

FAQ – Lytham Road Campus Transition

A Message from Pastor Joe

I'm very excited about the next step for the Lytham Road community.

Pastor Steve is correct, this has not been an easy decision. I personally looked at several options including Mill Run, a number of store fronts, city buildings, and other churches; I agree with Pastor Steve that Windermere Elementary School is our best next step.

Moving into the Tabernacle has brought us close to each other and close to the Lord, and He continues to add to our numbers. I believe our next growth step is to serve each other and lean into our mission to be a light in Upper Arlington. We are a church in a community, for a community, served by a community of God's people. Many of our Upper Arlington neighbors are literally walking to the Tabernacle. I can imagine an elementary school student excited to bring her school friends to her church that meets in their school – talk about taking away barriers!

I have had time to think and pray about this move and the challenges and opportunities it will bring. We will need teams of people to help set up and tear down every Sunday, but I truly believe this is what we are supposed to do. UALC is still one church serving one God in different communities, and I'm so thankful God has made a way for us to continue our mission to preach the Gospel within the community of Upper Arlington and the Lytham neighborhood.

Some of you may have questions, so we will try to answer some of them here.

Q: Will we have to set up and tear down every Sunday?

A: Yes. We will need 3 to 4 teams of 6 to 10 people to set up the chairs and the "chancel" area and 3 to 4 teams of people to tear down and pack our equipment away every week. If you are on one of these teams, you would serve once a month for about 5 months. The chairs are on-site, and the custodial staff will help us. I even see God's hand here. Over the last three years, God has brought people to our church who have done this with other churches that met in other Upper Arlington schools. We will learn from them, and I am asking them to lead us through this season. We have also been blessed by a very enthusiastic and supportive partnership from the school staff, which will lighten the load for the congregation, and grow our partnership with the school.

Q: Will worship be the same as it is now?

A: Mostly yes. The service times and styles will be the same, with Traditional at 9:00 am and Modern at 11:00 am. We will still follow the same service order and will have communion every week. The music will be slightly different, with piano instead of organ for Traditional, and a smaller band (likely without drum set) in Modern due to the acoustics of the space. The choir will continue to participate and lead us in worship in the Traditional service.

Q: How long will we be at Windermere?

A: As with anything related to construction/renovation, our current plan is subject to change. But the calendar as we currently see it will be:

Oct. 13 – Nov. 24: Worship at Windermere

Dec. 1 – Jan. 5: Combined Worship at Mill Run (“Family Christmas”)

Jan. 12 through the re-opening of Lytham (likely mid-spring): Worship at Windermere

Q: What about parking and accessibility?

A: For the most part, parking will work as it does now, but in reverse. The parking closest to the auditorium entrance will be reserved for those with limited mobility. There will be some additional parking in the Windermere lot. Then we will use the shuttle to bring over those who park in the UALC main lot and south lot. One difference – there is more street parking near Windermere. While being cognizant of not inconveniencing those who live in the neighborhood, we should be able to park near the school on several of the nearby streets.

There is a ramp into the school's main lobby. Additionally, we are working on a plan to use a side-entrance directly into what will be our worship space for those for whom longer distances presents a challenge. The school is well-designed for those with limited mobility.

Q: Is this expensive?

A: There is some cost associated with renting the school, and with some equipment which will need to be purchased. Our budget for the five months is about \$25,000, which is much less than other options we explored. This relatively low cost helped us feel comfortable with the decision, and allowed us to prioritize mission, rather than budget constraints, when weighing the decision.

Q: Will we have Kids’ Church, nurse, and Adult Sunday School?

A: Yes. Worship will take place in the gymnasium, we will set up our hospitality stations in the lobby, Kids’ Church will meet in the younger kids’ classrooms, nursery in the library, and Adult Sunday School is currently planned to be in the upper grade level classrooms, where the chairs are bigger (though we are still verifying some details for that space).

Q: How can I help?

A: We would love your help. As stated, we will need new teams to set up and tear down chairs, coffee, and classrooms. Please reach out to Tammy Schuster, tschuster@ualc.org or Melissa

Davis mdavis@ualc.org for kids' classrooms. We will still be parking in the south lot, so the shuttle will still be running. If you would like to drive the shuttle, please reach out to Carl Schwiesthal, cschweisthal@ualc.org. And as always, we will still have greeters, ushers, communion set up, serving, coffee, and prayer teams. If God is leading you to serve in one of these, please reach out to Tammy.

Q: What about Fellowship/Coffee Time?

A: It is important to us that we make time to enjoy one another, so we will still be having a time of fellowship after service. It will just be scaled down to include only coffee, hot chocolate, and water.

Q: What about the Livestream that I watch from home?

A: The livestream for the 9:00 am Traditional service will not be "live" while we're at Windermere. You can expect it to be posted online around noon.

Q: How can I be praying?

A: Please pray:

- For a spirit of unity among us and a desire to serve each other and the community well.
- That this will bring us closer together and continue to help build relationships among us.
- For open hearts to what God is up to during this transition.
- Pray against a spirit of complaining.
- As we come toward the end of construction, pray that our patience and grace for one another will abound.
- For construction to be finished quickly, safely, and with quality.
- For growing partnership with Windermere as a local school that we want to reach and bless.