“Nurtured for Growth” Year II

5:30—Welcome:
• Introduction
• Opening Song—Psalm 96
• Purpose of the Vision Renewal Gathering
• Intro Dinner

5:45-7:00—Dinner:
• “The What and the Why”
• Identity & purpose, areas of our integrated ministry vision
• Highlights of Vision 2016
• Q&A & discussion
• Prayer & song—Amazing Grace

7:00-7:10—How do I continue in the vision?

7:10-7:25—Table Prayer

7:25-7:30—Final Song, Prayer of Praise & Help, Benediction
• Song—On Jordan’s Stormy Banks
Nurtured for Growth?

**Growth** cannot be our primary focus because without being deeply rooted in the real substance of the gospel, our attempts at growth will be coming out of our own strength and not the Lord’s. We’ll wither. So, serving Christ’s mission requires us to seek **Nurture** in Christ’s grace.

**Nurture** alone cannot be our primary focus because we must understand that God grows his church in maturity and in numbers in order to be a blessing to the world. We bear fruit, not for ourselves, but for others. We’re Nurtured by God’s grace for our own maturity, for the sake of others growing to or in Christ, all for God’s glory.

This is the point of Psalm 1— the one who delights in the Law of the Lord...

“He is like a tree
planted by streams of water
that yields its fruit in its season,
and its leaf does not wither.
In all that he does, he prospers.”

The tree does not bear fruit for itself. It does not produce shade for itself. The tree’s goal is not to be a consumer, but through its nurture from the stream of God’s grace in the gospel, it becomes a fruit bearer for all that come into proximity with it. This is the church. This is the goal of OUR church.

And, our challenge in all of this is to:

- **Consume from the right source**: the grace of God the Father lavished through the gospel of Jesus Christ applied through the Holy Spirit.
- **Bear fruit in season for the right goal**: bringing the blessing of grace and the renewal of Christ into the lives of others in God’s timing and his ways

“Nurtured for Growth.”
A Beginning Point

Our Approach: How does our theological vision manifest itself in Hope’s model?

Our Plans: How does this vision manifest itself in Hope’s ministry plans, and how does our model support these?
   a) In our contribution to the mission of God over the next 7-10 years
   b) In our focus on local ministry in the next 18-24 months

Our Community Identity, Purpose, & Values

HopePres is a diverse community of people made for glory, yet now broken, a community of need...
We are spiritually renewed by the Triune God, purely by the Father’s grace,
Connected and formed together in the church of Christ the Son,
Sent out as servants in the mission of global renewal by the Holy Spirit.

This community of Hope exists to:
Know God,
Love People,
Seek Renewal for Our Place,
   Spiritually
   Socially
   Culturally

Everything we do as a community has woven into it the values of:
   The Gospel.
   Calling.
   Place.
   Community.
   Serving.
   Renewal.

www.hopebtown.org
Our Approach

Strategic Model
HopePres maps our vision into 6 strategic priorities all woven together in interdependent relationships supported by prayer. This “Total Christ” vision for the church, modeled in Acts 2:42-47, seeks to harmoniously incorporate all vital aspects of the church’s identity and calling into her fleshed-out strategy in a particular time and place. This model helps us in our reflective practice of being the total church, and prioritizing what the Scriptures prioritize.

Community of Knowing God
Seeking personal spiritual renewal by the Triune God through the Father’s grace, accomplished through:

   The heart of HopePres—our worship services are designed to be a place where we can be encountered by the Triune God personally and corporately through the building rhythms of our service. Our worship climaxes in Christ’s presence to us in his Word, prayers, Sacrament, and rule as he sends us into his mission empowered by the Holy Spirit.

2. Gospel Cultivation.
   We desire for a culture of evangelism to pervade our body, where we welcome people into true friendship within our community before they believe in Jesus. So we plan events of hospitality and intentional discussions of poignant topics or theology to participate in the Holy Spirit’s work of preparing people for the gospel message.

Community of Loving People
Seeking social spiritual renewal by connecting and forming people in Christ’s church, accomplished through:

1. Gospel Community.
   The supportive “bones” of our church are 8-12 person Local Communities. These are designed to become a network of localized “outposts” of the church where the love of Christ is “fleshed out”. We also see these as primary incubators for ministry leaders.

2. Gospel Nurture.
   Being strengthened and formed through Christian discipleship calls for commitment to learning, sharpening, and reflective practice. Through focused classes, forums, discipleship processes, and our Ministry Community for church servants, we hope to see people more deeply grounded in the gospel and practical ministry skills.

