



Redefining church for a new generation.

Strategic Plan

“According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it. ¹¹For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.” - I Cor. 3:10-11

February 2006

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Introduction

No one ever set out to create a mediocre church that would just be average, common, just like everyone else. It should be something that people can center their life around. It should be a place where families can be drawn closer, where people can discover and fulfill their destiny. *It should be a blast!* Being together should be anticipated. We should come together with a sense of awe to experience God in worship, being challenged and inspired through God's Word, and equipped for a strategic mission.

Pioneer mentality – Sacrificing now and building for those behind us.

We must see America for what it is; a post-Christian nation similar to Europe in the 1930's. If we blindly hold on to a view that Judeo-Christian values still guide our nation we assume that the same old ways of doing church will work with today's people. The reality is that the church in America is in a state of decline and has been for the last 20 years. New methods are called for to reach a generation of people with Christian roots, background, or memories we can appeal to in our presentation. Instead of the church being seen as a place of comfort stability and encouragement it is more generally seen as out of touch and irrelevant holding no real answers to the needs of modern man.

The only way for the seeker model to work among believers is for them to sacrifice some of their liberties, language and traditions for the sake of lost people. This is the same that is asked of missionaries going to a foreign land.

The goal is to understand today's culture, adapt our message to their setting much the way Jesus did in His generation and yet we must continue to in the supernatural power of God to confront and transform lives. Too many have made the mistake of extending their adaptation of the church to their cultural setting and losing the awe and mystical presence of God. We must contend for both.

Jesus as Our Model

Study how Jesus related to lost people of His day, especially the non-religious Jews and Gentiles.

- The woman at the well.
- The Centurion
- Woman caught in adultery
- Dinner at Matthew's house
- Dinner with Zaccheus
- His teaching the disciples

George Hunter's Three types of Secular People

1. **Ignostics** are those living today who have no Christian memory.
2. **Notionals** are those who assume because they are born in America that they are Christian, after all we do live in a Christian nation.
3. **Nominals** which can be represented by those who Paul warned Timothy about as having a form of Godliness, but denying the power therein. As Hunter put it they sit in our pews, but the implications of the gospel simply go over their heads.

An "outreach oriented" church is much more palatable to the target audience which includes the unchurched/ unsaved person. It has been discovered that most seekers do not like to feel as if they are target practice for a church. Therefore, when a church says its mission, vision and strategy is to be "outreach oriented" then it is saying they are thinking more about reaching out than reaching in towards themselves.

Regardless of what term you use to describe the seeker movement a distinction between seeker targeted and seeker sensitive needs to be made.

The seeker targeted church can be distinguished by its focus on doing church exclusively for the unchurched/unsaved. Seeker targeted churches usually have a large group gathering designed exclusively for the unchurched/unsaved. While this large group gathering looks and feels very much like a worship service; it is not. It is in fact a very well put together production or presentation of some basic Christian truth.

The seeker sensitive church is distinguished in that its focus is doing church for believers. However, seeker sensitive churches go to great measures to make the experience user friendly for the person who hasn't been church broke. While the seeker targeted church and the seeker sensitive church may appear very similar on the outside, they are fundamentally different in their approach. This is a distinction that needs to be made.

Another way of looking at the seeker church is on a continuum. The degree in which a church is seeker targeted is the degree in which it becomes believer hostile. While on the other hand, the degree in which a church becomes believer targeted it becomes seeker hostile.

It will take time, tolerance, and prayer to see people transformed into the image of Christ.

*"The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is **patient** with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance"*
2 Peter 3:9

The key will be compassionate people willing to give of their time in prayer, relationship building and increasing in the knowledge of the Word to reach unchurched people.

“Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him. ‘We have found the Messiah’ (that is, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus” John 1: 40-42

Jesus clearly demonstrated a relationship between the temple and seekers. The temple courts represented a place where there were no restrictions to who could come and experience God. However, many in the religious culture of Jesus’ day did not see the relevance of a place where all people could come to seek God. Jesus felt otherwise,

“On reaching Jerusalem, Jesus entered the temple area and began driving out those who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves, and would not allow anyone to carry merchandise through the temple courts. And as he taught them, he said, ‘Is it not written: My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations? But you have made it a den of robbers’” Mark 11:15-17

The heart of the seeker church isn’t the seeker service. It is the reality of a Biblically functioning community modeled after Acts 2:42-46.

- Teaching That’s Life Changing
- Fellowship That’s Well Below The Surface
- Seeking And Saving the Lost
- Sharing The Wealth
- Love Of Another Kind

A seeker target church requires unusual amounts of volunteerism in order to pull off the seeker service and other aspects of ministry to the lost. It is a common practice of the seeker targeted church to raise up its staff from within. They cling to the teaching of Paul in Romans 12:1, *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship.”*

Because the service is designed for the unchurched, every element of the service is designed for the seeker. The following chart illustrates some of the basic differences from the seeker and believer.

Believer	Seeker
Prefers greeting and welcoming	Prefers anonymity
Begins with revelation	Begins with relevance
Participatory	Non-participatory
Understands Christian Truth	Has no Christian Memory
Public and spontaneous responses	Private and process oriented Response

The Culture We Will Create

Culture has been defined as, “How we do things around here.” Culture is what someone senses when they visit. The following is the culture that we will create and continue to cultivate.

