

Booming church not done growing 🚗

Prestonwood Baptist considers 2nd campus in northern Collin

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By SAM HODGES and ROY APPLETON / The Dallas Morning News

Prestonwood Baptist Church in Plano, already a megachurch of 26,000 members, is considering building a second large campus in northern Collin County because of rapid residential growth there.

The Rev. Jack Graham, Prestonwood's senior pastor, told members at last Sunday's service that the church was eyeing about 120 acres north of Frisco, in the Prosper area. He identified the land as near U.S. Highway 380 and the future extension of the Dallas North Tollway.

"We believe the timing is right to place a regional congregation at that site," Dr. Graham told Prestonwood members. "We want to do this to reach people for Christ in those communities."



DMN file
Prestonwood Baptist moved to its massive Plano facility in 1999.

Church officials on Monday would not provide specifics. They have scheduled a news conference for Wednesday.

Dr. Graham told his congregation that he and other church leaders had been contacted months ago by a group asking that Prestonwood expand to northern Collin County. For about 15 months, he said, he prayed about the matter, to be sure God wanted that to happen.

A partnership, Prosper Church Land LP, bought almost 128 acres in December 2004 near the southeast corner of Collin County Road 4 and the Dallas Parkway, the extension of the tollway. The group paid \$2.79 million for the property, which last year had a tax value of \$2.56 million, records show.

DallasNews.com/extra

VIDEO [Jack Graham discusses Prestonwood's expansion plans \(prestonwood.org\)](http://prestonwood.org)

Representatives with the group did not return calls asking whether it is working with Prestonwood. Prosper officials said that they had heard talk of Prestonwood's building in the area, but that church officials had not approached the city.

Dr. Graham told his congregation that about 2,000 Prestonwood members live north of Main Street in Frisco. He said an expanded Prestonwood "would not be a new church" but rather "one church at two locations."

He hinted that Prestonwood would begin a campaign to raise money for the project in the fall.

In addition to outlining the planned expansion northward, Dr. Graham noted that Prestonwood's current campus needs new space for children's programs, adult education and a leadership center. The church's broadcasting equipment badly needs to be upgraded, he said, and would be important in linking the two campuses.

In 1999, Prestonwood moved from Far North Dallas to a 140-acre site at West Park Boulevard and Midway Road. The campus includes a 7,000-seat sanctuary, as well as bookstores, a restaurant and a school.

EXHIBIT "A"

The church's annual operating budget is about \$27 million.

The area that Prestonwood is looking at is booming. In 2005, Collin County's population of about 660,000 was a third larger than just five years earlier. Denton County, with about 555,000 people, has shown similar growth.

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TROY OXFORD/Staff Artist

PRESTONWOOD AT A GLANCE

Location: 6801 W. Park Blvd., Plano

Affiliation: Southern Baptist

Pastor: The Rev. Jack Graham

Members: 26,000

Weekend worship attendance: 14,000

Sanctuary: About 7,000 seats (more than three times as many as the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center)

Campus size: 140 acres

Includes: School (pre-kindergarten through 12th grade), cafe (with a Starbucks), fitness center, bookstores, library

History: Founded in 1977 in North Dallas at Arapaho and Hillcrest; moved to present location in 1999

What others said: "Prestonwood is to other megachurches what Wal-Mart is to a conventional supermarket." – David Dillon, architecture critic, *The Dallas Morning News*, June 27, 1999

What the pastor says: "We're not going to be the kind of congregation that coasts or rests on the past." – Dr. Graham, at Sunday's services

SOURCES: *Dallas Morning News* archives; www.prestonwood.org

Online at: <http://www.dallasnews.com/s/dws/news/dmn/stories/032806dnrelprestonwood.68ebceb2.html>