

IMAGINE Resource Initiative F.A.Q.

Q: What is *Imagine*?

A: Imagine is a vision initiative at Northeast designed to lead our church towards greater impact in our community, in our ministry and on our campus. *Imagine* consists of three commitments designed to help us resource ministry on a larger scale for reaching the lost.

Q: What does *Imagine* involve?

A: The three commitments behind *Imagine* include:

1. **Impacting our Community.** Establish a 501(c)3 in the community to serve as a hub for ministries of mercy and compassion, partnership with the city and community transformation that opens doors for the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
2. **Multipling our Ministry.** Greater investment in our church planting residency with an aim for both local and global church planting; greater investment in our orphan care partner in Haiti and the expansion of ministry through micro-campuses.
3. **Preparing our Campus.** Invest in our Northeast campus by building a new worship center and increasing community spaces for people to linger in relationship longer when they are here.

Q: Why establish a 501(c)3 in the community?

A: Establishing a non-profit in the community allows us to gain proximity to the needs of the community since many of those needing the greatest assistance in the area are unlikely to come to our campus for help. Pursuing ministry in our community through a non-profit removes the stigma often associated with the church, especially in the eyes of city officials and other organizations who are less likely to work alongside a church but will readily partner with a community initiative. Additionally, establishing a non-profit opens up doors for financial partnership with those who would not otherwise partner with the church in ministering to the community.

Q: What is a 'micro-campus'?

A: A micro-campus is not a new church campus or a video venue but rather a way of taking Northeast into places such as prisons, hospitals, in-patient treatment centers, retirement communities and any other location where individuals may be unable to attend church. We want to better equip members within our body to take Northeast into unreached areas by utilizing technology to deliver Sunday Services and equipping our members to serve as hosts, disciple-makers and prayer warriors in places that they are already passionate about reaching.

Q: What will be included in our campus expansion?

A: Our campus expansion involves the construction of a new, 600-seat worship center, as well as connection spaces (lobbies) that will tie our multiple facilities together.

Q: Where will the new auditorium be constructed?

A: Our new campus plan has the worship center being constructed on the west side of campus at the base of the 'green-space', next to the Student Center. This will allow us to utilize the green space between the Next Gen spaces as a common area where all people gather on Sunday mornings and people linger longer in relationship with one another.

Q: How many seats will the new auditorium seat?

A: The new worship center will open with seating for 600, but will be built with the square footage to easily expand to 750 in the future. We believe this capacity is appropriate for our sized church but, equally, keeps us on the hook for continued church planting as a part of our long-term ministry strategy.

Q: Why build a new auditorium if church planting is a part of our strategy?

A: Church planting is and will continue to be a value at Northeast; however, as we have already learned, church planting alone will not solve our own growth needs. Church planting is not a long-term capacity solution. For example, after planting Stone Oak Bible Church in 2015, Northeast returned to capacity in less than a year. Even with planting new churches we must consider how to tend to the growth of our own ministry. Additionally, we desire to bring our venue together with us in worship so that we can worship together as one body with one voice.

Q: How much will *Imagine* cost? How will these monies be allocated towards ministry versus campus expansion?

A: We expect *Imagine* to cost 6 million dollars with half-a-million (\$500k) going towards our community initiative, church planting, orphan care and our other ministry specific needs. Approximately \$5M dollars is expected to go towards the construction of new facilities with the rest going towards debt.

Q: Will Northeast be taking on debt in order to fund this initiative?

A: While we will seek the church bodies help in raising some of what is needed for *Imagine* we do anticipate taking on debt in order to fully fund construction on our campus. This is not foreign to Northeast as we have taken on loans for every campus expansion, always seeking to pay off the note on an accelerated timeline.

Q: How will Northeast accommodate debt within its current budget?

A: Northeast has already been paying a monthly mortgage note for its most recent facilities; in fact, we have been aggressively paying off that note on an accelerated timeline. Because of this, Northeast has already been operating close to what this new construction will cost us. Essentially, we should only see a slight increase in our budget over our current expenses from this new construction.

Q: From a Biblical perspective, what is Northeast's view on debt?

A: Many often cite Proverbs 22:7 as the reason Christian's should steer clear of debt (*"the borrower is slave to the lender"*). While God certainly warns against the dangers of debt, He equally asked His people to lend to those in need but to do so without unduly burdening them (Psalm 112:5; Lev. 25:36-37). God is not anti-lending but He is, however, against foolish debt and the practice of preying on people's need in order to exact a profit. What God meant for mercy, lenders often used for gain. In that regard, Northeast's position has been that lending and borrowing is less an issue of right versus wrong and more an issue of wise versus unwise. In this and every building project we have pursued our prayer has been for wisdom as we seek God's direction in building His church.