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McLean Bible Church eyes major Loudoun expansion, would consider land, vacant big-box and more




McLean Bible Church is looking to expand one of its suburban campuses.

GOOGLE STREET VIEW



By **Michael Neibauer** – Managing Editor, Washington Business Journal
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Greater Washington's largest megachurch is hunting for land in Loudoun County to expand its operations there.

In a marketing message sent Monday, CPG Realty said it is representing McLean Bible Church in its search for an "expansion campus" anywhere in Loudoun. MBC, which prefers to buy rather than lease, will consider all property types, including land, existing buildings and vacant big-box retail, according to CPG. For new construction sites it requires at least 15 acres, "large enough to accommodate a minimum of 1,000 congregants in their use of a religious facility, parking, and potential for future expansion," per Bethesda-based CPG.

The church's existing Loudoun campus is located at 42075 Loudoun Academy Drive in Leesburg, in the Academies of Loudoun building owned by the Loudoun County School Board, according to public records.

Years ago, according to its website, the evangelical Christian church "clarified its mission to 'make an impact on secular DC for Christ' by planting locations to form a 'spiritual beltway,'" around the District. The Arlington campus launched in 2007, followed by Loudoun in 2008, then Silver Spring and Prince William. A Bethesda location launched in 2011, which was combined in 2015 with Silver Spring to form a singular Montgomery County campus in Rockville.

The Arlington campus **is located inside an** MRP Realty-owned office building at 1310 N. Courthouse Road.

The church, led by Pastor David Platt, does not disclose its total membership, an employee said Monday. Matt Pugh, MBC's IT director, **told a podcast in 2020** that weekend attendance ranged between 10,000 and 11,000, though it's unclear if that only represents the sprawling main Tysons campus on Route 7, or all suburban locations. It was a top 25 megachurch in the U.S. as of 2018, **CBS News reported**.

Mychael Cohn, Aaron Lebovitz, Andrew Brown and Samuel Gordon of CPG are representing the church.