

Reliant Worship Relocation

FAQ's

Where are we moving?

The Grandel Theatre (home of the Black Repertory Theater) on Grand and Grandel, just north of the Fox. See additional document for property rundown.

Why are we moving?

First, our model of ministry is not bound to a facility. In fact, we are a pilgrim community, moving in tents. This keeps us focused on the core of who we are and what we are doing – Gospel, Church, and Mission. Growing in the gospel, growing in community, and growing in our witness to the gospel through our various vocations. We are missionary disciples who gather around Jesus in “the fort,” and then disperse to the “teepees” where real people live and work.

Second, we have a chance to advance our mission and more effectively position our church to bear witness to the gospel. The Grandel Theater property offers a number of things:

- High visibility in a landmark space.
- Accessibility in a high traffic, central location.
- Reasonable rent.
- Within our target location and demographic.
- Worshipful and reverent space (former church building).
- Unique connection to Grand Arts Center, arts community, and local St. Louis theater.

Third, our time at St. Stephens was simply at an end. We have always been grateful tenants in their space. With mounting financial challenges, St. Stephens is trying to manage debt, utility costs, maintenance on an aging building, and potential long-term capital needs. Reliant and Christ Memorial could not increase monthly rent to a level that could meet all these needs.

What about St. Stephens?

St. Stephens *has been* (since 1930) and *is* a congregation. For over two years we have honored their heritage, and been grateful for their partnership in the gospel. As a congregation, they will make decisions regarding their ministry and facility. They have numerous courses of action, and will be in conversation with our Missouri District. Reliant welcomes St. Stephen's members to continue to participate in our ministry through worship and Bible Study offerings. We value the relationship we have developed with them.

Who has the authority to make this decision?

Pastor Jeff, working with Jon Graf and our Reliant leadership (Leadership Team and elders), has approached this move with careful consideration over the past 6 months. There has been much discussion and prayer. There has been input solicited from Reliant membership. In addition, we work within the good order of the church. Proper structure exists for accountability and prudence in these kinds of decisions. Counsel, support, and authority has come from our “mother,” Christ Memorial. The

board of elders, church council, and pastoral staff of Christ Memorial are in agreement and support of this decision, and are working to officially approve it and fund it.

Where is Reliant going?

From the beginning, our mission has been to reach St. Louis with the gospel, particularly a young, urban demographic. This is a challenging task that churches around the country are struggling with. We are fortunate to have engaged this demographic and have raised up a strong community that is reaching this population. That said, we dare not become stagnant. Therefore we continue to push, finding ways to grow. We desire deeper discipleship. More opportunities for witness. More people to come in contact with. And more baptisms. Currently, we feel poised to do this better than ever.