



*THE  
NEXT DOOR  
MISSION*

*A STRATEGY FOR REACHING THE INDY-METRO AREA*

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college park church



There is a deficit of healthy, gospel-centered churches for the 1.9 million people in the Indy-metro area.

Over 1 million people in the Indy-metro area (60% of residents) have no affiliation with a Christian church.

We believe the church of Jesus Christ has the answers to the deepest challenges and needs in people's hearts and lives.

The local church is not intended to merely attract people; it is intended to fulfill the Great Commission (Matt. 28:18-20) and make disciples (followers of Jesus) who say with their mouths and lives, "Jesus is Lord."

To that end, we have developed a strategy to mobilize our people to go "next door" with the gospel and the mission of College Park Church in the diverse communities and contexts of the Indy-metro area.

The Next Door Mission is our strategy to advance the gospel in the Indy-metro region.

### 3 Key Initiatives:

#### 1. MISSIONAL MINDSET ACROSS THE CITY

Taking the gospel "next door" to neighbors, friends, and co-workers with a mentality that everyone at every campus or church is on mission

#### 2. LAUNCHING NEW CAMPUSES & CHURCHES

Starting College Park campuses and adopting hurting churches in strategic parts of our region that will become self-governing churches

#### 3. FAMILY OF CHURCHES

Working together as churches reaching the Indy-metro region

## *Where We Started: The Fishers Campus Story*

We launched our first campus in 2015 in the city of Fishers, and God has blessed our efforts. God has raised a thriving community focused on evangelism and discipleship that is on a path to self-governance.

**2014:** Researched & held information meetings

**January 2015:** Lead Pastor Chris Beals hired

**February 2015:** Incubator launched with 250 people at the Ministry Center

**June 2015:** First baptism service celebrated

**August 2015:** First Sunday at Fall Creek Intermediate School

**September 2015:** Public launch

**March 2016:** Attendance surpassed 500 people

**November 2016:** Target date for vote on Fishers Elders & land purchase at 126th & Penningon Rd. for long-term building

**November 2018:** Target date for vote for Fishers to become a locally self-governing church

**Easter Sunday 2019:** Target date for first Sunday in long-term building

WHAT'S NEXT: A FAMILY OF FLOURISHING  
CHURCHES

Central to our vision for the city are unique, local expressions of the church, embodying the gospel in a particular context & led by local leaders.

College Park Church is positioned to support the birth and sustainable health of new local churches. The goal of each local church is to multiply healthy disciples and leaders who are launched to do the work of gospel ministry - in areas of the city in which our people live.

On a regional level, a diversity of truly local churches united in gospel partnership brings vibrancy and health to the greater body of Christ, adding fullness to its witness.

Together we can do more to reach our city.

# *How We'll Develop a Family of Healthy Churches*

## *A Methodology of Fostering Health*

We will prayerfully follow these general steps to start campuses:

1. Research the needs across our city and where our people already live
2. Hold interest gatherings to explore interest & develop community
3. Raise lay & staff leaders
4. Start an "incubator" worship service and geographic small groups
5. Launch a Sunday service in the target community
6. Foster health & growth for the campus
7. Support a land purchase or building acquisition on a case-by-case basis

## *Adoption & Revitalization*

Beyond our process for starting campuses, we are open to the Lord's leading for "adopting" a local church area in need of revitalization that will become a church in the College Park Church Family. The adoption and growth would follow similar steps of community formation, support, and joining in the four commitments of churches in the College Park Family.

## *Local Elders Will Lead & Shepherd Each College Park Church*

College Park Churches will be elder-led and congregationally-governed. At the local level, each church is overseen by a Lead Pastor and a qualified team of local elders who bear the responsibility of developing strategies and addressing the issues of their local church.

## *The Next Door Council Will Oversee*

The College Park Elders will create the Next Door Council, comprised of the Lead Pastors and selected Elders from each campus, to provide strategy and coordination on issues that affect all churches, such as the vision for joint efforts, the start of new Next Door Mission initiatives (e.g., campuses, assistance), and doctrinal matters affecting all College Park Churches.