1. An intense love for God
2. Genuinely welcomed
3. Family
4. An atmosphere of celebration
5. Relevance to unchurched people
6. God’s Presence
7. Part of something bigger, worldwide
8. Comfortable, but not casual
9. Target to younger families but embracing and including all ages
10. Excellence and quality with sincerity.

We will evaluate each service and event by these standards. Each member of the Planning Team will score the meeting on a scale of 1 to 10 in each of these areas. Our goal is to consistently maintain a score of 70 or better.

Who Is Our Target

Singles and young families

The two greatest times of openness in adult’s lives are transitions and trauma. Singles and young family transitions include as marriage, divorce, relocation, having babies, children starting school,

College students

Commuter students at IUPUI, dorm students at Butler and University of Indianapolis, international students in ESL program at IUPUI (those this group will take much longer to develop because of the additional language and cultural barriers).

High School students

The open doors at Ben Davis High School through Tom & Tracy Allen give us opportunity to touch the largest high school in all of Indiana with over 4,500 students. We must have a youth leader and an effective program to reach these students.

Who Is Our Spiritual Target?

Unchurched/Unsaved	Unchurched/Saved
Churched/Unsaved	Churched/Saved

1. Unchurched/Unsaved – those who have no Christian background and often have no Christian memory.

2. Unchurched/Saved – those who have a conversion experience but are outside the local church for a variety of reasons. Many who fit in this category are those who failed to see their childhood faith as relevant for today. Others dropped out while moving from place to place. A large number have experienced some kind of hurt in their life related to church and their faith.

3. Churched/Unsaved – referring back to George Hunter, this group represents those he would refer to as nominal. They have a knowledge of the Christian message, but the implications of the gospel go right over their heads. Often they are a product of a religious culture instead of conversion.

4. Churched/Saved – obviously there are those deeply committed followers of Christ in his church. This group sees themselves as being on mission with Christ. It is important to note that any seeker church must have a large number of these folks to effectively impact the unchurched/unsaved arena.

The marquee verses that express God's concern for the lost are found in Luke 5 where Jesus tells three parables about this topic. Here you find the parable of the lost sheep, the lost coin and the lost son. Bill Hybels, founding pastor of Willowcreek gives three important points about these parables.

1. Something of value was lost
2. An all out search was on
3. Once found, a celebration occurred

“All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: That God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us” (2 Corinthians 5: 18-20a, NIV).

Outreach Strategy

Our strategy for reaching out to the community will involve several approaches. We will use direct mail to bring awareness and draw people to our website. We will also mobilize our core group through prayer evangelism and servant outreaches in the community. “Living Life for a Change...”

Direct Mail and Web Campaign

Initially we will use direct mail sent to our targeted communities. The goal of these direct mail pieces will be educate the community about the new church and drive people to our website.

Once a new person comes to the website they will be encouraged to fill-out a survey with the opportunity to have their name placed in a drawing for various gifts.

From the surveys we will pull names of un-churched people and invite them to a focus group to share their ideas about the needs of the community. We will offer a gift certificate to a local restaurant to those who attend the one hour focus group.

If we use the “What If It’s True?” campaign from Faithhighway it will include TV commercials and a website that relates to finding the truth or answering some of the big questions of life. We will offer to send a \$ 5.00 gift card to Speedway or Starbucks for the first 500 people who complete the survey. We’ll use our website or surveymonkey.com to do the survey. We will send the gift card and the results of the survey along with church info to those who respond.

Each week we will email or mail an invitation with a testimony of what God has done in an individual’s life and why they are a part of Life Church.

The cost of the mailing will be approx. \$ 5,000 with another \$ 2,500 for gift cards. If we add the TV spots we will pay \$ 5,200 for the commercials and invest \$ 4,000 for approx. 160- 180 ads during a two week period. The mailing would out near the end of the second week of commercials. The total cost for this outreach will be \$ 16,500.

Prayer Outreach

Prayer outreach is an approach to reaching out to lost people which focuses on praying for them and trusting God to orchestrate circumstances to bring them to Christ. Everyone will commit to praying for a few lost people every week and believe that God will create a spiritual hunger, open their hearts to the truth, and give believers favor with them.

Goal of Leadership

Our goal as leaders is to bring people to maturity and mission. We have a strategy to move people from outside the church to become a member of the committed core.

"Now it's up to you. Be on your toes—both for yourselves and your congregation of sheep. The Holy Spirit has put you in charge of these people—God's people they are—to guard and protect them. God himself thought they were worth dying for. Acts 20:28 - The Message

And now beware! Be sure that you feed and shepherd God's flock—his church, purchased with his blood—over whom the Holy Spirit has appointed you as elders. Acts 20:28 - NLT

Definitions:

- Community** *"I think I'll go to church, its Christmas."*
- Crowd** *"I think I'll go to church, I haven't been for a few weeks."*
- Congregation** *"I need to be a church, I'm a part of the Body."*
- Committed** *"I want to grow and help in the church in some way."*
- Core** *"I want to reach others and help them grow in Christ."*

Goal of Leadership:

- Community** **Invite** them in
- Crowd** **Include** them (in the Body)
- Congregation** **Instruct** them (in discipleship)
- Committed** **Involve** them (in ministry)
- Core** **Invest** them (in reaching their world)

The following model is based on The Engle Scale and describes the process of spiritual development.