Community of Renewal for Bloomington & Beyond
Seeking cultural spiritual renewal by sending God’s servants into the Spirit’s mission, accomplished through:

   We want to be a body that looks for ways to serve the physical, social, and psychological needs of HopePres members and our neighbors. We also seek to build collaborative relationships with other churches and ministries, as well as partnerships with non-religious organizations who are involved in works of common grace.

2. Gospel Partnerships.
   Hope is limited in what we, as a congregation, can accomplish. So, we seek out partnerships with likeminded ministries in order to see God’s Kingdom come both locally and globally by the spread of the gospel through missions and church-planting.
Strategic Initiatives Model: 3-5 year goal

- **Relationships**
  - Personal Hospitality

- **Gospel Cultivation**
  - Relational Foyers

- **Gospel Community**
  - Local Communities

- **Gospel Renewal**
  - Public Worship

- **Gospel Nurture**
  - Scripture, Theology, & Worldview Classes
  - Ministry Community
  - Gospel-Life Forums & Retreats
  - HopeKids

- **Gospel Partnerships**
  - Multiplying Renewal

- **Gospel Service**
  - Local Serving Renewal

Relationships

Relationships
Our Plans
7-10 Year “Blue Sky” Vision for local and global mission

“Shaping a Culture of Planting”: While our focus is on moving our little church through the process of internal strengthening through the gospel, developing a sustainable leadership and giving base, and growing in our local ministry over the next 2-3 years, we also see these goals in light of future possibilities in the areas of church planting and other missional partnerships. The call to church-planting is one of the very reasons that our local focus on small groups is geared around praying for and equipping leaders and teams to plant localized communities—the hope is that this “micro” planting focus permeates the entire theological and missional vision of the congregation as a whole, so that our body sees church planting as a natural progression of the gospel through a community. Our hope is to equip and coach leaders and teams to plant “Local Communities” in every area of the city and surrounding area. And, through this model, to inspire “macro” church planting outside of HopePres.

Central Indiana: The Central Indiana Presbytery (CIP) is in the process of beginning a new plant in Noblesville, we’ve begun to collaborate in developing a new evangelical seminary in Indianapolis, and we’re praying for African-American church planters for us to serve and partner with in their calling.

Southern Indiana: Beyond Indianapolis, there are very few gospel-centered churches stretching toward southern Indiana. There is a great need. Cities that our Presbytery has discussed include Terre Haute, Columbus and the 60 mile region between Bloomington and the nearest PCA church in downtown Indianapolis, including areas such as Franklin, Greenwood, Southport, and Martinsville. Hope Pres could be a foothold into these areas.

Uganda: In the fall of 2010 Dan spent two weeks at Africa Renewal University (ARU) in Kampala, Uganda teaching indigenous pastors Christ-Centered Preaching content. While there, Dan interacted with local leaders, local pastors, and pastors of village churches—all of them very small by our standards, and facing the challenge of planting churches in a culture where the prosperity gospel reigns, and pagan practices still infiltrate into daily life. One pastor shared his desire to learn Greek, and a local physician as well as the university asked Dan to return with Erica in order to teach and train local physical therapists. There is great potential to continue bridge-building work with locals, and equipping work for pastors and potential church planters through ARU. After reestablishing contact with ARU this past year, the principal of the university is excited to continue dialogue and prayer about a future partnership.

Bloomington: There seem to be endless opportunities in our city. And, we must be thoughtful and boundaried with our commitments, resources, and focus otherwise we’ll find ourselves trying to do everything and being effective at nothing. So, where could our emphasis be? One area we would like to grow in is that of Racial Reconciliation and Social Justice prayerfulness. With an emphasis on these prime areas, we think that HopePres will be well equipped at our very heart with a gospel lens in order to stir individuals and communities within the church to seek gospel-reconciling relationships and care for others. We don’t yet precisely know what specific organizations to partner with, what to build, and who to serve, but we want to be committed to these two priorities to form additional facets of the core of our prayers for the Kingdom of God locally.

Longterm Questions for further personal reflection:

What are your longterm hopes for our church’s involvement in local and global ministry?

What areas of spiritual formation, teaching, mercy, partnership, cultural renewal are you interested in praying for God to develop here longterm?
2-Year Action Plan & Tactical Goals
As one organic living body, these integrated priorities serve, feed, and shape one another under our one head and King, Jesus Christ.

Big “Rocks”: 1) Leadership development; 2) Spiritual formation of women, men, kids, families; 3) building effective structures (trellis); 4) expanding engagement in areas of spiritual & social renewal; 5) increasing emphasis on prayer

Cultivation - How will we relationally engage with people outside of our community?

