dallas, TX to do our master plan, and the church approved the recommendation on December 6, 2015. In August 2019, CMA was bought by the Core States Group. After discussions with the church about this in the January business meeting and after meeting with them to have clarifying discussions, we will continue with Core States during the construction process (construction administration).
 - As part of Vision 2020 – “To be a church of ordinary people used by God in extraordinary ways” – the church approved one of the God Goals 2020 to be the following: “Build Phase One of our relocation without debt.”
- **September 2016:** The church approved Goff Companies to oversee the construction side of our relocation.
- **November 13, 2016:** The Relocation Committee presented a rough draft of a proposed Master Plan in a meeting in order to receive input from the church.
- **January 15, 2017:** During another input session, changes to the Master Plan were presented and an initial block diagram of a first phase was presented.
- **February 19, 2017:** In a special meeting at the end of each of the Sunday morning worship services, the church voted to approve the Master Plan.
- **April 23, 2017:** There was a church-wide input session on an initial first phase block floor plan.

- **June 4, 2017:** In a special meeting at the end of each of the Sunday morning worship services, the church voted and approved the Phase One Floor Plan.
- **Different Ways God Has Provided Financially Over the Years:** During this journey, God has provided in different ways to lead us to this point. We believe God will continue to provide in different ways throughout this process. Here are the different ways God has provided:
 - In the mid-2000s, the church went through “the Story to Build On” capital campaign. This funding allowed the church to buy the 33 acres without debt in 2014.
 - In late 2013, we received a call from a developer out of Houston about purchasing the 2.4 acres behind our youth building for apartments. This call was “out-of-the-blue,” and the land was not on the market. After selling the 2.4 acres, we received \$217,801.08 towards our relocation.
 - In February 2017, we closed on the sale of a home and 10 acres that was generously donated to the church for assisting in our relocation. After closing, the church received \$358,647.75!
 - Between 2013 to the beginning of the capital campaign in 2017 a special designated fund called “New Facilities Fund” was set up for those who wanted to start giving towards the relocation. The amount raised during these years was \$478,403.38. The sale of the home and 10 acres (\$358,647.75) was added to this amount.
 - In July 2018, we closed on the sale of the house we owned at 305 East Academy St. After closing, we received \$89,081.50 towards our relocation.
 - December 2017 – December 2020: Faith Building Capital Campaign: We began the Faith Building Capital Campaign with assistance from the capital campaign firm, Impact Stewardship. The three-year campaign began in December 2017 with \$2,923,243.16 eventually pledged. After three years (December 2020), we received \$3,388,905.79! The focus of this campaign was that this project is about more than building facilities; it is about building faith in seeing God provide and Him receiving the glory!