



SEEING CLEARLY

TO FOLLOW IN OUR MASTER'S FOOTSTEPS

GLC ANNUAL CELEBRATION



PLANTING REPORT



ALAN TUMPKIN

Director of Church Planting

"Go and make disciples of all nations...baptizing... and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.." [Matthew 28:19-20]

Why Do We Plant Churches?

1. We reach people who are far from God. Research shows that new churches have a higher conversion rate than any other evangelistic activity. However, new churches have also proven to be the best method of reaching new generations, new residents, and new people groups.

2. We follow Jesus' mandate to make disciples. Planting new churches helps us to obey Jesus' command to make disciples of every person that we can. However, the "Great Commission" (Matthew 28:18-20) is not just a call to 'make disciples' but to 'baptize'. In Acts and elsewhere, it is clear that baptism means incorporating somebody into a local worshipping community (Acts 2:41-47). A new church not only helps reach new people but to bring them into the family of God and help them grow as disciple.

3. The planting church experiences increased health and benefit. Despite what some may think, the typical church that starts a new church tends to do better itself. One reason is because churches committed to starting new churches focus on developing and deploying leaders while engaging people with the gospel. These efforts help the mother church grow in its own ministry muscle and impact while planting new churches. One study demonstrated that churches which started other churches experienced a 22% increase in their own worship attendance over the next five years, while financial giving increased 48%².

4. It allows us to have greater influence for Christ throughout our region. For any movement to thrive, it has to plant churches. According to Ed Stetzer, "Statistically speaking, if a population just wants to "break even," it has to plant at least at a three percent level—a denomination of 100 churches has to plant 3 to stay even considering attrition. A five percent increase is needed to grow. Ten percent is needed to thrive."³ If we honestly believe the Evangelical Covenant Church is a great place for people to find Christ, then we need to expand our Kingdom influence by planting churches.

Healthy missional churches are God's plan for reaching lost people, making disciples, revitalizing his church, and expanding Kingdom influence in our world! This is why the GLC is committed to planting an increasing number of churches in an increasing number of communities.

What Have We Done This Past Year?

Our first goal was to raise funds for the church plant movement in the GLC. God opened a wonderful door of support in 2019 through a donor who pledged a \$150,000 matching grant for church planting. Through matching funds, this will enable us to plant four churches in 2020.

Our second goal was to support and strengthen our current church plants. In 2019, our goal was to strengthen our current church plants through growth strategy trainings that took place during our 2019 Annual Celebration, our annual Fall Pastor's Retreat, and through on-site trainings with the launch teams of first year church plants. These half-day trainings were very catalytic, as many immediately applied principles from the workshops to enhance their respective ministries. Our coaching team conducted evangelism and discipleship training with Kingdom Embassy, "Seven Systems of a Healthy Church" training with Gateway Covenant Church and Hope City Covenant Church, and I conducted many one-on-one trainings with planters.

Another way we strengthened church plants was through coaching. We have trained and utilized coaches to serve and be readily available to church plants throughout our Conference. The goal of coaching is to help newer church plants become healthy and missional—and in many cases we have witnessed fruit.

Our third goal was to launch new churches.

The GLC has a goal to launch fruitful churches, and one way we accomplish that goal is through church plant residencies. After a nine-month residency in 2018, Donearl Johnson signed a Covenant Agreement in January of 2019. LifeChurch Auburn Hills (LCAH) was launched and in short order, has become a healthy, missional church. This new church plant is witnessing multiple conversions and baptisms, with catalytic ministry taking place. To date, the church is serving an average of 150 people weekly.

Our fourth goal was to identify and train prospective church planters.

In 2019, we identified and trained many prospective church planters, from Detroit, Akron, Youngstown, Columbus, and Nashville.

