

NEXT DOOR MISSION
Greenwood Adoption Proposal



THROUGH THE NEXT DOOR MISSION WE INTEND TO MOBILIZE OUR PEOPLE
**TO GO NEXT DOOR & LAUNCH HEALTHY,
GOSPEL-CENTERED CHURCHES**
AROUND THE GREATER INDIANAPOLIS AREA

NEXT DOOR MISSION

College Park Church has launched a strategy of mobilizing our people to reach neighbors and the nations with the gospel. Corporately and individually, we are on mission to engage with neighbors, connect with the community, and live with a greater Kingdom mindset.

One way we seek to live on mission is by planting, adopting, and revitalizing churches. Our long-term vision is for vibrant new and revitalized churches spreading the Good News of Christ in our city. That is a key reason why we are considering adopting a congregation in the Greenwood area of Indianapolis.

(For more on the Next Door strategy, visit yourchurch.com/nextdoor)

BACKGROUND: ADOPTING A GOSPEL WITNESS

The leaders of The Rock Bible Church in Greenwood contacted our pastoral staff in the fall of 2017 about adopting its church and its people. They had a desire to continue a gospel-proclaiming witness on that property and in that area of the city.

SOUTHSIDE OF INDY: GREAT SPIRITUAL NEEDS

There is a need for more healthy and gospel-centered churches in the Indy-metro area. Of the 1.9 million people who live there, 60% have no affiliation with a Christian church. Combined with the population growth in Greenwood, we see that the need in Greenwood is great.

THERE IS A NEED FOR GOSPEL OUTREACH & HEALTHY CHURCHES IN THE GREENWOOD AREA



WHY LAUNCH A CHURCH IN GREENWOOD?

An adoption of The Rock Bible Church will further our Next Door Mission strategy. It will mobilize our people and invite new people to bring the gospel into the diverse and relatively unchurched Greenwood community.

WHEN & HOW?

We intend to launch a Greenwood incubator gathering in April 2018 and re-launch in the building August or September 2018 depending on readiness.

Measures of Readiness:

- Pastoral leadership and readiness for launch
- Strong relationships being built within the congregation
- Volunteer teams in place
- Building renovations completed
- Small groups started

COMMON QUESTIONS

WHAT IS COLLEGE PARK CHURCH'S VISION FOR THE GREENWOOD MINISTRY ONE YEAR FROM THE ADOPTION?

We envision a joyful, united, and flourishing College Park Church Greenwood. This family of 200+ people will be worshipping and serving in the Greenwood community. We envision a healthy staff and the start of an Elder team. Together, they will equip church members through Sunday worship and teaching, small groups, children's and student ministry, and intentionally investing in community evangelism and global outreach.

WHAT IS CHURCH ADOPTION?

For a number of reasons a church may find itself in a season when they are unable to move forward. The church leadership has responsibility to identify the source of the challenges and seek a solution. The solution might include clarifying the church's mission, developing additional and new leadership, and assessing financial or other resource constraints.

Often, a ministry friend or advisor is helpful in assessing the situation and providing wise counsel, and consequently the church is able to make adjustments and will move into a new season of flourishing ministry. However, there are also times when a church determines resources are not available for it to move into the next ministry season.

Rather than continue to decline, some congregations determine the best way to move forward is to find a healthy, like-minded church by which to be adopted. In these situations, the struggling church chooses to end its ministry. It dissolves its legal organization and is folded into the culture, ministry, leadership, and mission of the adopting church.

College Park Church leaders think adoption is a helpful metaphor. In a church adoption, just as in a family's adoption, there is trauma and pain as a family relationship ends. At the same time, there is joy and hope as a new family relationship is established.

WHO WILL BE THE LEADERS OF THE NEW CHURCH?

The Elders of The Rock Bible Church and College Park Church will lead the churches through a healthy adoption consideration and voting process. If CPC members approve the adoption, the Elders of The Rock Bible Church will guide their church through a transition, including closure of the church ministry, the transfer of assets, and the dissolution of the church organization. Upon completion of these steps, the Elders of College Park Church will assume leadership of the assets and ministry of the former The Rock Bible Church.

COMMON QUESTIONS *(CONTINUED)*

WHO WILL OWN THE ASSETS AND DEBT?

As part of the adoption, and after all due diligence is completed, all assets will transfer to College Park Church. Long-term debt will be renegotiated as part of the adoption transfer process.

HOW WILL FINANCES BE MANAGED?

The Rock Bible Church will continue providing for the ongoing needs of its ministry throughout the adoption consideration, vote, and transition. All accounts and final payments will be made prior to asset transfer and dissolution.

WHAT WILL THE ROCK BIBLE CHURCH MEMBERS DO AFTER THE ADOPTION?

The Rock Bible Church will continue to meet and serve one another until the church ministry is closed for renovation and preparation for launch. It is our sincere desire that all The Rock Bible Church family would be able to continue worshipping together— first at a church incubator at the North Indy Ministry Center and finally at the re-launch of College Park Church Greenwood at its original site.

HOW WILL THE ROCK BIBLE CHURCH MEMBERS BECOME MEMBERS OF COLLEGE PARK?

All members and attendees of The Rock Bible Church will be invited to consider membership at College Park Church. We will also hold a class where they can learn about College Park Church, our membership process, and our membership expectations.

HOW WILL THE \$1.2 MILLION DEBT OWED BY THE ROCK BIBLE CHURCH BE HANDLED?

College Park Church will assume the assets and the debt agreement from The Rock Bible Church. CPC will cover the debt expenses for one year with specifically-designated monies gifted from CPC families. Beginning in 2019, the financial operating budget for CPC Greenwood will be designed to include the ongoing debt repayment.

WHAT IF THE MEMBERS OF COLLEGE PARK DO NOT APPROVE THE ADOPTION?

If the College Park Church congregation votes to not proceed with the adoption process, the current leadership of The Rock Bible Church will continue to guide the church going forward. College Park Church would end all adoption assessments and continue to pray and provide counsel if and as requested.

OTHER QUESTIONS

If you have questions regarding this adoption, please email question or comments to Bruce Smith (bsmith@yourchurch.com) or Dale Shaw (dshaw@yourchurch.com).

KEY DATES

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| ■ Adoption vote by TRBC members (affirmative) | 12/17/17 |
| ■ College Park Elder vote (affirmative) | 1/15/18 |
| ■ Q & A Session (8 & 11:30am, North Indy Chapel B) | 1/28/18 |
| ■ College Park Church vote of adoption | 1/28/18 |
| ■ Incubator start (tentative) | 4/8/18 |
| ■ Re-launch in Greenwood (tentative) | Late August/September |

