Harvest Parking Expansion Opportunity
Spring 2018 – UPDATED (version 2)

Our church currently has a significant opportunity in front of us, and we’ll need to decide soon whether to act on it. We want to bring our members up to speed so that we can all seek God’s guidance together, and then decide together what to do when the time comes.

The Situation
• Harvest started with a long-term vision to establish a faithful Gospel ministry in a growing community. Our current facility was part of that vision: to make room for as many people as possible Harvest built a Worship Center that can comfortably seat over 500.
• However, our parking lot can’t accommodate the number of cars that would be here if the Worship Center was actually full.
• We’ve always depended on the gravel strip to the west of our property for overflow parking when needed. However, Harvest doesn’t own that overflow parking strip, and we could lose access to it at any time. Thankfully, that hasn’t happened yet.
• The property next door to us recently sold to a developer who will build housing on it, and that new owner has offered to sell the gravel parking strip to us.

The opportunity: We will decide soon whether to purchase that land and expand our parking capacity so that it matches the seating capacity of our Worship Center.

Why would we consider doing this?
To continue our church’s vision of establishing a faithful Gospel witness in our still-growing city. We’ve had our eye on that gravel parking strip for a long time because it allows us to fully use what’s already been built here. Here’s what we mean:
• We know (because we’ve counted!) that about 1.8 people come to church for each car in our parking lot. From what we’ve read that’s pretty typical for a church like us.
• Our Worship Center can seat over 500 people. So if that many people attend a worship service, we’d need to have about 275 parking spaces.
• We currently have about 200 parking spaces, leaving us about 75 spaces short.
• The gravel parking strip will give us exactly 75 more parking spaces than we currently have, allowing us to completely fill the Worship Center.

It seems like there’s enough parking on Sundays, so why are we considering this right now?
Two main reasons. First, our parking lot is adequate for our current attendance... but not much more.
• We typically bring 160-185 cars to Harvest each weekend, leaving only about 15 unused spaces on peak Sundays.
• That leaves less than 10% room for growth: if attendance went up by a mere 30 people we’d run out of parking spots. So we’re currently at about 90% attendance capacity, even though we could comfortably accommodate 150 more people in the Worship Center!
Second, we’re considering this now because now is when the property is for sale. If we choose not to buy it then we’ll almost certainly lose access to it into the future.

If we did choose to go ahead with this, what would it cost?
Land purchase: approximately $200,000
Already-planned roof repair*: approximately $60,000
Total cost: approximately $260,000
This would be financed through a 15-year loan that we could pay off early without penalty

*the roof project was already in the works for this year or next, and needs to be done. If we choose to do the parking expansion, it likely makes most sense to pool our resources and do both projects together.

How are we doing financially? Can we afford this?
We’re currently giving just below the level of our budget, so we’re doing ok, but not fantastic, financially. In round numbers:
• Current budget: $73,000 per month
• Current giving: $70,500 per month
Bottom line: if everyone who is currently a regular giver gave an additional $30 per month on average ($22 to meet budget, $8 for the new property), we’d meet budget and be able to make payments on the new loan.

Where do we go from here?
Conversation phase (right now) –
• First, we’re asking everyone to commit to praying regularly for God’s guidance over these next few weeks. We don’t want to miss the opportunity if God is in it, and we don’t want to move without him if he isn’t. Join us in seeking the desire of Jesus, the lord of the church!
• We’re collecting the last pieces of information we need from outside sources (such as the City of Hillsboro) in order to know the exact scope & costs of the project. We anticipate having everything we’ll need by the beginning of May.
• We’re also collecting information from inside the church, by communicating regularly with you and soliciting input from you. To that end, an email poll will be sent out this Sunday (April 22) to all regular attenders to help us assess the level of congregational support for this project. Please respond to the poll by the following Sunday, April 29th.

Decision phase (soon... perhaps the first half of May)
Depending on the outcome of the conversation phase, we anticipate putting a concrete proposal before our Members and decide, together as a congregation, whether or not to proceed.

We hope everyone feels the weight of the opportunity before us and the privileged calling of God upon us to advance his kingdom through Harvest. It’s a joy to lock arms together, come before our God & King, and seek his leading as we strive to make Jesus known in our city and our world for years to come!