

A Correction to the Indy Star Article about North Church and Land Development

An article in Thursday's online edition of "The Indianapolis Star," "This Indianapolis neighborhood wants a grocery store," contains several errors and misstatements, and does not accurately reflect the status of our development plans nor what the church told the reporter about the potential development of our property.

First, the church has not entered into any kind of an agreement with anyone, including the owner of Midtown City Market, to build or develop a grocery store on any part of our property (in fact, we haven't even had conversations with anyone about such a plan).

Second, as we have long said, if a grocery store were to be built as part of a development plan, it would be at the corner of 38th and Illinois (the site of the former flower shop), and not in the parking lot north of the Ace Hardware (which was the site of the old Standard grocery store).

It is true that North Church has been part of an energized community coalition that recently applied for the grant referenced in the story in order to address the systemic food access and food insecurity issues in our neighborhood. Our focus is on all aspects of the food system, including North missions such as Bread and Bowl, the Mid-North Food Pantry, and our Farmers Market. The grant could support efforts in the future to locate a grocery on our property as part of a comprehensive development plan, but there are no current plans (or funding) to build such a store anytime soon.

The article misreported the facts relevant to our property and as to other aspects of our coalition's work. The coalition is asking the Star to revise the article and correct the record.

As we previously shared with all of you, we were not able to obtain financing in late 2019 for the development proposal that the congregation had approved (including affordable housing, a grocery, and other retail space). We were beginning a period of discussion and discernment about our next steps when the pandemic began, and those discussions were tabled.

Our plans and intentions have not changed in that regard, notwithstanding what the article said. We are sorry for the confusion and concern that was caused, and want to assure you that no project or plan for the development of that property will move forward without a robust period of intentional discernment and engagement with the congregation.