

VISION 2011

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

VISION STATEMENT

The River Church elders are prayerfully considering the timing of starting a second River Church campus east of the city of Poughkeepsie. Our vision for the city remains unchanged; how we reach more people in the Hudson Valley for the gospel is the focus of our prayer.

There are more people who need to be reached with the gospel than those who will voluntarily attend church in the city. And our DNA incites church planting. It is part of who we are.

The location of a proposed second campus is the Rte. 55 corridor, somewhere in the Noxon / Paige Lumber vicinity. It is the locus of the population of Dutchess County that we believe would find our church culture appealing, minus the city location.

DISTINCTIVES OF A MULTI-CHURCH CAMPUS

While the two campuses would need to have their own identity and purpose, they will be tightly interconnected with a passion for winning the City of Poughkeepsie for Jesus. The analogy of a fuel source (suburban campus) that releases people into the city (energy) for ministry is one way of envisioning the way the campuses connect.

We have something to offer the suburbs. We can use the city experience to change the hearts of the suburbanites. One of our primary goals will be to train and equip for the work of the ministry, using the city as a training ground for mission work beyond Jerusalem and Judea.

MODELS OF A MULTI-CHURCH CAMPUS

Although there are several models we will research, we believe this form of church planting potentially sets a new precedent.

Models to research:

- Cell groups / home churches (Mosaic)
- Multi-ethnic churches under one common leadership (Grace Fellowship)
- Northpoint / Buckhead (Andy Stanley)

Q: Why are we considering a second church campus?

A: Because it's impossible and outrageous!

There are several factors involved. First, we know many will not come to the city to be a part of our church, and we believe God is calling us to reach out to the suburbs to cultivate a heart for the city. Poughkeepsie to us represents Jerusalem (Acts 1:8); the Hudson Valley represents Judea. Bringing people to the city for hands-on ministry is training for missions around the world.

Second, we have started growing to the point we will soon need to consider a second Sunday service. We have reached 80% seating capacity, and the parking lot is filling up regularly. These are signs of a good problem: we need more space.

Third, and probably the most important, it is part of our church DNA that we would reproduce. We believe God is birthing this distinctive in a new and exciting way.

We know that growing pains do not have to mean moving. We believe God has set us apart for a new way of reaching out to the Hudson Valley.

Q: What is the timeline for a new church planting?

A: There is no definitive schedule, only a guiding vision. The tentative plan is to launch in the next 12-18 months.

Q: Who will be leading which church?

A: Pastor Marlow will lead the East campus (Rte. 55 corridor). We are asking everyone else to pray about which church they will serve in, including who will lead the West campus (70 S. Hamiton). Please be praying as well for God's leading in where and how you will serve.

Q: How will we finance a second church campus?

A: Planting a second church is not dependent on any legal settlements for the church fire. We intend to rent a facility and not rely on any additional funding.

Q: So what's next?

A: Lots of prayer. Lots of research. Pray with us for insight into when we plant, how we plan the logistics, who leads and serves in what capacity. Most of all, pray for God's leading for you and your role on one of the campuses.