

Profile

City of Zion and Christ Community Church

Where We Came From: History of the City and the Church

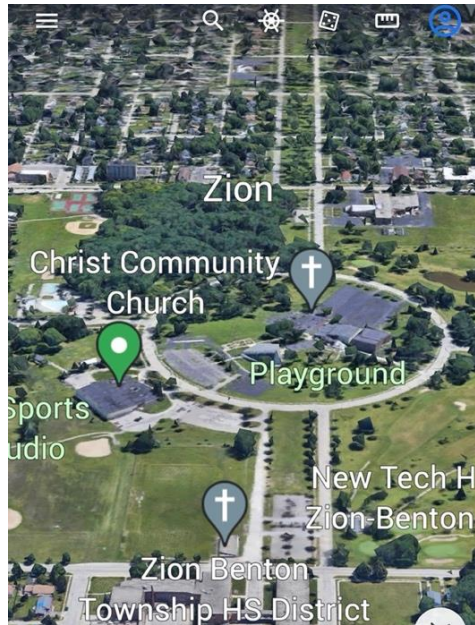
As its name suggests, Zion was founded as a planned religious community. The city founder, John Alexander Dowie, having learned of the “City Beautiful” planning movement taking hold in the late 1800s and on display at the World’s Columbian Exposition held in Chicago in 1893-94, modeled his vision for Zion on the “City Beautiful” principles.

Dowie’s concept of building a city went beyond thoughtful land use and incorporated a theme of “Salvation, Healing and Holy Living.” Zion was to be a community of faith that looked to God for healing and his Word for instruction on living, where people would experience wellness through a holistic approach that included prayer, biblical teaching, and physical healing. Original residents wanted a place where they could trust God, live clean lives with healthy habits and work together for the honor and glory of God.

The original plan for the city with its extensive landscaped park system, including the 200-acre Shiloh Park in the middle of the city, and wide boulevards was developed on paper in 1899. This made the city one of only two in the United States, at that time, that was planned before it was built. The plan never fully materialized but the concept of having an extensive park system with wide and open boulevards remained and has been part of the subsequent development of the city. Zion has more than 800 acres of parkland and open space with a commitment that future developers must include parkland and open space in planning new subdivisions within the city limits. Zion is a lakefront community with many recreational options, including being host to Illinois’ most visited State Park.

Zion is home to just under twenty-five thousand residents. Demographically, Zion is 46% White, 31% Hispanic and 30% Black (based on US Census estimates for 2020 that seem to count multi-ethnic people twice). The median income is \$52,000.00 and the median home value is \$135,000.00. Zion falls into the category of a small-town community but has a lopsided balance of rental property as opposed to owner-occupied housing units with a heavy reliance on government assisted housing. This along with other factors of living in Illinois gives Zion the unique challenge of being a relatively small town with big city type problems.

These challenges are met by municipal leaders who care about the community and want to see Zion grow. There is still a vibrant Christian presence in this unique place and good will between pastors and civic leadership. Zion and the surrounding communities have more than sixty churches and many gospel centered approaches to addressing the needs of our community. There is an active and long serving ministerial association with good comradery across denominational lines.



In the center of Shiloh Park, in the heart of the city, Dowie built the Christian Catholic Church. The church grew out of Dowie's International Divine Healing Association that he started in Australia and moved to the United States in 1888. Formally, the church had its founding in the city of Chicago on February 22, 1896. In 1899 Dowie announced to the church his purchase of 6,500 acres on the shores of Lake Michigan about 40 miles north of Chicago. He named the place, Zion. Our church's colorful history contains some good and some not so good. Dowie's beliefs and theology were eccentric and, in some cases, heretical. We do not hold to those views or practices today and are thankful for God's provision in moving this church out of what could have easily become a cult. Today we look like most other Bible-believing evangelical churches, but we started as an unusual utopian experiment at the turn of the twentieth century.

In 1995, the church adopted a new name and a new approach to church leadership. The Christian Catholic Church is still our legal name, but we do business as Christ Community Church. Our church is led by a board of elders chaired by the Senior Pastor. Congregational input is through the election of elders, boards and standing committees. We are a multi-staff church with pastors and ministry directors leading our mission program, adult, children, youth, and Spanish language ministries. We have an extensive world-wide mission outreach. We operate a Christian camp in Door County, Wisconsin called Camp Zion and have one of the oldest conservatories of music in the nation. Our average attendance is just over 375 on Sunday morning. We are a mid-sized congregation, but we function more like a large multi-staff church.

