



**valley**  
C H U R C H

**MAKE ROOM**  
**Vision Overview**  
**REVISED DRAFT**  
**September 24, 2023**

**WE ENVISION SPRING OF 2024** as a time to joyfully invite our entire church family into a spiritual journey of vision, prayer, generosity, and sacrifice as we partner with God to prepare our campus for more effective ministry—now and for years to come. Your perspective matters.

### **Our Valley Family: a story of making room**

The Valley family started small—three couples felt God stirring them to reach Des Moines by planting a church in the growing western suburbs. God honored their faith and in 1990, 40 people gathered together to launch Valley Church, transforming a public-school gymnasium into a worship space and hallways into nurseries.

Within just a few months, it became clear that the growing church needed to seek a more permanent home base. The people of Valley felt God leading them to a piece of land off a gravel road. It seemed in the middle of nowhere to many, but they were certain God was calling them there. So, in 1992, this two-year-old church of 200 people purchased land on the corner of Fuller and Mills Civic, dreaming of the day when this might become “home” to hundreds more families.

Five years later, the church had grown to 700 people, who stepped out in faith to build the current facility. By the time the doors opened in the year 2000, this location was no longer in the middle of nowhere, but right in the center of the community. In a few short years, God had grown the city around the property.

Seeing God’s hand at work, the people of Valley resolved to love their neighbors passionately...leading to the church’s most visible expression of love for the community—the Valley Community Center (VCC), which opened in 2013. The VCC beautifully embodied our church’s mission: *Mobilizing everyone’s God-given potential to deeply love Christ and their neighbors*. The people of Valley prayed for this to be a place where neighbors would become friends and bridges would be built to serve people throughout Des Moines more deeply. The wide variety of opportunities to partner and connect would provide a way to do good works to build good will to share good news. Over the past decade, God has answered that prayer—extending our reach to impact hundreds of thousands in partnership with over 100 community organizations while growing our church family to over 4,000 people.

These pioneering groups caught a glimpse of the invitation God offered them at critical moments. At every step, they understood a powerful truth: **The church doesn’t live just for today; it lives for the future—for the next generation.** They made room so thousands more could hear Jesus proclaimed and be welcomed into the body of believers at Valley Church. Before they knew any of us, they had us in mind. We are living the vision God put in their hearts.

**Now is the time for us to MAKE ROOM for the future of our Valley Church family.**

## ***Make Room for GOD TO MOVE***

Making room begins with surrender. We give God all we are and ask him to work in us and through us. The Make Room initiative, first and foremost, is a multi-year spiritual journey during which we'll invite God to stretch us and shape us—showing us how we can make room for him to move in our midst individually and together.

## ***Make Room to BE FAMILY***

Through the gospel, God made us family. To grow our impact now and into the future, we long to make more room on our campus to do what families do: have fun, support one another, share meals, open up about hard things, and celebrate together. Being family means truly knowing each other. But our current main facility, built 23 years ago for a church of 700 doesn't maximize this potential. We want spaces that draw people together and allow for connection and deep conversation. When we truly know each other, we're able to call out the God-given potential in one another—cheering each other on and pushing one another to become more like Jesus. When others see us being family, they want what binds us together: Jesus. Our neighbors are aching for this kind of belonging—and we yearn for our campus to reflect that we're the kind of family ready to welcome them with open arms.

## ***Make Room to GROW THE FAMILY***

God is growing our church family by adding people of all ages and backgrounds, especially in the next generation. Our numeric growth of children and students is even outpacing our adult growth. By living out Love You Des Moines and OneLife, the people of Valley have built countless bridges of goodwill in the community. Many neighbors have become our friends. Now, it's time to welcome those friends to become family as we reach out to both current and future generations. God's unstoppable kingdom has always been a grassroots movement—one person sharing good news with another, one generation passing the torch to the next. This is how his family grows, and a growing family is cause for celebration. Let's create spaces that shout, "Come join us! We've been waiting for you!" A place where every person—any age, any background—can easily see there's a place for them at Valley, become part of God's family and to join in God's mission to reach the world.

