

## One Church, Regional Impact!

Pastor Jeff Meyer

By now, you've probably heard about One Church, Regional Impact. Some of you have been asking some tremendous questions as you begin to consider the implications of this stirring vision that God has given Christ Memorial through the years, and clarified in recent days! In a short, memorable way, these four words paint an exciting and compelling picture of our future.

We believe with firm resolve that **"God is leading us to see a multi-location church emerge that will transform the spiritual landscape of Madison. This church will convene in hundreds of *life*Groups with *life*Worship Centers strategically located in geographical regions throughout Greater Madison."**

This vision is a breath-taking snapshot of God's intermediate future for Christ Memorial. It paints a picture that answers the question "What's next for us?" Let's unpack this statement phrase by phrase.

**God is leading us to see...**Last month's Good News highlighted some examples of how we believe God has been leading us here all along. If you haven't read it already, check out my article in July's Good News. Some have already been saying, "We're making a big deal out of this 'new' vision, isn't it really where we have been heading all along?" In other, words, it's not new at all.....just clarified. **God** has been leading us to see! I love that! He certainly has. Consider some of the evidence:

- The on again-off again struggle over the past 5+ years with how to expand our impact with facility limitations at Raritan Road.
- The intentional, independent partnership with "Community of Life" to plant more churches.
- Notice how God has distributed our *life*Groups throughout and beyond Dane County (check out the blue dots on the map on the *life*Group wall in the Welcome Area at church).
- The emphasis on Cultivating Spiritual Friendships in our neighborhoods.

When you really reflect on where we have come from as a congregation, where God is working, what He has permitted to happen, what He has kept from happening, where He has

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distributed us, it becomes abundantly clear that "One Church, Regional Impact" is God's leading. This is something that has emerged over time, and been led and nurtured by Him! God is leading us to see....

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**We believe this is our best vehicle to connect people to life in Jesus with greater impact because it will make more and better disciples by bringing the church closer to where people are.**

outcome of making significant advances in obeying Jesus' Great Commandment (Matthew 27:37-40) and Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20). We pray that being a multi-location church will...

**Transform the spiritual landscape of Madison...**How would you describe the spiritual landscape of Madison? How would you characterize this city as it relates to faith in the true God? Confused....distracted.....compartmentalized....largely unproductive in mission....a conglomerate of varying

**A Multi-location church emerge...**What is a multi-location church? A multi-location church is simply this: *one church meeting in multiple locations.* A multi-location church shares a common vision frame, budget, and leadership board. At this point, it is important to remember that being a multi-location church is not a vision by itself, but a vehicle to achieve the vision. We believe this is our best vehicle to connect people to life in Jesus with greater impact because it will make more and better disciples by bringing the church closer to where people are. Our motivation is to do a better job of loving people with an

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"opinions" ...divided...? We hope that God can use us to bring clarity about God in the person of Jesus instead of confusion. We long for a day when everyone in Madison would know the love of Christ.....how high, and wide, and deep, and long is His reach! We anticipate that as people are connected to life in Jesus, they will live with greater focus and devotion to follow Him, and, in the process, be more and more unaffected by the temporary interruptions of life that tend to distract us. We envision a day when people will not live compartmentalized lives, but will see how all the pieces of their life fit together, where every small portion of life has a connection to God's greater purpose. We believe that God has called every single follower of Jesus to be productive. Together, we are called to make disciples, more and better. Jesus allows us life to bring more and more people to Him. And, we believe that Jesus has called us to do that by going to people, to live incarnationally with them. He has called us to produce! We declare that Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and that life is a dead end lived apart from Him. This truth is inclusive, for all people! We will celebrate the day when the Christian Church in Madison works together instead of apart, where all the gifts are celebrated and are aligned for greater impact. This transformation will happen as we convene as the body of Christ in...

**Hundreds of *life*Groups with *life*Worship Centers strategically located in geographical regions throughout Greater Madison.**

*Imagine the...*

**Expanded Impact** as we who respond to God's missional mandate like little fingers touch every corner of this great city!

**Expanded Ownership** as more and more people invest time, energy, skill, and money to the mission because they can do it

in their neighborhood, and in their region. Proximity is one key determining factor for people in deciding whether they will invest or not.

**Expanded Accessibility** makes it easier for people to come. (Think about the bridge story from my backyard). By creating *life*Worship Centers in different regions, we're providing an opportunity for people to worship and serve in the area in which they live. It is much easier for folks to invite friends and neighbors when the *life*Worship Center is in their own community.

**Expanded Reach** that stretches geographically from Fitchburg to Middleton/ West Side, to New Glarus, to DeForest to Cottage Grove/ North-East Side to Oregon to Verona to the Campus and demographically from the Elderly to Hispanic to Deaf communities. The possibilities are endless.

**Expanded Resources** that embraces the truth that we can do more together than we can apart. Each new *life*Worship Center enables untapped talent to emerge. "*One Church, Regional Impact*" will provide a "pipeline" for the development of emerging leaders and future staff. As it has been said, "One log makes a lousy fire."

For now, let me leave you with this. When the CEO of Amoco was asked how Amoco beat all the other companies in finding new oil, he replied, "We drill the most holes. You find a lot of oil when you drill a lot of holes."

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