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Church Planting Prospectus

A new gospel-centered church in Brunswick, MD

Prepared for potential partners and team members, January 2017
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Table of Contents

Why Plant?

About

Philosophy

Leadership

Strategy

Partner

Beliefs

Why Plant?

Church planting follows the New Testament pattern of making disciples.

The missionary strategy of Paul to fulfill the great commission was to plant churches in areas of influence to reach as many people groups as possible (Acts 14:21-23, 16:9-15, 12; Titus 1:5; Romans 15:19-21). In this pattern the Gospel is brought to an unreached area and new believers are equipped and encouraged to make disciples themselves as the church community grows. Afterwards, the process of planting a new church begins again; this pattern best aligns with the New Testament example of making disciples.

A new church provides unique discipleship opportunities among the unchurched.

Studies confirm that the average new church gains 1/3 to 2/3 of its members from those not attending any worshipping body whereas churches over ten to fifteen years of age gain 80 to 90 percent of new members by transfer from other congregations¹. While many established churches do effectively reach the lost there are simply not enough of these ministries making an overall impact in evangelism. The

average new church will bring lost people into God's Kingdom at six to eight times the rate of an established church of the same size².

A new church can reach diverse populations.

In general, new churches are nimble enough to identify and reach the emerging populations and new people groups in a changing cultural landscape. Younger adults are typically found in higher percentages in newer congregations.

A new church releases new, creative disciples and leaders to impact the city for Christ.

Because of growth factors and a missional focus new churches are positioned to engage higher percentages of their members' spiritual gifts and natural abilities. As a result they can develop and release innovative, kingdom-focused disciples who convey the Gospel through their personal relationships and in their vocations.

¹ Timothy Keller, *Center Church* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2012), 359.

² Ibid.

About Brunswick

Brunswick MD is in Southern Frederick County Maryland, which is a part of the greater Washington DC metroplex. There are about 20,000 people living in the target area for the church plant.

Brunswick has grown by over 25% in the last 10 years in population. Over 1500 homes being built in Brunswick Crossing- catering to commuters who travel to Washington DC to work. This emerging community has a great need for churches.

Brunswick is nestled along the Potomac river, has a historic downtown and has access to a 180 mile bike path along an old canal following the river. Brunswick services the communities of Northern Virginia, Harper's Ferry WV, Point-of-Rocks and Jefferson MD.



We believe Brunswick is ready for a spiritual harvest as over 58% of Frederick county has no religious affiliation at all. (twice the national average). Only 9% attend a evangelical church. There is a lack of vibrant bible-believing churches in the area. One resident of Brunswick Crossing said "We need churches here!"

"58% Of Frederick County Has no religious affiliation"

Grace Fellowship Church will engage with the people of Brunswick to create a transformational gospel community.

Brunswick is around 12 miles away from Frederick MD and resides in the Chesapeake district of the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches.

Philosophy of Ministry

Our Vision

Our vision is to create a vibrant, relevant, healthy bible-teaching church that plants more churches.

Our Mission

We exist to follow Jesus as we know the gospel, the live the gospel and give the gospel away. The gospel is not only the power of salvation, but is the power for living today as well as the mission of the church³. The Gospel is the good news that Jesus is King and we can have forgiveness, life and a future with him. Everything we do will revolve **knowing** the gospel, **living** the gospel and **giving** the gospel away.



"It" is the gospel - the story of Jesus. As we grow in our relationship with Jesus, we want to know the life-changing power of the Gospel; that we are worse off than we thought, but more loved than we can ever imagine.

We learn the gospel through studying God's Word: the Bible. We will study the Bible at Grace Fellowship and it will be our roadmap for our life.

³ Matthew 28:19

Philosophy of Ministry continued



Living the gospel out in our community means that we live and love like Jesus did. We want to imitate the life of Jesus. We do this best as we share life together in a faith community. We were made for relationships and faith is meant to be lived out as we share live with one another. Grace Fellowship will focus most of its energy on a vibrant small groups ministry. this is our strLifeGroups are small groups where you can focus on bringing the Bible and everyday life together while building meaningful relationships.



Giving the gospel away means doing good; it means action, it means being proactive in our community to help people at their point of need. This is demonstrating the gospel. But the gospel is fundamentally good news that needs to be proclaimed and not just demonstrated; otherwise its not "news". It means sharing the story of Jesus. It means sharing the incredible things he's done in our lives and spreading that incredible story with others.

Philosophy of Ministry continued

Our Values

Gospel-Centered

We believe people are transformed as they know the good news and love of Jesus as revealed in the Bible, not the rules or traditions of religion.

Mission-Minded

We live to make Jesus make sense and we are preoccupied with making any necessary sacrifice to make the story of Jesus clear and accessible to anyone seeking after Him.

From rows to circles

We cannot live without honest relationships. We resolve to figure out how to Love God, love each other and live on mission together.

We do our best with everything we have

We can do more by doing less. We are committed to excellence and effectiveness for the Gospel. We will maximize every resource to focus our creativity and

efforts things that will make the biggest impact. It's about focused excellence.

