



FAMILY MEETING

August 7, 2022

1) We anticipate reaching “capacity” in this meeting space relatively soon.

- Full capacity of the SFC Chapel is approximately 425.
- We consider practical capacity in this space to be roughly 75% (or 320).
- Our average worship attendance through the summer has been around 235, with a high of 276.
- People tend to be away more in the summer.
- Thus, we anticipate that by mid-September we could be close to capacity.

2) What are our options when we reach capacity?

- Option 1: Find a larger meeting space to remain in one service
- Option 2: Make a shift to two services

3) We have wanted to avoid going to two services for several reasons.

- A theological reason: the ecclesiological value of one assembly
- A practical reason: functionally and socially, two services means two distinct groups
- An operational reason: two services require a significant increase in volunteer manpower and organizational/administrative infrastructure
 - Host Team
 - Current Roster: 25-30 volunteers
 - Current Need: A roster of 32 volunteers, with 7-8 volunteers serving each Sunday
 - Need for Two Services: A roster of 64 volunteers, with 14-16 volunteers per Sunday
 - Emmaus Road Kids
 - Current Roster: 8-11 volunteers
 - Current Need (only offering guided care for children 15 months through pre-school): A roster of 12 volunteers, with 2-3 volunteers serving each Sunday
 - Need for Two Services: A roster of 28 volunteers, with 7 volunteers serving each Sunday
 - Need for Two Services if adding nursery for 6 months-2 years: A roster of 48 volunteers, with 12 serving each Sunday
- Additional Thoughts:
 - Since COVID, there has been a disproportionate distribution of work load on to a small number of volunteers.
 - We require “church membership” for service in all ministry teams. This is for the sake of legality, security, and accountability.

4) We have explored all possibilities for maintaining one service format.

- We have asked SFC about returning to the school campus in order to meet in the MS gym. This is not an option.
- We have inquired about public school options. This arrangement is unreliable over the long-term.
- Other churches are sometimes willing to share their facilities, but not on Sunday mornings.
- We have inquired about commercial real-estate options for rent.
 - The advantage would be 24/7 access.
 - Disadvantage is cost.
 - SFC rental fee (including utilities, custodial service, snow removal, etc.) is \$2500/month.
 - Commercial real estate rental rates range from \$15k/mo. and up.

5) The Plan: We will make a temporary shift to two services if/when necessary.

- We will wait to make the shift to two services until we reach attendance of 320 over 3-4 weeks.
- At that point, we will engage our volunteer teams to prepare for two services.
- Host Team and Kids volunteers would be encouraged to serve during one service and attend the other.
- In the meantime, we will begin seeking to build the volunteer base required in order to deliver two worship services with adequate volunteers for worship, tech, host, and Emmaus Road Kids.

6) What is “temporary”?

- How long we will need to be in two services will be determined by 2 things:
 - Ability to locate another meeting place that is large enough to accommodate our entire congregation.
 - Readiness to implement the launch of a church plant team. We will continue to take steps (as we have been) to identify lead pastor and plurality of eldership for a second church.

7) Does this mean we have abandoned the idea of locating and obtaining a permanent facility of our own?

- No. We still believe it is in our best long-term interest to continue that quest.
- We have met with a local commercial real-estate expert who has offered us helpful guidance and counsel.
- Recognizing that the current real estate market is challenging, are options are:
 - Look for and purchase an existing church building.
 - Identify and purchase existing commercial property, like a “call center,” and remodel it for church use. (To be a “player” in game would require down payment between \$2.5 and \$6 million in today’s market. To purchase and build out would cost more like \$5-\$12 million).
 - Identify and purchase “improved” land, with view to build.
 - Look toward the future/coming generation of young families and seek to purchase “unimproved” land. This could be done today with approx. \$300-\$600k. However, nothing could be done with that land until it is developed

with “sanitary sewage” by the City of Sioux Falls. This is a real possibility that we will continue to explore.

- A miracle.

8) What will two services mean for Sunday morning classes?

- Children
 - We have been unable to provide Sunday school for elementary-aged children since COVID due to a shortage of volunteers.
 - We value age-appropriate biblical instruction for children and had intended to offer Sunday school classes starting this fall before our worship gathering.
 - We don't want elementary-aged Sunday school to function as a replacement for participation in the corporate gathering of the church.
 - However, we do not have sufficient classroom space at the moment, and going to two services would further limit available space and greatly increase the number of volunteers needed.
 - We are currently exploring alternative ways to provide instruction for children and resource parents for family worship.
- Foundations Class
 - We still plan to offer the Foundations Class in October and November.
 - If we have to go to two services, Foundations would be offered during the first service, though we are considering alternative formats (e.g., a few Saturday morning or weekday evening sessions).
- Core Seminars
 - Due to space limitations, we will not be able to offer Core Seminars if we go to two services.
 - We are considering other ways to provide Christian education for adults.

9) What can you do?

- Give thanks to God for His blessing.
- Pray:
 - Ask God to give us one heart and mind.
 - Ask God to keep us from sinning. With growth comes pressures/stresses. “Stuff” comes to the surface under pressure/stress.
 - Ask God to give wisdom, courage, and faith.
 - Ask God for a miracle.
 - Ask God to give us generous hearts, a will to give, and abundance.
- Give generously to the regular fund, the building fund, and the mission fund.
- Volunteer on a Sunday ministry team.
- Continue to welcome new people, be hospitable, and make room.
- Invite people to the bridge course.