The prospective planters are:

- Georgia Hill (Detroit, MI)
- Vincent Tinch (Southfield, MI)
- Travis and Kendra Chavis (Nashville, TN)
- Justin Doyle (Akron, OH)
- Dave Brown (Youngstown, OH)
- David Williams (Columbus, OH)

Georgia Hill served a seven-month residency with LifeChurch Southfield, and will conduct her first preview service on May 17, 2020. Dave Brown is building his Launch Team, and the hope is to plant Renew Movement Church in 2020. The other prospective planters are diligently working to fulfill the Covenant Church planting Benchmarks.

Where Do We Hope To Go This Year?

- Raise \$150,000 for church planting
- Plant three churches by December 2020
- Provide intense coaching for prospective church plant leaders
- Develop new church plant networks (will elaborate below)
- Help every church plant move toward becoming healthier and more missional
- Help every church plant move toward multiplication. The goal of church planting is to become healthy and missional, which means loving mercy and doing justice, and giving birth to future churches.

How Will We Achieve Our 2020 Goals?

First, fund-raising: We are asking that each GLC church (not limited to GLC churches) designate a percentage of their budget for church planting. It can be through monthly or annual gifts. If we consistently give to the church planting movement, we will plant 2-3 churches a year, which means hundreds of people will experience the life-changing power of the living Christ.

Second, preparing church planters to launch: We have assessed and provided intensive training for six church planters in 2019. Of the six, we are hoping to launch three in 2020. In order to ensure that the launching takes place, we are providing coaching and training to assist prospective planters in meeting their benchmarks. Also, in order to plant three churches, we must continue our fund-raising efforts.

Third, coaching: In 2020, we will increase our coaching team, providing ongoing training. Coaching is extremely important to ensure that our church plants are healthy and missional.

Fourth, networking: Church planting in the GLC is a 3-way partnership consisting of a parent church (or a group of partnering churches), the GLC, and the Evangelical Covenant Church. Parenting or partnering churches provide the “seed” to begin a new church. These churches provide prayer, people, a portion of the financial support, and short-term hands-on ministry support (hospitality, worship help, children’s ministry, etc.). The ideal funding is 1/3 of the support comes from parents/partners, 1/3 from the ECC, and 1/3 from the GLC.

Fifth, residencies: We have found that the most fruitful church plants have been birthed through a rigorous residency program. In 2020, I will identify Covenant churches that are willing to bring on church plant residents and provide training and coaching.

Sixth, training and assessment: The GLC provides support for the new church through the Assessment Center, coaching, training, and supporting each new church and church planter.

Though we are so grateful for your ongoing support towards the GLC, we cannot fulfill our 2020 goals without you. Will you consider being a parent or partner church in our church planting efforts this year?

There are so many more who need to find real life as disciples of Christ. But, if there are no healthy missional churches, how can they find “new life?” Let’s strive to be those churches and plant those churches!

Your Brother in Christ,

Alan

1 Stafford, Tim (2007, September). Go and Plant Churches of All Peoples, Christianity Today. Article discusses why crusades and personal witnessing are no longer the cutting edge of evangelism.

2 Data from Dr. Jeffrey Farmer’s PhD dissertation, “Church Planting Sponsorship,” New Orleans Seminary, 2007.

3 Stetzer, Ed (2014, June) 5 Reasons Established Churches Should Plant Churches, Christianity Today



HARVEY COZART

Pastor
Richmond, Kentucky

Hope City Covenant Church began their Covenant Agreement December 1, 2017. They have an average weekly attendance of 102. Average attendance for 2018 was 38. Appropriations to the church will be completed end of November 2020, but coaching will continue through November 2023.

Hope City feels it is a place where community is formed, and no one is a stranger. In 2019, the church needed a new place to worship. Madison Community Church on the outskirts of Richmond opened their doors to Hope City, and Hope City began meeting in their building. During the summer of 2019, Madison Community Church found itself without a pastor and started the conversation of possibly merging with Hope City. The two churches have decided to combine. Their new name will be “Lighthouse Church: an Evangelical Covenant Church.”



What the Church Say About their Name Change:

We are a light shining through the darkness! Becoming a beacon of hope to our community and the world through the transforming message of Jesus Christ. We are so excited about our new name, new identity and mission as a church family! Continue to pray for our transition as we no longer will exist as two separate church names, but one name and one church body—Lighthouse Church! “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it” [John 1:5].



