

# Christ Community



“A BIBLICAL VISION FOR A  
MISSIONAL CHURCH”



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## I. Biblical Vision and Values of Multiplication

*Acts 14:21-28 They preached the good news in that city and won a large number of disciples. Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch, 22 strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. "We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God," they said. 23 Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust. 24 After going through Pisidia, they came into Pamphylia, 25 and when they had preached the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia. 26 From Attalia they sailed back to Antioch, where they had been committed to the grace of God for the work they had now completed. 27 On arriving there, they gathered the church together and reported all that God had done through them and how he had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles. 28 And they stayed there a long time with the disciples.*

### Introduction

The famous baseball player, Yogi Berra, had some memorable sayings. Here are a few of them:

We don't have to be a big church to multiply, but we do have to be healthy. Every single person's contribution counts.

Ephesians 4:16 says "From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

**23. What are estimated costs?** Construction and furnishings will average about \$ 170.00 per square foot. If we add about 7000 square feet that adds up to about 1.2 million dollars.

**24. What is the balance of our current mortgage?**

Our first mortgage is about 318,000 and the second is about 83,000 for a total of 401,000.

**25. What is the balance of our building fund?** About 164,000. It was recommended to us by the Christian Investors that we keep more cash assets available for loan power and not pay down the debt.

**26. What are the options available to fund this project?** See chart.

**27. What do we need to do together?**

We all need to embrace a vision for multiplication.

Read with us the articles on the web site and become familiar with this approach as outlined in this booklet.

Pray boldly toward that purpose.

Give toward that purpose.

Help us to be a strong church.

1. "It was impossible to get a conversation going, everybody was talking too much."
2. "You got to be very careful if you don't know where you're going, because you might not get there."
3. "Nobody goes there anymore; it's too crowded."
4. "Baseball is 90% mental, the other half is physical."

*Does anybody know one more famous Yogi Berra quote?*

5. *"This is like deja vu all over again."*

I believe when we read the book of Acts one thing we should notice is how much it pictures a time that is like our own age in many ways. We are entering a time in our history as a nation when we are going to be more like the Roman Empire than anything seen in centuries.

*This is because of three things.*

1. During the time of Acts the world was becoming more globalized.

The triumph of Rome's power created the Pax Romana and an unprecedented mobility of people, capital, and ideas. Cities became multi-ethnic and international in unprecedented ways.

*Is that at all like today? Yes.*

2. During the time of Acts the world was becoming more urbanized.

In the Greco-Roman world large cities (Rome, Corinth, Ephesus) operated virtually as independent city-states. Cities became very powerful. People flocked to the cities in unprecedented numbers.

*Is that at all like today? Yes.* Multi-national corporations operate out of major cities and people flock to urban centers for jobs.

3. During the time of Acts the world was becoming more fragmented, and pluralistic.

In the Roman world as diverse people were attracted to the cities there was a very pluralistic mix of philosophies, and pagan religions.

*Is that at all like today? Yes.* The same thing is happening today. For centuries our country had much more widespread consensus about basic questions of truth, morality, and the nature of God and ultimate reality. Now, as in the Roman world, there are multiple vital religious faith communities and options in every society. We will have traditional, secular, and pagan world-views living side by side.

Christians have gone back to the book of Acts for centuries to learn ministry practice. But we have now a double reason to do so. Our world has become much more like the Mediterranean world of the 1st

350 in one service. At 3 services this is about 1000 people in a given weekend. If you add in a 175 seat video venue @ 85% capacity, you now have an additional 150 people per service at potential multiple services as well.

**19. Will we be able to continue worshipping during construction?** Our goal for this project would be the least amount of impact on our current operations as possible. We need to shoot for keeping our worship intact here on site.

**20. What will we do with the AC?** The AC units can be moved out of the way according to the architect.

**21. Where will the sound both go, especially in light of the exit?** The sound booth could be relocated above the bulkhead where the projector is. We could raise the roof of the overflow area as we extend that wall north and add some steps and a sound booth overhead.

**22. Will we have to provide sprinklers?** If the current worship area seating is extended beyond 300, sprinklers are mandatory. This may be a good idea anyway.

