

# Questions & Answers about the Jenness Park sale

## Is it legal for CSBC to sell Jenness Park? Wasn't there a reversion clause related to ownership?

CSBC is the legal owner of Jenness Park and therefore has authority to sell the property. Since the Executive Board made the decision in mid-May to sell Jenness Park, there have been claims of a reversion clause that would transfer the property to Central Valley Baptist Association (CVBA), which gave the camp to the Convention in 1953, if the Convention no longer wanted to operate the facility. There has never been an agreement between CSBC and CVBA to revert the property, nor or there any restrictions on the deed. As of June 17, 2020, CVBA learned from county records that no such clause is part of the deed.

## Why did CSBC enter into a purchase agreement before June 30 and not consider other offers?

The Executive Board's May 14 recommendation to sell Jenness Park outlined four provisions. That:

- Jenness Park Christian Camp be closed immediately,
- staff prepare the facilities for permanent shutdown by June 30,
- CSBC corporate officers be authorized to take necessary actions to sell Jenness Park and its assets, and
- SBC churches and/or entities be given the first opportunity to purchase the camp by June 30, 2020.

The recommendation gave corporate officers the authority to sell the property. Because of the Executive Board's desire to keep Jenness Park in the Southern Baptist family, the recommendation gave SBC churches and/or entities first opportunity to purchase the facility by June 30. Inherent in the recommendation is that if a Southern Baptist church or entity didn't purchase the camp by June 30, the facility could be offered on the open market to non-Southern Baptists. The other misconception about the recommendation is that all offers would be held for consideration until June 30.

CSBC corporate officers looked at three proposals and deemed the one chosen – Gracepoint Fellowship Church in Berkeley – to be the most viable while also meeting the conditions of the recommendation. The proposals were from:

- An individual Southern Baptist who offered cash, but whose proposal had several contingencies,
- An SBC entity which did not submit a proposal to purchase, but instead proposed a management/concessionaires agreement, and
- Gracepoint Fellowship Church made a proposal to pay cash, close on June 30, and had no contingencies.

## The recommendation was to sell the property to a Southern Baptist church or entity. Does Gracepoint meet that condition?

Yes. Gracepoint Fellowship Church began as a collegiate church in Berkeley in the 1980s and affiliated with Southern Baptists in 2006. The congregation began planting churches in college/university locations to replicate their model of reaching and discipling students to become Kingdom workers.

The church currently works in 15 cities nationwide ministering to more than 20 university campuses. The congregation has planted California churches near university campuses in Davis, Irvine, Los Angeles, Pomona, Riverside, San Diego, Santa Barbara and Santa Cruz.

In 2019 Gracepoint contributed \$40,000 to Cooperative Program ministries, ranking the church 24th among the more than 2,300 CSBC congregations in CP giving. Through mid-June 2020, the multi-ethnic congregation, which is primarily Chinese and Korean, has given \$45,000 to CP.

### **Will Gracepoint use Jenness Park exclusively for its own purposes? What about programming, such as CentriKid and Centrifuge, that have been available at Jenness Park?**

Even though the church will use the facility to support its vision and purpose, Ed Kang, Gracepoint's senior pastor, said there will be weeks and weekends open for all or part of the facility to accommodate churches which have loved Jenness Park.

Pastor Kang said, "We would not want JP to disappear from the radar and only be available for our church. That would be poor stewardship over such an amazing place that others have so lovingly developed. So, we are looking forward to having JP continue to be a blessing to our fellow SBC churches."

He also said the church would like to continue the tradition of personal retreats for pastors.

Barry Lloyd, the current camp director at Jenness Park, will continue to serve JP through Gracepoint. When the purchase agreement was announced, Lloyd said he has talked with Gracepoint leadership who are in support of camps such as CentriKid, Centrifuge and district camp to operate in the summer months. Other camps traditionally offered at JP also are possibilities.

### **What will happen to the Jenness Park staff?**

At this point, Barry Lloyd, camp director, and one other staff member have been assured positions. Pastor Kang said, the church is finalizing those details, but definitely would need some of the current staff to remain. A few staff members have found other employment, while others are still seeking new positions. California Southern Baptists certainly thank all JP staff for their dedicated ministry and service. Pray for staff who still seek employment.

### **What about the Jenness Park bell that rings when a camper makes a profession of faith?**

The bell will continue to be an integral part of Jenness Park. Pastor Kang said he was in tears to learn that the bell has rung more than 8,000 times since being installed. "What a great tradition, and one that reflects what I love about our SBC tribe—our focus on soul winning, on personal professions of faith. We will keep that tradition going, and add to it."

### **What about the name – Jenness Park? Will the name change?**

Kang said the church would like to "retain the name of Jenness Park" out of respect and to honor "the memories it contains."