



March 26, 2009

Dear Fellow Churches of DuPage County:

Greetings in the Lord! I pray this letter finds your churches and ministries thriving in this season of God's grace. Please know that you are in our prayers.

I write this letter to make you aware of current developments on the DuPage County Development Committee that, if carried through, will have a direct and adverse impact upon the potential growth and work of all churches (as well as all temples, synagogues, mosques, parsonages, rectories, and chapels) in DuPage County. We believe these developments call for a concerted and timely response on the part of all DuPage County churches.

Allow me to set the context for these comments: roughly one year ago, Church of the Resurrection launched a Land & Building campaign and began taking concrete steps toward purchasing and developing property in DuPage County. This included contracting to purchase twenty-one acres between Winfield and West Chicago and petitioning the DuPage County Board to develop and build upon that property.

Unfortunately, despite our thorough and diligent efforts, Resurrection's petition was recently rejected by the DuPage County Board. We feel that this was not because we failed to meet any existing zoning ordinances or properly follow the zoning process, but rather because of political pressures placed upon the County Board. These same political pressures are now proposing Amendments to the DuPage County Zoning Ordinance which, if passed, could significantly hinder the work of all churches in DuPage County.

The proposed Amendments effectively remove the possibility of even smaller churches building or expanding upon land in a residential neighborhood. In essence, they push churches out of neighborhoods and onto highways. The majority of DuPage County churches will be unable to build or expand in most of the unincorporated areas in the County. As cities and villages follow the precedence set by DuPage County, all churches in DuPage County could be impacted. For this reason, we believe it is crucial that all DuPage County churches be informed about this development and take appropriate action.

The following is a summary of the proposed Amendments, the full text of which may be found on pages 6-34 of the DuPage County Development Committee minutes from March 3, 2009 (<http://www.co.dupage.il.us/emplibrary/dcpacket090303.pdf>). The proposed date for consideration of the Amendments is April 7, 2009 at 11:00 a.m. in Room 3500B at 421 N. County Farm Road in Wheaton. (Note that meeting times may change.)

What exactly are the new restrictions?

If your church sanctuary seats 100 or less:	If your church sanctuary seats more than 100:	If your church facilities have 3 or more “uses” (a sanctuary, auditorium, preschool, playground, parsonage, etc.) or your church sanctuary seats 500 or more:
Depending on location, your lot size must be at least 0.9 or 2.3 acres	Your church can only be located on a street rated to handle 1000 or more vehicles per day (e.g. Purnell Road, Mack Road, Ferry Road).	Your church can only be located on a street rated to handle 10,000 or more vehicles per day (e.g. North Avenue, Roosevelt Road).
	Depending on location, your lot size must be: 0.9 or 2.8 acres for ≤ 200 people 1.4 or 3.2 acres for ≤ 300 people 1.8 or 3.7 acres for ≤ 400 people 2.3 or 4.1 acres for ≤ 500 people	Your lot size must be: 5.0 acres for ≤ 600 people 5.5 acres for ≤ 700 people 6.0 acres for ≤ 800 people 6.4 acres for ≤ 900 people . . . etc.
Your lot must be at least 165 feet wide and 200 feet deep.	Your lot must be at least 165 feet wide and 200 feet deep.	Your lot must be at least 165 feet wide and 200 feet deep.
Additional restrictions apply for lot set-backs and parking.	Additional restrictions apply for lot set-backs and parking.	Additional restrictions apply for lot set-backs and parking.

What does it mean?

Even a smaller church that has two additional “uses” besides that of assembly (e.g., a parsonage, preschool or playground) would have to be located on at least 5 acres and be adjacent to a major thoroughfare. This places severe restrictions upon a church’s options for building or expansion throughout unincorporated DuPage County.

What can we do?

We believe that every church in DuPage County has a vested interest in opposing these proposed Text Amendments. We invite all of you to join us in doing the following:

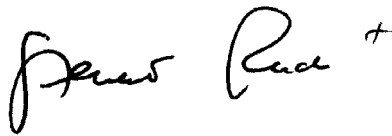
- Pray— Pray that DuPage County churches will be motivated to take action. Pray that the minds and hearts of the Development Committee members will be changed.
- Inform—Check out the proposed Text Amendments for yourself (on pages 6-34 of the DuPage County Development Committee minutes from March 3, 2009— <http://www.co.dupage.il.us/emplibrary/dcpacket090303.pdf>), and communicate its contents to your church leaders.
- Speak Out—Send a letter and/or emails from your church to members of the Development Committee opposing the Text Amendments. If the Text Amendments pass the Development Committee, then the County Board will vote on them; so it is important that we make our responses known to the Committee at this stage. The members are listed at: http://www.co.dupage.il.us/cobrd/generic.cfm?doc_id=788. You may also email all committee members here:

[Email all Development Committee Members](#)

- Show Up—Come to the first (of probably several) Development Committee meeting and state your opinion. The meeting is open to public comments of no more than 3 minutes per person. We suggest that you send at least one representative from your church to the Development Committee meeting to speak against the Text Amendments. **The proposed date for consideration of the Amendments is April 7, 2009 at 11:00 a.m. in Room 3500B at 421 N. County Farm Road in Wheaton.**

Thank you, friends in Christ, for giving your attention to this serious matter. We hope to see you at the Development Committee meeting on April 7. In the meantime, if you have further questions regarding these matters, please contact Church of the Resurrection's Land and Building Team representative, Andrea Liechty, at 630-681-0616 or by email at andrealiechty@comcast.net.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stewart Ruch III" with a small cross symbol to the right.

Fr. Stewart Ruch III
Rector, Church of the Resurrection
Wheaton, Illinois