



After a break over the holidays, your Master Planning Task Force has been hard at work through January, and it's our pleasure to share a quick update! You can read the full report at beechhaven.org/masterplan!

I'm excited to share that the team has made great progress.

1. **We celebrate** the growth we've experienced over the last 3 years. Even this month, when our team members were asked to describe Beech Haven with one word, things like "optimistic, healthy, opportunity, momentum, growing, prayerful, hopeful, and excited" were used. I'm sure you would use similar language!
2. **We recognize** the blessings and the challenges associated with that growth, and we all agree that simply maintaining what we have can't keep up with where God is leading us..
3. Therefore, we've been **working hard at** developing a comprehensive and coherent set of master planning options. We aim to ensure that all viable choices are clearly defined and that we evaluate each of them thoroughly according to the following criteria.
 - a. The first is **Mission & Ministry Alignment**. We want everything we plan to strengthen our church's mission and help our ministries thrive.
 - b. The second is **Long-Term Capacity & Flexibility**. Each option is assessed according to its ability to help us grow and adapt to future needs.
 - c. Third is **Financial Stewardship & Affordability**. Every option is measured by biblical principles of stewardship..
 - d. Fourth is **Phasing & Disruption Risk**. Different plans affect the ongoing life of the congregation in different ways. We want to understand how different ways of supporting our growth might disrupt us along the way.
 - e. Fifth is **Site & Regulatory Risk**. Every option has to be permitted and safe in the eyes of our city, county, and state, so we are exploring as best we can how this area impacts each option.
 - f. Finally, there is the category of **Congregational & Community Impact**. In short, we want to inspect each option through the lens of how it impacts the communities in which we live and the life of the congregation as a whole.

Over the next 4-6 weeks, **our goal is to arrive at a short list of options for the congregation to begin to engage with this spring.**

I'm deeply grateful to God for this team. The wisdom and expertise around the tables is matched only by their humility and love for the church. It's a great privilege to see God work in and through this team, and I'm grateful that you have entrusted them to do this work on our behalf. I hope that you will engage with these team members individually and pray for them regularly. Look for our next update in March!