



### Our Mission

To be a loving community of believers where people come to know and worship Christ, becoming fully devoted followers committed to reaching others who do not yet know Him.

### Our Vision

#### **Key Strategies:**

**Church planting has proven to be one of the most effective ways to reach non-churched people with the Good News of the Gospel.**

- Church plants have a proven track record of producing more converts per 100 attenders than more established churches.
- Mother churches that commit themselves to planting churches are typically more healthy churches.

**We desire and commit ourselves to seeing the majority of our growth come from conversions.**

- Healthy and growing churches can reasonably expect to see a 10% (of our average worship attendance) growth rate through people coming to know Christ personally.
- This strategy would be met this year by our church leading 50 to 60 people to a personal relationship with Jesus.

**We intend to develop our church facility site more fully to help us accomplish this vision.**

**Spiritually and economically viable church plants happen when the mother church gives birth to a core group that is large enough to sustain critical mass and provide essential ministries to newcomers.**

- We believe that this can happen with 150 to 200 well prepared disciples in the core group.
- This figure comes from our experiences in church planting combined with observing other church's efforts in the Milwaukee area. Elmbrook in particular has had notable success in this area.

**In order to grow large enough to plant a healthy daughter church we will need to move to three worship services.**

- We believe that in order for us to remain healthy after launching a church of 150-200 from within us we would need to have the mother church remain at around 600.
- Which means that we must grow to around 800 to 900 in our average worship attendance to launch our daughter church.
- Each service can expect to hit the 80% rule at around 300 to 320 people per service.

- Two services will be pushing the 80% rule at 600 to 620
- Three services will be pushing the 80% rule at around 900 to 950

**As we grow one of our key issues will be staffing.**

This area requires much prayer and discussion between the various ministry leaders, ministry staff and Elders before it can be clarified. But we recognize that this is a key strategy to clarify before we can hope to reach the vision God has given us.

*Our Core Values*

**Christ as the Head of the Church** - We are committed to Christ being the Head of our church by:

- Seeking to discover how He is at work among us and then joining Him in that work.
- Understanding that God has given our church a blend of believers with certain passions, gifts, talents and personalities that makes us unique.
- Encouraging people to listen to the Holy Spirit and to follow Him in the ministry He has called them to do (whether that ministry presently exists yet or not). [Ephesians 4:1-16; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; Acts 13:1-3]

**Centrality of Scripture** - We are committed to following Christ with all that we are and have by making biblical truth the basis for everything we say and do. And we do that by:

- Understanding that absolute truth exists and that Christ is the source of that truth. [John 14:6]
- Rejecting any authority that would be considered equal to or elevated above the Scriptures including any "personal revelation."
- Applying the approach to Scripture that emphasizes "unity in the essentials, charity in the non-essentials and in all things Jesus Christ." [Galatians 2:20; Matthew 16:24-26; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21]

**Passionate Prayer** - We are committed to prayer as the power that moves the hand of God changing the church and the life of the one who prays by:

- Providing for and encouraging corporate prayer.
- Making prayer a major part of every activity of the church body.
- Teaching people how to pray and develop their personal prayer life. [Luke 6:12, John 15:7, Ephesians 6:18]

**Intentional Disciplemaking** - We are committed to purposeful and passionate disciplemaking by:

- Leading people to a personal relationship with Christ.
- Helping them to develop a passionate relationship with Jesus and compassionate relationships with their neighbors. [Mark 12:30-31]
- Encouraging them to grow in knowledge of God and His will [Colossians 1:9-10]
- Challenging them to walk in faith, live in obedience and bear fruit through loving accountability.
- Providing them opportunities to discover their spiritual gifts and put them to use.
- Identifying, training and equipping leaders that God has given to His church. Showing them how to be empowered by the Holy Spirit

**Mission Driven** - We believe God desires a personal relationship with every individual. We are committed to the Great Commission as given by Christ in the New Testament by:

- Equipping people for personal and lifestyle evangelism [1 Peter 3:15].
- Witnessing personally and corporately through acts of love and the truth of the Gospel to reach people for Christ.
- Supporting church plants and missionaries, both here and abroad.
- Training and sending missionaries to reach others for Christ. [Romans 10:15, Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 1:8]

**Lifestyle Worship** - We are committed to the reality that God is worthy of worship through our total devotion by:

- Creating a dynamic atmosphere in corporate worship that motivates us to glorify God and bring Him pleasure.
- Living our lives daily in total submission and obedience to His revealed will.

**Caring Community** - We are committed to developing caring and compassionate relationships that seek to meet the needs of people by:

- Helping them with all aspects of their needs whether they are physical, emotional, spiritual or relational.
- Making the effort to reach out to others that are different than we are as the Lord leads and provides.
- Encouraging our people to exercise hospitality, seeking to be open and available, especially to newcomers.
- Appreciating and valuing the uniqueness in each person, their gifting and talents, their personality and passions, especially when they differ from "our own." -- Developing a greater level of transparency with fellow believers.[2 Corinthians 1:3-7; John 13:34-35; 1 Peter 1:22; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; Revelation 7:9]

**Faithful Stewardship** - We are committed to personal and corporate stewardship by:

- Giving sacrificially and cheerfully of the first fruits of our time, talents and money. [2 Corinthians 9:6-7]
- Using the facilities God has given us as a tool for the furtherance of His Kingdom.
- Balancing wisely in our budgeting process the needs of Ministry, Missions and Facility.