



Dear RMCC family and friends:

This past Sunday I announced some very important updates to our Extend the Reach vision. If you were not able to be with us to hear the news, I wanted to provide it for you here in this letter. Please, take a few moments to read this letter in its entirety.

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Over the past several years we have had front row seats in witnessing the growth of our church. We have grown deeper in our faith as we have sown deeper into God's healing. That has resulted in a church that is so much more intentional in loving and serving others. Our growth has also been evidenced in more and more people joining us in this journey with Jesus. More people; more adults; more kids; more students... each one passionately loved by the God who designed them. **The result is that we need space to continue to grow. We must make room for others for there are so many more who need to know the love and forgiveness of JESUS.**

For 8 months RMCC's leadership performed due diligence to the purchase, including hiring two separate and independent archeologists to perform a Cultural Resources Inventory and Evaluation. Once all the data was sifted and collected, the sale was green lighted, and we closed the purchase in August of 2014.

Only recently did we discover that at the same time, Assembly Bill 52 was being debated in the State Assembly and was passed and signed into law shortly after our purchase closed. AB52 is the Native American Historic Resource Protection Act. **As a result of AB52 the county is now required to consult with CA Native American Tribes to determine if tribal cultural resources are present on a project. Tribal cultural resources can be sacred, spiritual, or religious and may have no physical manifestation. The tribes are the experts on their heritage.** If substantial evidence demonstrates that a project may cause an adverse change to a tribal cultural resource, AB 52 provides that the project may have a significant effect on the environment.

Since the purchase of our hilltop property, many of you know the hurdles and challenges we have been confronted with as we have sought to make progress for the building project. Plans were presented to our congregation and a preliminary budget of \$11 million was announced.

Then, in 2016 a committee was formed and tasked with the responsibility of raising the necessary funding for the project. Some of that was through gifts and other funds pledged over a three-year period. **The pledged amount totaled \$2.2 million. As of last week \$714,000 of that pledged amount has been given.** The result of this effort, *combined with a previous building campaign*, is that today we have \$2.6 million in the bank to fund the vision of "Extend the Reach." **We must make room for others for there are so many more who need to know the love and forgiveness of JESUS.**

Then in July, this past summer, two members of our Building Committee met with a Senior County Planner after she completed consultation with the tribes. It was then that we were informed of AB52 and its influence upon our property. The County Planner advised us that the County consulted with three tribes, and all three tribes voiced strong objection to our project. Consequently, the County Planner advised us that she cannot support the project. And although it is not the discretion of a County Planner to make the County's final decision, **it did signal that it will be a long and possibly expensive process to gain entitlement to build on the site.** The long-range ramifications of the County's position are not yet fully determined, but the short-term effect is that the state of that project and property is on hold for the foreseeable future.

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When I was first told this news, I felt disappointment and anger. And yes, I felt some confusion over it all. I mean, we have given so much effort and countless hours to this project. I can imagine for some of you who have been with our church for over 10 years, you may be thinking, “this is just another strike against us. Here we go again.” But oh, please wait, for there is more to the story. **Keep reading, because its about a chapter change in the story.**

This past March, as we were renegotiating our rent for our current meeting space, the property manager randomly suggested we buy this building. This came to us **unsolicited** and **out of the blue**. Now remember, that in March we did not know of the soon to be revelation of AB52 and the probability of a long and contentious engagement with the County regarding our hilltop property. What we were aware of is that the hilltop project is likely to take years to start and complete and that at our current rate of rent, it just might be a wise consideration to listen to the owners’ proposal. The initial thought was, perhaps this building could make a great home for our church.

Much thought and prayer has been given to this consideration. Now bear in mind that next summer when our rent goes up again, we will be paying around \$145,000 a year. Extend that out to 5 years and the number is \$725,000; extend it by 7 years and the amount is over \$1,000,000 in rent. So, after much prayer and investigation, we have discovered that we can purchase this building and property for \$1.5 million. **Its appraised value is \$3.5 million.** Now that is compelling, but the question remained, could this building be converted to make a nice church home? A church that can be home for an indefinite period of years? Those questions have been answered. I have attached a draft of the concept for you to view.

Again, that by itself is compelling, but there is yet more to the story. **A couple has come forth and is giving the amount necessary to purchase the building. A GIFT OF \$1.5 MILLION. The action of your Governing Board is to proceed with a contract to purchase the building with the gifted amount. A vote by the congregation to affirm the Board’s action will take place on Sunday, December 2nd.**

Over the next three weeks you will have multiple opportunities to come to Town Hall meetings to ask questions, make comments, and generally review the details of the design for yourself. Here is the schedule for Town Hall meetings:

Wednesday – November 14 – 7pm

Thursday – November 15 – 7pm

Monday – November 19 – 7pm

Tuesday – November 20 – 4pm

Tuesday – November 27 – 3pm

Wednesday – November 28 – 7pm

Thank you for giving this your full attention and prayer. I look forward to seeing you at one of the Town Hall meetings.

Together for Extending the Reach,

Pastor Ron

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