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more seats and ends up shrinking the width of the platform making it less conducive for the worship team.

**14. If we build off the South end how will we connect with the present church in a way that really works?**

The addition of an outdoor courtyard in the southeast corner of the building, doors on that end of the lobby to access this part of the property and a covered walkway to a new entrance have been proposed.

**16. How many seats will we be able to add if we open up the present overflow and extend seating the entire width of the worship area?** In order to maintain real traffic flow, no more than 100 seats should be set up in the overflow. We currently can set up 40-50 extra chairs but it begins to prohibit actual movement.

**17. How many more will a venue room give us in the new building?** We could design the room to seat about 175, which gives us the 85% rule of about 150 people.

**18. What will the total be?** With our current seating at 325 plus increased overflow of 100, this brings our total to 425 @ 85% capacity, we could seat about

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century. If we want to see how to spread the gospel in the 21st century, the book of Acts has not been more directly and simply applicable to our situation in 2,000 years.

*One feature of ministry strategy in the book of Acts that is very timely for the needs of today is that of Church planting.*

## I. CHURCH PLANTING IN ACTS

Two phases of ministry:

1. First there is Christian Formation.

*Q: What are the two things that Paul did in verses 21-22?*

a. Evangelism. 21 They preached the good news. He preached is literally, *evangelizdomenoi*, "gospelled". The book of Acts shows Paul spreading the gospel through preaching in synagogue services, sharing in small group Bible studies, speaking out in market-places or leading discussions in rented halls, or just talking to people one on one.

b. Instruction. v.21b-22. They went back to converts to "strengthen and encourage". These are two verbs used together in chapters 9, 15 & 18, and John Stott calls them an 'almost technical term' for building

up new believers. How did they do it? He taught them and re-taught them "the faith". This refers to a definite body of beliefs and theology.

*Now look at verses 22-23 and at verses 27 and 28. Paul describes the Christians in two ways in these two sets of verses. What are they? Churches & disciples. When he began meeting with them they were "disciples" (v.22) but when he left them, they were "churches" (v.23).*

*So not only is there Christian formation but...*

## 2. Second, there is Church Formation.

*a. First, the believers are congregated.* That's the first part of what forms them into a church. All through Acts we see new believers not simply go on living their lives as they were but they gather regularly and are brought into a community. ( Acts 15:3, 22, 41 & 16:5 )

*b. Secondly, the leaders are consecrated.* In Acts 14:23 Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust. Paul chose elders, a plurality of leaders out of the converts, who now become the ones who teach and

accomplished this by moving the offices up to a central location, opening up Larry's, Dennis' and Saul's offices for other potential uses. The current youth room is still large enough for future youth programs.

**12. Why are we building so much office administrative space?** Currently our staff is spread out all throughout the building, using classrooms as offices. This increases our electric bill as we need to have the whole building heated or air conditioned. By adding an administrative wing, we bring all staff to a central location, freeing up old office space for additional classroom or storage space and decreasing electric usage throughout the whole building. Also, as we become a church distributed, we will need to have what may seem like an unusual amount of office space for a building this size. As future staff go offsite to launch multi-site services and potential church plants, we will become the base church and need to provide office space for them.

**13. Why not punch out the wall at the back of the platform?** The original contractor proposed this. We have a drawing which shows the central part of that wall being punched out and the platform extended southward. This only provides about 70

neighbors allowing us to park on their property on weekend services. This is another reason why we decided not to build a larger worship building on the East end of the current property.

### 9. What remodeling will we do to the present building?

We are proposing the extension of the reception area North, adding more room for a larger kitchen, relocating the sound booth, adding a coffee bar service area, enlarging the lobby with an overhang for drop off and enlarging the ladies bathroom.

10. **If we are opening up overflow why not raise the ceiling?** We could raise the ceiling on that portion of the building as long as we don't disturb the worship area roofline. We don't want to have to relocate services at any point during construction. However, the plan is to move the sound booth up to a second floor level by raising that roof line.

11. **What about the children's education classrooms and the youth room?** With multiple services, the current children's classrooms are structured to hold the flow of children for the ratio of the current worship area attendance capacity. However, with adding up to 100 seats in the worship area, there will be a need for additional classroom space. We have

shepherd the people in the faith. He did not keep them under his direct authority or dependent on him. He made them churches in their own right - not just loose knit "fellowships". They had their own leadership, their own structure.

