



In 2002 I was a 27-year-old pastor moving my family to McMinnville to start a new church. Armed with more faith than common sense we left our church, our house, our friends and our ministry to come and do what we sensed God was calling us to do. Amazingly, we had total peace about this thing which our friends saw as risky. That peace is described in Philippians 4:7 “Then you will experience God’s peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.”

Fifteen years later our church leadership believes it’s time to risk again for the sake of the gospel’s advancement. And once again, the peace of God’s Spirit is assuring us of his plan, providence and protection. We know our faith never grows in the safety of what we’ve already accomplished; it’s in the midst of risk, uncertainty and audacious endeavors that our faith is refined.

God told Isaiah the prophet, “See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.” (Isaiah 43:19) We believe that God is calling Adventure Christian to do something new! This year we plan on joining forces with Newberg Christian Church to form a new network of churches in the Willamette Valley. If you missed the story please visit [www.adventurecc.net/messages](http://www.adventurecc.net/messages) and listen to message called “Better Together (pt 1).” Obviously, this raises a whole series of questions and the remainder of this document seeks to answer the questions that we anticipate people will ask.

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*Philippians 4:7*

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*Isaiah 43:19*

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Before we go any further let me say several critically important things:

1. *This not a business decision!* We believe this is God’s leading and we are responding in faith!
2. *This is all about Kingdom advancement!* The heart behind this is reaching more people for Jesus Christ.
3. *We are better together!* We believe we can do more for God’s Kingdom working together than by ourselves.

While we sometimes think in terms of “our church” or “their church” there is only one church. Ephesians 4:4-6 says, “For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all, in all, and living through all.”

# NEWBERG + ADVENTURE FAQ SHEET

## THE VISION

- **Are we better together?**

From the very beginning ACC has always desired to help other churches. We've helped with disaster relief, church planting, training, sharing resources and pastoral encouragement. We've always believed that when other churches succeed, we succeed. We are one body together in Christ! (1 Cor 12:12-27)

- **Where did this idea come from?**

*This was not Newberg's idea!* NCC has been a healthy and steadily growing church for many years. They are now a bigger church and several struggling churches have been reaching out to them about the possibility of a merger. This creates exciting possibilities but also many challenges. When David Case (NCC's Lead Pastor) shared this with me I asked him, "What if you had another healthy church to partner with you in this goal of strengthening struggling churches?" That was where this idea was born.

- **How does this help the Kingdom?**

Did you know that 80% of the 300,000 Protestant churches in the US are plateaued or in decline? Did you know that in Oregon 37% of people say they have no religion at all and only 31% of people formally identify themselves as part of any religion? As we consider the state of the church in Oregon we must realize what we've always done is not working! NCC and ACC hope to join forces and help struggling churches become vibrant and healthy.

- **How does this help Adventure? What's in it for us?**

NCC has been the church that has been most influential in helping us grow. They don't have all the answers but they are farther down the road than we are in many categories. Partnering with NCC will allow us to continue down that road with a more experienced guide. NCC and ACC staff will work together to determine the best practices that will be used at all of our campuses. This partnership will allow many churches to go farther, faster with fewer mistakes.

- **Who is Newberg Christian Church?**

You can read all about Newberg Christian Church on their website

[www.newbergcc.org](http://www.newbergcc.org) but here are few important facts:

- NCC is part of the same group of non-denominational churches as ACC
- NCC helped plant us back in 2002
- David has served as Erik's mentor for 15 years

- NCC does small groups, Camp Winema, Boxes of Hope, community service, Mexico mission trips, international mission trips, just like we do.

## ***THE STUFF EVERYONE WANTS TO KNOW!***

- **Do we keep the name Adventure Christian Church?**  
Yes! There are no plans to change the name of Newberg CC or Adventure CC at this time. We can't have Newberg Christian Church in McMinnville!
- **What will change on Sunday morning?**  
There are no plans to change anything on Sunday mornings. The only immediate difference is that Erik and David Case will be preaching on the same subjects at both campuses.
- **Who is in charge?**  
Jesus! (Matt 16:18) Newberg Christian Church will take the lead role in this network but Erik will be working closely with David Case.
- **What about our elders and staff?**  
Our elders will continue to meet, pray, shepherd our people and support Erik like they currently do. Erik and one of our elders will be in the eldership meetings at Newberg. All of our staff will retain their current positions.
- **Will we be exactly the same as Newberg?**  
No! ACC and NCC will gradually bring our core programming together but there will always be distinct elements for each congregation. As we bring additional congregations into this new network we'll establish some core programming elements for all our campuses.
- **Where does the money go? (We knew you'd ask!)**  
All campuses in this new network will have budgets that reflect the income from their location. Eventually, all funds will be deposited with and distributed by NCC because they have the staff and resources to manage these things more effectively.
- **What about our building project?**  
Newberg is 100% committed to our building project. Every dollar given to our building campaign will stay in a fund for our new facility. They believe that our new facility is a top priority and are committed to helping us get it done as soon as possible. Because of their 111-year history, they've been through a few building projects and will bring resources and expertise that should make this happen more efficiently and maybe even more quickly!
- **Is Pastor Erik leaving Adventure?**  
So many people have asked this question and the answer is "no!" This is not an exit strategy for anyone. It is a stay put, work hard, and grow the Kingdom strategy for everyone involved!

## WE WANT YOUR PRAYERS!

Our elders and staff have been praying about this for several months but we greatly desire your prayers in this endeavor. Please pray for the following:

- **Model Unity!** Pray that this will be a godly example of Christians working together in perfect unity. Remember, there is no “I” in team...or in church!  
*1 Cor 1:10 “I appeal to you, dear brothers and sisters, by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, to live in harmony with each other. Let there be no divisions in the church. Rather, be of one mind, united in thought and purpose.”*
- **Mobilize Vision!** Pray that we have the ability to bring our leadership and resources together in a way that allows us to make a real difference for Jesus in our communities.  
*Matthew 5:16 “In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.”*
- **Multiply Impact!** Pray that God will use this network to strengthen many churches in our communities and in the state of Oregon. Pray that this vision might be picked up by other churches who will decide to be better together.  
*Ephesians 2:7 “So God can point to us in all future ages as examples of the incredible wealth of his grace and kindness toward us, as shown in all he has done for us who are united with Christ Jesus.”*
- **Magnify Jesus!** Pray that everything we do will be for the glory of Jesus! Pray we’ll always remember that “our churches” are actually **HIS CHURCH!**  
*Ephesians 3:21 “Glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever! Amen.”*

If you have any questions about any of this please don’t hesitate to contact Erik or any of the Shepherds. Let’s be better together,

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