We believe we can best accomplish this by:

- **Additional parking and auditorium seating**
- Enhancing all of our **entrances** with welcoming new **indoor** and **outdoor** spaces for connection
- Expanding and renovating the **atrium** to create "**The Gathering**" space that flows to a **courtyard** and **pocket parks**
- Renovating and adding updated **children's** and **student** ministry spaces, a **family room** for worship, and an **indoor play area** for children, including those with disabilities
- Refreshing our **main auditorium** and building a **new 250-seat auditorium** in the Valley Community Center for student ministries, worship gatherings, and community events
- Moving all children's ministries to **one level** (including nursery), creating a safer, more accessible, and more convenient experience for families
- Adding and enhancing **mid-size adult gathering spaces** for connection and conversation (for Life Groups, small groups, informal gatherings)

Conceptual renderings of several of these spaces are attached (preliminary; subject to change).

**As we seek God's guidance on how to make room for Valley Church's future, we believe the time is right for a \$9–14 million ministry expansion, over and above our regular \$6 million annual budget.** The projects can be completed in phases as God provides funds through the generosity of his people. No long-term borrowing is anticipated for this initiative. Please note: As we've done in the past, the firstfruits of this ministry expansion will benefit compassion and missions ministries.

## Why expand now?

- **Valley has grown significantly** since we opened our building. As that growth continues, it's more important than ever to be intentional about relationship building. Prioritizing these spaces for connection ensures that Valley will continue to be a place of belonging and friendship, no matter our size.
- **The next generation is counting on us.** Bucking typical church trends, Valley is actually “growing younger” with children and students representing the fastest growing percentage of our church. Now's the time to invest in the future of the body of Christ by creating spaces that resonate with young families and where parents, children, and students can connect with God and each other.
- **Our current facility is 23 years old** and ready for a major update. We want our church home to be a visible, tangible reflection of who we are—a vibrant family that joyfully invites others to belong.
- **Valley is financially healthy.** God is faithful and our Valley family demonstrates a heart of generosity. This transformational initiative is the church's first major capital project proposed in over a decade. We pray that everyone who calls Valley home will embrace the importance of their generosity in this pivotal moment.

From the very beginning, the people of Valley had a big vision for those who weren't yet present, expecting God wasn't even close to being done growing his family here. Every decade, the people of Valley sacrificially and generously stepped out in faith to make room for others...and God took it from there. As the Lord drew each of us here, we found a place that was ready for us, a place to belong. Now it's our time: Let's stretch to make room in our lives and on our campus for those God brings to our family.

## What happens next?

- **Continue due diligence:** The explanations and renderings in this summary are the product of working with trusted advisors on how our ministry expansion goals might be accomplished. These plans are not set in stone, but instead are developed enough to provide a sense of the scope of the project.
- **Gather feedback:** We recognize that this project impacts all of us. Our church leadership has prayerfully pursued the early stages, but our church family's strong support for this proposed future is key to its success. On October 15, we plan to conduct a formal churchwide survey in all of our worship gatherings to make sure we are on the right track. This important survey will seek your feedback and potential level of support.
- **Launch capital funding initiative:** If our due diligence and feedback continue to point positively to these projects, we will engage our entire church family this spring with an opportunity to fully understand and embrace the projects and the significance of their short-term and long-term impact. Then, in April, we will ask each person to prayerfully consider their part through a four-year financial pledge of support for that future.

**Questions or feedback?** Please contact the Make Room team at [makeroom@valley.church](mailto:makeroom@valley.church)

*For this reason I kneel before the Father from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named. I pray that he may grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with power in your inner being through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. I pray that you, being rooted and firmly established in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the length and width, height and depth of God's love, and to know Christ's love that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do above and beyond all that we ask or think according to the power that works in us—to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. (Ephesians 3:14-21)*