+6	Reproduces other Leaders	Leadership
+5	Reaches and disciples others	Outreach
+4	Displays maturity in character	Ministry
+3	Learns and practices the Christian lifestyle	Life Group
+2	Incorporates into a Christian fellowship	Membership
+1	Evaluates the decision for Christ	One-to-One Book, water baptism
0	Conversion	New life in Christ
-1	Repents and professes faith in Christ	Receives forgiveness
-2	Recognizes a personal need	Very open to spiritual issues
-3	Grasps the personal implications of the gospel	Seeking truth and answers
-4	Understands the gospel fundamentals	Warm to spiritual issues
-5	Has some knowledge of the gospel	Tolerates spiritual issues
-6	Is aware of the existence of Christianity	Indifferent to spiritual issues
-7	Has no awareness of Christianity	Cold to spiritual issues

Understanding the Church's Purposes

PURPOSE	TASK	OBJECTIVE	TARGET	LIFE COMPO- -NENT	BASIC HUMAN NEED	THE CHURCH PROVIDES	EMOTIONAL BENEFIT
Outreach	Evangelize	Mission	Community	My Witness	Purpose to live for	A focus for life	Significance
Worship	Exalt	Magnify	Crowd	My Worship	Power to live on	A force for life	Stimulation
Fellowship	Encourage	Membership	Congregation	My Relation- ship	People to live with	A family for life	Support
Discipleship	Edify	Maturity	Committed	My Walk	Principles to live by	A foundation for life	Stability
Service	Equip	Ministry	Core	My Work	Profession to live out	A function for life	Self- expression

“Let there be real harmony so there won't be divisions in the church. I plead with you to be of one mind, united in thought and purpose.” 1 Cor. 1:10 (LB)

Most Churches Tend to Focus on Only One Purpose

<i>PARADIGM</i>	PRIMARY FOCUS	PASTOR'S ROLE	PEOPLE'S ROLE	PRIMARY ROLE	KEY TERM	CENTRAL VALUE	TOOLS USED	SOURCE OF LEGITIMACY
Soul Winning Church	Evangelism	Evangelist	Witnesses	The Community	Save	Decisions for Christ	Visitation and Altar Call	Number Baptized
Experiencing God Church	Worship	Worship Leader	Worshippers	The Crowd	Feel	Personal Experience	Music & Prayer	"The Spirit"
The Family Reunion Church	Fellowship	Chaplain	Family Members	The Congregation	Belong	Loyalty & Tradition	Fellowship Hall & Potluck	Our Heritage
Bible Classroom Church	Edification	Instructor	Students	The Committed	Know	Bible Knowledge	Notebooks & Overheads	Verse by Verse Teaching
Social Conscience Church	Ministry	Reformer	Activists	The Core	Care	Justice & Mercy	Petitions & Placards	Number of Needs Met

A Balanced Approach

New Testament Pattern	Balance all five	Equipper	Ministers	All Five	Be & Do	Christ-like Character	Life Development Process	Changed Lives
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Pre-Launch Preparation

Purpose:

Use the Spring of 2006 to prepare personally, structurally, and build a team.

Schedule:

January 2006

- Finish Strategic Plan
- Hold home meetings at Portell's
- Announce new church plant to congregation

February 2006

- Develop website
- Survey and demographic research
- Gather list of contacts and create database
- Set-up office and banking accounts
- Set-up accounting system
- Connect with people in the community

March 2006

- Secure meeting place for Easter launch
- Print business cards and brochures
- Hold 1st preview service – Mar. 25th
- Have leaders designated for ministry team, children, etc.
- Continue to reach out through home groups in neighborhoods
- Continue personal evangelism
- Strategy to emphasize launch next month
- Children's materials
- Follow-up materials
- Sound system and lighting
- Prayer walks on campuses and neighborhoods

April 2006

- Season of fasting and prayer prior to launch
- 2nd Mailing to database
- Prayer walks
- Follow-up plan and leaders in place
- Ushering and ministry of helps personnel
- Worship team rehearsals
- Schedule Water Baptism

Future events include: additional direct mail campaigns, Night of Champions, etc.

Mission

*We will honor God and advance His Kingdom
by building disciples that will change the world!*

Values

1. Lordship. Because Jesus is "King of kings and Lord of lords" we believe that whole-hearted submission to God's will and his word is the starting point of the Christian faith and the foundation of all spiritual growth.

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him. Col. 2:6

2. People. Because God's heart is to have relationship with every person He created, we seek to build relationships with unchurched people whereby we can lead them to Christ.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

3. Discipleship. "We all need spiritual fathers, brothers, and sons." Because we are called to make disciples, our primary focus is on ministering to people. This is best accomplished in a close-knit family atmosphere wherein we can help each other grow.

Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 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

4. Leadership Development. Because we are called to raise-up spiritual leaders, we prioritize leadership training and deliberately create opportunities for young potential leaders to develop their gifts.

And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others. 2 Timothy 2:2

5. Family. Because the family is the foundation of all life, God has called us to be a spiritual family and to walk in life-long covenant relationships modeling love, respect, and unity.

Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain ... Sons are a heritage from the LORD, children a reward from him. Psalm 127:1,3

The Circle of Commitment



Level of Commitment	Jesus Model	Life Church	Our Goal	Church's Purpose	Our Method
Community	Jerusalem, Judea, Galilee <i>"come and see" Jn. 1:39</i>	Avon, Brownsburg, Plainfield, Wayne Township	Invite	Worship	Small Groups Big Events Service Projects
Crowd	Multitudes <i>"come and follow Me" Mk. 1:17</i>	Guests	Include	Family	Sunday Celebration
Congregation	The 500 <i>"come and be with Me" Mk. 3:13</i>	Seekers	Instruct	Discipleship	Life Groups
Committed	The 70 <i>"remain in Me" Jn. 15</i>	Members	Involve	Ministry	Ministry Team
Core	Disciples <i>"Go... and make disciples" Matt. 28</i>	Leaders	Invest	Outreach	Team Leaders

Schedule & Start-up Budget

Meet at Portell's on Friday nights, Jan. 20th – Feb. 24th (6 meetings)
Meet on Saturday Evenings Mar. 6th – Apr. 9th, (6 meetings)
Launch Easter Sunday AM – Apr. 16th

Budget

Current Needs	Deadline	Budget
Website	3/10/06	\$ 1000
Direct Mail	3/31/06	3000
Focus Groups (4)	3/01/06	500
Banners	4/07/06	1000
Stationary	3/01/06	500
Location	3/01/06	3000
Nursery equipment	3/01/06	300
Hospitality Items	3/01/06	300
Service items (offering, etc.)	3/01/06	200
Response and guest cards	3/01/06	200
Total		\$ 10,000

Additional budget items will be needed before Sunday AM launch such as sound system, children's church materials, projector and screen, laptop computer, keyboard, music stands, etc. will total an additional \$ 10,000.

People

Scott & Courtney Himes
Jeannie Wilks
Hank & Bernice Mercier
Josh & Marcella Williams

Kent & Kari Mueller
Robyn Wood
Tom & Tracy Allen
Oz and HeidiPrice

Portells
Ally Floyd
Eric Brosch

Schedule of Ministry Series

DATE	Series	Speaker/Event
March	<u>"What is God Like?"</u>	
5	He is a Father	
12	He is a Friend	
19	He is the Rightful Owner	
26	He is the Final Judge	
April	<u>"The Defining Moments of Life"</u>	
2	Finding Your Mission	
9	Finding Your Mate	
16 (Easter)	The Day That Changed the World	
23	<u>"Breaking Free"</u>	
30	Free from the Past	
May		
7	Free from Pain	
14 (Mother's Day)	Free to Be You	
21	<u>"This is Only A Test"</u> – The Test of Faith	
28	The Test of Time	
June		
4	The Test of Failure	
11	The Test of Success	
18 (Father's Day)	Men Who Move the World	
25	<u>"God's Economy"</u>	
July	<u>"Summer Series - "Getting A Grip on Our Values"</u>	
2	We Value People	
9	We Value Worship	
16	We Value Family	
23	We Value Discipleship	
30	We Value Servant-Leadership	
August	<u>"Summer Series – Ephesians"</u>	
6	Chap. 1	
13	Chap. 2	
20	Chap. 3-4	
27	Chap. 5-6	
September	<u>"The Family Channel"</u>	
3	The Perfect Mate	
10	Kid's Under Construction	
17	Trading Spouses	
24	Your Home As A Lighthouse	
October	<u>"Getting In the Game"</u>	
1	Your Personal Time with God	
8	Why We Need Others	
15	Shaped to Serve	
22	Connecting Others to Christ	
29	Winning in Life	

Operational Plan & Team

Staffing:

- Lead Pastor: Tony Portell
- Worship Leaders: Harris'
- Assimilation & Campus:
- Outreach Tony Portell
- Service: Kent Mueller
- Small Groups: Scott Himes
- Internationals: Scott Himes
- Children's Min.: Jeannie Wilks, Kari Muellers
- Intercessory Prayer Hank Mercier
- Adm. & Acct.: Scott Himes

Meeting place: Check hotels, community centers, newer schools, and/or office facilities

Life Groups: Start with Purpose Driven Life (6 wks.), move to Winning in Life books (4 books 12 wks. ea.), this covers 1 year. Groups with mature leaders can choose their own materials with approval of pastor.

The groups will run on a trimester basis, fall, winter, and spring (taking the summer off). Each trimester will be 12 weeks with one week open in between to promote and sign-up for new groups.

Board of Directors:

Tony Portell, Rick Shelton, Brad Marcum

Process of Entry and Development

Assimilation of Guests

- Fill-out communication card
- Invite to Guest Reception
- Follow-up with phone call or email on Monday, thank them for coming and event them back next week.
- Invite to monthly Guest Dinner

Guest Reception

Each Sunday after service. Mug as a gift or book such as “A Case for Faith”

Monthly Guest Dinner

First Sunday of each month at Pastor’s home

Membership Class

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God’s household, ²⁰having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, ²¹in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, ²²in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit. Eph. 2:19-22

...for we are members of one another. Eph. 4:25

6 hour class held over 2 nights first weekend of each month

Thurs. 6:00 – 9:00PM, Sections 1-7

Fri. 6:00 – 9:00PM, Sections 8-12

Sat. Pastoral interview

Sun. 10:00AM Presentation to Church Family

Soup and deli sandwiches 5:00 – 6:15PM

Childcare provided 6:00 – 9:00PM

Membership Manual Content

Section 1	Our Mission	Make Disciples of all nations
Section 2	Our Mandate	Every nation in our generation
Section 3	Our Message	Dominion
Section 4	Our Method	Spiritual family
Section 5	Our Means	Leadership development
Section 6	Our Market	From Indy to the ends of the earth
Section 7	Our Motivation	God's Love and commission
Section 8	Our Product	The Gospel
Section 9	Our Process	One-to-one discipleship
Section 10	Our Purpose	Church planting, campus ministry, world missions
Section 11	Our Priority	Lordship in every area of life
Section 12	Our Power	Prayer

