

MS GULF COAST CHURCH PLANT

Grace Presbytery

Presbyterian Church in America

The missions committee of Grace Presbytery with the assistance of the Mid-South PCA Church Planting Network would like to plant a church along the Mississippi Gulf Coast. This area is best exemplified by 62 miles of scenic coastline, which runs through cities such as Biloxi, Gulfport, Ocean Springs, and Pascagoula. The Gulf Coast region is composed of three counties (Hancock, Harrison, and Jackson). It is strategically located between New Orleans to the west and Mobile to the east. The population of the metropolitan area is 250,000. The primary employers are aerospace, defense, gaming, shipbuilding, and fishing. Although the region was significantly impacted by Hurricane Katrina and the BP Oil spill, it continues to grow and is experiencing a strong economic recovery. The Mississippi Gulf Coast is culturally different than the rest of the state. It has been heavily influenced by its French heritage and Roman Catholicism.

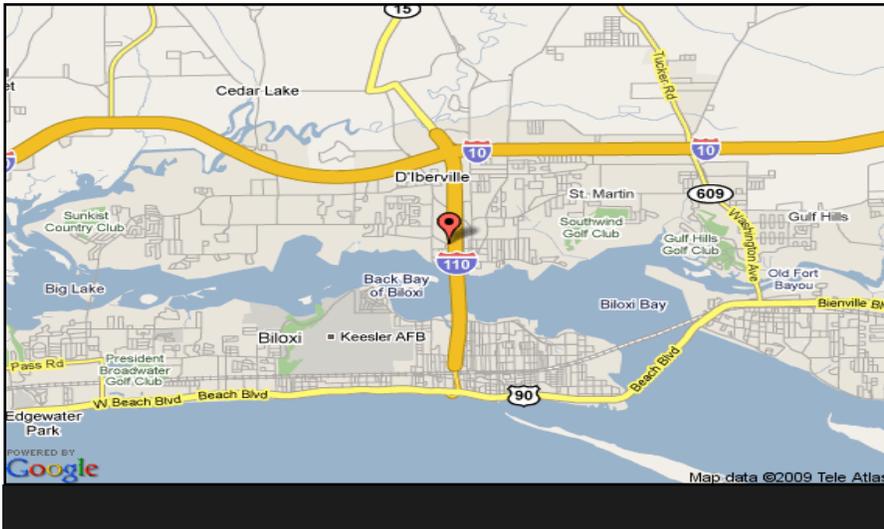
“With only four PCA churches along the Mississippi Gulf Coast and a growing population, this region is ripe for a new church that reaches the unchurched and dechurched for Christ!”

*- Dr. Sean Lucas, Sr. Minister
First Presbyterian Church
Hattiesburg, MS*



Did You Know?

- The Gulf Coast region is only a hour and half drive to New Orleans and five and half hours to Atlanta.
- Whether deep sea or inshore, the Mississippi Gulf Coast is a fisherman's paradise.
- First home to the Biloxi Indians, the region was settled by the French in 1699.



Mid-South PCA Church Planting Network

The Network is a partnership of 24 PCA churches in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, southern Missouri, and western Tennessee. Currently, we support the following new works: Christ Community (Fayetteville, AR), Christ Fellowship (Horn Lake, MS), Hope Church PCA (Little Rock, AR), and a new plant in Lafayette, LA. The Network will provide \$90,000 over a three year period. There will be additional help from churches within the presbytery. Further, we will cover the cost of coaching for the planter during this time. Our ministry coordinator and former church planter, Rev. Hunter Brewer, will also give guidance regarding the practical aspects of church planting.

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Although there are many locations in the region to plant a church, the city of D'Iberville, Mississippi is one of considerable interest. In particular, the area around I-10 and northward is under consideration by the missions committee of Grace Presbytery. As a result of Hurricane Katrina, the population throughout the Gulf Coast has migrated north of the interstate. By and large, the demographics of the area are middle class with 70% of the population white and 23% African-American. This location is situated north of Biloxi, east of Gulfport, and west of Ocean Springs. If you were to tour the vicinity, the construction of major retail venues and new homes is what stands out. If you have never visited the Mississippi Gulf Coast, it is hard to understand how the cities seemingly merge with one another. Regarding the religious makeup, the population is primarily Baptist, Methodist, and Roman Catholic. On any given Sunday, 65% of the population is not in church (it is higher for Millennials).

Pictures (left to right): Network Planters, Biloxi Shockers Stadium, Historic Lighthouse

