



OUR GOSPEL-CENTERED STRATEGY FOR MAKING DISCIPLES

Sunday, March 3rd // 8:45 AM & 11:15 AM Gatherings

*When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.” **Matthew 9:36-38 NIV***

[Logistics]

What? *The future of our church is to “**expand our footprint**” beyond Flint into neighboring communities for the cause of the Gospel of Jesus Christ through “site” (campus) locations.*

Why? *Because few of the surrounding communities in the greater Flint area have a thriving capacity of Bible-based, “contemporary” churches that are aggressively Gospel-centered in preaching and methodology.*

Where? *The first future “site” would be in the city of Lapeer. The next location would also be within 20-30 miles of our present Flint campus. Options could include Imlay City, Clio, Mt. Morris, Durand, etc.*

When? *The process begins now and will continue for two years. Our launch date goal is **Sunday, January 3rd, 2021**. If finances come in quicker than anticipated, we could accelerate the timetable to be in the fall of 2020.*

[Core Questions]

Why would we choose to do “site” ministries over building a new building here? ***Because this is a more efficient way to reach people with the Gospel. We are connecting them to a regionalized part of our church without attempting to raise 2-3 million dollars. Taking out a loan of that size is not an option. This also allows for a greater capacity of connection and invitation opportunities, as you do not need to invite a neighbor or co-worker to travel 30 minutes to church, but instead are able to invite him in his own community.***

Are we healthy enough to take on this challenge? ***Yes! We are at the largest average attendance and the greatest financial giving point in several years. We have 100-200 people currently serving which is 20-40% of our weekly attendance. By God’s grace, we are as healthy as we’ve ever been. We also have established processes of discipleship available. We would enter this challenge with systems in place. In addition, churches that move to multi-site ministry consistently see the level of serving participation and overall church health increase to meet this new challenge when existing systems are sound.***

How will we fund such a large endeavor? ***Beginning in April, for the next 12 months, we are asking our church to give “above and beyond” regular giving to raise \$100,000. That amount is what is needed to fund this project. A breakdown of the costs will come shortly. We will not proceed with this project until the money has been given by the church. There will be instructions in the next month on giving.***

Are we changing our name? ***No! The new “site” will be called Emmanuel of Lapeer. The current branding will continue with the addition of the city. We will also add this to our Flint campus at some point.***

Who will be the pastor? ***Pastor John will continue to be the lead pastor of Flint plus additional locations, but a campus pastor will be hired to lead and preach at each additional location. A Lapeer pastor has already been identified, but we are not at liberty to reveal him at this present time. The other pastors will continue in their current roles. Staffing will be added as the needs are presented to the church.***

How will the church initially start? ***Our pastoral leadership is going to pursue 25-30 “pioneers” who would be willing to go, give, and grow in Lapeer. We ask that you pray that the right people will commit. We do not want “too many” to go which would weaken our current system of leadership, giving, and serving.***

[Timeframe]

January 2019 – *Introduce vision to deacons and trustees. Both groups are excited about this plan!*

March 2019 – *Introduce vision to the church at both our 8:45 AM and 11:15 AM gatherings.*

April 2019-April 2020 – *Our church makes “pledges” toward giving “above and beyond” regular offerings to site.*

Winter-Spring 2019 – *Survey the Lapeer area for site location, community strategy, and development of site.*

April 2020 – *Hire Campus Pastor / Outreach “Sites” Pastor for development of “site” team and future sites.*

April 2020-January 2021 (or Fall of 2020) – The following are developmental plans for the site launch:

(1) *Secure location for rent or purchase.*

(2) *Develop team: children’s ministry, hospitality ministry, tech/worship ministry, tear-down/set-up, etc.*

(3) *Advertise: social media, business conversations, school connections, community involvement*

(4) *Strategize: Christmas Eve “Big Event” Gathering on December 24th, 2020 as “soft launch” in community.*

January 2021 – Launch of Lapeer “Site” of Emmanuel

[Absolutes]

1. Our name is Emmanuel, and our website describes us as a contemporary Baptist church which we are.
2. Our philosophy model of CONNECT-GROW-LIVE will be used in every site/campus as our priority.
3. Our discipleship model of DISCOVER GOD, DISCOVER EMMANUEL, and DISCOVER YOU will continue in every site/campus. Sunday School, Life Groups, Youth Ministry, etc. may look different in each site/campus.
4. Our constitution will be adjusted to make room for “sites,” but the doctrine and structures will not change. We will continue to have deacons, trustees, and deaconesses in each site that are a part of the “bigger” team with meetings where everyone comes together. The logistics of this process are yet to be determined.
5. The Word of God will always LEAD us in everything that we do! It is our ONLY RULE of faith and practice!
6. Our DNA Values will be present in every site/campus and held in high esteem by all future site pastors/leaders:

DNA VALUES

GOSPEL CENTERED – *Good news is worth talking about! Good news is worth thinking about! Good news is worth sharing at every opportunity! Therefore, it is our privilege to constantly remind one another that Jesus changes lives. We will make it a priority to talk about the Gospel in our gatherings. We will make it a habit to challenge our people to share the good news of Jesus Christ in their communities, and to invite those same people to Emmanuel for a greater encounter with God! We value at the highest level the Gospel of Jesus Christ!*

TRUTH MATTERS – *In a time where relativism is the norm, we affirm the absolute truth of the Word of God. What the Bible says, we believe and attempt to selflessly apply to our lives. What you want to hear is not often what you need to hear. Our preaching and teaching will lovingly challenge you to overcome personal feelings with Biblical facts. We believe there is an absolute standard to follow! We highly value the truth of the Word of God!*

YOUR JOURNEY OF FAITH – *Everyone is at a different stage in their journey of faith. We embrace that reality. Our gatherings have you in mind. Each week we offer a message that is both understandable and “apply-able.” We also offer class options in our growth process that will meet you where you are. We are a church filled with people struggling with different “issues” trying to take the next step! We highly value your journey of faith!*

PARTICIPATION OVER PERFORMANCE – *Community is the ultimate key to connection. For that reason, we value people coming to our church and soon after getting involved in service opportunities. We don’t believe that the Sunday gatherings are a performance for you to experience. We believe that the Sunday gatherings and everything that we do is meant to grow your faith to the point of personal action. We highly value participation!*

[Next Step]

1. Begin to pray about what you would be willing to “sacrifice” for the cause of the Gospel both financially and in service. We will be offering “pledge cards” at the end of March for you to give toward this incredible outreach.
2. There’s a link on our website at the bottom of the page that features all the current information on this project. It features today’s sermon, the Lapeer video clip, this information sheet, and a questionnaire for your use.
3. Please ask questions. You can submit your questions on a Connection Card to the Welcome Center or through the “site ministry” website link, and we will answer them at the **Quarterly Business Meeting on Wednesday, April 17th** starting at 8:10 PM. Also, please submit your name on your “card,” so we can better serve you.