

## **NEC 2.0 Real Faith Works**

*God told Abram: "Leave your country, your family, and your father's home for a land that I will show you. I'll make you a great nation and bless you....All the families of the Earth will be blessed through you."  
- Genesis 12:1-3*

*Jesus said:... "Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life,...I'll be with you as you do this, day after day after day, right up to the end of the age." Matthew 28:18-20*

### **With NEC 2.0, will there be any changes to the mission or core values of NEC? Will NEC still be the same as it always has been?**

Chris, Mike and the Elders are committed to the mission of NEC--to help those who have given up on church but not on God experience, embrace and express God's love through Jesus Christ--and will remain so throughout the transition period and into the future. The Elders are confident that Mike, who has been a part of the NEC community from the very beginning and has played a key role in carrying out that mission over the last several years, will continue to uphold the mission and core values of NEC as Senior Pastor and will lead the community well in its next stage of life.

### **750 Union Street (Boston Sports Club)**

#### **What's the latest on 750 Union Street (Boston Sports Club)?**

November 20 was set as the original closing date, with some contingencies that needed to be met along the way before finalizing the sale. In addition to some legal and technical contingencies, there are three essential conditions, set by the Elders, which reflect our vision and values in looking for a facility.

These are:

- **Location** - we want the property to be located such that there is good long-term potential both for the NEC community and for the town of Franklin (if possible). Visibility is important, but not essential. Accessibility is essential.
- **Usage** - The land and (potential) building need to fit our desire to be not just a church, but one that serves the surrounding community in as many relevant ways as possible.
- **Affordability/Stewardship** - We are always prayerfully aware of our church's need to strike the balance between God-sized faith and good stewardship. We want to stretch our faith, but not put the church under unnecessary financial stress.

When we made our initial offer on 750 Union Street, it seemed all three of the above criteria would be met. In fact, this property was the best "fit" for NEC that we had looked at in many years. However, as we did more of our due diligence in vetting and researching the property, we found that our estimated costs for this property exceed what we think is appropriate. Since the deal based on our research is no longer feasible, we've communicated to the seller that, although we are still interested in the property, there are considerations that make the original deal unworkable for us. From our side, what we do now, is what we've been doing all along - pray for guidance as we keep doing our homework with our architect,

builder and lawyer. What the seller will do – that we don't know. In the meantime, we continue to prayerfully look at other potential locations.

### **Can NEC afford it?**

As part of our last building campaign, New England Chapel set aside funds for just such a time as this. We have sufficient funds to cover the down payment but will need to raise additional money to cover the remainder. We have a number of financing options available but will look to the generosity of those who call New England Chapel home to help make this vision a reality.

### **Will there be another capital campaign? What happened to the money from the last one?**

Last year's capital campaign was a success and without the generosity of those who contributed we would not be in the healthy financial position necessary to pursue this building. The campaign gave us much needed cash reserves and enabled us to invest in improvements to our existing facility, many of which we will be able to transfer to the new space. That said, we will need a new capital campaign to build out a new space. We plan on financing some of the purchase price, which puts us at the same expense level as our current monthly facility cost. For the buildout of our new facility, we hope we can count on the continued generosity of those who call New England Chapel home to help us reach our campaign goal which will come when appropriate.

### **How long have the Elders and leaders been planning a move?**

The Elders have long entertained and communicated the hope of moving into a permanent facility when the time was right. One of the factors necessary to securing a property was improving the financial health of NEC, especially related to Summer time cash flow. Two years ago, the Elders made the decision to focus on this, creating a cash reserve and improving money management practices. Thanks to the generosity of those who contributed to the Investing in Our Future campaign, as well as good stewardship, NEC has achieved financial stability ahead of schedule and we can now turn our attention to securing a new, permanent facility.

## **Chris and Mike: Leadership Transition**

### **When is Chris actually leaving?**

Chris will be working very closely with the Elders, Mike and the staff, into the coming year, helping with the transition of leadership. During that time, he will continue with his current responsibilities, but also start handing off senior leadership to Mike and seeking out his next role. Mike and Chris are currently sharing Senior Pastor Responsibilities, while Chris slowly hands more and more of those responsibilities to Mike. That said, Chris looks forward to being an occasional guest preacher well into the future.

### **Why is Chris leaving? Why now?**

When Chris and Cindi started NEC nearly 20 years ago, they knew that, one day, it would be time to move on. They were never sure exactly when that would be, or where they would go. Just as they felt certain their children would one day grow up and move out on their own, they knew that one day, NEC would move into a similar stage of life without their direct leadership. While that thought has always been in the back of Chris and Cindi's minds and prayers, the graduation of their youngest son, Mickey, this past June, along with NEC's impending 20th anniversary, brought it to the forefront in a new unavoidable way. After much

prayer and seeking the advice of trusted mentors and counselors, Chris and Cindi decided that the time is now right for them to start moving onto the next chapter of God's work in and through them. They are excited about the new building and the opportunities it presents and look on it as a part of their legacy to NEC as it moves into a new stage of life.

### **What will he do next? Will he start another church?**

Chris has grown increasingly interested in getting back into the marketplace to rub shoulders in everyday life with the very people he enjoys working with most, people who have given up on church, but not on God. He's not identified a specific company or role yet. That will come as part of his work next year. However, he's most interested in teaching, coaching and consulting in the areas of teamwork, collaboration and the 'human side' of corporate life.

### **Are Chris and Cindi leaving Franklin?**

Chris and Cindi plan on staying in Franklin for the time being. Eventually, they do hope to be able to spend more of their time in southern Maine, where much of their family now lives. They will likely have something of a 'straddled existence' for a few years, spending much of their professional and personal time in both Franklin and Maine. They look forward to continuing to attend NEC as their home church. Cindi and Kaylee are happy to keep singing as part of the NEC band.

### **Will Chris still be available for events such as weddings and funerals?**

Chris has been a pastor for 25 years and will continue in that capacity (in some way), even after stepping down as the Senior Pastor at NEC. He will still be motivated by the same mission--loving God and loving people--just in a different venue. With regard to weddings and funerals, he'll be looking for ways to continue to be a part of these important milestones in people's lives, as they are a chance to stay connected to church life in a meaningful way, as well as bridging new people into church.

### **How long have the Elders and other leaders known about Chris' plans?**

While Chris, Cindi, and their mentors have been discussing and praying through this for quite some time, Chris started sharing his thoughts on his impending shift with the Elders, individually, over the summer. In September, the team was ready to start working on the specifics of a plan for transition. Staff and leaders were the next to be notified, followed by an announcement to the church-wide community.

### **What will Mike's new title and role be?**

The transition from Chris' leadership to Mike's will take place over the course of 2016. During that time, they will both operate as Co-Pastors, sharing senior leadership responsibilities. When the Elders decide the time is right, Chris will officially hand over all of the Senior Pastor leadership responsibilities to Mike, who will then take the title of Senior Pastor.

### **Who will preach on Sundays?**

Mike and Chris will continue to share preaching responsibilities through the transition phase. NEC will also continue to invite other speakers (from within as well as outside NEC) to speak on a regular basis.