*When he began meeting with them they were "disciples" (v.22) but when he left them, they were "churches" (v.23).* In the ministry in Acts, church planting is not something odd or once-in-a-lifetime. It is not forced on people by circumstances. Church planting is woven into the warp and woof of things, it happens constantly, it happens normally.

In summary,

*THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
DEVELOPED IN THE BOOK OF  
ACTS AS A MOVEMENT OF  
CHURCH PLANTING.*

*It's fascinating against the backdrop of the books of Acts to reflect on church planting today ....*

## II. CHURCH PLANTING TODAY

The strategic importance of church planting for fulfilling the great commission is one of the few things pretty much all denominations completely agree about.

In an article titled *Why Plant Churches*, Dr. Tim Keller, writes:

The vigorous, continual planting of new congregations is the single most crucial strategy for 1) the numerical growth of the Body of Christ in any city, and 2) the continual corporate renewal and revival of the existing churches in a city. Nothing else—not crusades, outreach programs, para-church ministries, growing mega-churches, congregational consulting, nor church renewal processes—will have the consistent impact of dynamic, extensive church planting. This is an eyebrow raising statement. But to those who have done any study at all, it is not even controversial.

#### A. The Power of Multiplying New Churches

New churches best reach the unchurched—period. [T]he average new congregation will bring 6-8 times more new people into the life of the Body of Christ than an older congregation of the same size. *Why Plant Churches*, T. Keller

One leading Missiologist, C. Peter Wagner, writes:

“Planting new churches is the most effective evangelistic methodology known under heaven.”

C. Peter Wagner, *Strategies for Growth* (Glendale: Regal, 1987), p. 168.

**6. If we are building, why not buy a bigger parcel of property and relocate the church? Did we consider the adjacent properties?** We checked into the prices for larger parcels and given the current market we would not be able to afford to purchase and build a large enough facility to meet our current and future needs. We also looked into the properties around us for sale and found them out of our price range. It would take us 5 years to locate, appropriate and fund the purchase of land and then plan and build a building, relocating our church to another place in the area.

**7. If we're building, why not build a stand-alone building off the East end?** The focus shifted off of a larger worship area and onto administrative space and a possible video venue space. We found we were able to utilize the space South of the current worship area that would not have been otherwise used for anything else. Parking became an issue as well as the overall layout of the site, flow of traffic and accessibility of the main worship area.

**8. If we build more on this property how will it affect the parking?** This has been a key issue. We have obtained written parking agreements with our

of the process of making that decision. If he hasn't already been to specific church planting training we will send him and this will be part of the course of study. Then his suggestions will be presented to our staff and elders for a final decision. Much prayer must go into a decision like that.

**4. Will anyone be pressured to go into another church plant?** No. If we employ the model in which a church planter serves with us onsite then we will invite him to recruit from our core congregation but no one will be pressured to go. We will pray and trust God to raise up willing members who are ministry and mission minded. Such people are typically pioneering people who like the challenge of starting a new work. We will oversee this process so that we can send a strong team to the new work without harming the base church.

**5. If we're multiplying, why build on the present site at all?** We need to maximize our space on this property for optimal use as a base church for multi-siting and church planting. This means additional office space, storage, multi-use and gathering space. In addition, as mentioned above, we'd like to give our base church room to expand as we develop our ministry of multiplication.

Established congregations provide many things that newer churches often cannot, but they have not been able to match the record of new churches for reaching new people. There may be several reasons for this.

John Piper says,

[E]xperience has shown, and the Bible would support, that new churches are one of the most effective means of evangelism. Leith Anderson, from across town at Wooddale says, "New churches are flexible, open to newcomers, entrepreneurial, outreaching, and not burdened with servicing old internal relationships and demands." Older churches "tend to become so burdened with budgets, buildings, and pastor and people problems that they no longer have the energy for outreach." We will fight with all our might to keep that from being true at our 135 year old Bethlehem. But there is no doubt that new churches have new energy for evangelism. Their life depends on it. That is a good thing.  
*Introducing All Nations Christian Fellowship, A Church Plant of Bethlehem Baptist Church*  
By John Piper February 5, 2006

Every study done has led to the same conclusion. New churches are the most effective way to reach

new people. A strategy of church planting is both biblical and practical.

