

Forest Park Future for Ministry

MONTH YEAR

Company Name

Use this space for legal copy.
Explain if the information is confidential,
who can read this deck, etc.



Purpose: To discern, decide, and commit to what God desires for the future of Forest Park and the surrounding community.

Community/Demographic Info

Members drive from in and outside of the immediate zip code

Zip code 77707 Info -

Population is a little over 17,000

33% white, 37% black, 16% Hispanic, 4% Asian

median age is 38, half blue collar, half white collar

Apartments, rent homes, owned homes, etc.

Community Info

In the zip code over half make than 75K a year or under. a third under 50K annual

Amelia Elementary School Scored a D (2023 TEA Ratings) 71% African American; 16% Hispanic; 6% White

Vincent Middle School Scored a C (2023 TEA Ratings) 72% African American; 15% Hispanic; 5% White

Westbrook HS Scored a D (2023 TEA Rating) 50% African American; 25% Hispanic; 15% White

More Community Info

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Half of Households are Married Couples and roughly half of households in 77707 have either Never Been Married or Divorced

$\frac{2}{3}$ have between highschool, GED, or some college

$\frac{1}{3}$ have college degree +

72% are under the age of 64 and still working

55% are younger than I am

Religious commitments and worship style choices are all over. Catholic, Protestant, traditional, contemporary etc.

“

Add a relevant statement.
It could be a quote from a
project lead or client
feedback.

Full Name

Title

Option 1 - Change in Place

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Church reboots for new redesigned ministry altogether including the possibility for a new church meeting on campus.

The existing congregation could worship in its present style and approach but worship times and locations on campus could change. Almost all financial resources are redirected towards the new model for ministry.

Strong leadership, time, energy, and funding resources are needed to pursue this new vision for ministry. This necessitates committed pastoral, staff, and lay leadership to the vision. Grant writers, advocates, and others fully engaged and working on behalf of the church's new ministry.

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Possible Option 2

Merger/Partnership

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No Merger or Partner Option has been identified but such an arrangement would look something like this -

Forest Park merges with a larger congregation and becomes an extension or second campus of that church.

Naming, buildings, finances etc are part of discernment conversations between Forest Park and the larger church. Membership of Forest Park and the other are merged together.

The people and financial resources of the larger church are brought in to partner and lead into the new vision. Legal and financial counsel is sought.

Other option is partnership that doesn't reflect a legal merger but is a smaller scale partnership where other church/s start one or two ministries on campus and see what emerges over time.

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New Model for Ministry - Missional Discipleship Hub

- GED Classes (partners – Westbrook HS, Revision
Beaumont, TX Workforce, SETX HR Solutions)
- Community Garden (Market to Hope, Nutrition
Services for Seniors, Wesley Church)
- Affordable Housing Construction on site (large
national move for churches to partner doing this. St John's
Presbyterian Houston; Grace in Action Capitol Hill Church
DC; and many others. Partners – Presbyterian Children's
Homes and others)
- Bookstore (training workers for jobs)
- ESL Classes (partners – workforce commission, BISD,
Lamar, LIT)

More examples

- Mediation Services (Certified Mediators for Family Court)
- Clothing Center – teach sewing, retail etc
- 12 step groups. AA, Alanon, Alateen, NA, OA etc.
- Legal clinic pro bono or low cost – lawyers need certain pro bono hours (many possibilities here)
- Health Clinic – Lamar Public Health; Agape Clinic at Grace Methodist Church Dallas; TAN Healthcare; Christ Community Health Clinics - Memphis. Waiting room chaplains
- Upward Sports camps and leagues

More examples

- Common Bond Café Houston
- Treebeards at Christ Church Houston
- Back Porch Ministries Louisiana GMC
- Southeast Texas Crisis Center
- Culinary Schools. Certificate programs
- Job Fairs (Texas Workforce Commission)
- Music Academy (Boynton Houston)

Community/Church Partners

Potential Partners

BISD (Amelia Elementary, Vincent MS, Westbrook HS)

Lamar University Public Health, Education, Social Work

LIT

Baylor School of Social Work

Americorps

Salvation Army

Southeast Texas Food Bank

Wesley Methodist Church

Mental Health of Southeast Texas

Southeast Texas Crisis Center

Potential Funding Sources

Weave: The Social Fabric (Grants)

Moody Endowment

Wesleyan Impact Partners

African American Church Initiative

The Woodlands Methodist Church Planters Field Training Academy

Trinity Conference New Church Start Team

Seedbed Publishing

Fresh Expressions of Church Movement

Church Models

Grace Church Florida

Grace Church Charleston SC

Westbury Houston

Jones Memorial Houston

St John's Presbyterian Houston

Boynton Chapel Church Houston

Grace Church Dallas

Christ Church Memphis

And many many more

Questions/Resources/ Conversations

While we discern the vision of what God is leading toward, what spiritual, people, financial, and capital resources do we need to in order to pursue that God-given vision?

Examples:

What do we need to do spiritually to be ready?

Some ministries would need kitchen expansion, classroom availabilities, how does the clothing center align with the new model for ministry, what staff, and what budget do we work toward in order to fulfill that vision over time?

What sort of timeline do we have to make these changes and hold ourselves accountable to the goals we make?

What questions do we need to ask ourselves as a congregation? Do we have the energy and commitment to pursue a new vision?

Pray, Discern, Decide

- Continue Praying. Pastor Mark and others leading?
- Continue Discussing in Christian spirit - all
- Complete Assessments - who will make sure those happen?
- Timeline for Discernment

Next Meeting Date - August
3rd?