What We Envision: Purpose and Vision of Christ Community Church

The purpose of Christ Community Church is to glorify God in obedience to the Great Commission and the Great Commandments.

The vision is the Church's purpose seen through the lenses of our local congregation's unique personality, circumstances and values. It answers the question, "How will it look for us to fulfill the purpose of the church in this place over the next several years?" At Christ Community Church, we believe that our purpose can be summed up in five vision statements:



Reverent Affection for God

We envision well-conceived, Spirit-filled corporate worship marked by reverent affection for the living God.

A Center for the Arts

We see our church as a center for the arts, enriching the wider body of Christ through God glorifying music and drama.

Strategic Investment in Disciple-Making

We see eager people strategically investing a steady stream of resources into making disciples wherever we're positioned to make a difference.

Christian Minds in the Making

We see a preaching, teaching, reading, learning church—Christian minds in the making.

The Welcoming Love of God

We see open hearts and open arms extending, to members and guests alike, the welcoming love of God in our multi-ethnic community.

The vision statements of the church have not changed much in the last 25 years, although these statements are reviewed every year by the elder board. Our church has been characterized by a strong, biblically based preaching and teaching ministry. It is indeed something we value, and we expect to have a strong pulpit ministry in the future. Our church had an orchestra, a concert band, and we produced a yearly Passion Play that drew a large regional audience. We no longer have an extensive music and drama ministry, but we have kept the vision of being a center for the arts through hosting local dramas and producing our own. We invite popular Christian artists to perform, and we still maintain a Conservatory of Music. Strategically investing in disciple making has been practically applied to mean our extensive local and global mission outreach. We endeavor to involve our congregation as much as possible and as much as they are willing to partner with those who are actively evangelizing and making disciples in our community and around the world. It has been our view that making disciples in the church takes place on a regular basis through our preaching ministry and adult and children's programs. The value expressed when we say, "Christian minds in the making," is being a life-long learner. We seek to engage our culture and equip our congregation to be able to hold to and express a biblical world-view. All of this we hope is done in a welcoming, open and God-honoring way.

The challenge our church faces in terms of glorifying God by being obedient to the Great Commandments and Great Commission is not so much related to what we are doing globally. We have a rich history in cross-cultural mission work and extensive involvement. Our struggle is and has been how we fulfill this purpose locally. We are predominately a white middle class congregation in the center of an ethnically mixed blue-collar community. There are socio-economic differences between most of our membership and the community at large. One way

we met this challenge was to hire a pastor for Hispanic ministries in 2007. Ministry among Spanish speakers and the Hispanic community has significantly increased since then and we have an active and thriving Hispanic ministries program that is integrated. Other solutions thus far have been to focus on what we know and what we feel comfortable doing, which is reaching a predominately middle-class population. This means most of our potential congregation does not live in our community but in surrounding communities with higher middle-class populations. Reaching our community with the gospel will require the type of prayer and planning that is often associated with cross-cultural mission work.

Who We Are: Current Staff

Program Staff: *Senior Pastor, Dr. Ken Langley; Associate and Mission Pastor, Dr. Mike McDowell; Adult Ministries Pastor, Drew Wicklund; Youth Pastor, Leo Barnes; Pastor of Hispanic Ministries/Evangelism, Eliel Rojas; Children's Ministries Director, Terri Allen; Director of Camping Ministries, Dale Stewart; Minister of Music, Dean LaBelle*

Other: Business Manager, three administrative assistants, three buildings and grounds employees, conservatory faculty.

