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## **The CO-OP Expands to Third Location**

*The Table, Blue Springs home to third coworking - church partnership*

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*Pleasant Valley, MO* – The Co-op has announced its third location, growing to Blue Springs, MO at The Table, 3609 MO-7, Blue Springs, MO 64014

Its Blue Springs location joins sites in Excelsior Springs and the original location in Pleasant Valley, MO offering shared work spaces and access to other business assets at the church's 1650 Rainbow Blvd, Excelsior Springs, MO location.

“We saw what The CO-OP was doing and appreciate that our values of diversity, safety and love wrapped around building community aligned with The CO-OP’s business model,” Michael Scott, The Table’s senior pastor says. “Like us, The CO-OP is focused on creating and launching a network of loving, affirming, safe, diverse micro-communities.”

The site will add eight offices, a commercial kitchen, conference facilities, community gathering spaces and event hall to The CO-OP inventory.

The CO-OP represents unique partnerships between churches with under-utilized space and their outlying business communities.

Heather Heckroot, founder of The CO-OP adds, “when discussions began at our current locations, it was easy to see that we shared similar values, foremost among them the value of building community,” Heckroot says of the Blue Springs opportunity. “We’re at the confluence of community and commerce in our relationships with churches. We believe we offer a unique solution for all parties and are excited to partner with The Table in Blue Springs.”

*more*

## The Co-op Expands

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Churches are battling financial relevance as attendance wanes.

Only 20 percent of Americans attend church weekly; 41 percent are in monthly church attendance or more while 57 percent of Americans are seldom or never in religious service attendance according to Gallup. Regular church attendance has steadily declined since the turn of the century (Gallup and Pew Research Center).

These trends have pinched individual churches' income and left voluminous physical facilities vacant.

The Co-op is a coworking and space management venture launched by serial entrepreneurs Heather Heckroot and Bob Martin. The company generates revenue by marketing and managing unique open spaces otherwise overlooked by business and property owners alike.

More than 20 firms operate out of its flagship location at the Shoal Creek Community Church, which opened in January 2024. Visit: [www.coopatshoalcreek.com](http://www.coopatshoalcreek.com).