



arise

Pursue the voice of the Lord.





HFC Vision: Multiply

To be a church that plants new churches.

HFC Mission:

*Be disciples that make disciples.
Everyone gets to be on mission.*

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Dear Church,

Recently I have put a lot of energy into looking at the time God told Moses to take the Israelites into the Promised Land compared to when God told Joshua the same thing. Both heard from God. Both sent spies. Both received promising reports of what was in the land. However, only the group with Moses allowed fear to come between them and the fulfillment of the promises God had for them.

I have often wondered why the spies were sent at all. Did Moses and Joshua doubt what God had said? I don't think so. I think they knew exactly what God had told them to do each time. So why send the spies? Maybe they were looking for a military advantage or just to learn the geography they didn't know yet. Maybe they just had some questions about what this was going to look like and they wanted to bring any possible clarity to the situation.

Church, we find ourselves now at the edge of a "Promised Land." We have been given the opportunity to sell this building and find something somewhere else. This book will lay out why the staff and elders are presenting this to you to be voted on in a special called business meeting on May 3, 2026 after worship. However, this book is just preliminary work done by some spies. What we need more than anything is to know what God is saying to his church.

If God is saying to stay then we must stay and know that he will provide every need that we have. If God is saying to go then we must go and it doesn't matter how easy or hard it will be; it doesn't matter how long it will take; it doesn't matter how scary it might be to not know everything for the future. The job of the spies isn't to confirm the word of the Lord, but rather to help us move forward no matter what the Lord might say.

Please know that I was as surprised as you when I was first made aware of this opportunity. There is so much that we don't know but there is only one thing we need to know. What is God saying? Between now and May 3rd I am inviting you to pray, listen and discern the move of the Spirit for his church. I believe God will make things abundantly clear and I can't wait to see what God has for us on the other side.

In Him,
Pastor Tim





Our Story

1

Humble Beginnings, Bold Faith

There was a famous lawyer and politician whose wife had a black woman that worked for her. This black woman didn't have the finances to start a church or get a building but she was on mission to be a disciple that makes disciples and the Church of God was born in Houston, TX.

2

Disciples That Made Disciples

Throughout the years the church grew and found itself in the Heights on West 11th St. Dr. Max Gaulke would become the pastor and start a Bible training school to raise up disciple makers. His vision was that every year he would send out students from this school to plant new churches in Texas.



Houston First Church of God
October 19th, 2025



3

Stepping Into The Unknown

With the growth of the school and the church Pastor Leroy Oesch led the church to relocate in an undeveloped area of northwest Houston. There were no other buildings or even a freeway but there was a church ready to receive those who would soon be there. Much was left behind but great potential awaited them as well.

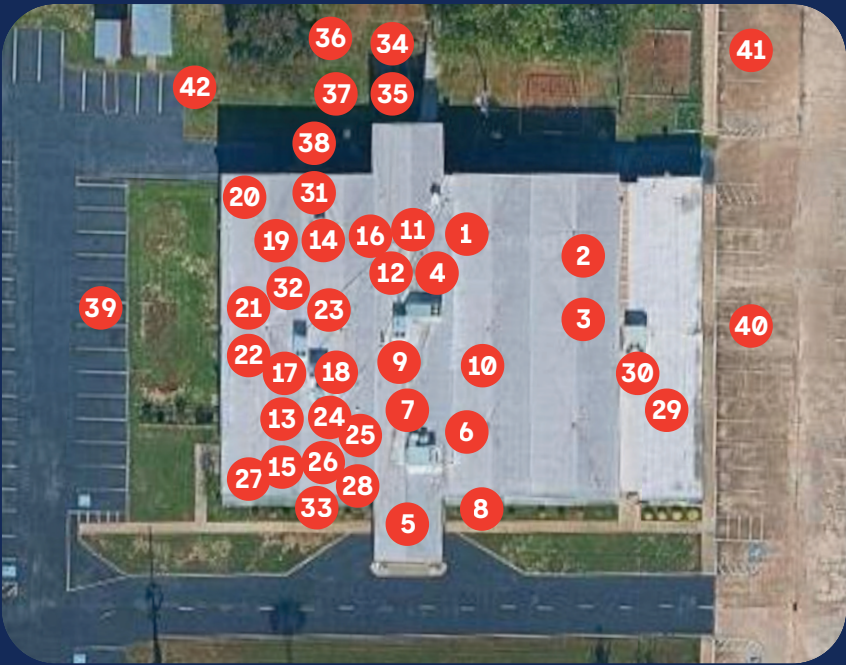
4

50 Years of Life Change

For the last 50 years this church has led thousands of people into the presence of God and served the community through schools, ministries and outreach opportunities. Countless people are Jesus followers today because this church was ministering through this building to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ to those far from God.