Culturally Progressive

We choose relevance over tradition.

Sending capacity over seating capacity

Every member of the community is a missionary. We will focus on mobilizing our people to do the work of the ministry. Our goal is to be a Jesus- centered church planting movement.

No topic is off-limits

From the bedroom to the bank-account- we will unashamedly talk about real-life topics.

We actively seek ministry partnerships

We work purposefully to maximize impact for God's Kingdom through strategic partners. Grace cannot go it alone, and we will leverage the strengths of diverse organizations and churches to pursue the movement to which God has called us. We cut out the middle-man and connect the people of Grace with strategic partners.

Leadership



Scott Avey, Lead Pastor

scottavey@gracefellowship.church

Jennifer, Cadence (11), Coda (8), Canon (12)

Scott comes to the team with 13 yrs of ministry experience. He has both an undergraduate degree in Music Education (percussion), and his graduate degree in local church ministry from Grace College and Theological Seminary. After 10 years in worship ministry, both he and Jennifer sensed God leading him to be a full-time church planter in the DC area. His ministry goal is to be a part of directly or indirectly planting three churches in his lifetime and has a heart to see those far from God come to have a vibrant relationship with Jesus.

Scott has been actively involved in the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches, serving on the Fellowship Council and leading three summer conference sessions.

He is hopelessly in love with his bride of 15 years and this three children. He is an avid “technologist” who builds drones and other projects in his spare time.

Strategy

Simple Church Model

Everything we do needs to move the people of Grace Fellowship to **know** the gospel, **live** the gospel and **give** the gospel away. We will therefore focus on the following ministry opportunities:

Worship Gathering

Corporately, we will spend time in learning the gospel and it's radical power in our lives. Our worship services will be unapologetically contemporary, informal and will focus on creating environments that unchurched people will love to attend. The teaching will be solidly founded on the bible, saturated in the gospel, and high in application. No topic is off-limits from the bank account to the bedroom- the gospel affects it all.

Groups

Groups (otherwise known as small groups) are where we will learn to live out the gospel. All groups must have an intentional leader, a relational environment and reproducible processes to multiply their groups. We will work hard to encourage all who attend Grace Fellowship to be a part of this primary avenue of spiritual formation.

Student/Children's Ministries

We will devote resources and energy towards shaping a God-centered worldview in the lives of our children and students.

Our first efforts will be in establishing a strong children's ministry. Our goal is a 50/50 blend of a children's worship gathering and smaller children's groups.

At first, our youth ministries will be in cooperation with Grace Community Church, (their Youth ministries meet on Wednesday nights). When it becomes prudent, we will pursue beginning our own youth ministry.

Community Outreach

We want the people of Grace Fellowship to be our walking billboards and how we give the gospel away. We will spend our outreach dollars in outrageous acts of generosity and community "blitz" events. We will leverage the people of Grace Fellowship to demonstrate to the community know that we are here and we care through service projects, school partnerships, and connecting with other partners that serve the needs of the community.

Strategy continued

We have a 4-year strategic plan consisting of:

1

Preparation

Sept 2016- Sept 2017.

Our focus during this time is to recruit workers and prepare the soil for the harvest. We are working on creating the foundation for the church.

- Recruit prayer partners and cultivate a culture of prayer among the families of Grace Fellowship
- Recruit a launch team of committed families and individuals to both evangelize and help lead the church ministries
- Begin meeting for a weekly bible study with these families
- Establish strategic partnerships to raise funds

- Building strategic relationships with community leaders in Brunswick
- Find adequate space for launch a public worship service
- Establish founding documents
- Establish website and social media presence

GOALS:

- Have at least 10 families/40 people committed to launching the church
- 18k of giving from the church plant families
- Families sent from Grace Community Church transition fully to the church plant
- Raise 40k in external giving from strategic partners
- 10% conversion growth (4 people)

2

Launch

Sept 2017- Sept 2018

Our focus at this time is to create a public presence in the community with a weekly worship gathering and community outreach and also develop small groups.

- Begin a public worship gathering in a rented space (still on Saturday nights)
- Develop a worship team
- Have several momentum-building outreach events in the community
- Develop small group leader training and begin launching groups
- Develop formal children's ministry
- Continue fund raising
- Develop a story-telling video team

Strategy continued

GOALS:

- Have 2 small groups functioning with intentional leaders and a reproducible process
- 60+ people attending gatherings
- 30k of giving from the church plant families.
- Raise an additional 40k of external giving
- 10% conversion growth (6 people)

3

Growth

Sept 2018- Sept 2019

Our focus during this time is equipping leaders for ministry and increasing community presence through strategic outreach opportunities and growing our corporate gathering.

- Begin developing elder board leadership team

- Initiate Starting Point Groups
- Recruit key staff/volunteers as needed (children's/worship/admin)
- Work toward a full-time rental space
- Develop a long-term relationship with the elementary school
- Continue to raise funds through strategic partners
- Have 2-3 community outreach events

GOALS

- 80+ People in attendance
- 40k of giving from the church plant families.
- Raise 40k in external giving
- 10% conversion growth (8 people)

4

Autonomy

Sept 2019-Sept 2020

Our goal in the last year of the church plant project is to grow in strength towards so as to become self-replicating.

