Scott Park Site FAQs

Why are we doing this? What's our motivation?
We want to be a church that shares God's heart for people who don't yet know Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Our vision is to be a thriving and influencing church. We want to see more people coming to Christ and enfolded into the community of God's people, the church. By pursuing a multi-site model, we have the opportunity to reach more people in more places. We are currently experiencing barriers to growth because of space limitations at Lincoln/Michigan. A Scott Park site creates new space in a potentially strategic location. Plus, by sending a number of people from our current location to be the core of the new Scott Park site, we free up space for growth at Lincoln/Michigan as well.

Thus, while it is true that we are facing space challenges in our sanctuary and classrooms, our primary motivation is obedience to Jesus' Great Commission (Matt. 28:19—"go and make disciples") and his Great Commandment (Matt. 22:37, 39—"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind… Love your neighbor as yourself").

What's the difference between a church plant and a multi-site church?
A church plant is designed to be a separate church right from the start. It might have a sponsoring church for awhile, but it is separate. A multi-site church is one church that meets in two or more locations. These locations share the same vision, values, and overall leadership, and they operate under one budget. There are dozens of variations under the multi-site umbrella, but the goal is to leverage common resources in an effort to reach more people.

Some multi-site churches use video preaching/teaching. Is this TCBC's plan?
Not at this point. Our current thinking is to expand our team teaching model to provide "live teaching" at both sites. This seems like a more natural fit for TCBC. The preaching would be done by a team that includes both pastors and gifted preachers from our congregation. This team would rotate between the two sites.

Why are we referring to it as the Scott Park Site? Why not call it "TCBC West" if a multi-site church is one church meeting in multiple locations?
Good question! There is a great deal of variation in multi-site church models. Here are a few reasons why it might make sense to call a Scott Park site by its own name:

- TCBC's vision and values would also be the vision and values of the Scott Park Site, but there could be some variations in the forms through which our vision and values get worked out. For example, while a Scott Park site would also have the core value of blending campus and community, a Scott Park worship service might have some differences from the Lincoln/Michigan worship service.
- Ideally, one of TCBC's pastors would be assigned to be the "site pastor" at Scott Park, giving focused leadership and shepherding to the Scott Park congregation. In this model, a Scott Park site pastor would not also have ministry responsibilities at Lincoln/Michigan.
- There would be overlap in other areas between the two sites, but some ministries would be site specific. For example, leaders and assistants for children's classes for Scott Park

would be drawn from people who are committed to making Scott Park their new "church home" rather than asking these volunteers to rotate between the two sites.

- If we start a Scott Park site, it is possible that a Scott Park fellowship might at a future time move to becoming a church plant. Or, the multi-site model might work so well that our congregation decides to just keep it that way. Our church would seek God's leading in this at a future time. But making a distinction between Scott Park and Lincoln/Michigan name-wise seems wise for multiple reasons.

While there will be some distinctions, here are some things that are NOT part of the proposed plan:

- *Start a "student church."* On the contrary, our mission and values are centered on the concept of community and campus together for worship, ministry, and growth. We want to reach more students and more community people.
- *Blanket Champaign-Urbana with TCBC "look alike" satellite churches.* Reaching more people in more places is an important part of the Great Commission and TCBC has a role to play in that process. But this role is unlikely to involve making copy-cat congregations. Any additional site that we might add would probably have a unique look and feel even while sharing the same vision and values.

Why the Scott Park area?
The "Scott Park area" is a 40+ block area in Champaign bounded by Green Street to the south and University Avenue to the north, 1st Street to the west and 6th Street to the east. There appear to be over 5000 students in this area, but currently the "Scott Park Area" has no church presence. There is a significant population of international students and grad students. The city has plans to develop this area to make it even more attractive. It is just as accessible to community people as our current location.

Why not just add a third service at our current location?
This idea was discussed as part of the "Planning for Growth" process, but to this point it has not gained traction or generated much excitement. One of the main reasons for this is a sense shared by many lay leaders and members of the staff that God is pushing us to be a more outward-focused, missional church—going to where people with needs are rather than only asking them to come to us. If we're going to invest resources in a new service (leadership, volunteers, financial resources, etc.), it makes sense to pursue an option that gives us the best potential for continued growth. A second site rather than another service at our current site gives us this potential. Another factor is that a third service at our current location would probably have to take place either on Saturday night or Sunday night—neither of which is very appealing as we consider the values that drive our ministry at TCBC.

What about finances for a Scott Park Site? How would this get paid for?
The general answer: The same way all our ministry is financed—from God's unlimited resources provided through his people. An important part of the process ahead would be to do some new thinking regarding our expectations about student giving, TCBC alumni involvement, the giving potential of new members, special gifts, and the income-generating potential that could come with growth and new facilities.

Additional thoughts about finances:

- A Scott Park site would start with a small fiscal footprint and a small "burn rate" (how quickly we go through initial start up resources).
- A Scott Park Site would share the same office staff, insurance, and ministry resources as the Lincoln/Michigan location. This would give us the potential to make our ministry budget go further.
- Opening a Scott Park site would require looking for creative ways to fill additional staff needs besides hiring a bunch of staff.
- God can provide for his work in whatever way he desires. We need to be obedient and more forward in faith as he guides us. We expect to be stretched and blessed.
- TCBC first started in 1933 in the midst of the Great Depression. Four families faithfully followed God's vision and leading then even though it didn't seem to be an opportune time economically. If God wills it, we can do the same now.

What kind of time table is TCBC considering?

Since so many of us sense that God has been preparing TCBC for growth, the question of timing is extremely important. Here is the tentative timetable for the immediate future:

- The Second Site Work Group will present a plan for a Scott Park Site to the congregation in mid-February.
- From mid-February to mid-March, the congregation will pray and dialogue about this plan.
- In mid-March, the congregation will vote on whether to move forward with implementing the plan for a Scott Park Site.
- If the plan is approved, a Scott Park launch team will be solidified and will continue the process of beginning a second site.

What will happen to TCBC at Lincoln/Michigan if a significant group of community people and students are sent out to form the core of a new Scott Park Site?

- Those that stay would presumably feel as called to support this new work as those who go.
- If we send out a Scott Park core, we would have more space at Lincoln/Michigan to welcome new community people and students.