# What is the Path from Campus to Self-governing Local Church?

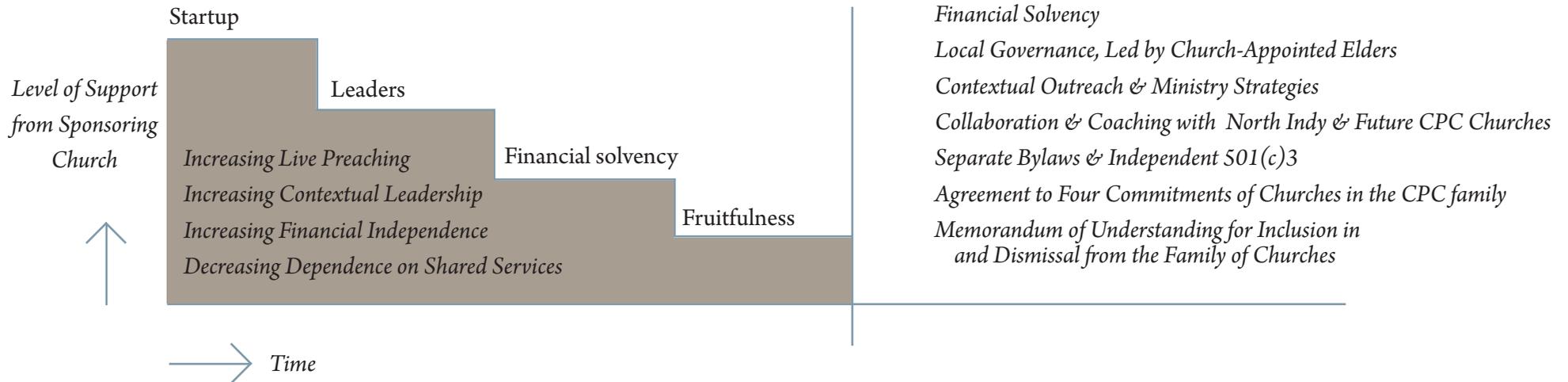
## NEW CAMPUS OR ADOPTION

*The early season of the campus is marked by a high level of support and resources by its sponsoring campus(es), with start-up infrastructure & staffing funded by the Next Door Fund*



## LOCAL CHURCH

*Upon a joint-campus vote, the campus or adoption will become a self-governing church in the College Park Family of Churches*



# How is This Funded?

## The Next Door Fund fuels this gospel work through churches in our city

The Next Door Fund was created to facilitate missional, strategic, and sustainable investments in our city launched from the Next Door Mission.

### STRATEGIC

We are positioned to invest in multiple campuses and other initiatives at various stages of development across the city. The capital invested in the Next Door Fund provides flexibility to secure land or building commitments, conduct research, or advance due diligence without continual large fundraising campaigns.

### SUSTAINABLE

The Next Door Fund balances budgetary and capital funding and is scaleable as churches grow. It leverages financial commitment and ownership of members across all College Park Churches.

### ACCOUNTABLE

The Next Door Council, comprised of Elders from College Park Churches, will oversee the Next Door Fund. It will be managed by a staff team as an independent 501(c)3 entity and reviewed through annual financial audits.

## What are the Funding Sources for the Next Door Fund?

1. BUDGETED CONTRIBUTIONS FROM CHURCHES IN THE COLLEGE PARK CHURCH FAMILY
2. GIFTS FROM NEXT DOOR PARTNERS
3. DESIGNATED GIFTS TO THE NEXT DOOR FUND

## How will initiatives use the Next Door funding?

Although every campus or other Next Door initiative will have a unique path, typically the Next Door fund will provide for start-up costs and in some cases capital for land or a building renovation. Larger capital campaigns, such as for a permanent building, are expected to be led by members of each individual local church.

Next Door Mission funds will provide for the following:

- Immediate start-up needs & portable church infrastructure
- Staffing for launch through self-sufficiency, including residents
- Capital for property research, acquisition & construction
- Financial support for select strategic initiatives with like-minded churches not in the College Park Family of churches

*Why A Family of Healthy Churches?  
Because Together We Can Do More to Reach Our City*

*Four Commitments of The College Park Family of Churches:*

**1. MISSION, CORE VALUES, & DOCTRINE**

**2. FAMILY RELATIONSHIP**

*CULTURE  
COLLABORATION*

**3. JOINT EFFORTS**

*CHURCH PLANTING & REVITALIZATION  
FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION  
RESOURCES & EVENTS  
OPTIONAL SHARED SERVICES*

**4. NAME & IDENTITY**

*LEVERAGE COLLEGE PARK'S REPUTATION IN THE COMMUNITY*

Undergirding the four commitments, these fundamental elements will be present and visible in churches in the College Park Church family:

|                    |                   |            |
|--------------------|-------------------|------------|
| THE GOSPEL         | COMMUNITY         | MEMBERSHIP |
| BIBLICAL PREACHING | PRAYER            | LEADERSHIP |
| CORPORATE WORSHIP  | BAPTISM           | DISCIPLINE |
| EVANGELISM         | THE LORD'S SUPPER | COUNSELING |
| DISCIPLESHIP       | OUTREACH          |            |

## 4 Ways You Can Engage in the Next Door Mission

### 1. PRAY FOR GOSPEL FRUIT AROUND THE CITY

Pray for the 1.9 million people in the Indy-metro area to follow Jesus

### 2. TAKE THE GOSPEL TO THOSE "NEXT DOOR" TO YOU

Build relationships & look for gospel conversation opportunities

### 3. GIVE GENEROUSLY

Give to the General Fund at [yourchurch.com/give](http://yourchurch.com/give)

### 4. ENGAGE

Participate in Info Gatherings & Members Meetings

# *Frequently-Asked Questions about the Next Door Mission Model*

## *Why do we see this model as being the most effective to reach our city?*

Traditional church planting, whereby a solo leader starts from scratch, is difficult with a less than 20 percent 5-year survival rate for North American church plants.