Outline of each Section

Section 1 – Our Mission: Make Disciples of All Nations

- History of Life Church
- How we are structured
- Our vision and future goals

Section 2 – Our Mandate: Every Nation in Our Generation

- 2010 Initiative
- World Partners – Senders and Goers
- Our role and specific purpose

Section 3 – Our Message: Dominion

- The message is...
Lordship Living
Redemption of people who will redeem society
- The message is not...
Theocracy, reconstructionism

Section 4 – Our Method: Spiritual Family

- Covenant Relationships
- Biblical Courtship
- Covenant Marriages
- Generational Transfer
- Life Groups

Section 5 – Our Means: Leadership Development

- Servant Leadership
- Biblical Authority
- Priesthood of Believers

- Giving our Time and Resources

Section 6 – Our Market: Indianapolis and the Ends of the Earth

- Indianapolis
- IUPUI, Butler U., Indiana, Purdue
- Junior High & Senior High Campuses
- Business Community
- Ministry to the Poor

Section 7 – Our Motivation: God’s Love

- Our daily time with God

Section 8 – Our Product: The Gospel

- Sharing the Faith
- Sharing your Testimony
- Resources for Outreach

Section 9 – Our Process: One-to-One Discipleship

- Ministry Teams
- Process of Entry and Development

Section 10 – Our Purpose: Mobilization

- Always reaching outward
- Our Targets: Wayne Township, Avon, Plainfield, Brownsburg

Section 11 – Our Priority: Lordship of Jesus in Every Area of Our Life

- Water Baptism
- Deliverance
- Loving Confrontation

Section 12 – Our Power: Prayer

- Our Prayer Strategy
- The Infilling of the Holy Spirit

Projected Income

This projection is based on the following assumptions:

1. Avg. combined household income of \$ 60,000.
2. Avg. of 30% of people tithe.

Projected goal in year 1 – 20 households tithing = \$ 120,000

Offerings of \$ 1000 per week (non-tithers & add. giving) = 50,000

This would be based on a first year attendance of 80 people with 30% tithing and additional giving from this group and non-tithers. These projections based on national giving averages from Barna Research and Church Growth, Inc., and Life Christian Church plants in 1998. Vineyard Churches use an average of \$ 20.00 per person weekly giving as their rule of thumb.

Projected Giving Months 1-3

Tithers	10 (rep. 20 people)	\$ 500	\$ 5000
Givers	10	100	1000
Givers	10	50	500
Units	30		\$ 6500

Projected Giving Months 4-6

Tithers	12 (rep. 20 people)	\$ 500	\$ 6000
Givers	20	100	2000
Givers	30	50	1500
Units	62		\$ 9500

Projected Giving Months 7-9

Tithers	16 (rep. 20 people)	\$ 500	\$ 8000
Givers	30	100	3000
Givers	40	50	2000
Units	86		\$ 13000

Projected Giving Months 10-12

Tithers	20 (rep. 20 people)	\$ 500	\$ 10000
Givers	35	100	3500
Givers	45	50	2250
Units	100		\$ 15750

ATTENDANCE

200												
180												
160												
140												
120												
100												
80												
60												
40												
20												
Number /Month	1 Apr.	2 May	3 June	4 July	5 Aug.	6 Sept.	7 Oct.	8 Nov.	9 Dec.	10 Jan.	11 Feb.	12 Mar.

BACKGROUND ON INDIANAPOLIS & WESTSIDE

“Crossroads of America”

Population 1.5 million

Hancock County is second fastest growing county in Indiana.

Communities we will target will include: Avon, Wayne Township, Brownsburg, Plainfield, Pike Township, and Speedway area.

Universities

UIPUI –	32,000 students
Butler U. -	8,000
Univ. of Indianapolis	6,000

Within 30 miles

Indiana U. –	30,000
Purdue U. –	30,000
Ball State -	8,000

Churches & Spiritual Climate

Indianapolis has one of the lowest church attendance rates of cities in America, especially in the Midwest. Only 43% attend church on Sundays (55% national average).

The city is predominantly Catholic.

Few evangelical churches making an impact on the city.

Profile of people on Indy’s westside

- The people are blue collar.
- They enjoy family and sports.
- Most are satisfied with their jobs but not overly committed.
- They have an average of high school and some college education.
- Median income for the area ranges from \$ 30,000 – \$ 90,000.

Target will be unchurched singles and families ages 20 – 35.

