

# Acts 2 Church

## 4 the Kids

**Preparing kids to be Christ's light in the world.**

## The Case

### **We are the church – why do we need another building?**

For Acts 2, church has never described a building.

We are the church.

As the church, we are a group of people who are united in Christ with Christians all over the world. We are called to spread light, grace and truth to the world. That's our calling whether we are at work, at the grocery store, at the soccer fields or on the Acts 2 campus. We are the church.

But the space where we worship and gather and grow? It helps us live into our calling and add more to our mission.

Where we are matters. When they bought the 35 acres of land back in 1999, Mark, Chantelle and their two kids had no idea why God was calling Acts 2 UMC to the edge of Edmond in what seemed like the middle of nowhere. It took a great amount of faith that with God's calling also comes his provision. Nineteen years later -- with the staggering growth of Edmond and Deer Creek -- it is evident that God couldn't have called us to a better location.

The buildings we invest in matter too. The space allows us to welcome non-religious people into the faith and re-introduce non-active Christians to the church. The structures are a great tool for us:

- **It's a place to meet, learn and grow.** Buildings help us to have a central hub where we can come together for fellowship, worship and spiritual growth. Having enough space for children, youth and adults to deepen their knowledge of Christ is critical to us understanding how to be the walking and talking embodiment of Christ in the world.
- **Awareness in the community.** We hear frequently that first-time guests have come visit simply because they drove by and saw our buildings and signs.
- **Community outreach.** Our land and buildings are a central part of the community right now. On any given day, you will see that we are a hub for sports practices, community organization meetings, YMCA summer camp and more. Each time one of these people steps on our campus, we have an opportunity for reaching the non-religious and non-active Christians in the community.

Just like we are to bring light to our community, our buildings are a beacon to others. We are a central place to find community, light and love. Each time we have expanded our space, we have expanded our community. But, there are still more than 29,000 neighbors in a five-mile radius around our campus who do not have a church home.

We have work to do.

## **Why do we need more space now?**

Since we began worshipping in 1999, our church has faithfully and sacrificially given to continue to ensure we have enough space. Today, we are doing well with worship space, but we find ourselves completely out of space for our children and youth.

Amazing things are happening in our children and youth program. Today, we have 1,202 participants in all of our children and youth programs, an increase of 137% from 2013. With great growth comes major space constraints. Our children are currently spread out between our portable buildings, our original building and the Sanctuary building. This leaves no room for our youth, so we are renting space from Frontier Elementary to provide a large enough facility for them each week.

During the week, we have 62 children in our Children's Day Out program occupying much of our classroom space in the original building. During inclement weather days, they must play in the Chapel, a room that has to be constantly flipped for One Church worship, church meetings and children space so it simply can't be a kid-oriented space.


## **What can we do?**

Imagine what we could do if we had a building that was built *specifically* outfitted to provide for the needs of children and youth!

Our building committee did. Watching how quickly we were growing in our children and youth ministry and seeing the space constraints we have, the church unanimously voted in 2016 to form a building committee to create a vision of what a new children and youth facility could look like for Acts 2 and our local community.

After much prayer, research and feedback from the church, the building committee provided its recommendations. They believe God is calling us to:

- Create a safe, kid-oriented space for Acts 2 children, their friends and the surrounding community children to learn and grow in Christ. If we want to change the world, it is crucial that we are providing a firm foundation of faith for our kids to grow on.
- Create a place that allows us to increase our reach into the community. We imagine a building that can be used for youth and children's practices and tournaments. We can even imagine adult basketball leagues or gatherings using these facilities. We could have hundreds more people on our campus. Think of what opportunities we could have to spread the love of Christ if we could become even more of a central hub to our community.
- Create a place that allows us to continue to connect with Frontier Elementary and Heartland Middle School. When Edmond Public Schools purchased the land south of us, we were thrilled! We knew that this was a huge opportunity that God had provided to us. We have partnered with these schools over the past few years in several ways, but feel that having a dedicated children and youth space right next door to these schools could open up huge opportunities to reach the kids right in our mission field.

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 Create a place that will allow us to continue building on our Children's Day Out program. We are in our third year of running Children's Day Out – a program that has been a great success for us as an outreach program as well as an additional revenue stream. We are currently capped in growth with this program. We believe that if we build a building that is specifically for children, this program could continue to grow potentially providing more revenue. It gives us an opportunity to eventually fill a childcare need that we know currently exists in Edmond.

**Of course, a vision like this comes with an investment.**

God began Acts 2 UMC with a vision for authentic faith community. With faith, dreams and a pooling of our resources, Acts 2 UMC has spent 20 years growing in faith and numbers. It's fun to look back with the perspective we have now and see God's provision each step of the way.

Now, the time has come to take action for our kids. We want the children of Acts 2 to grow up to carry light into the world. We want to be able to welcome more children in our wider community to join us. We want to create a generation of children who stand firm in their faith and carry the light of Christ into the world. Creating an engaging place where our kids can come together to play, connect, learn and grow in Christ is essential to do this.

Yes, this next step will take faith - just like it did in 1999 when we bought the 35 acres at the edge of Edmond in the middle of nowhere. Now, instead of four people with a dream, there are more than 800 people, discovering God's faithfulness together.

We hope you'll prayerfully consider the part you might play in the near future and then step out in faith with us.

**It actually happened.** A community of believers decided together they would live lives radically devoted to God. Ninety-five percent devotion wasn't enough; they determined to submit fully and follow God in every way.

They agreed to love each other irrationally...meeting each other's needs, making sure no brother or sister lived without. They took off their masks so they could know and be known.

Passionately concerned about those outside the family of God, they reached out to lost people, regardless of the consequences. They prayed fervently that they would have the boldness to proclaim the gospel, even if it cost them their lives.

They looked not to the leadership of a man or woman, but to the direction of the Holy Spirit. Every day they and their leaders asked, "What would the Spirit want us to do? What new thing will the Holy Spirit unfold before us today?"

And with the Holy Spirit in charge, they worshipped God continually, and honored Him by using their spiritual gifts. Everyone played a critical role; everyone was important.

**Acts Chapter Two**