Goals Accomplished in 2019:

A big goal of ours was to be in a larger and more suitable space for worship, and have a better space for our children’s ministry. We are definitely in a much larger space now and have great space for our children’s ministry. We have established a thriving men’s and women’s bible study. We now have a strong worship team in place, and a thriving worship community. We have accomplished our goal of developing a outreach ministry for youth and children within the community, through our Give-n-Go outreach program. We have more than doubled our size since our new merger.



New Goals for 2020:

- Expand some of the meeting space
- Grow the size of our congregation
- Develop strong thriving small groups
- Increase the size of our children’s ministry
- Have a youth pastor in place
- Develop a evangelism/outreach coordinator

Requested Resources:

- Children’s ministry and youth ministry resources would be very helpful





ARTHUR DUREN

Pastor
Muskegon, Michigan

Kingdom Embassy Covenant Church began their Covenant Agreement on December 1, 2016. The ministry was founded by Pastor Arthur and First Lady Ardena Duren on October 28, 2015. Kingdom Embassy is predominately an African American church with an average attendance of 213. Appropriations to Kingdom Embassy were completed at the end of November 2019. Coaching will continue until the end of November 2021.

Kingdom Embassy thinks of themselves as a caring and kind church that is inviting, compassionate, genuine, wholesome and safe. They are a community of people who get to KNOW who Jesus is, GROW together as believers, and GO serve God's people.



- **KNOW who Jesus is:** God created us so that we could come to KNOW Him. We come to KNOW Jesus when we COMMIT our lives to following Him. [“Now this is eternal life; that they may KNOW you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.” John 17:3].



- **GROW together as believers:** Jesus created us to GROW together to become like Him. [“But GROW in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” 2 Peter 3:18a]

- **GO serve God's people:** God has called us to serve His people in ministry and to serve the world. [“Therefore GO and make disciples.” Matthew 28:19a].

Kingdom Embassy feels that their ministries are going very well. They have had a number of successful outreach efforts [Pink Pews (cancer awareness), Goal Celebrations, Outreach to Women's/Men's Shelter, and community/family nights].



Goals Accomplished in 2019:

- Beautification: Had new gym and vestibule flooring installed
- New roof

New Goals for 2020:

- Increase attendance to 275
- Central air
- Newer van
- New Flooring in sanctuary
- Additional staff (youth pastor)



Requested Resources:

- Please pray for the growth and health of the church





DONEARL JOHNSON

Pastor
Auburn Hills, Michigan

LifeChurch Auburn Hills began its Covenant Agreement on February 1, 2019, and has an average weekly attendance of 143. LifeChurch Auburn Hills is part of the GLC LifeChurch Network. It is a multicultural, multi-ethnic congregation.

What the Church Says About Itself:

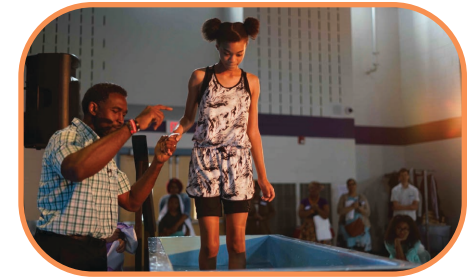
LifeChurch Auburn Hills is deeply involved and making an impact in the community. Through the connections with the school district, we are hosting events that benefit students and families within the school. We have direct connection through outreach ministries at Oakland University, serving international students. Also, we are connected with the city which allows us to partner and assist in community engagement, while being a regular presence in service to the citizens. Our outreach system/ministry has been successful in reaching a very diverse audience. We regularly share with our congregation about the power of personal invitations. We design invite cards monthly for all of our message series and present them to all members and service attenders who are encouraged to share them with someone they personally know and/or care about.