METHODOLOGY

Sunday – Family Worship

Children’s ministry & nursery
Ministry oriented
Goal: Evangelism & inspiration
Acoustic worship
Overall lighting, fellowship, teaching

Saturday – U Church (Begin in Fall 2007)

Contemporary music
Greater use of media
Q & A
More presentation
Seeker oriented
Goal: Evangelism & Challenge
Less emphasis on giving
More stage lighting, warmer comfortable atmosphere

Outreach Plan

Campus Outreach

Relational (dorms, frats, sports, etc.)
Religious Survey – Student Union
Red Pill Forums
Seeker Bible Studies
Coffee House
U Church

Community Outreach

Relational
Direct Mail
Neighborhood Bible Study
Community Institutions (Police, etc.)
Health Club, Bookstores, etc.
Big Events – Night of Champions

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday

8:30 – 9:30AM Prayer and Small Groups (Heb. 10:24-25)
10:00AM Family Worship (Acts 2:42-47; 20:7; I Cor. 16:2)
Noon Connections (Guest Reception) (Acts 2:47; Eph. 2:19)
6:00 – 7:30PM Small Groups, Leadership Training, Water Baptism (Rom. 16:5; Acts 2:41)

Monday

8:00 – 10:00AM Prayer & Staff Meeting (Acts 15:6,12)

Wednesday

7:00PM Discipleship Training (Cleansing Stream, ENLI, Children, Youth)
(2 Tim. 2:2; Matt. 28:19-20; Ps. 127)

Friday

7:00 – 8:00PM Prayer Meeting (Acts 4:23-31)

1st Thur. & Fri. Membership (Matt. 16:18; Eph. 2:19-22)

STAFF MEETINGS

Purpose:

- Hear from God concerning direction and emphasis (Acts 15:6)
- Evaluate how we are doing (Acts 6:1-5)
- People issues and updates (Acts 15:12)
- Advance planning (Acts 15:22)
- Prayer & Fellowship (Acts 13:2-3)

Guidelines:

- Nothing is off-limits for discussion
- No personal attacks or nit-picking
- Problems must be met with solutions

Steps in Planning Process:

1. Brainstorm (nothing is wrong or cannot be done)
2. What will it accomplish, how can it be done
3. Problems, costs restrictions, Does it match our Mission, etc.
4. How can we overcome problems, assignments

STAFF GUIDELINES

Goal:

Raise-up leaders and hire from within. Let a *“man’s gift make room for him.”*

Key Character Qualities for Staff:

1 Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9

Loyalty

Disciplined Children

Aggressive Learner

Willing to take Risks

Integrity

Personal Discipline

Strong Faith

Strong Marriage

Love People

Positive Outlook

Requirements:

1. Complete Cleansing Stream
2. Complete Years 1 and 2 of Leadership Training
3. Small Group Leader
4. Discipling other Leaders
5. Supportive Family

Process:

I Tim. 5:22

1. Church Member 1 Year
2. Ministry Internship 1 Year
3. Ministry Staff 6 months

General Staff Responsibilities:

- Support the Vision and Leadership Team
- Cultivate relationship with rest of staff
- Personal daily devotional time of at least 30 minutes
- Continual relationships with un-churched people
- Strong work ethic and enthusiastic participation
- Discretion in actions and words at all times
- Continue learning
- Cultivate a strong marriage and family

WORSHIP

Purpose:

“let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith...” Heb. 10:22

John 4:20-24; I Chron. 16:29; Psalm 100; 150

- Celebrate as Christians 25%
- Worship in the presence of God 75%

Guidelines:

- Lyrics should be Biblically centered and directed toward God.
- Music must have a flow that leads people into God’s presence (Psalm 100)
- Attention should not be on worship team or leader this includes dress, mannerisms, and exhortations.
- Songs must be a key that fits singers and worshippers.
- As we move further into worship lyrics should be less complex so people can focus on God not having to look at the words.
- Worship should always end on a note wherein we can move into an altar call or ministry teams.

Worship Leader(s):

- Must have a consistent devotional life.
- Continual faith for new songs.
- Continual growth in their capabilities.
- Continual development of new leaders.

OFFERINGS

Purpose:

“Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; ²and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God”
Eph. 5:2

Matt. 6:19-21; Luke 6:38; 2 Cor. 8:1-15; Mal. 3

- Giving is an act of worship
- Giving is an example of Lordship living and submission to Christ
- Giving is an expression of faith and trust in God

Teaching on Giving:

- Membership Classes
- Using testimonies in the services
- Short exhortations
- Report on outreaches, missions worldwide, etc.
- Publish annual report and make available
- Provide opportunities to train children and youth in tithing so it becomes a lifestyle

PULPIT MINISTRY

Purpose:

“Sir, we would see Jesus.” John 12:21

I Tim. 3:16; I Cor. 9:16; Heb. 4:2; Luke 11:32; Acts 2:37-38; 2 Tim. 4:1-2

Communicate from God’s heart to the heart of the people.

Guidelines:

- Message should speak to all ages and strata of people, even though it may target a particular group.
- The message must always have “take-away” value. Something the people can immediately put into practice that will cause them to grow in their walk with God.
- Ministers must be passionate, loving, relevant, and sensitive to God and the people.
- What question is the message answering?
- How can the message be communicated in at least four different ways?
- Attention should be on the message from God and not on the messenger. This takes into consideration dress, presentation, choice of words, use of illustrations, interpretation and application of scripture.
- The message must always align with the mission and values of the church.
- 30-40 minutes in length. (Acts 20:7-9)

ALTAR CALL AND MINISTRY

Purpose:

Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?" ³⁸Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Acts 2:37-38

Bring people to a life-decision and seal commitment to Christ's Lordship.

