

## One Church, Regional Impact!

Pastor Jeff Meyer

Having a clear picture of the future gives confidence and hope in uncertain times. It was a clear vision that motivated Noah to build an ark in a very dry land. It was trust in God's promise of a blessed future that propelled Moses to confront Pharaoh, and lead a disorganized people out of Egypt. It was confidence in God's intermediate future that finally convinced Joseph to take Mary as his wife. And it was a brilliant snapshot of God's plan that urged Jesus to take up His cross for you and me; so many stories throughout the scriptures that illustrate a healthy response to God's gift of vision.

God has given Christ Memorial a stirring vision! It is a vision that has been emerging through the years, and clarified in recent days! **One Church, Regional Impact** In a short, memorable way, these four words paint an exciting and compelling picture of our future.

We believe 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?"

One August 3<sup>rd</sup>, during both services, Pete Jaeger, the Chairman of our Leadership Board, and congregation, shared this vision with those in attendance. In that brief description of **One Church, Regional Impact**, he once again showed us how God has been leading us to **One Church, Regional Impact** all along. He clearly and simply defined a multi-location church as a church that meets in multiple locations. He also gave the motivation behind pursuing this vision. He said the reason we are becoming a multi-location church is that *"We **believe** this is our best vehicle to connect people to life in Jesus by bringing the church closer to where they are."*

Author Donald Miller in his book *Blue Like Jazz*, penned these words:

*"The trouble with deep belief is that it cost something. And there is something inside me, some selfish beast of a subtle thing that doesn't like the truth at all because it carries responsibility, and if I actually believe these things I have to do something about them. It is so, so cumbersome to believe anything." Pg. 107*



**One Church, Regional Impact** carries personal responsibility. I have to do something about it. It's always been that way with a God-given vision. Noah built an ark and placed his family on it before it started to rain. He trusted in God completely as the waters destroyed the earth and all its inhabitants. Moses stepped out of his comfort zone and confronted the super-power leader of his day, even though he had no confidence in his ability to speak. Joseph married a young pregnant woman who was carrying a child that was not his own.

What personal responsibility does **One Church, Regional Impact** carry?

For some of you, it might be as simple as rededicating yourself to live out the mission of this congregation with greater determination and intentionality. It may mean that, collectively we finally understand that Christ Memorial exists for the people who have not yet been impacted by the Good News about Jesus. Perhaps you've been in a *life*Group for a while now, and this vision compels you to step up and lead a new *life*Group in your neighborhood. Or perhaps you will get a nudge from God to be part of a realignment of *life*Groups in order to focus your missional activity on one of the targeted regions. Eventually, it could mean worshipping in a different location than the Fitchburg location. There are so many personal responsibilities that will emerge. Two questions for each of us: Will I trust God with the future of this church? And, will I respond in obedience to His voice when my personal responsibility becomes clear?

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