

**The History:** (for more information go to [www.kingswaychurch.org/avoncampus](http://www.kingswaychurch.org/avoncampus))

We have been increasingly convicted that God has entrusted to us an awesome responsibility in our Avon Campus. Much of the land has been undeveloped and underdeveloped for decades. We began praying and asking God how we could be faithful stewards of all He has given us. Matthew 25 has come up many times as we want to be those who invest their talents for the Master's happiness, and not merely bury a resource in the ground in fear.

In response to that desire, last fall we gathered our CORE Leadership at KCC and visited both the west part of our Avon Campus, as well as the land that is now our future Plainfield Campus. We took groups out there and asked them to pray over both properties, and for God to lead us. On November 11, 2018, Matt Nickoson stood before the church and invited everyone to pray and ask God for wisdom for what to do with our current Avon Campus.

Our hope has been to lay this land and campus in the Lord's hands to do with it what He wanted and for Him to speak to us just like He did with the land for the Plainfield Campus. This church is His church. We exist for His glory and purpose. God created Kingsway to reach the lost and unchurched, and He uses us to offer hope to the hurting. However He desires to do that is fine with us; we are simply seeking His will together with the entire body.

As we journeyed through the "rooted" series, we looked at many biblical passages where Jesus challenges us to plant our lives like a seed, and watch it multiply 30, 60, and even 100 times what is sown. Well, as a church, we once again have an opportunity to die to ourselves to reach this community by offering up our church buildings, knowing they are ministry tools and an effective way to serve those who need Christ and a Christian family. Please join us in prayer as God leads Kingsway about the future of the Avon Campus.

**The Vision and Rationale:** (for more information go to [www.kingswaychurch.org/avoncampus](http://www.kingswaychurch.org/avoncampus))

Kingsway Christian Church was begun more than 45 years ago by Chapel Rock Christian Church as a church plant. They sent 9 families (27 people) to Avon to plant a church that could be a light to the Avon community for years to come. Kingsway first met in a school, and then purchased property in Avon (near Kingsway Drive off 100 N), and then God opened the door to eventually purchase the land at 10<sup>th</sup> and Dan Jones. Over time more land was purchased, and the building was added onto to accommodate the growth of both KCS and KCC. With each passing generation, the leaders at KCC have prayed and sought the Lord for what He wanted to do in and through the church.

During the past two decades, the overall church in America has changed pretty dramatically. Through much of the 1980s-2000s, church attendance in America shifted from small country churches to more mid-size and larger (mega) churches. Those shifting longed for the excellence found in worship, preaching and programs offered by large churches, but they also longed to be more intimately connected in smaller environments and churches.

Studies show that the overall attendance at churches in America has not changed all that dramatically, but the population of America has grown consistently. Meaning there is a smaller

number of Christians in America overall, and they attend church on a much less frequent basis. And where Christians of the last few decades were willing to drive 20+ minutes to the church of their choice, many today don't want to drive more than 15 minutes to church.

A study by Ed Stetzer and Warren Bird indicates that we need an additional 2,900 churches per year to keep up with the population growth in America. Combine that with the fact that only 20% of established churches see growth each year, and yet 75% of new churches see significant growth over their first 10 years. This has led us to believe that the best way to reach the lost in Hendricks County and beyond is to multiply ourselves. To continue to launch and multiply churches all across Indiana, or wherever God would lead us to do so. That is the heart behind opening a Plainfield Campus and considering what God has for us with our Avon Campus.

To be clear, there is nothing about a multi-site strategy that says we must make this decision to fulfill our mission. We do, however, believe that by making this decision we better position the church for decades to come.

"How?" you might be asking.

While this current building is an awesome resource for us to manage, it comes with its complexities also. All of the decisions made over the last few years related to updating the HVAC, repairing the roof, modifying the security doors to protect kids, parking/traffic flow, the Connect Hub and Welcome Center, Kids check-ins, etc. have been attempts to make our building friendlier, more usable, and less intimidating to our guests and non-regular attenders. While all of these improvements made things better, it's still not the most ideal situation.

We have a building at 10<sup>th</sup> and Dan Jones that is roughly 200,000 sq. ft. for a church that is currently worshipping 1,350 adults (plus kids) each Sunday, and a School. Our Plainfield Campus is designed to be roughly 30,000 sq. ft. for 1,000 adults (plus kids). See the difference? Our current building and land is roughly the size of 6-8 multi-site campuses. While only one campus is located here, there is constant maintenance, upkeep, and management with this property that is equal to the size of many more campuses without the benefit of the people and communities those campuses are located in.

As we have been praying and planning for the Plainfield Campus, it has made this current situation at our Avon Campus even more obvious and clear. We find ourselves asking: "Can you imagine what would happen if you had a better designed Avon Campus that would accomplish the same ministry goals and outcomes?" We can! That's why we are praying about this with you.

### **Immediate Next Steps:**

Please hear our hearts: No final decision on the Avon Campus has been made yet. Here are the steps we would like to take with the full Kingsway congregation.

**Step 1: Unity through prayer.** The entire congregation, KCS, and Covenant faithful are praying for God's will and wisdom.

**Step 2: Informational Meetings** will take place on Wednesday, June 5 from 6-7:30 p.m. and Saturday, June 8 from 9-10:30 a.m. in the Venue. There will be a presentation at each of these meetings, and then a Q & A time to ask questions. You are welcome to attend both meetings.

**Step 3: A Letter of Intent from KCS** will come to the church by June 15, 2019.

### **Long-term Next Steps:**

NOTE: This next section is a major assumption! If KCS comes back on June 15 and expresses a desire to move forward, there is still a lot to pray about, discern and plan for. The following steps could change as we learn more from you, KCS and others. This is our plan as best we can know it today given the information we have. Our intention is to allow KCS, and any other partners, to communicate what their plan is. For Kingsway Christian Church, our intention is the following:

**Step 1: Another Letter would be sent from** Pastor Matt Nickoson to the entire church to let everyone know of the decision, the date of the vote (will be at least 30 days after the letter), and any additional information we know of at that time.

**Step 2: An Update from the Stage** on a Sunday morning from Pastor Matt Nickoson would be made. Since we want to be sensitive as we have guests attending every Sunday morning, we will mail a letter about this announcement first. Then, some brief information will be shared on a Sunday morning.

**Step 3: Prayer and Informational Gatherings.** Our hope is to gather with small groups of members, life groups, friends, and any other connections throughout July at local restaurants to pray together, share ideas, and continue to answer questions. Our plan is for each of those meetings to be hosted by members gathering their friends and KCC connections, joined by at least one staff member, one executive team member, and one elder.

**Step 4: Ongoing Church Wide Communication.** Video blogs, Sunday morning announcements, website updates, and letters mailed will be used to provide continued information and updates.

**Step 5: Church Vote for Approval.** Our by-laws require a church-wide vote on this decision, with a 30-day notice prior to the vote.

### **What Else Do We Need to Know?**

There is so much more to pray about and discuss. We are absolutely committed to keeping a Kingsway Christian Church in Avon, Ind., and are presently looking into potential buildings and properties for us to worship in in case all of this goes through with KCS and Covenant. Please go to [www.kingswaychurch.org/avoncampus](http://www.kingswaychurch.org/avoncampus) to learn more.