Greetings, SMCC family,

As promised, we want to share more details about the proposal from the SMCC Long-Range Campus Planning Team. Thank you to those who have spoken with us since our last update. We want to continue communicating openly throughout this process. We have kept the SMCC elders involved and informed, and recently presented the proposal to our staff and deacons to receive their feedback.

Our team began meeting in September 2025 at the request of the elders. Together, we have considered the use of our campus, the needs of our ministries, our budget, and the size of our congregation. Several important needs have already been addressed or are being planned for, including nursery growth, deferred building maintenance, a new preschool playground, and future growth in our worship center.

Why consider changes to our campus?

Our campus is large, with buildings spread across the property and portions of land that have been unused for decades. The layout made sense when Shades Mountain Christian School (now Heritage Christian Academy) was part of our ministry. Since the school moved off our campus and became affiliated with another church, our ministry needs have changed.

The current layout presents challenges for both ministry and safety, particularly when children and students must cross Tyler Road or Old Tyler Road for activities. We also rent our sports fields and gymnasium to outside groups to help cover their substantial upkeep and utility costs.



A possible new ministry building

As we consider ministry needs, safety, and the resources God has entrusted to us, we believe it is worth continuing to explore a new ministry building connected to our main campus on the “triangle” between Tyler Road and Old Tyler Road.



Dwayne Timothy prepared a design concept in 2012 that helps illustrate what such a building and its surroundings might look like. Our focus in this drawing is the building outlined in red.



Here is a closer look at the proposed building.



The concept includes a gymnasium, a mid-size meeting space, smaller classrooms, indoor and outdoor gathering areas, and a children's playground. This is not a final design. It simply illustrates the kind of connected facility our team believes could serve SMCC well in the years ahead. Imagine how much more accessible a gym and mid-size gathering space would be if they were centrally located on our campus.

Property needed for the triangle

The triangle has limited room for expansion. To pursue a building of this kind, we would need to acquire the property immediately west of our campus at 2277 Old Tyler Road, next to the playground. We have had preliminary conversations with the homeowners about a possible purchase.



Acquiring this property would provide the needed additional space for a new facility and vehicle access around our central campus.

How could we fund this vision?

SMCC currently has no debt. Under our constitution, purchasing or selling property, or assuming debt, requires a vote of the church membership. The elders have agreed that this is a direction we should continue to pursue, with the congregation's involvement and approval.

To help offset the cost of purchasing 2277 Old Tyler Road and potentially constructing a new facility in the future, we propose exploring the sale of land and facilities that are unused or underused. We believe this could allow us to make better use of the resources God has entrusted to our church.

First, we propose pursuing the sale of up to approximately 29 acres north of Tyler Road, including the wooded area, cell tower, baseball and softball fields, and existing gymnasium.



An important condition of any sale is that SMCC retain at least the current number of spaces in the north parking lot. The configuration may change, but we are committed to preserving the current parking capacity on the north property through a permanent contractual provision.

Second, we propose pursuing the sale of the soccer field on the south end of our property. We believe proceeds from that sale could help offset the purchase of 2277 Old Tyler Road.



Together, these are the two portions of SMCC property we would seek to market.



What are we currently asking the congregation to approve?

Our current proposal has two parts:

1. Authorize pursuing the **sale** of up to approximately 29 acres of our property north of Tyler Road **and** the soccer field south of our campus.

2. Authorize pursuing the **purchase** of 2277 Old Tyler Road to complete the triangle.

This vote would not approve design or construction of a new building. If this first proposal is approved, we would continue evaluating the property transactions and, at a later date, bring a separate building design and construction proposal to the congregation for consideration and a vote.

The process and our commitments

Over the past several months, we have gathered information, prayed for wisdom, spoken privately with potentially interested buyers, and interviewed three commercial real estate brokers. We have identified Jerry Grant of Graham & Company as the broker we would like to work with. We believe he understands our desire to approach this process with wisdom and good stewardship. We have not signed a contract with him.

Jerry has advised us on the timing and process for marketing the property. We are pursuing authorization from you, the congregation, before listing it publicly, so potential buyers know that SMCC is prepared to consider serious offers. We do not want to begin that process, including placing a for-sale sign on the property, without the congregation's approval.

We would carefully evaluate any offers, including how a proposed use might affect our neighbors in Bluff Park. We would not be interested in every type of development. Potential uses we see as more compatible with the community include a municipal sports complex, a residential community, a town-center-style development, or a retirement or assisted living facility. We are committed to being good neighbors and to considering what would best serve the church and surrounding community.

Regardless of which properties are ultimately sold or what is eventually built, we believe this is an important opportunity to consider for the long-term potential of the triangle before anything new is constructed. We will keep you informed as potential buyers emerge and as the terms and process become clearer.

An opportunity to ask questions and pray

We ask you to prayerfully consider this proposal. We want to hear your questions, concerns, and ideas, and we have set aside approximately a month for discussion before the vote.

- Sunday, November 8 — Q&A meeting during the Core Class hour at 9:00 a.m.
- Sunday, November 15 — Q&A meeting after the worship service.
- Sunday, December 6 — Congregational vote on the Long-Range Campus Planning Team proposal.

We will wait until after the vote to sign a brokerage agreement or begin officially marketing the property. If land sales eventually close, we will return to the congregation with an updated building concept, opportunities to help shape the design, and a separate approval process.

Please speak with any member of our team or email campusplanning@smcc.church. Above all, please continue praying for the Lord's wisdom and direction as we seek to steward this campus faithfully for the ministry of SMCC.

For God's glory and the faithful stewardship of SMCC,

Chuck Andrews
Sonny Blaising
Chris Callahan
Craig Reeves
Steven Sivley
Jon Spain
Dwayne Timothy