

THE FIRST BAPTIST DALLAS BUILDING PROGRAM

WHAT: On Sunday, Nov. 1, the congregation of First Baptist Church Dallas will vote at two special morning services to affirm the unanimous approval by the First Baptist Fellowship of Deacons to move forward with a campaign to build a new \$130 million 21st Century campus downtown.

WHERE: On the present campus at 1707 San Jacinto in Dallas. No additional land will be purchased.

WHO: First Baptist Church has been a pacesetting landmark institution in downtown Dallas since its founding in 1868.

Dr. Robert Jeffress, Pastor since 2007

Mark Lovvorn, chairman of the 16-member Planning and Development Committee, which has spent 21 months on this process, and chairman of Providence Bank of Texas

The Beck Group, architects

ChurchWorx, project managers

COST: Estimated at \$130 million, making it the largest church building program in the United States.

WHEN: Families will be asked to make a three-year commitment to the campaign on May 2, 2010. Construction could begin as early as July with completion 24-28 months later.

DETAILS: The 1.5 million square-foot campus will include innovative technology and be LEED certified (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design green building rating system). The proposed plans will take the current fortress-like buildings and create an open, accessible glass structure visibly recognizable as a spiritual center.

At the heart of the campus will be a towering stone water tower topped with a luminescent cross. The shallow pool at the bottom will be surrounded by green space, providing a common area for downtown residents and guests. The church's historic steeple, taken down in the 1960s, will be restored to its original height.

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A 3,000-seat worship center, which will have a second-story entrance, will provide an intimate setting and include state-of-the-art technology including seven high-definition screens above the choir and orchestra pit. The baptismal pool will be prominently featured in the front. Below the worship center, on the first floor, will be senior adult education center with a 300-space parking garage below.

A sweeping glass concourse with various sitting areas will connect the worship center to a six-floor education building for preschool, children and youth. Features include two side-by-side gymnasiums, children's play areas and an outdoor concert space. An adjacent parking garage with 500-plus spaces will provide direct access for young families.

The current sanctuary, which was built in 1890, will remain as a site for weddings, funerals and other special events along with the Criswell Center, which was built in 2006. The aging Truett Building and the Veal Garage will be torn down to make way for these new structures.