*Maybe someone thinks, "Ok, I see that, but wouldn't it be better to try to grow more big churches.*

*Shouldn't we focus on growing larger before we start thinking about planting new churches?"*

*Well, let's not only look at the power of multiplying new churches but also...*

## B. The Power of Multiplying Smaller Churches

Illustration: Christian Schwarz led a research project that wanted to do serious scientific research that looked at church life and health. The research project developed into the most comprehensive research project of the causes of church growth ever undertaken. They looked at over 1,000 churches on six continents. At least 30 members of each church were surveyed regarding 170 variables relating to church life and health. By the way, since then the same research has been carried out with over 45,000 churches and all the initial results were confirmed. When asked what surprised him most in his research he said this:

"That, on average, the smaller churches are the better churches. To say it in a simplified way, 'The larger, the worse'. This pattern is so significant that it is difficult to see why no one else has come across this pattern. Instead some authors even proceed from the opposite thesis,

## VI. Frequently Asked Questions.

### 1. Shouldn't we be bigger first? More of a presence?

No. This is one of the most common "myths" of church planting. Churches of 500 or less plant eighty percent of the new churches planted in America today! Some studies place a church our size (500) among the top 5% of churches in America already. We need to be a healthy church, not a bigger church. We need to believe bigger!

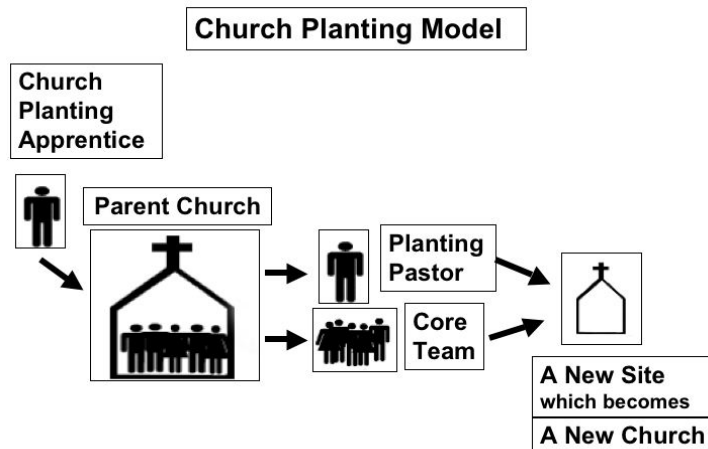
2. **What will the multi-site look like?** There are many models, all of which can work well. One approach is team teaching where there is a live preaching pastor who preaches the same text as the home pastor. Another approach is a pastor on site who preaches separate sermons according to the needs of that congregation. A third is the video venue approach in which there is a live worship team and pastor on site but the preaching is recorded and displayed on the screen.

### 3. How will we know where we start our first church?

Our staff will be learning how to do the studies and weigh the various factors that are involved in such a decision this winter. One of the things we've learned is that the church-planting pastor needs to be a part

During this time he will work part time in a ministry at the base church while devoting the rest of his time to researching where and how to develop the future ministry. He also uses this time to recruit a team from the base church, to develop a plan and build a core. This is all done under the supervision and support of the base church. Then he launches the ministry. There are many reasons to suggest that, at first, this would be an off-site campus as an extension of the base church. When it develops to a point of adequate self-sufficiency, it transitions from an off-site campus to a sister church.

*A church planting church is one in which we are always planting a church, or thinking about and planning where we will plant the next one. It becomes a culture and we build a movement.*



namely, 'The bigger, the better.'  
 The Implementation Guide to Natural Church Development.

He wrote:

"Those familiar with church growth literature regularly encounter the names of a number of large churches which are held up as models to be imitated. The presupposition is that large churches are by definition good churches. Is this thesis tenable? Our research revealed for the first time that the opposite is probably true."

The original study looked at these eight indications of church health.

