

faq.

what do we want every member of ransom church to know before reading this?

We are with you. Wherever Ransom Church goes in the future, we want to go together. We are journeying towards Jesus together. We are setting captives free together. We are chasing this vision together. Our leadership has done our best to discern next steps and to present the church with a plan. But whether you choose this plan or not, we are in this together.

why are we so excited about this moment in our church's story?

For the second time in our nearly 20-year history and for the first time since Covid 19 rocked our world, we have a God-given mandate that is bigger than us. The first mandate was the call to plant this church. The second is our current vision. This vision to see 5000 set free in Jesus in the next 5 years isn't about building our castle- it's about building His kingdom. And it isn't something we chose. It's something we feel called to. We fully expect to see God bring this vision into reality, and we want to do our part in "preparing the jars" (see 2 Kings 4) for what we know God is doing.

why multisite.

what makes this campaign a spiritual opportunity, not just a financial one?

Finances are always a spiritual conversation, and we are constantly being invited into the stewardship of all God has given us. The opportunity to invest sacrificially in any God-given vision is simply a chance to join Him on mission. It's a chance to take part in what God is doing in our midst while allowing Him to grow us in the process.

so, i thought we were going to build a larger facility? what happened?

After searching diligently and seeking guidance from real estate experts, it seems that there is no version of a single-facility strategy that is financially feasible or sustainable for this congregation. Multisite allows us to add the space we need at the pace we need, in a way that has the potential to remain sustainable for this congregation for the foreseeable future. In our research and discernment process, leadership has considered the possibility of just expanding in the only direction we can- up! Unfortunately, the square footage we would gain and the cost of that square footage made expansion at our current site unattainable.

didn't we try multisite already, and it did not work?

Multisite is a strategy that continues to be effective in many places around the country. Our former campus model was dealt a few difficult blows in a very unique worldwide and rare catastrophe (a pandemic). There were both factors we couldn't control and mistakes we made that we have learned from that ultimately led to stepping away from multisite for a season.

our discernment.

how does this strategy help us towards our vision of 5000 people in 5 years?

We are deeply committed to downtown Sioux Falls. Yet, we believe that part of reaching our goal may require creatively acknowledging the uniqueness of our population in Sioux Falls and allows for campuses to be in multiple locations throughout our geographical area. This was true with our campuses in the past, and continues to be true today.

who will make the decision to pursue and purchase potential facilities?

Ultimately, this congregation will make that decision. Our Staff Executive Team and our Elder Advisory Board (composed of five elected Ransom attenders) have done much of the legwork. We have also done our best to listen to many of you, inviting certain congregants into larger discussions, and having hundreds of hallway conversations. We have spent time discerning the will of the Holy Spirit, rather than simply deciding on our own. We want you to be part of that discernment process as well. Ultimately, this decision will be made by congregational vote- and whatever you decide, we are with you.

why not sell our building and start over?

With current market conditions, building new real estate has proven, over and over, to be cost-prohibitive. We believe our building could sell for roughly \$6 million. Unfortunately, building a building just to match the size we have would be more than double what we could make on this building. Building a facility that would add the space we need for future growth is simply not financially feasible, and we believe it would not be (for us) the best stewardship of God's kingdom resources.

what size campuses are we planning for?

Ransom has experience with both smaller (south campus) and larger (west campus) facilities. We believe our best approach to multisite would be to focus on venues smaller than our current location (roughly half the size). These facilities are easier to locate, more affordable to remodel and maintain, and, with a seating capacity in the 200-300 range, would allow us to aim for each campus to provide roughly 600 new seats per location in 3 gatherings.

the financial plan.

a \$5 million campaign goal.

\$2M

purchase.

A ministry-ready campus

\$1-1.5M

remodel.

Equip it for Ransom

\$1.5M

debt.

Eliminate indebtedness

what is the financial goal for this campaign?

Our feasibility study indicated that this congregation can raise between \$5 million and \$6 million over 36 months. We believe we can purchase a campus of roughly half the size of our current location for around \$2 million. By focusing on locations where churches have been meeting and are already transitioning, we can keep costs down, as the facilities are already structured for ministry. We believe remodel work could cost an average of \$1-\$1.5 million. We also have a current indebtedness of \$1.5 million on our current facility. Our goal in this campaign would be to pay cash for the campus and eliminate our indebtedness, freeing us up to address office and staffing needs, all for around \$5 million.

what would happen to any money raised above and beyond this financial goal?

We aren't looking at multisite as a one-time project, but as a strategy to see 5000 set free in 5 years. What if we created a model where we could continue to invest in kingdom expansion through planting churches and adding campuses for cash? If we were to exceed our goal on this project, funds would be held for the next church plant or campus.

what if we don't raise the full \$5m?

Even partial fulfillment strengthens our position. We will move forward according to pledges received and a cash-flow plan established by our finance team. If a shortage of funds required us to change our plans, we would not do so without the express consent of the members of this congregation by vote.

giving with purpose.

does my campaign giving replace my regular church giving?

No. Campaign commitments are above and beyond regular giving, which funds ongoing ministry. This is a special, prayerful investment in our long-term future and in our vision. If you are not currently giving regularly in support of God's kingdom work, we would encourage you to start with that faith step first and to refrain from any commitment to this vision campaign.

what sources can i use to fund any campaign commitment i make?

Typically, cash and savings are the first sources that come to mind, but you are welcome to fulfill your commitment using stocks, crypto, mutual funds, annuities, qualified charitable distributions from an IRA, and even assets like vehicles, land, real estate, or business holdings. Giving through appreciated assets may provide tax advantages. We encourage you to speak with your tax advisor to explore the most beneficial option for your situation. You can also talk with Pastor Mara Wilde on our team, who oversees all giving to Ransom Church. She can be reached at mara@ransom.church.

clarity + accountability.

can i contribute something specific for the building? (e.g., organ, kitchen, playground equipment)?

We are asking everyone to give to the capital campaign fund to support the overall vision and plan for our permanent space. We have an excellent plan focused on our mission and are therefore asking for non-designated contributions.

how can i see financial reports, and what oversight and accountability is in place?

All questions about our finances are welcome. While we do not actively publish our budget or internal costs online, we are more than willing to be fully transparent and open-handed about our financial process and budget, and we will answer any questions you may have about the project. We have a Financial Advisory Team and a Board of Elders that hold us accountable for proper use of funds, and we submit to regular audits to ensure financial accountability. Please direct any questions about finances and procedures to Pastor Mara Wilde at mara@ransom.church.

who is the consultant guiding this campaign?

We are grateful to partner with Greg Gibbs, a pastor and leading consultant with over 30 years of experience helping churches navigate campaigns with spiritual health, integrity, and clarity.

the timeline.

pray. commit. build. make room.

2027

campaign kickoff.

36

month journey.

2030

commitments fulfilled.

what is the campaign timeline, and when do we plan to purchase?

This campaign will kick off in early 2027 and will run for 36 months, with commitments made in 2027 and fulfilled through 2030.

we are with you.

Wherever Ransom Church goes in the future, we want to go together - journeying toward Jesus, setting captives free, and chasing this vision as one church family.

questions? mara@ransom.church | ransom.church