- Dinner Parties—these are how our church began.
  - envision specific HopePres people to independently host friends and neighbors
  - employ each of our Local Communities to host dinner parties at least once/quarter
- Discussion Gatherings—
  - Consistency in monthly “Skholay” discussion events
  - encourage Christians to invite their own friends & neighbors
  - seek out and pray for 1-2 leaders to train in leadership & plant new gatherings
- Gospel-Centered Life Study—
  - Offer to new people on rotating basis each semester
- Pub speaking, Q&A, & discussion events— Initiate Fall 2016 each semester, partner with another like-minded church?
  - TED-like speaking forum on various pertinent topics from Christian & secular worldviews
  - followed up by Q&A, discussion
  - equip Hope participants in relational follow-up & continued gospel engagement
- Seasonal Feasts—Ongoing
  - Larger events in contrast to dinner parties
  - Summer Low Country Boil, Fall Brew the Cure
- Brew the Cure— October, annual cancer fundraiser, partnership with hospital foundation & oncology services, began in 2013
- OTHER IDEAS...

Community - How will we connect people within Hope, and see communities of hospitality shaped?

- Local Communities— ongoing
  - Pray to see 2 additional LCs begun in year 2, by May 2016—eastside, northside, westside, central, international students...
  - Continue Men’s LC, invite committed men to grow in leadership, community service?
  - Begin development of LCL Council for training, coaching, prayer and support, by late Fall 2016
- Hospitality & Play— WHO? HOW? WHAT?
  - Envision people to coordinate, host, and/or join in with community-building and friendship building events through play

Renewal - How will we shape a service where the whole body can both receive renewal and minister, and be a welcoming place for the curious?

- Worship—
  - continue development of music ministry through committed involvement of our diverse musicians, expansion of our song repertoire
  - recruit and train new service team leaders and volunteers through new members and interested attenders
  - involve more laity in the service through the reading of Scripture, sharing of testimonies, giving announcements, and offering prayer
  - Aesthetics? Calling for artists! People who work with fabrics especially—doable and replicatable, value of the arts—God values creativity, so do we—value of beauty
- Prayer—
  - Develop prayer team to lead the way in ministering to one another during communion
**Nurture**- How will we knead the gospel deeply into our lives, be equipped for ministry, and have regular support and prayer?

- **Sonship**—
  - offer Sonship mentoring to individuals (up to 4 at a time) within the church

- **Gospel-Centered Life Forum**— annually in the Spring, potentially biannually?
  - Develop, promo, and host “Sojourn” Marriage Conference, April 9th

- **Women’s Ministries**
  - Continued Bible Studies
  - Continued Annual Women’s Retreats
  - Continued Girls’ Nights & Service Projects

- **Sojourn Marriage Community**— (led by Craig Mercer, hosted by the Moodys)
  - Book study and monthly Friday night gathering, “Meaning of Marriage” Tim Keller
  - Space for 2 committed couples beginning February

- **HopeKids**—“Equipping Families to disciple children, teaching them to love God and the church greatly.”
  - Begin Resource Library
  - Summer Book Club
  - Family Devotional Projects
  - Involving kids in serving—(last year HK collected over nearly 1000 egg cartons for HHFB)
  - VBS
  - Reflection and work on shaping Hope to be a generationally integrated church

- **Leadership Training Cohort**—Spring-Fall 2016 (for more intentional training for leaders)
  - Goal is to have elders and deacons elected by the congregation and installed late March 2017

- **Scripture Theology & Worldview**—
  - Classes for more focused instruction: Gospel-Centered Parenting, Apologetics, Bible
  - Monthly lectures on select topics?

- **Divine Design Class**?

- **Financial Management Class**?

- **Regular Prayer Gatherings**!
  - Weekly gathering for prayer—personal, missional, mercy-focused, “front-line”

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**Service**- How will Hope serve the people of this place, and proclaim the gospel through our focused deeds?

- **Pastoral Leadership**
  - Chris Manley as Assistant Pastor

- **Seeking Racial Reconciliation**—in accord with the Gospel’s Vision

- **Girls Nights**

- **Safe Families for Children**—
  - Annual Offering
  - Dan serve as pastoral voice and Susan Powell as primary coordinator on diverse board of directors

- **Other Service Orgs**—build relationships with other city organizations, invite to share during HopeVision, seek to serve with as “co-belligerents”
  - Serving Interfaith Winter Shelter?
  - ?Boys & Girls Club?
  - ?Fairview Elementary?
  - ?Middleway House?
  - ?Hannah House?
  - ?Community Kitchen?
  - ?Mother Hubbard’s Cupboard?
  - ?Circles?
**Partnerships**—How can God reach into the broader culture of Bloomington and the world through Hope?