- 1.) Empowering leadership
- 2.) Gift-based ministry
- 3.) Passionate spirituality
- 4.) Effective structures
- 5.) Inspiring worship services
- 6.) Holistic small groups
- 7.) Need-oriented evangelism
- 8.) Loving relationships

Smaller Churches were consistently better on all but #5!

How does this relate to Christ Community Church?  
 Let's look first of all at our bylaws and our history.

## II. Christ Community Church Purpose Statement

The principle purpose of this organization shall be to work together as members of the body of Christ in such a way that by the power of the Holy Spirit the Living Christ and His Word will be brought to bear upon every aspect of life so that, in turn, the greatest number of people will come into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ by faith and grow as His disciples in Faith, Hope and Love, glorifying God by following Christ daily. BY-LAWS ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

*Ephesians 4:11-13 & 16 (NIV) It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, 12 to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. 16 From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.*

*A second step is to commit to an intentional season of prayerful investigation.*

We've already begun this process but we need to let it play out. During this time we will deepen our knowledge base on the staff with regard to both church planting and multi-site ministries. Several of our staff attended the Global Church Advancement, National Church-Planting conference in February of 2007. We've already begun communicating with and visiting other churches who are involved in various approaches to multiplication. We held an elder/staff retreat where we prayed about and discussed our options and shared them with the FBS classes in February. We believe it is wisest to wait until this season of investigation is completed before we complete our planning.

*The third step is to launch our ministry of multiplication using proven models that are backed by knowledge and bathed in prayer.*

Although we are still learning about all of this, we've already seen some models for church planting that seem to be widely used with great success. The most attractive model I've seen for this has been one in which an apprentice church planter is brought on to the base church staff for a season.

4. Creating more gathering space, an enlarged kitchen, lobby, multi-use space, and ladies bathroom space.

5. Balancing the cost of building with projected increases in the cost of other ministry priorities.

## V. Planning for Multiplication

*The first step is what we are doing now with regard to our building plans.*

- Expand the present worship area, lobby and ladies restroom to the North.

Increased seating will be addressed by extending the overflow seating area the entire width of the church and add on to the North end of the worship area bringing it out to the present Handicap parking spaces. This will give us 100 extra seats. Common areas, ladies restrooms, and hopefully kitchen space could be addressed in this expansion also.

- Build a two story multi-purpose addition on the South West corner of our property just South of the worship area.

The increased need for administrative facilities, educational rooms, storage, etc. would be addressed primarily through the multi-purpose building on the South end of the Worship area. This can also add extra seating in an alternative worship venue option.

## III. History of the Church WHERE WE'VE BEEN...

- Our First service held during advent 1984
- 1985-1995 Grew to 200 in rented facilities
- 1996 Purchased land
- 1999 Built building
- 2001 Added educational wing
- 2003 Added second service
- 2005 Added third service
- 2002-2005 grew to approx. 500 in attendance

The growth of Christ Community Church has been steady and strong in the new millennium. In 2003 we added a 2<sup>nd</sup> service on Sunday mornings.

We added a 3<sup>rd</sup> service on Saturday evenings in October of 2005 as our average attendance grew from about 275 in 2002 to about 500 in 2006.

## WHERE WE ARE...

- Three Services
- Averaging 540 in attendance 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2007.
- Membership - 247 in 2005, 257 in 2006, 265 in 2007
- Giving:
  - \$ 502,555 Jan -Oct 2005
  - \$ 571,127 Jan -Oct 2006
  - \$766,000 Budget for 2007
- Ministry Context - Volusia County projected to grow from 495,000 to 650,000 by 2020

### What has been the progression of decisions that has led to our current position?

- Continual growth led to a 2<sup>nd</sup> and then a 3<sup>rd</sup> service. The Saturday night became a distinctive service that is more than an overflow but rather a preferred service for many.
- We determined that in light of our core values and ministry commitments it would be unwise to invest the necessary time, energy, focus and money in buying more property, relocating and building a bigger building. Our purpose is to multiply, not super-size. This is not just management but mission.
- We determined that to best serve our mission and ministry our present facilities do need to be maximized. We need to carefully develop our