- Launch a 3rd small group
- Staff and launch student and adult ministries as needed
- Continue outreach efforts
- Achieve financial independence

GOALS

- 100+ people in attendance
- Raise 40k in external giving.
- 100k in giving from the church body.
- 10% conversion growth (10 people)

Partner

For a church plant to come to life, many people need to help. There are three ways you can play a key role in helping New City Church:

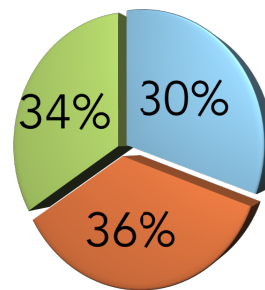
Give, Join, & Pray

We are seeking approximately \$160,000, or \$40,000 per year, in external funding over the first four years to launch this church and make it self-sustaining. This is a modest figure considering the significant expenses associated with living and working in the Washington DC area.

We are seeking individuals, churches, and organizations to partner with us in planting Grace Fellowship Church through financial giving:

4 Year Budget

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Expenses	\$40,000	\$130,000	\$130,000	\$150,000
Income				
External Giving	\$22,000	\$20,000	\$10,000	\$100,000
Sending Church	\$0	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$0
Congregational Giving	\$18,000	\$30,000	\$40,000	\$50,000
Average Total Attendance	40	60	80	100
		Total giving needed		\$152,000



- Congregational Giving 140k
- External Giving 160k
- Sending Church 150k

As you can see, Grace Fellowship Church will need significant resources to accomplish its mission. When you commit to becoming a financial partner, you are not only supporting Grace Fellowship, but are partnering with God in renewing the Washington DC Area through the advancement of a Gospel-fueled church planting movement; our larger vision. You will see the power of Jesus Christ penetrate unreached people groups and transform lives: hurting people will experience healing, disciples will be made and sent out to make new disciples, cities will be

Partner

renewed, and God will be glorified through it all. Your faithful giving will play a role in each and every impacted life!

We ask you to prayerfully consider partnering with us financially. Some partners will be able to commit monthly gifts of \$25 or more towards our three- year budget. Others will give a one-time donation. In all cases, we earnestly appreciate your generous gift.

We invite you to consider partnering at one of the following levels to help us reach our yearly external giving goals of \$40,000:

- 4 Partners at \$10,000 per year
- 8 Partners at \$5,000 per year
- 17 Partners at \$200 per month
- 23 Partners at \$150 per month
- 34 Partners at \$100 per month
- 68 Partners at \$50 per month

You may give online at:
www.gracefellowship.church

or directly [HERE](#)

We are a 501c(3) organization and you will receive a receipt for each tax deductible gift. Your giving will support salary, rental, insurance, development, and equipment expenses. In the life of a young church plant, every single dollar makes a difference.

If you wish to talk further about making a contribution, please contact Scott Avey at scottavey@gracefellowship.church

Join

Right now the Launch Team for Grace Fellowship Church is forming. God is bringing together a diverse group of families to be part of this exciting launch. If you believe in the mission, vision, and core values of Grace Fellowship Church and have prayerfully considered joining contact Scott Avey at scottavey@gracefellowship.church If your church or organization is interested in more information about sending individuals or teams to Grace Fellowship to help with a project or with outreach, please contact Scott Avey.

Partner continued

Pray

Prayer is the primary means to any movement of God's Spirit. Please continue to pray for Grace Fellowship and the city of Brunswick. We believe that God will advance a larger church-planting movement through this ministry.

We are looking to secure a team of prayer-warriors as we plant Grace Fellowship. Please consider adding us to your prayer list.

If you would like to receive Grace Fellowship updates please send a request to scottavey@gracefellowship.church or go to www.gracefellowship.church and sign up for our email list.

Contact Us

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<http://tinyurl.com/z9k7u6d>

Our sending church is:

Grace Community
Church,
5102 Old National Pike,
Frederick MD 21702
www.gracetoday.org

Beliefs

God is the Creator of the universe, and eternally exists in three coequal Persons: Father, Son (Jesus) and Holy Spirit.

Jesus, both fully God and man, sacrificed Himself for the sins of all people by dying on a cross and rising from the dead. He will return one day.

The Holy Spirit makes people aware of their need for Jesus Christ. He lives in every believer from the moment of salvation. He gives every believer spiritual

gifts and guides them in right living.

The Bible is God's authoritative Word to mankind, written by human authors under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is inspired by God and without error.

Humanity was made in the image of God but fell into sin, separating mankind from God. Only by trusting in God's offer of forgiveness through Jesus Christ can a person be rescued from sin and eternal separation from God. Eternal life with God begins when one receives Jesus Christ by faith.

The local church is a group of believers committed to living in

Biblical community with each other to fulfill Jesus' command to make disciples. Key practices of the local church include believer's baptism and the Lord's Supper. All believers are members of the universal Church.

Grace Fellowship Church is a part of the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches
www.fgbc.org

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