

Is now the time to do this? Are we really getting too full?

"Full" in church-world is considered 80% of seats filled. Above that, families can't sit together and the room psychologically feels "full." Second service hits 80% often, while first service still has room to grow. Our hope with The Crossing is to be more proactive than reactive. Most churches get full and then say "wow... we need to do something!" It then takes 1-2 years to research, design, fund, and build a solution. If we wait until we're full, and then figure out an expansion plan reactively, then we endure this visitor-repelling fullness far too long, or we have to launch multiple services to compensate. It seems wiser to expand in such a way that we never face that crunch.

What if we just move more people to first service, or change service times slightly? Wouldn't this fix our problem?

Balancing service attendance would help us... for a little while. We could ask our members to attend first service for a year to open up seats at second. However, this doesn't fix the problem...it simply delays it. We eventually will need a growth strategy with a longer-term solution.

Where will we do baptisms?

There are several options here. We could do a Sunday night baptism service at Hillcrest. Once we outgrow that, we could rent a larger church building and use their baptistry. We could also rent the Oregon Pool for a baptism celebration.

Seems like all the setup each week will take a toll on our volunteers. Can we sustain this long term?

We hope so. Part of the price tag for The Crossing is spending a little more on Portable Church equipment to make setup more sustainable 52 weeks a year. We could spend less... but then setup gets much harder. Hundreds of churches across the country do this every Sunday... and have done so for years. (Example: Mad City Church in Madison has been portable for fourteen years, with a much larger setup than ours).

We also must compare this to other options. If we go to three services, that increases our volunteer need

substantially. If we turn the gym into an auditorium, we need to setup and take down 300 chairs every week.

Our hope is to get our setup down to four guys taking one hour each Sunday. With enough people, we can get that down to one time per month. That seems like a sustainable option.

How will we decide if The Crossing is the right move?

Our Campus Team, Elders, and Deacons have prayed and evaluated many options and feel God leading us toward the Crossing. Yet a decision of this importance is one we want the whole congregation to help us make. We've asked everyone to pray and seek God's leading on what we should do, and then respond. There are lots of ways to do so:

1. Many have given great feedback through the Information Meetings with our Elders.
2. The financial response by the church on March 6th will help us discern if God is fully resourcing this vision and if he wants us to proceed.
3. Also in March there will be a congregational meeting and a formal vote by the members to help us determine if God is leading us in this way.

God often speaks through his people. Helping us discern his will for our church is one of the responsibilities of membership in a local body. We believe God will make his will known to us if we seek him with all our hearts.

I have more questions. What do I do?

Ask! You can call Pastor Eric at ext. 26 or email questions to crossing@hillcrestbiblechurch.org Your question may show up on a future FAQ sheet.