

Star What?

Dan Haupt

Recently when some of my family came to visit, we had a backyard campfire. It was an extremely clear night, so we could see lots of stars. As we gazed upward, there was a feeling of awe. There were so many stars. How humbled Abraham must have felt when God promised that his offspring would be as countless as the stars (Gen. 15:4-5), and how awesome Daniel must have felt when God promised that “those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, will shine like the stars for ever and ever.” (Daniel 12:3) God used stars to cast his vision – to help Abraham and Daniel visualize what he was saying.



God has also blessed our church in ways too numerous to count. One way he blesses us is by allowing us to participate in his kingdom building work. Recently, God led us to adopt a vision of “**One Church, Regional Impact**”. It’s a God-size vision. Pastor Jeff wrote about this vision in the July issue of Good News, and started to unpack what it means in this issue of the Good News.

When we say “**One Church, Regional Impact**”, responses often include questions: “What does that mean?” “Can you be more specific?” To be honest, we are asking ourselves those same questions, and many others. Why? Because God has not yet revealed all the answers. We’re taking this one step at a time. With that in mind, we are assembling groups of people to help us pray and figure this stuff out. The formal name for these groups of people is “Impact Leadership Team” (see the diagram). The informal name for this 8-pointed star is “starburst”. Star what? Starburst! No, not the candy.

In order for us to connect more people to life in Jesus in the Greater Madison area, we need to do two things: pray and prepare. Prayer is a critical part of our ministry, and will continue to be extremely important as we move forward. We need to make sure we are walking in step with God, and getting our strength from Him. People in the prayer group will not only pray, but find ways to encourage and get our whole Christ Memorial faith community to pray.

In addition to prayer, we need to prepare, which includes giving attention to some specific impact areas: lifeServe, lifeGroup, lifeWorship, Marketing, Budget & Fundraising, Administration, and Launch Strategy.

Here is a brief definition of what groups will do in each area:

lifeServe impact area – will develop a plan to identify what types of service and gifts will be necessary within regional lifeGroup clusters and lifeWorship centers as they are added.

lifeGroup impact area – will develop plans for lifeGroup growth and birthing, lifeGroup clustering and regions, and identify potential areas of outreach service for regions.

lifeWorship impact area – develop a plan for how new worship sites function (worship style and planning, worship venues, technology needs, etc.)

Marketing impact area – will develop a plan to ensure there is excellent internal and external communication and branding for all of the regions and sites.

Budget & Fundraising impact area – will develop a plan that incorporates the budgetary needs of the proposed new sites, and address how those budgetary needs will be met.

Administration impact area – will develop a plan to address staffing and facility issues, as well as exploring the concept of an administrative hub.

Launch Strategy impact area – will develop a plan which includes a reproducible launch checklist and timeline, and provides information for event planning.

Together, we can transform Madison by connecting people to life in Jesus. The key word is “together”. We need your help, your gifts, your time, your ideas, your trust – your ownership to carry out God’s calling and leading for us! Does one of the above areas get your heart beating faster? Would you be willing to lead or serve on one of the groups? If so, please contact me to discuss where you may fit in.

Dan Haupt is the Director of Operations at Christ Memorial. You can contact Dan at dhaupt@livelifetogether.com or 271-2811 x 14