Guidelines:

- Pray with people at their seat.
- Have people come forward after prayer to publicly acknowledge their commitment to Christ. This way they come forward as a believer, one of the family, instead of walking down the aisle as a sinner. (Eph. 2:19)
- Have Ministry Team in place to meet the person, ask them why they came forward, and then talk and pray with them.
- Follow-up will happen immediately as the leaders connect the new believer with someone who will be responsible for their spiritual development.
- The goal is first to have the friend that brought them be the contact person. If this cannot happen, then a small group leader or ministry intern will follow-up with them individually or as a group.
- Pastors will follow-up with all contact people twice the first week and once with the new believer to make sure there is a connection.
- Sunday nights there will be water baptism and personal ministry. (Acts 2:41; 8:35-39)

SOCIAL & POLITICAL ISSUES

Purpose:

Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God. Rom. 13:1

Rom. 13:1-7; I Pet. 2:13-19; I Tim. 2:1-2; Acts 21:30-32; 26:26-29

Provide a Biblical perspective at the core of the issue and the best outcome for the kingdom of God.

Guidelines:

- The pulpit is not the place for political speeches or endorsements. This does not censure the minister from addressing current issues to reinforce Biblical mandates.
- Christians have a responsibility to be good citizens and participate in the American democratic process.
- The church upholds the standard of morality and godliness in the world. Therefore, the church is to speak out on issues where the moral standard is attacked and the Biblical standard is challenged.
- We do not want a theocracy. We do want righteous people to rule according to Biblical principles and be examples in character and leadership.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Purpose:

"Behold, children are a gift of the LORD," Psalm 127:3

I Kings 15:11,26;

Raise-up a generation of disciplined leaders who will impact their generation for the kingdom of God.

Guidelines:

- Pray for children after worship as they are released to Children's Church.
- Have the children participate in service via interviews, music, plays, etc.
- Hold up a high standard for strong families by highlighting examples through interviews, testimonies, providing resources, seminars, etc.
- Challenge fathers to lead their families in devotional times and prayer.
- Institute a big-brother type of program for single moms with sons.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Purpose:

Release committed young men and women to touch their generation with the Gospel.

Guidelines:

- Emphasize Lordship living.
- Teach on personal devotions
- Small groups with peer accountability
- Disciple leaders personally
- Teach Biblical understanding on dating
- Give place for their ministry in the family services
- Fellowship with other youth groups
- Minimum of 2 retreats annually.
- Ministry to, and resources for parents, creating a partnership
- Be on the campuses
- Give the youth their own identity (name, meeting place, etc.)
- Start home groups for Youth and then break into separate groups, as growth occurs, for Junior High and High School.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Purpose:

Lead all planning and cover all events and ministries in prayer.

Guidelines:

- Highly esteem and continually communicate with intercessors.
- Involve prayer team representative in every planning meeting.
- Seek intercessory prayer covering and prophetic insight whenever possible.
- Encourage and help develop the role of intercessor.
- Develop 7-8 personal prayer team members for Pastor.
Example of Euodia and Syntyche who labored with Paul. Phil. 4:2-3.
The word “Labored” means “fought at my side”, “united action in the face of opposition or strife.”

Biblical examples include:

Moses - Ex. 17:8-13

Jesus - John 17; Heb. 7:25

Esther

Paul requested prayer from five different churches. I Thess. 5:25; Rom. 15:30;
2 Cor. 1:11; Phil. 1:19, Philemon 22.

- Intercessory Team
 - Brad Marcum
 - Hank Mercier
 - Kent Mueller

PRAYER MEETINGS

Purpose:

To connect with God in worship, present petitions, receive prophetic insight, and fellowship through communion.

Guidelines:

- De-emphasize public prayer is only for bold, articulate, extroverted people.
- Prayer is based on the Word of God and faith.
- Print weekly prayer guide with scripture and specific prayer targets, as well as practical tips to encourage family prayer times.
- Have petitions prepared based on scripture.
- Spend time in worship to build faith in God's nature and ability.
- Pray in the Spirit to cover issues known only to God.
- Pray prophetically as God gives insights concerning our petitions.
- Limit prayer to the urgent needs, and "big picture" issues.
- Have communion at the end of prayer meeting to share in fellowship, minister to one another and promote unity in the Body.

LIFE GROUPS

Purpose:

“Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, ⁴⁷praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.” Acts 2:46-47

Ministry, fellowship, outreach, and prayer in every neighborhood.

Groups can be formed by anyone who is a member and has the pastor’s approval. Groups can be formed around any purpose of the church. They can relate around bible study, prayer, fellowship, worship, support, hobbies (with an outreach goal), etc.

Guidelines:

- Inviting atmosphere where anyone can feel welcome and participate.
- Meet weekly or bi-weekly.
- Continually prayer for lost people and reach-out.
- Bible Study available on website each week, along with Prayer Guide.
- Provide babysitting when possible.
- Leaders and Asst. Leaders attend quarterly training.
- Leaders attend orientation training.

Typical Schedule for a home Life Group:

7:00 PM	Arrival and greeting
7:10	Prayer and updates
7:20	Bible Study
7:35	Discussion
7:50	Prayer and ministry
8:00	Fellowship
8:30	Dismiss

FELLOWSHIP

Purpose:

“Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary. ¹⁰So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.” Gal. 6:9-10

Our goal is to build healthy relationships among families, singles, youth and children in the Body of Christ. Fellowship events are also outreach opportunities.

Guidelines:

- Monthly fellowship gathers to build community.
- Picnics, gym nights, karaoke, tournaments, life-skills training, etc.
- Goal is to connect everyone, build community, and have fun.
- Should be inclusive of all age groups.
- Use name tags and ice-breakers to get everyone involved.

