



Dear Woodlake Church,

I wanted to share an exciting update about one of the recommendations from Next Level Innovations (NLI) that the church voted to adopt in October 2019. The recommendation said: “Consider how the current property, with its abundant acreage, might be used to serve the present and ongoing financial health of the congregation”.

Almost immediately after this recommendation was adopted by the congregation, the church was approached in November 2019 by a local commercial real estate developer about purchasing and developing a 11.65 portion of the church’s almost 24 acres. There were numerous town halls to discuss this opportunity with the congregation in early 2020, but we did not move forward for various reasons.

With the benefit of hindsight, we have spent the last 12 months exploring the market and identifying experts who can help the church best utilize the church’s “abundant acreage” to “serve the present and ongoing financial health of the congregation”. Also, during this past 12 months, one unexpected consequence of COVID-19 has been a boom in the local commercial real estate market, driven by a massive increase in new residential properties in the vicinity of the church.

After much prayer, reflection, and discussion with the experts, a recommendation to explore the market was approved by the Board of Trustees and the Church Leadership Council given the strong market conditions. Taylor Long, a commercial real estate broker, was selected by church leadership to market 11.65 acres of our property after an extensive due diligence process where multiple brokers were considered. With the current market conditions, there is a high likelihood that we could pay off the church’s mortgage with the net proceeds of a potential sale, and even possibly have some additional funds to invest in future strategic initiatives.

If there is one thing that you hear from me today, it is this. **No decision to sell the portion of the church’s property will happen without a congregational vote.** At this stage, we are marketing the property to see what developers (if any) might be interested, what development concepts they bring to the table, and what they are willing to pay. Once there is a concrete proposal on the table, then we will initiate multiple discussions with the congregation, culminating in a church-wide vote. So again, please hear me. We will not sell anything to anyone without a churchwide vote.

In the meantime, I am sure that many of you have lots of questions! That is why I would like to extend an invitation to a pair of town hall meetings, one in-person and one online:

- **Online Town Hall (via Zoom) – Wednesday, May 19th at 7pm**
- **In-Person Town Hall (in Worship Center) – Sunday, May 23rd at 6pm**

For those who are unable to attend either, we will also record one of the town halls and publish an FAQ based on the questions that are asked in these meetings.

Please continue to pray for our church and that God’s will be done, whether the church is able to sell a portion of our land or utilize that land for other ministry purposes.

Proud to be your pastor,

Gordon