- **RUF at IU and beyond**—
  - Continue serving as relational/spiritual support for Tubbesings and RUF interns
  - Seek to integrate students into the life and ministry of the church
- **Sending Hannah K to China**—financial & prayer support with ELIC
- **Indianapolis Theological Seminary**
- **Africa Renewal University**—initiate Winter 2015
  - Reestablish relational and strategic communication with principal, Winter 2015
  - Develop vision for short term Hope team to serve, Spring 2017
  - Gather and send team to teach theology, preaching, physical therapy, music, IT, agriculture and business, initiate 2017
  - Cultivate relationships with local pastors & church networks to aid in work of church planting and theological development for pastors in eastern Africa, 2017 and beyond
- **Mission Anabaino Collaborative**—
  - Dan serve on Exec Board, encouraging church planters, future network for church planting help
- **12 Stones Counseling**—
  - Dan serve on board, Craig Mercer as counselor, further strengthen local & national soul care ministry

**Operations**—How can we grow our trellis to better support and provide stability for the rest of our vision?

- **Gradual transition out of RUF**—financial structures, insurance, etc.
- **Stewardship Focus**—
  - Include more deliberate explanations of the call to missional generosity during our Sunday services
  - Focus more intentionally on generosity through finances in discipleship times
  - Hold regular membership opportunities twice a semester
  - Offer a financial management course
  - Develop a Finance Team
- **Church Communications**
  - Improve consistent communications within the congregation—The City and other Social Media
How Do I Continue in the Vision?

**Prayer**—Oswald Chambers once wrote that, “Prayer does not fit us for the greater work; prayer is the greater work.” This is the most difficult commitment to make of all that we’re asking you to do. We’re asking you to commit to praying specifically, at least weekly, for God to accomplish our 2015 Vision. Every time you come to church, pray for Hope. As you’re heading to Local Community, pray for Hope. As you’re reading updates on The City, pray for Hope. Prayer is what God’s people are to be doing as we’re waiting for the Holy Spirit to act, he aligns us to himself through prayer, and God has chosen to use our prayer as his means for accomplishing his vision!

**People**—God is building a beautiful church. And, we want to see more people exposed to the gospel of grace, and the whole implications of this through Hope Pres! We want to see more people added to our number. Jesus was strategic, Paul was strategic—they went after people, they prayed for people, and so should we. Consider 4-5 people you know who you can write down and begin praying for today. Commit to pray that the Holy Spirit would bring renewal into their lives, find ways to engage and love them in humility and patience. Consider people you know who need a church, are looking for a church, or who could really benefit from God’s ministry through Hope, pray for them, pursue a relationship with them, invite them to your LC, to Skholay, to church. Seek to be equipped for ministry yourself. And, be ready when the opportunity arises to introduce them to Jesus. You are God’s minister.

**Priority**—We need to see the Lord provide more leaders, more teachable disciples, more servants. Commit to a Sunday Serving Team. Consider ways that you can serve in our community or can contribute your gifts and talents to the goals of Hope’s vision. There are tons of needs, and many opportunities for missional ingenuity.

**Provisions**—Finally, you can participate in Hope’s mission through your generous and sacrificial giving. God works through the generosity of his people and the finances he has entrusted us to steward. We are asking that you commit to regular giving through our Sunday offering or through online giving via our website. Look at your income. Consider that God owns everything, not just 10% of your finances. Consider your financial obligations, and intentionally set aside a regular, committed, sacrificial, and generous amount to give. This is your spiritual act of worship (Romans 12:1-2).

Our current giving has averaged approx. $1750 weekly this past fall. This has been a nearly tripling of our giving since last January! With 60 adults each week, that works out to approx. $29/adult. At this current giving rate, we can expect revenues from members and attenders in the area of $91k this year. We have seen substantial growth in giving in the past year! And, in order for us to continue to grow-up as a church, we need to see more of God’s provision through the partnership of his people in this vital part of worship and mission. How can you contribute to this?

Our budget, approved by the team of elders from the Central Indiana Presbytery, who currently oversee Hope Pres until we have our own “session” of elders, is approx. $200k for this coming year, the primary budget increase has come from our venue change to the Convention Center. Dan has committed to raising external funds for all of his own personnel costs for 2016, and Chris is committed to raising all but $15k of his financial needs for the year. The PCA does not provide financial support for church plants, all money is personally raised by church planters and those crazy people who choose to join them.

Our giving goal for 2015 was $60,000, and the Lord exceeded this by $12k! For 2016 we are setting an internal giving goal of half of our approved budget—that is $100k. In order to reach this goal we need to see just over $1900 given weekly. This means that we need to consider how each of us can continue in or increase our generosity, and pray to see the Lord add more people to our numbers.

Will you pray for this growth? And, will you please consider how you can contribute to this goal in this coming year? Consider how you might serve, where your passions, experience, and gifts are and which areas suit you best. And, pray that the Lord would provide!