

CAP Team Presentation – Minonk Church Plant

Frequently Asked Questions (April 7, 2019)

Why plant a church in Minonk?

Minonk has a population of around 2000 people, and the Fieldcrest school district is composed of around 6200 people. There are currently 5 churches in Minonk and 14 total in the district. Based on the average weekly attendances we gathered from those churches, 88% of the people living in Minonk and in the Fieldcrest school district as a whole are unchurched. “Unchurched” does not necessarily equal “unbeliever”, and we do know that some are traveling as far as Bloomington and Pontiac to go to church. What this means is that 88% of the people who live in the Fieldcrest school district do not regularly go to a church in the Fieldcrest school district. And based on county data and Barna research, it’s safe to estimate that around 80% of the people living in the Fieldcrest school district are lost and in need of salvation. There is a compelling need for an ongoing gospel presence in the Fieldcrest school district, and Minonk is a good place to start! The harvest is plentiful!

What will this new church be called?

The new church will be called Redeemer Community Church. Based off of Titus 2:11-14, we will be a community of broken people being gracefully remade in the image of our Redeemer, Jesus Christ. Our mission is to bring God glory by helping you connect the realities of the gospel with the realities of your life.

“For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, instructing them to deny godlessness and worldly lusts and to live in a sensible, righteous, and godly way in the present age, while we wait for the blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He gave himself for us, to **redeem** us from all lawlessness, and to cleanse for himself a people for his own possession, eager to do good works.” – Titus 2:11-14 (CSB) *(emphasis mine)*

When is the first Sunday service?

Lord willing, our first Sunday service will be October 20, 2019.

What will be happening between now and the first Sunday service on October 20?

Erik, Bree, & the kids intend to move to Minonk sometime in June. Along with that, we will be recruiting and training a launch team and gathering other churches and individuals to serve as partners in the gospel through financial giving.

Where will the church be gathering on Sunday mornings? Do you have a building?

After considering several options, we’ve narrowed down a meeting place to the two best potentials: Fieldcrest High School and the old Dollar General building on the corner of Fifth and Chestnut. While the high school would give us multiple spaces to use (gym, classrooms, etc) and would require less financially for the church to launch, we see value in pursuing the purchase and partial renovation of the Dollar General building as the better long-term option. The DG building has been vacant for the last 3-4 years, and the grocery store across the street recently closed for the third time. By purchasing and using the DG building, we see it as an opportunity to invest in a community that has gotten used to seeing spaces emptied rather than filled. We see it as an opportunity to give the community a visible reminder of our intention to be a part of Minonk/Fieldcrest for years to come. The building is in a central location in Minonk, making it readily accessible to almost anyone. It has a neutral look and feel that can be an inviting place for anyone, including those who have been wounded by the church or school and don’t want to step back into those buildings. There is enough space in

the building for us to grow into it as new people join Redeemer and take ownership in our ministries. The initial remodel would be enough to make the building useable for the first 2-5 years, and as the church body grows and becomes self-supporting, members of Redeemer can take ownership in future developments. And if we were to outgrow the building several years down the road, we would still have several options to use it as a continued investment in the community (ie, youth center, community center, food pantry, etc.).

All that said, we see the DG building as a valuable *tool* for ministry, not the ministry itself. The mission of Redeemer Community Church is not to end up in a building; it's to reach people with the gospel. People will always be our ministry, and as a church, we must be continually willing to go *out* and meet them where they're at and bring the gospel with us. Nonetheless, we still gather as a church and we invite others to join us as we minister to them, and we see the DG building as a great resource to bring people together for gospel ministry.

Do you have a budget yet?

Currently, we estimate a **Launch Budget** (one-time costs to get us to the first Sunday service) of \$271,000. That includes \$188,000 for the purchase and partial renovation of the DG building, and \$83,000 for supplies/equipment (sound, lighting, software, computers, chairs, bibles, etc.). We also estimate a yearly **Operating Budget** of \$120,000 for ongoing costs like salary, ministries, admin, facilities, giving/missions, and saving. These budgets are estimates as of now, but are good starting points to move from as we're able to itemize things more specifically.

If I'm interested in joining the launch team, what are my next steps?

Praise God! We're excited that this is something you're considering! As you continue to pray about it, a good next step would be to contact Erik and Bree to discuss more. You can reach Erik at 309.253.6794 or erik@crosspointcc.org, and Bree at 309.657.0975 or breezijo@yahoo.com.

How can I be a financial partner in this gospel ministry?

1. Mail a check to 951 County Road 1625 E, Eureka, IL 61530 & make it payable to Crosspoint Community Church. Put "Minonk" in the memo. **2.** Go to fecministries.org/ministries/initiatives/minonk and click the "donate to this initiative" button. Follow the prompts to make a payment. **3.** Text "FECNAT" to 77977. You'll be sent a reply with a link. Click it and follow the prompts to give. NOTE: Be sure to choose "Minonk, IL – Minonk Initiative (Johnson)" in the "Fund" section. After you've given via text once, for any subsequent giving you only need to text the amount to 77977 (ie, text "50" to 77977 to give \$50).

If I don't go to Crosspoint, Christ Community, or Community Bible Fellowship, can my church still help?

Yes! While those are the three main partnering churches, we are praying for other churches to join that partnership through prayer, one-time or ongoing financial gifts, sending people to join the launch team, or by helping out in other ways. Erik would love an opportunity to share with you and your church. Please contact him via email or phone (info above) to set something up!

If I want to tell others about this church, is there an online place I can send them to for more info?

Currently, the best way for them to keep up to date on where we're at in the process is to have them email Erik (erik@crosspointcc.org) to sign up for the weekly prayer update email. Once we have a website established for Redeemer Community Church, we will share that link in an email update.