

Webber Street Christian Church (WSCC) and CU Church Partnership

Frequently Asked Questions*

*WSCC and CU Church's responses below were provided based on input of elders and/or leadership team from each respective church

1. *How did this partnership begin?*

In the Fall of 2018, the leadership of WSCC approached Jason Epperson (lead pastor of CU Church) about exploring a partnership to see how our two churches could work together to leverage our resources to show Christ's love in our community. This initial discussion led to many more conversations which led to the consideration of numerous ways to partner together, including shared use of the WSCC building.

2. *What were the primary reasons behind this Partnership?*

- To continue WSCC's 100+ year legacy of service to the community and furthering God's Kingdom
- Partnering with CU Church to better utilize the Webber Street facilities for ministry all week long
- To provide office space for CU Church as their lease of the 602 W. Church Street, Champaign property with Unit 4 schools was expiring
- To utilize CU Church personnel to provide Sunday preaching for an indefinite term

3. *How long will this partnership be in effect?*

Initially, in April 2019, a Memorandum of Understanding was entered into between the two churches. After operating under this agreement for ½ a year, a Lease Agreement was entered into in November 2019 with an initial 5 year term and four options to each renew for another 5 years.

4. *Does this partnership mean that WSCC and CU Church are merging?*

No. This partnership is not a merger of two churches into one church. This partnership is a reflection of two independent churches agreeing to share certain resources and certain costs in an effort to strengthen both churches' ability to serve and impact our community. At this time there have been no changes to the organizational status and leadership of these churches.

5. *Is there an end plan of merging the two churches?*

There are no definitive plans for how this partnership will evolve. By serving together throughout the week, and CU Church temporarily providing a teaching pastor for WSCC each Sunday, we believe God will lead us in how our two church partnership will evolve.

6. *How will Hank Sanford's involvement at CU Church change as a result of him providing interim preaching at WSCC on Sunday mornings?*

After Hank preaches at WSCC's 9:00am Sunday morning service, Hank will travel to the I Hotel to be there when CU Church's 9:30am service concludes. Hank's Monday-Thursday work at CU Church will remain unchanged.