We celebrate when someone makes a decision to follow Christ. One story is of a father and mother who decided to recommit themselves to Christ, and change the narrative of their lives for the benefit of their sons. A other story, one that continues to evolve, is that of an international student who is working on his PhD. He considers himself an atheist, but has been attending and remains open to earn more. We are witnessing God draw him closer in community and to Christ!

Goals Accomplished in 2019:

- To have 1,200 unique visitors contact information in our data base via participation at one of our events)
- To have 20 baptisms (we had 11)
- To have 3-5 dedicated musicians serving on our worship team (we accomplished 2 due to budget restrictions)
- To launch small groups (we've had 63 in these groups, including launching an ESL group using the Bible as their literature text)



New Goals for 2020:

- Outreach: 1,500 unique visitors (information captured in our database)
- Worship design: 25 baptism
- Stewardship: \$5,000 for distribution to church planting, community initiatives and/or global partners. Then raise 50% for personnel support of Donearl Johnson, Brendan Dry, and a worship leader (\$75,000 outside of regular operating budget)



Requested Resources:

- Right Now Media subscription for staff
- Orange Children Curriculum [Thinkorange.com]
- Video Camera: Sony HXR-NX100 full HD NXCAM Camcorder
- Video light kit: GVM 800D-RGB LED Studio 3-Video Light Kit
- Magewell USB-HDMI 4K capture device [<https://www.magewell.com/products/usb-capture-hdmi-4k-plus>]
- Wirecast Pro (Live streaming software) [<https://www.telestream.net/wirecast/pro.htm>]



BOBBY BENAVIDES

Pastor
Elkins, West Virginia

New Community Covenant Church: Elkins, along with New Community Buckhannon, are a network of Covenant churches that share a common mission, vision and values,

and a heart for WV and Appalachia. Though they work together and are similar in many ways, they are unique in their context and their ability to reach the folks in their unique ministry settings. New Community Elkins began their Covenant Agreement on October 1, 2017. In 2019, they had an average weekly attendance of 50. The average attendance for 2018 was 50. New Community Elkins has experienced some difficulty getting growth traction. The GLC considered ending funding to the church plant. The church proposed a new ministry model that the GLC accepted. Appropriations to the church will be completed end of September 2020, but coaching will continue through September 2022.



Goals Accomplished in 2019:

- We developed three community groups. We have “THIS BEAUTIFUL LIFE,” which is a ministry for mothers in our community, with an emphasis on mentoring teen moms. We have our men’s group which met regularly throughout the year, but we took the winter months off due to holidays and hunting season. We had a regular Bible study or book study occurring throughout the year, as well.
- We held three community service projects. A Community Block Party on May 4th, a community clean-up day, and a soup dinner in our community for those in need.



- We have increased in “regular” attendees. We have not seen the 30 we hoped for, but we have seen 20.
- We collected cans and money to assist the food pantries during the month of October when the pantries are particularly low
- We assisted with a community clean-up, a humane society event, a feed the city event, and a local parade

New Goals for 2020:

- See an increase in attendance
- See 2-3 new community groups formed
- See 3-5 leaders engaged in a leadership development group in order to send them out to lead new groups

Requested Resources:

- We would like to have an electric drum set for our worship team
- We are in a very underresourced area and would love to serve our community better, but financially we aren’t where we would like to be. Any financial assistance would be appreciated, especially for our teen mother ministry, which needs approximately \$3,000 annually in our budget.
- We could use a new portable sound system for our outdoor outreach events





JA'MEL ARMSTRONG and MATT NESS

Pastors
Louisville, Kentucky

One Church was birthed out of two church plants, uniting to reflect God's Kingdom on Earth. The Avenue and The Soul Center (a GLC church plant that began in April 2013) began partnering together in ministry projects in 2013. After several combined outreach projects, the churches began to question whether or not they could serve the city of Louisville and the surrounding community as one church. "One Church" launched January 31, 2016. They have an average weekly attendance of 100. Monthly appropriations for the church were completed end of April 2019. The church will continue to receive coaching through April 2021.