In other words, 80 percent of church plant efforts fail unless they have the partners, people, resources, and leadership to flourish. Meanwhile, multi-site church start-ups (i.e., new, similar locations of existing churches) have a 90 percent success rate.

Therefore we think the Lord is leading us to this model to leverage the strengths of the multi-site model while transitioning the campus as soon as it is ready to become a contextually-sensitive, locally-led, unique expression of College Park Church. In a sense, we are doing “slow-motion church planting.”

We have seen the Lord bless our model so far with our Fishers campus and other efforts in the city:

- Launching resident Dan Weller to Living Faith Church, Indianapolis
- Launching resident Joseph Rhea to Soma Church Downtown
- Launching Pastor Cory Johnson to Nehemiah Bible Church

## *What do we mean by a "family" of churches vs. a denomination or network?*

We think the family metaphor best captures the relational emphasis that is central to our model; together we can do more to reach the city.

There are some characteristics of other models such as a church network (e.g., common doctrine, shared identity), but our 1) trajectory of moving toward self-governance and 2) shared commitments are unique among church planting and multi-site strategies.

## *When will campuses become locally self- governing? Who makes that decision?*

The short answer to this question of timing for self-governance is "it depends." The measures of church health detailed by the Next Door Council such as engagement, financial solvency, and leadership will be the measures of readiness. A timeline for the transition will be mutually established and will likely vary for each initiative. The Next Door Council will lead the decision process and it will involve the congregation, including a congregational vote for the campus/church to become self-governing.

## *Frequently-Asked Questions about the Next Door Mission Model, Cont.*

### *What are College Park's immediate plans for campuses beyond Fishers?*

#### 1. WHERE?

The most effective approach historically has been to start a campus or church where we already have people engaging. Currently we see the westside, downtown, and southside as the most viable options geographically.

#### 2. WHEN?

In 2017 we will research the areas of our city with the greatest need for a church, hold interest gatherings, and form geographic small groups. We hope to start the next incubator in spring 2018.

#### 3. WHO?

We would encourage all College Parkers to engage in gospel conversations with their neighbors, friends and co-workers and start small groups around the city. This will lay the foundation for future campuses to form. Additionally, we will begin focusing efforts of pastoral residents and staff on developing a core group of leaders and members.

### *Who pays for what when it comes to capital projects?*

Although every campus or other Next Door initiative will have a unique path, typically the centralized Next Door Fund will provide for start-up costs and in many cases capital funding for land or a building renovation. Larger capital campaigns, such as for a permanent building, are expected to be led by members of the individual local church. In some cases, short-term debt may be used. For more information on the funding model for the Next Door Mission, see page 7 above.

For example, for the Fishers campus in the fall of 2016, funding for the purchase of land (approx. \$2 million) is anticipated to be funded by the Next Door Fund after a congregational vote. Then in 2017, the Fishers campus will engage in a capital campaign for the expenses of the building.

If College Park Church adopts or revitalizes another church, College Park may assume assets and/or debt of the adopted church. Such information would be evaluated and presented to the congregation in consideration of that initiative.

## *Frequently-Asked Questions about the Next Door Mission Model, Cont.*

### *What is the ongoing impact to the North Indy campus & staff?*

Indeed there will be some impact to the North Indy campus as campuses and churches are birthed out of the Next Door Mission. However, we think the spiritual need in our city is too great to avoid this opportunity to leverage our health, resources, and people to start gospel-centered churches in our city.

This mindset to reach the lost is an important spiritual motivator to help us avoid an overly-internal focus and spiritual "cruiseship" mentality. In other words, although sending our people to other campuses creates short-term ministry and volunteer needs, it also creates opportunities for others to serve, encouraging by necessity greater engagement of North Indy.

The Next Door Mission has already helped us improve aspects of each campus as we collaborate and share ideas and resources. The Elders have begun planning for the staffing needs for future campuses and the infrastructure for shared central services. Future staffing needs will be planned and budgeted in the budgets from each College Park Church.

### *How will you develop leaders for future churches?*

We realize the need to raise godly leaders who will shepherd the campuses and churches around the city and work with the hundreds of volunteers that it will take to carry out this effort.

The two primary vehicles for leadership development are our Pastoral Residency and Internships.

First, we will expand our Pastoral Residency to include leadership of campus start-ups. Residents will be given leadership, shepherding, discipleship, and preaching responsibilities. We hope many of our residents will be future campus lead pastors.

Second, we are developing a more robust internship program that will provide dynamic and hands-on opportunities for young leaders to explore ministry and make a significant contribution to the campus or church. These will be six to twelve-month roles in areas such as worship, children's and student ministry, communication, and administration.