**FAQ on the Stewardship of Cedar Campus**

**November 7, 2019**

*In October two ministries with the potential to accept ownership of Cedar Campus advanced to a discernment process. That discernment period has concluded, and* [*Forest Springs*](https://nam01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.forestsprings.us&data=02%7C01%7Cchristy.chappell%40intervarsity.org%7C6e118b469b9840083e5408d763ae093a%7C2640efc8160349c5b70c71dc09f3c4b4%7C0%7C0%7C637087471452299873&sdata=GeWHQFvt9ThKStZAWhf5WE8Jxwb1%2BU2fX2LqWfN%2F8uA%3D&reserved=0) *in Westboro, Wisconsin, has entered into a due diligence process which will last through the winter. We pray that we will be in a position to officially announce the transfer of Cedar Campus to Forest Springs by the end of January 2020.*

1. **Can you describe what made Forest Springs’s proposal so strong?**

The two Taylor Family foundations, which are leading this process, identified several criteria that they though were essential in identifying a future steward of Cedar Campus. Forest Springs has a compatible doctrinal basis with InterVarsity, a long-term track record of operating a viable Christian camp, experienced camp leaders, and a solid financial plan for Cedar’s on-going ministry. As an on-going camping ministry, Forest Springs also offers Cedar economies of scale in purchasing and operations. The foundations wanted to entrust Cedar to a ministry that offered the best hope for the long-term viability of the camp. They believed, as do we, that Forest Springs was well-positioned to do so.

1. **Why was Forest Springs chosen over the other organization which submitted a proposal? We understand that the other organization included people with current and historic ties to InterVarsity and Cedar Campus?**

It would be inappropriate to disclose the substance of either organization’s proposal, of course. We were grateful for the tremendous amount of work and passion the other organization brought to the process. In the end, the two Taylor Family foundations, which are leading this process, believed that Forest Springs was a better candidate to take on the stewardship of Cedar Campus. We hope that the people involved in the other organization will offer their full support to Forest Springs so that Cedar Campus will flourish for generations to come.

Pat Pelkau, the Executive Director of Forest Springs, has said that he is very eager to work with the other organization. He understands their passion for Cedar – and its history, location, and legacy in the lives of so many families, students, and staff. He is eager to get to know and to learn from people who understand the values and programs that make Cedar unique. He hopes they will continue to support Cedar – prayerfully, financially, and programmatically – in the future. He also wants to identify ways that their vision and dreams for expanded Cedar programming could be incorporated and fulfilled going forward.

1. **Will chapters that want to use Cedar for chapter focus weeks be able to?**

There are two answers to this question. Ultimately, Regional Directors have authority over whether chapters use Cedar Campus. Pat Petkau, the Executive Director of Forest Springs, has told us that he would be delighted to see InterVarsity chapter camps and programs continue at Cedar.

1. **Will family camps continue?**

Pat Petkau, the Executive Director of Forest Springs, has told us that he would be delighted for Cedar Campus to continue to host Family Camps.

1. **Does Forest Springs understand InterVarsity’s ethos and values?**

It does. Forest Springs has hosted InterVarsity chapter focus weeks for the Lakes & Plains region for six years. It also has hosted weekend conferences, including the Hmong student conference. Josh Bilhorn, incoming Regional Ministry Director, speaks highly of their professionalism and commitment to service. Forest Springs also sponsors family camps, so they have a shared commitment to gathering families in God’s creation where families can engage with God’s Word.

Cedar Campus and Forest Springs also share a common origin story. [Forest Springs](http://www.forestsprings.us) (see the historic information on their site) was founded by someone who had a passion to reach young people with the Gospel. The camp was established to give students a place to meet God and receive on-going training.

1. **Was the decision to release Cedar made becomes of a short-term downturn in camping numbers that could change in the future? We know numbers have dropped in the past and have recovered.**

No, although the downturn in student camping days was a factor. Ultimately, InterVarsity made the choice to release stewardship of Cedar because we believe Cedar would be more likely to flourish under the care of an organization which focuses on and has a deep experience in leading a camping ministry. Our primary expertise is in campus ministry, not in running camps. A camping ministry brings expertise, economies of scale, and a singular vision for camping.

Our long-term geographic realignment of our Midwest regions means that student camping geography has changed. The Lakes & Plains regions need to shift their camping operations to support the planting work that is occurring in the Dakotas. The River & Rails region (Ohio and West Virginia) want to shift their camping operations to support the planting work that is occurring in West Virginia and Eastern Ohio. Indiana and Illinois have indicated that they would prefer a camping location more central to their downstate work. Students in prior generations may have been willing to drive more than 8-12 hours to reach a week-long camp, but staff have reported that students are no longer willing to do so.

Finally, as we engage the 2030 Calling, we felt it was important to focus our attention and resources on reaching every corner of every campus. While we believe camping experiences are crucial in that, owning the camps is not. By releasing stewardship of the camps, we are freeing up significant human resources to focus on accelerating campus ministry.

**7. Was the decision to transfer the ownership of Cedar Campus done to create a financial windfall for InterVarsity?**

No. Years ago the InterVarsity Board of Trustees agreed to a request made by the Taylor Family Foundations that, if InterVarsity ever ceased operations at Cedar Campus we would return the property to the two foundations which represent the descendants of Herbert J. Taylor. We believed this best reflected Taylor’s intent when he gifted the property to us. We are not selling the camp. We are transferring ownership of the camp to another ministry.

**8.** **Does the transfer of Cedar mean that InterVarsity is no longer committed to student camping?**

No. It just means we’ve made a decision to no longer own and operate physical camps. We continue to believe students and faculty benefit from camp experiences that draw them into God’s creation and God’s word together.

**9. How were InterVarsity field staff involved in the decision to release Cedar Campus?**

Regional Ministry Directors were involved in the assessment and decision process. Each RD was given freedom to determine how best to engage field staff in the process.

**10. How are you engaging current Cedar Campus staff?**

We have been keeping current Cedar staff informed of the process, and we have assured them that they will remain InterVarsity employees through the end of the 2020 summer camping season. We will be working with the new owners to ensure that Cedar Campus staff are treated fairly and considered for employment as the new owners determine their staffing needs.