

February 5th Presentation

[Slide] Good Morning, I am here this morning to bring you some important updates, some very exciting and some very challenging news from the team the church has asked to oversee our plans to redesign our ministry here in the north end and our new campus on Forbes Drive. I affectionately refer to as the Dream Team & they are Bill London, Ed Reevey, Greg Bambury & Gerry Mabey. The most obvious place to start is that we have been a season of God's blessing. In 2011 we saw our Sunday morning attendance grow by over 50 people. We saw a significant number of people share their faith through baptism and more who joined our church. Two Sundays ago we had 80 children under the age of 10 in our services. We currently have over 65 young adults a part of our church family. And most Sundays we have new people showing up wondering if this will be a place where they can belong. These are truly exciting signs. Not only that, we have been having important meetings with the North End food bank as they look to move in here when we transition and plans are starting to move on the playground on Victoria Street as part of our expanded community outreach vision. Seeing God bless our efforts to create opportunities for people to encounter the good news has been such an encouragement for everyone.

Also, two Sundays ago we celebrated that we have passed the \$1M mark in our *Greater Things* campaign. We are so grateful to those of you who are giving to support this vision of greater ministry into the future. The campaign is on target, and people continue to meet their commitments.

Also, we have an exciting design for our Forbes Drive facility. In October we showed you this design and got some great input. The Design & Construction team has worked very hard to keep the cost of the building within our budget, and they've done a great job.

It is really exciting for me to announce today, that the Dream Team will be working over these next few days on a recommendation to the Board of Management that we give the green light to start site prep on Forbes Drive. We're going to finally break ground!

[Slide] However, while the campaign is on track and the building is what we need, the preparations of the Forbes Drive property are still much more expensive than we have funds for. You may have noticed we are taking Jesus' advice and building our house upon the rock. Running services and creating parking for a church our size is pricey. Also, the expense of site work for all future work has to be incurred in Phase 1. While this presents us with a challenge now,

it will save us money down the road. So at this point our budget is \$400-600,000 beyond what we have commitments for.

We got these final numbers in mid December and the Dream Team has been working furiously to explore every possible solution, but we have come to the conclusion that we need to have new commitments for \$400,000-\$600,000 by summer. We do not feel we can cut Phase 1 any further, nor can we delay the project any longer, it's been long enough.

[Slide] So, using the money we already have in the bank, we are going to start developing the property. This is projected to take until late summer and in that time we need to raise these extra funds. We really are at a crossroads and we wanted to share this with you as soon as we could. We have come so far, and we are so, so close & yet we are in need of some significant help. Now, these crossroads are actually a gift to us. Let's be honest, to this point I am not sure that our faith has been tested along the way. God has been so, so good to us, literally having things fall into our lap: movie crews showing up making a documentary that goes out across the country, pipeline giving us over \$100,000, a small tweak to our service times and 50 more people show up, partners lining up to work with us. It seems like we have not had to really exert ourselves to the point of great sacrifice or great faith to this point.

[Slide] But we are at that point now. So this morning we wanted to share this information with you and let you know we are really close but need your help. I know many of you are like me, you have made a faith-pledge when the campaign started and to see it through has and continues to require faith. But maybe there are some of you who have not made a pledge or who have and could really help us out. This is a hurdle, not a roadblock but will require our entire church family to tackle together. We will need to hear from you.

So that's the update. We are in a season of God's blessing. We have a campus design we are excited about and we are going to be breaking ground soon. AND, we need now to step out in faith and will need significant new commitments by summer. God has been faithful to us at each step of this process but I think we are at a stage in this project that we are going to have to display some faith. Thanks everyone. If you have any questions, members of the Dream Team will be available after the service.

Bill is going to come and pray for us now...