Additional information can be found on the church website: <http://ccczion.org> Information about the city of Zion can be found at www.cityofzion.com

What We Do: Current Programs

Sundays

Adult Bible Fellowships:	9:00am
Sunday School Classes:	9:00am
Worship Service	10:30am
Youth Group	7:00pm

Mondays

AWANA	6:15pm
Jr. High Youth Group	6:30pm
Grief Share	7:00pm
Women's Bible Study	7:00pm

Tuesdays

Home School Group	8:30am
ZCM Lessons	3:30pm
Quilting Circle	6:30pm
Elder Board Meeting	6:30pm (2 nd and 4 th Tuesdays)

Wednesdays

Prayer Group	7:30am
MOPS	9:00am (every other Wed.)
ZCM Lessons	3:30pm
Men's Bible Study	7:00pm
Choir Rehearsal	7:00pm

Thursdays

ZCM Lessons	3:30pm
Worship Team Rehearsal	7:00pm
Men's Bible Study	6:00pm

Fridays

Cheer Home School Group	9:00am
Women's Bible Study	9:00am
My Father's Business	5:00pm

In addition to these regular weekly ministry programs at Christ Community Church we have various youth small groups that meet throughout the week. Men's and Women's ministries are active with a variety of events throughout the year. We have periodic classes for newcomers called In Roads that provide information about the church's mission, beliefs, and the membership process. Our church hosts a yearly VBS program usually in the month of June. We also typically have at least one or more annual short-term mission trips to assist our partners around the world.

What We Do...continued: Local and Global Ministries

Hispanic Ministries: Our growing Hispanic ministry provides Spanish-speakers with opportunities to grow, fellowship and worship in an evangelical, Protestant church.

Children's Ministry: We work alongside parents in helping children establish a strong, biblical foundation upon which to build their lives and develop a faith that, in God's timing, will lead them into personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Youth Ministry: We partner with parents in raising up the next generation of Jesus followers through recreation, education, service, and leadership. Our youth ministry includes separate weekly environments for Junior High and Senior High students.

Adult Ministry Groups: As followers of Jesus, we were made to live in community. In fact, we believe one of the primary ways God grows us is in the context of relationships. Our groups are designed to foster this growth. They are also a place where you'll experience a sense of belonging and care from fellow believers. Each group prioritizes studying the Bible, praying for one another, and helping each other live for God's glory.

Camp Zion: Located in beautiful Door County, WI, our camp provides retreats year-round for all ages. Visit www.campzion.org for more info.

Zion Conservatory of Music: We believe that the gift of music enriches the local church. Our conservatory teachers offer voice and instrumental lessons for all ages and experience. Visit www.zionconservatoryofmusic.org for more info.

Local Partners: Our church partners with local Christian ministries who seek to meet the spiritual and material needs of the community with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Currently, we partner with six local ministries: Family Resource Center of Zion, Love Inc., Youth for Christ, Refuge for Women, Child Evangelism Fellowship, My Father's Business.

Global Partners: Jesus commanded his followers to make disciples of all nations. Our church enjoys a rich tradition of global missions. We partner with over twenty families and organizations across the globe. We have an extensive ministry in Southern Africa through a mission agency started by our church. See www.zema.org for more information. We also have constituent churches in the Philippines, Japan, Guyana, Panama, Indonesia, Canada, Palestine, and the Navajo Nation.

How We Operate: Government Leadership and Organization

Christ Community Church is a semi-denominational church meaning we have constituent churches in the United States, Canada and around the world that are loosely connected through adherence to the constitution of the Christian Catholic Church. Each constituent has their own constitution and bylaws based on local requirements but voluntarily associates with Christ Community Church. Most of our constituent churches were started by missionaries sent from Christ Community Church. *(Note: this organizational structure with constituent churches is currently being evaluated and may change)*

Based on the bylaws of Christ Community Church, we have adopted the following leadership structure.

Elders: We are an elder led church, and we define elder based on the biblical terms “elder,” “overseer,” and “pastor” that refer to complementary aspects of the primary leadership office within the New Testament church, indicating among other things, maturity, authority, and the shepherding role, respectively. Elders selected by the church for vocational ministry within the fellowship are referred to herein specifically as “pastors” for purposes of clarity. Elders chosen to direct and oversee the total ministry and administration of the church constitute the Elder Board, of which the Senior Pastor is a member by virtue of his position and responsibilities.

Deacon: The New Testament term “deacon” or “servant” indicates that deacons are servants of the church. They are men and women selected by the church to minister to physical, emotional and spiritual needs through promoting and carrying out ministries of care and compassion. Their work may include, without being limited to the following: visiting and serving communion

to shut-ins and those who are hospitalized, distribution of deacons' funds to relieve physical and material needs, contacting and encouraging people who have been missing from the church's fellowship. The desired number of deacons, and the ratio of men to women will be established by the Elder Board in proportion to the size and needs of the congregation.