*new people in obedience to the great commission.*

*The second issue to address is,*  
**2). Our philosophy of facilities**

*Key concept: Our purpose with respect to facilities is not to super-size but to maximize.*

*Key Statement regarding facilities:  
 If our ministry vision focuses on multiplication we do not need a facility large enough to house a mega-church but we do need a facility that is sufficient to serve as a base for multiplying ministry throughout our community.*

### Key Issues:

As we looked at the facilities issue in light of the ministry philosophy some of the issues we felt we needed to address were as follows

1. Providing a modest increase in seating capacity to enable us to be a "base church" without the cost and demands of building; compromising our ministry and mission.
2. Increasing administrative and educational space to meet "base church" needs.
3. Maintaining sufficient parking and traffic flow to meet the needs of our congregation.

*become a movement of multiple and multiplying ministries: a movement of multiple services, multiple campuses and multiple congregations that share a common set of values and distinctives.*

Why a strategy of multiplying instead of super-sizing?

Two reasons:

1. We simply sense this as God's calling for our particular church fellowship in light of our values and distinctives as informed by the Scriptures and prayer.
2. We believe this is actually the best and most biblical way to reach more non-Christians, and at the same time develop and deepen Christian discipleship amongst those who already believe.

Numerous studies have shown that a strategy of growing through multiplication; that is multiple services, sites and congregations, is especially effective at three key purposes.

- A. *Reaching non-Christians.*
- B. *Developing more people in discipleship and ministry.*
- C. *Enabling the church to retain a sense of community while continually reaching out to*

present property and expand our facilities to best serve as a base church for multiplying.

- We met with a civil engineer and determined that we can build on the south end of the worship area without affecting parking and can build up to 7.5 feet from our property line. Also, we can add on to the north end of building to create more gathering space, overflow seating, larger kitchen, and ladies bathroom and lobby area.
- We confirmed the current grass lot has already been approved for paving and parking. We began obtaining parking agreements in writing with our neighbors.
- We researched issues relating to the capacity of our worship seating. We concluded that based on a balanced commitment to our goals and values, a modest increase in seating would best suit our ministry needs. We determined we would try to provide seating sufficient for 300-400 people in each service. This "modest" increase could still allow us to have up to 1,000 worshippers on a weekend in three services! This could in turn be augmented by the possibility of a separate "venue" in the new multipurpose building.
- We interviewed and hired an architect and engineer to begin schematic drawings.

Where do we go from here?

## IV. Mission and Vision for Growth.

*Our purpose as a church is to make disciples of Jesus who glorify God by following Christ daily.*

If we are faithful to that purpose, and to Christ, we will most likely continue to grow. So how do we approach our vision and strategy for growth? What kind of church do we see ourselves becoming and how will that affect the decisions we make today? The most common approach to growth in our culture is for churches to invest a lot of money in land, move out to the outskirts of town and build bigger and bigger buildings to centralize their ministry. This is often called the “mega-church model”.

But that model is increasingly being questioned on both Scriptural and practical grounds. Young people, new Christians and non-Christians in particular find it increasingly unappealing because it tends to create a culture of slick professionalism which markets the faith to a crowd of church shoppers. It tends to stress control over community and a smorgasbord of programs for anonymous consumers over authentic discipleship in a connected fellowship. New Christians and non-Christians are increasingly saying that when they look for spiritual

answers they want something authentic and spiritual not slick, pre-packaged and super-sized.

Is there a different way to dream of reaching many people and seeing significant growth? Yes.

*Two questions to address:*

1) Our philosophy of ministry. 2) Our philosophy of facilities.

We are a church that is committed to Christ, to historic Christian faith, to the centrality of Christ, the authority of the Word of God, to dependence on the Holy Spirit, to ministry, creativity, justice, mission, community, theology, authenticity, accountability, worship, prayer and the glory of God. But to go into all of that is unnecessary, we do that often in sermons and classes, in our bylaws, and Discovery class.

This booklet will focus on two issues as they relate to our growth and our building.

*First,*

### 1) Our philosophy of ministry

Key concept: *Our purpose with respect to ministry is not to super-size but to multiply.*

Key Statement regarding ministry:

*Our vision will be best served, not by trying to become one more mega-church but by aspiring to*