

Important Announcement

At the same time that First Church has committed to be welcoming more and more members, we face the fact that the Church owns no parking. Since our Congregation located to 5200 Fannin, we have depended on street parking and parking we rent from others. For the last three years, the Board and Staff have struggled with securing sufficient temporary lot space, and with planning around the need for a long-term parking solution. Therefore, when the property east of the Church on Fannin and across the Metro Rail tracks went up for sale, the Board took steps to hire a realtor and make a contingency offer on the property. By acting immediately in the face of this time-sensitive issue, we hope to give ourselves sixty days to properly investigate the feasibility of purchasing the property. Be clear, we have not made a commitment to purchase the property. It is expensive and we need to investigate thoroughly before we develop a recommendation for your consideration. The Board will present its recommendation at a called Membership meeting on or about March 10, 2024. In the meantime, a Board Member will be available between classes each Sunday in February, in the second floor library, to answer your questions about this.

You may be interested in knowing that 40 years ago, our Congregation had an opportunity to purchase the same property at a cost between \$35,000 and \$50,000. We do not know why, but the decision was made then not to buy the property. It is on the market now at a cost of \$1,350,000. We do not know if it is feasible for us to purchase the property, but the Board feels it would be irresponsible not to properly investigate this matter so that you, the Membership, can make a knowledgeable decision.

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Be advised that the Board has retained a realtor and has made a contingency offer to purchase property east of the Church on Fannin. The reason for this offer is to secure property for parking that is controlled by the Church. The Board will bring a recommendation concerning this potential purchase to the Membership on or about March 10 during a called Membership Meeting. Please watch for details and make plans to attend.