LAUNCHING NEW MINISTRIES

Purpose:

Ministries will be created to meet the needs of the Body and as outreaches to touch unchurched people.

Guidelines:

The following questions must be answered before a new ministry can be launched:

- Is there a need for this ministry or service?
- How was this need determined?
- What is the best way to meet this need?
- Is there another ministry that can be adjusted to meet this need?
- Who is the person who will champion and lead this ministry?
- What the goals and purpose?
- How will success and continuation of the ministry be determined?
- How does it fit into the vision of the church?
- Will this ministry distract from any ongoing ministries?
- Who is the ministry trying to reach?
- What resources are needed and available?
- What kind of funding will it need?
- Is this ministry being modeled locally or nationally?
- What prayer covering will it have?

STRATEGIC SCHEDULING

Purpose:

Pre-plan to determine sermon topics and themes for the year.

Guidelines:

- The calendar is always subject to change by the Holy Spirit.
- The goal is to layout in general the entire year and specifically one quarter at a time.
- Planning team will get away every quarter to discuss the next quarter's emphasis. Goal is to coordinate music, drama, research, and children and youth ministries so everyone is on the same page and the same theme is being reinforced at all levels.
- Specific topics will vary and guests will be strategically scheduled to strengthen a specific emphasis.

Schedule:

- 1st Quarter: Vision and Values
- 2nd Quarter: Outreach, Relationships
- 3rd Quarter: Spiritual Life, Felt Needs
- 4th Quarter: Family, Stewardship

Sample Quarterly schedule: 1st Quarter

January

Wk. 1-2 The Vision of Life Church

Wk. 3-4 Your place in Ministry

February

Wk. 1-4 What we value, what makes us unique (our 5 Values)

March

Wk. 1-4 Series on Galatians: Fulfilling Your Purpose

April

Wk. 1-2 Outreach: Our calling to reach the lost (lead up to Easter)

Wk. 3-4 Discovering Your purpose in Life (Launch week after Easter)

How Planning will be carried out:

For example, week 1 and 2 of January emphasizes on the Vision of LC. The planning team would begin working on this emphasis at the prior quarterly meeting.

Attention would be on finding or writing songs, creating or resourcing dramas, developing slogans, themes, etc., that focused on these services or possibly the a theme that can be carried into the entire year.

The following questions would be asked:

“How many effective ways can we communicate our vision to all types and ages of people?”

“What resources do we have in Morning Star to help paint the vision?”

“What special guests would enhance the theme?”

“Is there an event or seminar we should schedule during this time that would effectively reinforce the messages?”

“Is there a specific book or books that we could recommend to families to help reinforce the message either beforehand or during the time of emphasis?”

“Are there contemporary media resources that speak to this topic?”

“What is making news in the general media and in the church world concerning this emphasis?”

“What specifically do we want to have happen in people and what specific actions do we want to them to take as a result of the emphasis?”

“How specifically can we pray ahead of time to accomplish these goals?”

“Is there built-in ways to reach unchurched people during this emphasis?”

“What promotion and preparation needs to take place up to the time the emphasis begin?”

CLEANSING STREAM

Purpose:

To deal with issues in our past which inhibit our future growth and leadership.

Guidelines:

The 12 week class will be held 2-4 times per year.

Class will be lead by trained lay leaders.

Cost will be approx. \$ 80.00 for notebooks, tapes, books, and retreat expenses.

All staff must complete Cleansing Stream.

Schedule will be weekly from 7-9PM for 12 weeks with a Fri.-Sat. Retreat in the 12th week.

WORLD MISSIONS

Purpose:

To honor God and advance His Kingdom through World Missions.

Guidelines:

Focus on World Missions one Sunday per month. Use videos, live phone calls, guests, updates from around the world.

Local and global missions projects will be supported through Life groups. The Life groups will adopt student missionaries to pray for them, support them financially, and keep in touch with their ministry.

Note: No fundraising will be allowed in the church for any activities other than those directly related to the mission of the church. This includes school and community organizations, even on a casual basis. Any fundraising events must be approved through the church office.

No one may solicit on the church property for any purpose unless approved by the church. This includes political, business opportunities, seminars, etc.

Miscellaneous Ideas

Heart for lost people. A “go” church rather than a “come to” church.

Retreats to bring big changes in people:

- Marriage
- Family Restoration
- Lifeline: SHAPE, calling, definition, placement, include prophetic presbytery.

Relational bonds between people that cross age, ethnicity, socio-economic groups.

Path for every person, know how to plug-in and how to grow

Prayer Furnace – Intercession for breakthrough in people and communities. Intimate worship, communion.

Emphasis on **comprehensive teaching and application** to bring maturity

Community involvement

- Know politicians
- School leaders
- Public safety
- Other churches
- Community events

Servant Evangelism

- Water bottles at parade
- Clothing and food drives
- Job training and placement
- This meals on us

A church committed to the great commandment and the great commission will grow a great church. In other words, “love God with everything in you and serve others so they can experience God’s love.”

In this new century it is not about convincing people into the kingdom of God it is about demonstrating the love of God in a tangible way so they have an encounter with God through us. This is vital to today’s evangelism strategy.

Mission statement elements

The five purposes, Invite, Include, Instruct, Involve, invest

Honor God and Advance His Kingdom

A process or path of develop, transforming people and communities