



STATE OF ST. LUKE | RECAP

7 JUNE 2021

OVERVIEW

On June 7, 2021, Senior Pastor Richie Butler presented the State of St. Luke (SOSL) on Zoom. More than 250 members participated. Pastor Butler addressed two critical aspects of the future of St. Luke Community UMC:

- **Our return to in-person worship beginning July 4, 2021**, at the Tolleson Family Activity Center (Tolleson) on the campus of Highland Park UMC
- **The master plan to repair, renovate, and expand St. Luke's campus** over the next three years

The following resources are included in this recap:

- 30-minute video replay: [watch here](#)
- The slide presentation: [download the PDF](#)
- Q&A with Pastor Butler (written transcript)
- Poll question results

Q&A WITH PASTOR BUTLER

TEMPORARY WORSHIP AT HIGHLAND PARK UMC

- **Can you explain more about parking at temporary location?**

The Tolleson Family Activity Center (Tolleson) at Highland Park UMC has 120 spaces in its underground parking garage. The worship area is directly accessible from an elevator in the parking garage. A digital sign at the garage entrance shows real-time the number of spaces that are available. If no spaces are available under Tolleson, 300-400 spaces are available in the parking garage across the street from Tolleson. See the site map at the end of this recap.

- **What about Sunday School?** Please reach out to your respective ministry leaders and let them know what you think about the Sunday School class in which you participate.

- **Will there be childcare when church service resumes at the Tolleson?**

Yes. We have two spaces—for children (3-12 years) on the 3rd floor, and for youth (13-17 years) on the 2nd floor. We won't have care for babies (0-2 years).

- **What is the estimated start time for parking?**

We're working through the details and will include an update on our FAQ sheet.

- **What is the age range for childcare at Tolleson?**
Children ages 3 to 17 years will have a special place to go during worship.
- **Where is Highland Park UMC located?**
Tolleson is on the west side of Hillcrest Avenue, just north of Mockingbird Lane. Directions and a site map are included in our FAQ sheet.
- **How many people can access worship at Tolleson?**
UPDATE SINCE SOSL: Based on a walk-through after the State of St. Luke presentation, we can comfortably seat 175 worshippers in the main sanctuary space we are using (called the Celebration Hall). This number will allow us to observe social distancing guidelines.
- **Will there be a written document setting forth the understanding between Highland Park UMC and SLCUMC regarding our use?**
UPDATE SINCE SOSL: More information is forthcoming.
- **Let us know if there were other facilities considered. We need a place perhaps near or in our community centers, schools or local buildings. Remember senior citizens who might need rides.**
We did look at other spaces. We especially considered Warren UMC, but the building required extensive work for us to get into it, so it was not feasible financially for us. In selecting a space, we also factored in the requirement to set up/take down tables and chairs as well as a facility's ability to accommodate our livestreaming and video production needs. Everything we needed, Highland Park UMC has. [Pastor Butler says], "I told Pastor Paul, the only thing you guys don't have is a Hammond organ, and he shared with me that they do have one." All we have to do is show up and get things fitted for our worship. We don't have to go through a weekly setup/take-down process, which can be draining. We wanted to minimize that level of output too.
- **Please consider for safety and liability, we should have an agreement. Things can happen and we be sure we are covered.**
Our trustees are working on a document that will encompass these considerations. We will formalize an agreement, particularly as it relates to liability.
- **Did you consider shuttle service from St. Luke to Highland Park UMC?**
Yes, this is on the table.
- **Can you speak more about the registration process for worship services at Highland Park UMC?**
UPDATE SINCE SOSL: [Registration is now open on Eventbrite](#). Complete details are included on that site, in our FAQ sheet, and on our website, slcumc.org.
- **Will there be a separate room at Tolleson for prayer after service?**
At this time, we have limited space on the floor where we will be, so we are working to identify a space.
- **Will there be a temporary placement for the N'Spirations Bookstore? (Part 1)**
Not at Tolleson initially, but we will work on it.

TEMPORARY STAFF RELOCATION

- **Will staff be located at the Tolleson?**
No. Our administrative offices will be temporarily relocated to an office building close to St. Luke's campus. The staff will settle in and stay at the location until the Empowerment Center is completed (up to three to four years).
- **Have you considered offices where Zan Wesley Holmes Community Life Center is located?**
Yes. It was our first contender but was not an option.
- **Can staff be relocated to our Youth Center?**
No. The Youth Center is not large enough to accommodate all of our pastors, staff, and necessary furnishings and equipment.