Finance committee: This committee coordinates the work of the financial affairs of the church, members direct the work of budget preparation, and assist the Elder Board in financial affairs as requested. It sees that adequate financial records and safeguards are maintained throughout the church.

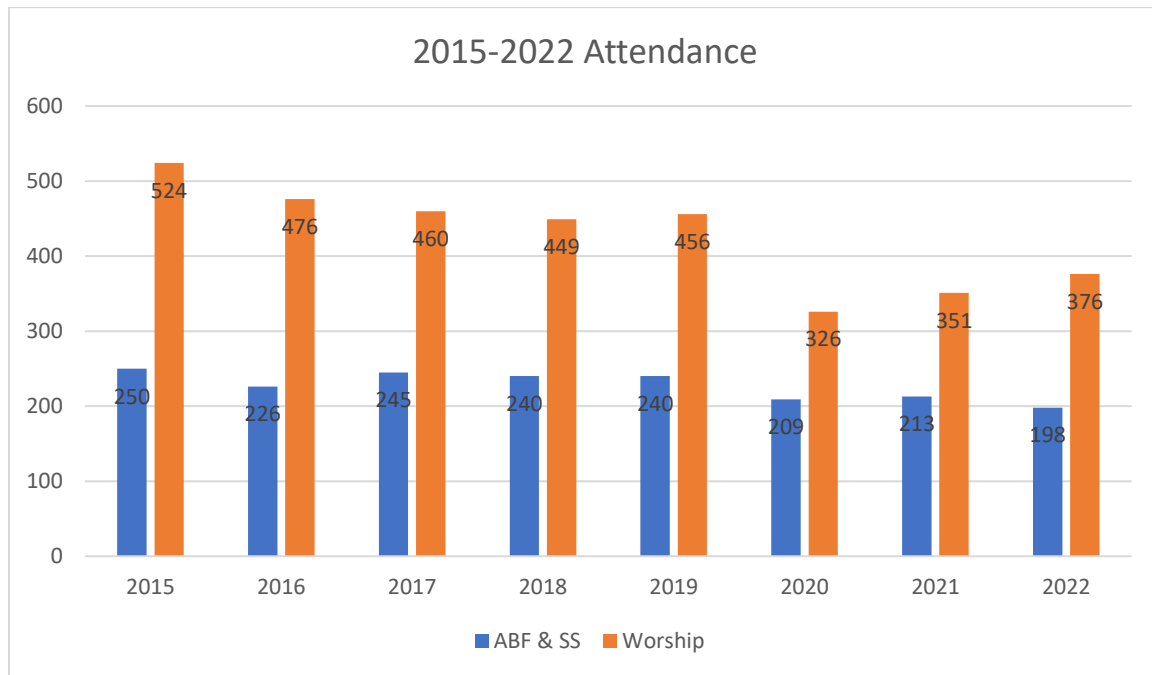
Building and Grounds Committee: This committee, under the direction of the Elder Board, and in cooperation with the church staff, cares for the church's real property. It recommends policy on building use and care to the Elder Board; advise the Finance Committee on budgetary needs, advise, assist, and equip the church staff in ensuring the safety, maintenance, and cleanliness of the church property; and assist the Senior Pastor in hiring, firing, and overseeing the Building and Grounds staff.

Missions Committee: This committee endeavors to make missions work vital, visible, and meaningful throughout the church. It prepares the missions portion of the annual budget proposal and submits it to the Elder Board through the Finance Committee. It prepares and implements policy regarding the support of missionaries and mission projects. The chairperson of the Missions Committee is appointed by the Elder Board.

Camp Leadership Team: This committee is not one of the standing committees of the church. Its membership is appointed by the Elder Board. The Camp Leadership Team, through the Elder Board, operates Camp Zion.

Nominating Committee: This committee is responsible to identify and present qualified candidates for each elected position directly to the church at the annual meeting held for that purpose or at other times as necessary.

Christ Community Church Attendance



Christ Community Church General Fund Income and Expense