Why Would We Leave This Building?

These are all the items that have been repaired or replaced and items that need to be.



1. Sanctuary front AC repaired, needs replaced
2. Sanctuary duct work repaired
3. Sanctuary roof drains
4. Lobby AC repaired, needs replaced
5. Front glass doors (locking mechanisms need replaced)
6. Walls need painted
7. LED lights (green and need replaced)
8. Cross light (replaced light sensor and baluster)
9. Lobby carpet needs repaired
10. Lobby Electrical plugs repaired
11. Hot water heater replaced

12. Laundry facet leaks
13. Upstairs utility facet leaks
14. Hallway water fountain needs repaired or replaced
15. Upstairs water fountain needs repaired or replaced
16. Handicap Women's toilet replaced
17. Main men's restroom toilet replaced
18. Upstairs and downstairs urinal piping replaced (one urinal leak cost us 50,000 gallons of water)
19. 4 automatic door closers have been replaced
20. Hospitality Room flooring needs repaired
21. Kid Min floor tiles were replaced with carpet
22. Kid Min storm water leaks
23. Kid Min AC unit was replaced
24. Kid Min duct work was replaced
25. Men's/Women's showers leaks repaired
26. Women's restroom sink tiles replaced
27. Office AC has been repaired, needs replaced
28. Office ductwork is inefficient
29. East wing AC produces condensation
30. East wing AC motor and belt replaced
31. Youth room storm drain leaks
32. Upstairs hallway walls need painted
33. Upstairs ductwork is inefficient
34. Water well has a leak near the well
35. Water well is producing a lot of sediment (this causes other plumbing issues)
36. Electrical issues from water well to pressure tank
37. Water pressure tank could go out anytime (no back up)
38. Kitchen grease trap needs replaced
39. Blacktop parking lot needs replaced
40. Concrete parking lot needs replaced
41. Illegal dumping in dumpster costs us hundreds of dollars
42. High traffic area for homeless (stealing water and damaging water, electric and septic systems)



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Why Would We Go Somewhere Else?

1. Share the gospel with people who wouldn't worship with us now.
2. Share the culture of HFC with more people.
3. Minister to people in developing areas that don't have churches.
4. Have more conversations about the church and Jesus creating relational environments for discipleship.
5. Save money by reducing costs for building maintenance.
6. Increase funding for ministry.
7. Help learn practical skills for what it takes to start a new church in a new location.
8. Set up a church plant team to send out after we are established in our new location.

Where Could We Go?

Possible Option 1 Purchase an established building

Potential Pros:

- Short transition—may be able to go from our current building to this one

Potential Cons:

- Older buildings require similar amount of maintenance
- The history of the previous congregation may influence how people see us

Either way we may need a transitional facility:

- This would be a rented space for a limited amount of time
- Our preference would be for a dedicated space but may require set up and tear down

Possible Option 2 Purchase land that we would build on

Potential Pros:

- It will be a new building with limited need for maintenance
- We would be in a developing area

Potential Cons:

- It will take time to design, build and move into

Possible Areas:

- South of 290 between Fry and Grand Parkway is a church desert
- Between 249 and 290 north of Cypress is also developing

So What's Next?

» Pray

We need to hear God clearly and be empowered to overcome fear.

» Listen

Outside of pros and cons God will speak to us.

» Discern

Distinguish between the flesh and the Spirit and submit to the Spirit.

For Next Two Weeks

- **Register**—If you registered for the meeting in November you do not need to register again. Everyone must be registered by **Wednesday, April 29th**
- **Process in Groups**— Pastor Tim will visit each Community Group over the next two weeks
 - Wednesday, April 22 at 6p, Men's Group
 - Wednesday, April 22 at 7:30p, Youth Ministry
 - Saturday, April 25 at 11:30a, Worship/Tech Team
 - Sunday, April 26 at 12:30p, Open to Anyone
 - Wednesday, April 29 at 7p, Bible Study
 - Wednesday, April 29 at 7:30p, Kids Ministry

Register Here



May 3, 2026

- **Vote at the Special Called Business Meeting after worship**

From The Staff & Elders



After the potential buyer reached out to Pastor Tim a meeting was scheduled with the Council of Elders and the staff on Friday, February 27th. That meeting was simply designed to have Pastor Tim share the information and enter into a time of prayer, fasting and discernment. The staff and elders met again on Monday, March 9th to discuss how God was speaking. The favorable unity of that meeting could not be dismissed. Those around the table said things like, “I have peace about this” and “this is the time” and “Yes, Lord.”