CAMPUS MASTER PLAN

- **Will the new building be one or two floors?**
This will be determined by city height restrictions. Pastor Butler's vision is to go vertical—four to six stories—to give us a strong presence on Interstate 30 between St. Luke and downtown Dallas. This represents an opportunity for us to lease space or set up an executive office suite or business incubator, which will offer an additional revenue stream and allow us to maximize the real estate. Many other considerations—such as parking—are factors, which is why we're eager to hire the design/build firm to begin working on our campus master plan. The plan will give us a much better understanding of what we can do, the adjustments we'll have to make, and how flexible the City of Dallas will be in the process.
- **With the current design of the building, have you considered building a basement for storage, since this has been a continuing issue?**
Everything is on the table. When you go sub-grade (subterranean), the challenge is cost. If you go that low, it might be advantageous to consider a sub-ground parking structure, but below-grade storage is definitely something for us to explore. This will be part of the conversation when we work with the design/build firm. Also, per Pastor Butler: This is important: We're not just looking to hire a contractor, we want someone with real experience with planning and helping us think through strategically some of the best options. We can address these types of questions, and the design/build firm can offer some best practices and solutions in the marketplace now that we're just not thinking about.
- **Regarding contractors for construction, will we be able to give priority to minority vendors?**
Yes. Of the five contractors we're currently talking with, four are African-American companies. We can also request that a percentage of subcontractors be minority-owned.
- **Please plan for wheelchair accessibility in all areas of the new facility.**
Our buildings will comply with [the Americans with Disabilities Act](#).

- **Will there be someone who is an expert with security and safety on the committee as plans are being developed?**
Yes. We always have our security people involved in planning because we want to make sure everyone is safe and secure at all times.
- **Will the new facility have a space for prayer?**
This option will be included in discussions with the design/build firm.
- **Are we thinking high-tech, solar power, and selling power back to a power company as a source of revenue?**
Great question! We have not thought about it yet but will make sure it's part of the conversation during the planning process.
- **Will there be a temporary placement for the N'Spirations Bookstore? (Part 2)**
When we tear down St. Luke's educational wing, we will work to accommodate the essential ministry areas (e.g., bookstore, children's area, etc.) in a temporary portable structure. Our trustees are currently working on this solution.
- **Will the ladies' restroom be updated?**
Yes, at St. Luke's current facility.
- **Are we looking at having a high-tech or smart church as it relates to technology?**
Yes, yes, yes, and yes! Part of our goal is to have a studio where we can do taping not just for us but also for other churches. This is an empowerment center, so we want to use our space to help others be successful in ministry as well.
- **Hopefully, the contractors will consider environmentally friendly features in order to minimize impact to the environment.**
We will request an environmentally-friendly design and construction approach as part of our pursuit of Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design ([LEED](#) certification).
- **When the church reopens in the fall, what safety measures will be set in place pertaining to COVID-19?**
Our trustees have convened a committee to establish protocol that will be put in place before we reopen.
- **Has a multipurpose building been thought about—gym, something for our community?**
These options will be included in discussions with the design/build firm.

POLL QUESTION RESULTS

During the presentation, Pastor Butler asked the congregation to respond to three questions:

Question 1: What time do you prefer to worship?

- Total responses: 211
 - **9:30 a.m. 51% (107 responses)**
 - 10:00 a.m. 27% (58)
 - 11:00 a.m. 14% (29)
 - I'm flexible.....8% (17)

Question 2: Where will you worship starting July 4?

- Total responses: 169
 - **Sometimes in person, sometimes remotely..... 40% (67 responses)**
 - In person 28% (47)
 - Remotely 24% (41)
 - Haven't decided yet 8% (14)

Question 3: What do you think of the campus name St. Luke Community Empowerment Center (SLCEC)?

- Total responses: 261
 - **Works for me! 81% (211 responses)**
 - Let me think about it..... 17% (45)
 - Non-responsive¹ 2% (5)
- **Important note:** *This campus name is a suggestion only; the final campus name has not been selected, and the selection process will begin much later. Input from the congregation will be a critical part of the decision-making process.*
- **Additional comments:**
 - How are we defining “community”—a specific geographic area or an open concept of community?
 - Proposed name of St. Luke Empowerment Center? Would that modify St. Luke “Community” UMC?
 - Works for me; would like some other options.
 - I feel “United Methodist” should be included in the name.
 - Would that replace “SLCUMC” as our name?
 - Suggestion: SLCUMC EmpowerMent Center.
 - St. Luke Enrichment Center: “Empowerment” is trendy and over-used.
 - I would like to see Rev. Holmes’s name include in the campus name.

¹ “Non-responsive” indicates only that a response in the chat was other than one of the two poll answer options. Those responses are included under “additional comments.”