What the Church Says About Itself:

We have started doing monthly meals for the community on a Wednesday from 1pm-4pm. So many people walk by the church who either lack resources, are homeless, or lack something to do during the day. We have this meal, but it's more than a meal. We play cards, tell stories, spend real time together. About five of the people have started attending the church. Many of them call One Church, "their church." It has been beautiful and powerful. We also had a "One Stop Shop" over Thanksgiving weekend where people could come in on that Saturday and find household items, clothing, etc. that they could have for free. The people who came were loved on, given great gear, and were shown the love of Jesus.



Zach and Taylor had been looking for a church community that they could belong to. Zach has some nervousness in crowds. Taylor wants to be in a community that is passionate about the same causes that she is passionate with. They care deeply about race relations and social justice and found One Church online. When they visited One Church, they reported feeling very welcomed. They started coming regularly during the Ten Commandments movie series. Shortly after they became members, they started getting involved in outreach to the neighborhood. Zach

got his coworkers involved in the "One Stop Shop," and Taylor weekly invites her friends to church. What changed things for them was that they were in a bad car accident and the church rallied around them with support. They know they have community and are growing in their relationship with Jesus.



Goals Accomplished in 2019:

- We wanted people to become more grounded in Scripture and that has happened. Also, we wanted people to find deeper community in small groups and small groups have quadrupled.

New Goals for 2020:

We want to gain five new families who are committed, tithing followers of Jesus. We would like to get to around 200 in weekend attendance so that we can reach the community most effectively. We also want to have more opportunities for new people to discover how to serve within the church.

In 2019, the church made the decision to move forward in preparation of joining the ECC as a member church. They have adopted a constitution and elected a leadership team. The church will join the GLC at the 2020 Annual Celebration in April, and join the ECC at the 2020 Gather in June.



Requested Resources:

- Pray for continued creativity for our leadership team and staff
- Pray for our neighborhood as we continue to care for the needs of those around us



JOEY MALDONADO

Pastor
Nashville, Tennessee

The Movement Covenant Church began its Covenant Agreement on October 1, 2017. In 2019, they averaged 56 in weekly attendance, up from 42 the year before.

Appropriations to the church will be completed end of September 2020, but coaching will continue through September 2022.

What the Church Says About Itself:

The Movement Church is a community of real people, embracing and loving each other and all who come into the church. A people who welcome others into a true connection with an alive and active God! We are a community dedicated to impacting the world around us as they experience being seen, heard, known, and loved by God and each other.



The church made a missionally motivated move in 2019 and relocated to the heart of Nashville's Latino community. We have a partnership with Plaza Mariachi, an indoor mall that has been designed to have the look and feel of an outdoor Mexican market. There are several stores, restaurants, a food court, and a central bandshell (where we set up our worship band). We use the chairs from the Food Court as seating for the service. Plaza Mariachi functions as a cultural center for the community, offering both daytime and evening activities of music, folk dance, acrobatic and more.



There are quite a few positive possibilities for community engagement. One such is a dance school on the premises which serves young children in the community. Almost all the children who are a part of the dance school come from a challenging context and receive a scholarship to attend the school. The church has decided to partner and support the school and the families who are a part of the school. The first step in this commitment was to raise money and support the school's dance recital at the end of November.



New Goals for 2020:

At present the church is looking into offering simultaneous translation (English to Spanish) for people who only speak Spanish

Requested Resources:

- That God would bring mature and experienced people into our church to help grow our leadership covering
- For openness of the people as they heal and trust our Church community
- That God would continue to draw people in!
- For provision



The Great Lakes Conference (GLC) is a mission region of the Evangelical Covenant Church (ECC). It is comprised of approximately 80 churches in Lower Michigan, Ohio, western Pennsylvania, western New York, Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia. The GLC is committed to church vitality, church planting, church outreach, church leadership, and church camping. We are a mosaic of urban, suburban, small city, small town, and rural churches made up of people with diverse spiritual backgrounds, ethnicities, and ages.

Our Mission

Helping every congregation become a healthy, missional church. Pursuing Christ. Pursuing Christ’s priorities in our world.