We recognize the difficulties held within this possibility. We have wrestled with this in our meetings. We recognize the incredible faithfulness that God has shown this church while being in this building. Many of our own steps of faith have memories in the rooms of this building. Yet at the same time, we also see the time, attention and financial resources it is taking to maintain it.

There is no doubt that the leadership of HFC, both current and throughout the last 50 years, have been outstanding stewards of this building. Almost every room has been adapted to fit the ministry needs that have been required.

It has been home, not just to HFC, but to multiple churches, ministries and Jesus-centered events. We have squeezed every penny of ministry use out of what God has entrusted to us. Now we must listen to discern if God would have us steward his resources in a different place. Would that be the most effective way to use his resources? Is that where he is leading us?

We, the staff and elders of HFC are in favor of presenting this opportunity to the congregation and unanimously recognize the move of God in this direction.

Chair

Pastor Tim Gould

Vice-Chair

Helen Jocco

Secretary

Brian Cudnik

Bill Wright

Michael Melton

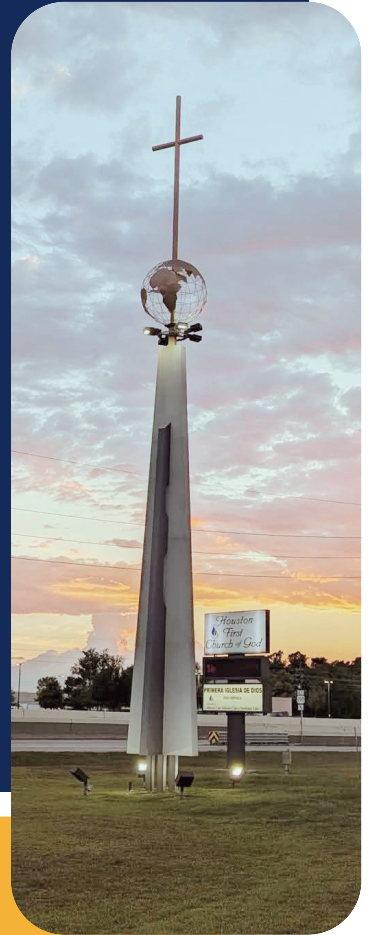
Ramona Colas

Boyce Erwin

Naomi Dingle

Sarah Mathewes

David Rivera



FAQ's

What was the offer that was made on the contract?

- The selling price would be 3.1 million dollars. From that we would need to pay 3% for the buyer's realtor (\$93,000), 2% for our realtor (\$62,000), title policy (approx. \$18,000), any legal fees incurred and a 50% share of escrow costs.

How soon would we need to be out of the building?

- There is a feasibility period of 120 days (in which the buyer could back out) and up to 60 days for closing after that. That would put us closing by the end of September or early October with up to 3 weeks to move to our next location.

Where will we go?

- As presented above, there are several options that the elders will be considering and our real estate agent is working diligently to help us secure that location.

Who is our real estate agent?

- Her name is Dayna Sullivan. Pastor Tim has been connected to her through the school his kids go to. She works for Berkshire Hathaway Home Services.

What do the bylaws say about selling property?

- It is very clear that no property of the church may be sold without a formal vote of the voting membership of the church.

If I registered for the Annual Business Meeting in November 2025 do I need to register again?

- No. The only people who need to register to vote for this meeting are those who did NOT register to vote for the November meeting but would like to vote in this meeting. The registration deadline is midnight on Wednesday, April 29.

FAQ's Continued...

What if the congregation votes “No”?

- Depending on how conversations go we could set up another special business meeting two weeks following. This would allow more time to process and discern the voice of the Lord, if necessary. However, if ultimately, the congregation votes “no” then we simply contact the potential buyer and nothing moves forward.

How much would the new place cost?

- There is no way to know that now, however, we do not plan to incur debt in the purchase of our new building space.

Will we receive updates about progress?

- Yes. Monthly in worship services we will share an update with the congregation and we will keep a section in the weekly newsletter for our recent updates.

What about Iglesia and ACC?

- We are in communication with both congregations and are open to continuing our partnerships in new locations if it works out.

What if I have ideas or suggestions for where to go or what to do during the transition?

- To best keep track of and organize ideas please email suggestions you might have to **PastorTim@hfcog.org**.



**Connect
With Us**

www.hfcog.org

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