

MIDWEST REPORT (April, 2010)

“WORKING TOGETHER TO REACH THE HEART OF AMERICA”

The Midwest Region represents an open frontier for church planting in the PCA. It is a region consisting of 13 states from North Dakota to Ohio that includes approximately 70 million people. However, less than 28 million even attend church (some would actually say that the total is less than that). It is an area of the country characterized by big cities with huge ethnic and immigrant populations (e.g. Chicago, Detroit, St. Louis) as well as a plethora of midsize and small towns. Key cities of approximately 1 million or more such as Louisville, Cleveland, Columbus, and Kansas City still have a limited PCA presence. Towns such as Ann Arbor, Springfield (MO), Springfield (IL), and Rockford, all await church planting efforts. In this vast region there are 201 PCA churches (166 churches and 35 missions - compared to 179 in 2006 and 152 in 2001 - including 16 in Korean Central Presbytery totaling some 24,000 members (up from just under 20,000 in 2001).

But much has been happening in the Midwest over the last ten years especially as the result of new presbytery initiatives and local churches taking leadership in planting daughter churches. The growth in the region has been evidenced by the subdivision of several large presbyteries in recent years including:

- (1) Great Lakes into Ohio Valley and Great Lakes Presbyteries and subsequently into Ohio and Central Indiana Presbyteries.
- (2) Heartland into Iowa and Heartland Presbyteries.
- (3) Northern Illinois into Wisconsin, Chicago Metro, and Northern Illinois Presbyteries just this past summer.

CURRENT MISSION CHURCHES:

CHICAGO:

Lincoln Square Presbyterian (Chad Lewis) – a daughter church of Covenant Presbyterian in Chicago in the Lincoln Square neighborhood.

Christ Our Shepherd (Brent Lauder) – a daughter church of Covenant Presbyterian in Hammond in St. John's/Dyer, IN.

Ethos (Ron May) in the Lincoln Park area of Chicago.

Bethel UofC (Brad Beier) – A second site of Bethel Christian Church in north Chicago.

New Hope Community Church (Hector Mardy) – Presbytery plant in the Rogers Park/Evanston area of Chicago targeting the Haitian community.

Cityview Presbyterian (Dan Adamson) – originally started by Peter Kim in the Lincoln Square community of Chicago but now meeting in the West Loop area.

[***Amazing Grace*** (Bobby Netzband) in Watseka, IL – joint effort with NIP]

ST. LOUIS/MISSOURI:

Resurrection Presbyterian (Chris Smith) in the Carondelet/South City area of St. Louis.

Midtown Church (Mark Tucker) – a daughter church of Memorial in St. Louis.

South City Church (Jay Simmons) - a daughter church of Old Orchard in the Tower Grove community.

Redeeming Grace Fellowship (Tim Herrera) in the Owensville-Washington community west of St. Louis.

Grace Presbyterian (James Park) in the Kirkwood community of St. Louis.

[**Jason Moore** is currently apprenticing at Chesterfield Pres in preparation for planting in the county]

WISCONSIN

Jacob's Well (Dan Jackson) in Green Bay

[**Scott Polender** is currently apprenticing in Chicago in preparation for planting a church in Milwaukee on the NE side near UW–Milwaukee]

IOWA

One Ancient Hope (Michael Langer) in Iowa City with RUF work.

Harvest Community (James Hakim) in Orange City.

ILLINOIS

All Souls Presbyterian (Dave Thomas) – Northern Illinois Presbytery plant in Champaign/Urbana

Redeemer Community (Rusty Moseley) – Iliana Presbytery plant in Shiloh-O'Fallon.

INDIANA:

Two Cities Presbyterian (Adam Brice) in Lafayette, IN with new RUF ministry.

Tim Kirk and Corey Smith are currently working together to plant a second site of Christ Community in Carmel in Indianapolis near Butler Univ.

Grace and Peace (Roger Williams) on the East Side of Indianapolis.

The New Deal Fellowship (Brad Grammer) an on-site daughter congregation of Redeemer Presbyterian in Indianapolis

Faith Presbyterian (Frank Hamilton) in LaPorte.

Trinity Presbyterian (Brian Allred) in DeMotte.

OHIO

Upper Miami Valley Mission (Paul Calvert) in Troy north of Dayton.

New City Presbyterian (Josh Reitano) – a daughter church of North Cincinnati in the Oakley community.

Greg Blosser and Joe Haack are currently working together to plant a second site out of Grace Central in Columbus.

Granville Chapel (Todd Naille) in Granville, OH east of Columbus, a daughter church of Walnut Creek in Gahanna).

MICHIGAN

No new plants are going on in Michigan but one very significant development is the pending addition of *Knox Presbyterian* in the Grosse Point Woods area from the EPC.

NEBRASKA

Redeemer Presbyterian (Tobey Brockman) – Daughter church of Zion Presbyterian in Lincoln.

Grace Reformed Church Gretna (Randy Arms) – second site out of Grace Reformed in Omaha.

KANSAS

Christ Covenant Presbyterian (Eric Adams) in Kansas City, MO.

Christ the Redeemer (Nathan Wilson) in Manhattan.

SOUTH DAKOTA

Living Waters Presbyterian (Brad Wheeler) in Sioux Falls.

NORTH DAKOTA

Faith Presbyterian (Luke Herche) in Grand Forks.

KENTUCKY

Grace and Peace (Lee Veazey) in Edgewood/Ft. Mitchell.

MINNESOTA

City Presbyterian (Bart Moseman) in Minneapolis/St. Paul with RUF work (Chad Brewer)

MICHIGAN

Providence Presbyterian (Jason Helopoulos) in Lansing with new RUF work

[Pending reception of *Knox Presbyterian* in the Grosse Pointe Woods area of Detroit].

UPCOMING EVENTS

To encourage and resource a continuing and expanding effort in planting and developing healthy, growing churches in the Midwest there have been annual gatherings of the *Key Leaders* in the region representing the presbyteries and states of the Midwest. These leaders are invited to come together to pray about and discuss the key issues related to church planting and church growth in the Midwest. Last year 34 leaders gathered in Chicago.

Next year, 2011, we plan on hosting a broader Midwest gathering possibly called “*The Midwest Connection*” that will meet at the Naperville Presbyterian Church outside Chicago May 10-12.

While the numbers and the resources in the Midwest may be relatively limited there is a great sense of unity and passion as we pursue our mission of “Working Together to Reach the Heart of America”. The emergence of new leadership at the presbytery and metropolitan network levels continue to increase the resources for new ministries in those locations.