Our Passion

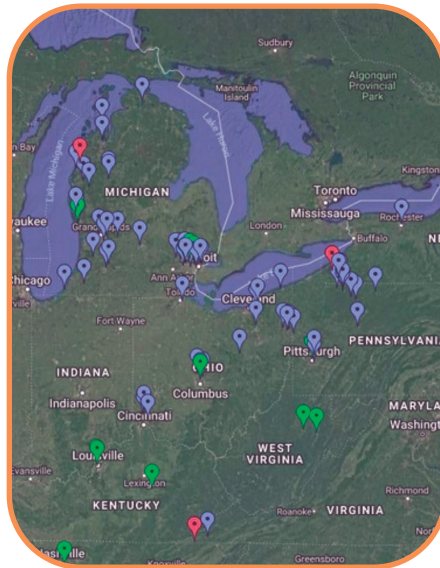
To lift up Jesus Christ. We are a movement that emphasizes new life in Christ. We are continually open to the fresh movement of the Spirit that lifts people up to Jesus Christ, and brings people to Him (John 12:32).

Associations & Institutions

- Portage Lake Covenant Bible Camp
- Camp Mission Meadows
- Women Ministries
- Spiritual Directors Network

Mission Priorities

- Church Vitality
- Church Planting
- Church Outreach
- Church Leadership



The following items are through shared financial resources and our Conference staff members

**CHURCH VITALITY:
Strengthen Existing Churches**

We help churches:

- Better understand their community demographics
- Identify strengths/weaknesses in ministry
- Develop a “vitality pathway” to regain missional traction
- Resolve conflict
- Revise organizational structures for more fruitful ministry
- Establish sound financial accounting and reporting systems
- Search for additional staff members

In Addition:

- We speak in conference churches almost every Sunday to encourage, inspire, and invite churches to go deeper in Christ and further in mission
- We visit conference churches and offer constructive “first impressions” feedback upon request

**CHURCH OUTREACH:
Resourcing Churches to Serve Locally and Globally**

- Equip pastors and lay leaders to raise the temperature for evangelism in their church
- Provide to churches both resources and equipping workshops focused on Evangelism, Outreach, and Compassion, Justice, and Mercy
- Give financial support to Camp Mission Meadows, Portage Lake Bible Camp, and Covenant Mountain Mission Bible Camp
- Coach churches through the process of purchasing property or buildings in order to expand or improve their ministry capacity
- Serve Conference children’s ministries with The Lego City
- Support the North American Japanese Outreach Ministry

**CHURCH PLANTING:
Starting New Churches**

In Church Planting we:

- Aim to plant 2-3 new churches per year
- Recruit and train healthy missional churches to “parent” a daughter church
- Recruit, assess, and train prospective church planters
- Coach the planter in all dimensions of planting for five years
- Guide churches through the process of acquiring their first facility

Adoptions:

- We cultivate relationships with leaders of potential church adoptions
- We assess churches that wish to affiliate with the Covenant to ensure a good fit both theologically and missionally
- We guide church leaders through the process of adoption

**CHURCH LEADERSHIP:
Developing Pastors, Staff, and Lay Leaders**

- Organize conference-wide, practical church leadership training events two times a year
- Supply administrative and logistical support for the Pastor’s Fall Retreat
- Mentor pastors serving in their “first call” as a Lead Pastor
- Provide care for our conference pastors
- Lend significant logistical support for pastors going through the credentialing process
- Guide Pastoral Search Committees through the process of searching for a new pastor or staff member
- Coach Church Chairs in the art of chairing a church



GreatLakes.cc



Info@GreatLakes.cc



GreatLakesECC



@GreatLakesECC

6900 North Haggerty Suite 90, Canton, Michigan 48187

734.451.4670

Subscribe to the GLC E-Newsletter at GreatLakes.cc



The Evangelical Covenant Church



20 — 20

SEEING CLEARLY

TO FOLLOW IN OUR MASTER'S FOOTSTEPS

GLC ANNUAL CELEBRATION



PLANTING REPORT