

Church Health YMCA Planned for Crosstown

By Madeline Faber

The YMCA will open its 11th Memphis-area branch in Crosstown Concourse in partnership with the Church Health Center.

“(The Church Health YMCA) is maybe one of the most exciting things we have done, said [Keith Johnson](#), president and CEO of the YMCA of Memphis & the Mid-South.

The 25,000-square-foot gym will open within the Church Health Center’s 150,000-square-foot headquarters sometime early next year.

Johnson said that the Church Health YMCA will be similar in offerings to other area branches but will have a unique shape to accommodate the architecture of Crosstown Concourse, a former Sears regional distribution center being reinvented as a mixed-use complex. Plans for the facility include fitness equipment, a walking track, group workout and dance classes, personal training, physical therapy and programming for the intellectually disabled.



The Church Health Center and the YMCA of Memphis and the Mid-South partnered to provide affordable health and wellness services.

(Daily News/Madeline Faber)

“These are all things that are so intimately connected with wellness, and it’s why the partnership with the Y makes so much sense,” said Dr. [Scott Morris](#), founder of the Church Health Center.

The Church Health YMCA will be embedded in Crosstown Concourse through memberships and partnerships. People who rent apartments at the Parcels at Concourse complex will also receive a membership to the Church Health YMCA center. As with other YMCA facilities, general membership will be awarded on an income-based sliding scale, and members of the Church Health YMCA will have free access to other YMCA gyms in Tennessee, Mississippi and Alabama.

It is still to be decided whether the gym will operate 24 hours a day or during limited hours.

The Church Health Center also will offer complementary programming with wellness education services and an expanded nutrition training kitchen. The greater Church Health Center headquarters will cover a walk-in clinic, dental care facility and behavioral health services available to all Memphians, especially targeting those who lack adequate health insurance.

Still to be determined is whether Crosstown Concourse will build an outparcel building to house a gymnasium and pool. In early discussions about the building’s future, Gestalt Community Schools indicated that it wanted to build a gym/auditorium as part of its planned charter school operation. With Gestalt pulling out of the project and Crosstown High School taking its place,

those plans are up in the air.

“It is very hard to play basketball when you run into columns every 20 feet,” Morris said.

Early this year, the Crosstown Concourse developers submitted an application with the Memphis-Shelby County Office of Planning and Development to allow a new 25,000-square-foot building for a gym and pool to the north of the tower. Both the Church Health YMCA and the planned Crosstown High School would have access to the facility.

“At this point, we are definitely in discussions about building a gym/pool building. It would take into 2018 if that were to happen,” said Morris.

If a new building is constructed for a pool and a gymnasium, it would greatly expand the Crosstown Concourse campus. This week, it was announced that [Crosstown Brewing Co.](#) will build a brewery and taproom to the west of the 1.5 million-square-foot building. A 400-seat theater and auditorium also is planned to the north of the building.