

Church Planting in Minonk

Frequently Asked Questions (December 2018)

Why plant a church in Minonk?

Minonk has a population of around 2100 people, and the Fieldcrest school district is composed of around 5000 people. And just like any community, including the ones we call home, we know that not everyone is trusting in and following Jesus. So there are people to be reached and disciples of Jesus to be made. And the primary model we see in the book of Acts when it comes to making disciples is the sending of missionaries and the planting of new churches in new geographic regions. It isn't our desire to 'compete' with existing churches in that area. Rather, it is our desire to see the Gospel witness in that area increase, and to see lives changed by the power of the Gospel.

When will this new church begin its Sunday services, what will they be called, and where will they gather?

Right now, we are praying and working toward a Sunday morning launch that would be mid-fall of 2019. An official name has not yet been determined for the new church. We don't know yet on where the church will gather, but we know the Lord does and will lead and bring clarity in the months ahead.

Who will be the pastor at the new church?

Erik Johnson will be the founding pastor. Erik and Bree got married in 2003 and have 4 children: Josie (10), Charlie (8), Harvey (4), Lyle (2). Erik has been on staff at Crosspoint Community Church since 2009, and has served in a variety of roles. In his time at Crosspoint, he has led in the following areas of ministry: worship team (as a volunteer from 2003-2009, and as paid staff from 2009-present), student ministry, small groups and discipleship classes, counseling and preaching. We are excited to see Erik and his family continue to walk by faith into this next season of calling and ministry.

Will the Johnson family move?

Currently Erik, Bree, and their family live in Goodfield. They intend on moving to the Minonk area at some point late spring/early summer 2019.

Who is planting the new church?

In the New Testament, we see the Body of Christ partnering together for Kingdom work. We believe that the Lord is most glorified and this new church plant will be at its healthiest, when local churches can stand in unity and contend together for the sake of the Gospel and people. Specifically, Christ Community in Gridley, Community Bible Fellowship in El Paso, and Crosspoint Community Church in Eureka will serve as the oversight churches to this new work.

Our three churches are also partnering with the Fellowship of Evangelical Churches (FEC) to plant this church. The FEC's heart is for the Gospel and making disciples, and we see a lot of like-mindedness with them. They are actively planting churches throughout the nation (Flanagan Community Church being one of them), and so we will be looking to them to provide the church plant coaching to Erik and the wise counsel to the oversight churches. While the three oversight churches are not a part of the FEC, the new church in Minonk will become a formal part of the FEC.

What is the role of the three oversight churches?

We want to be people who pray faithfully, both privately and corporately, for this work. We want to be people who prayerfully consider going to serve and join this new work. We want to invest our resources generously and cheerfully into the Kingdom. An Oversight Team (consisting of the 3 Senior Pastors...Andy, Dave, Wes) will meet regularly with Erik to providing shepherding and counsel. Erik will be accountable to them for the doctrine and direction of the new church, until a local plurality of elders is established at the new church.

Can other churches also be involved in this new work?

Yes! For this new church to flourish, it will need to be a work of the Kingdom and the larger Body of Christ, and extend beyond just three churches. Partnering churches can join in the work through any of the following ways: Pray faithfully, both privately and corporately; Encourage people to serve and go to this new church; Invest resources generously and faithfully.

How will this new church plant be supported financially?

Part of church planting is raising funds, and specifically around two categories: the launch budget (all the stuff that it takes to get going); and the operations budget (the ongoing expenses of the church after it has launched, including the salary of the pastor). At this point, those amounts have yet to be determined.

Erik will remain on Crosspoint's payroll through August 2019 (the end of their fiscal year). In September, he will then transition to being supported as a missionary and pastor at the new church. Our prayer is that between the oversight churches, other partnering churches, individual believers in the area, and those who will begin to call the new church home, that the Lord will provide for His church.

Will believers who call Christ Community Church, Community Bible Fellowship, Crosspoint, or other local churches, be encouraged to go and join this new church and its work?

Yes. Some of you will be called to this work. That may be for a temporary basis where you go and serve for 6-12 months after the launch, or it may be a long-term calling. Much like Barnabas and Saul went out together in Acts 13, our prayer is that God's people, who are fellow partners in the Gospel, might go together, to form a new faith family that lives for the glory of God by gathering and growing new believers through the proclamation of the gospel.

What does the church plant process look like?

It consists of the following five phases:

- **Explore:** Where we continue to prayerfully learn about the Fieldcrest communities and the people that call it home.
- **Design:** Where the 'DNA' of the new church is created and articulated (doctrine, vision, values, etc.).
- **Build:** Where a church plant team is formed, and then equipped and empowered for the upcoming work. Part of this process will include a 12-week training in the summer of 2019, leading up to the launch.
- **Launch:** Where the church begins their weekly gathering and engages the community in ministry (Fall 2019)
- **Lead:** Where the new church is gathering regularly and active in ministry and mission.

What are some of the next steps from here?

As the Lord's people, in the months ahead, we want to pursue the following three postures:

- Dependent on the Lord and prayerful
- United and humble with one another
- Bold and loving as people, who are sent as missionaries

In January, the three oversight churches will be intentional in creating opportunities for private and corporate prayer. We'll also be teaching through the same message series during January, encouraging us in the Word. During that series, you'll be not only hearing from your Senior Pastor, but the others as well.

Along with prayer, how else can I participate in the process?

In the new year, there will be opportunities for you to gather with Pastor Erik to hear more about this new work and how you might be engaged in it. Specifically, starting in February, there will be an opportunity for you to participate with Pastor Erik and others in the 'Explore' phase.