

## **The Springfield Church Planting Project January 30, 2017**

- **Overview**

The Presbytery of Northern Illinois (PNI), of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA), with Grace Presbyterian Church, Peoria, Illinois, serving as the lead church, will plant a church in Springfield, Illinois.

- **Vision for the new church and description of its planter**

The Springfield Metropolitan Area is home to the state capital of Illinois and 170,000 people who are not affiliated with an evangelical protestant church (out of 214,000 people in the area). The opportunity is great to serve as God's agent to bring new Christians into his family, start a Christ-exalting church, positively impact the local community, and build a disciple-making movement that will, Lord willing, lead to the salvation of many in the Springfield area and, via connections to our state capital, throughout Illinois.

The planter of this new work will be:

- A worshipper who exudes love for Christ in his preaching and shepherding
- An equipper and multiplier who possesses an intentional methodology for evangelism and disciple-making
- A visionary who sees and oversees a movement of the gospel, and a church planting movement, spreading through Springfield and beyond
- A relational leader who is comfortable interacting with people in the community and government

We envision this start-up as a scratch plant with the planter meeting and evangelizing people in the first year. However, we have begun to receive interest from people in the area who have heard of this initiative, and we are developing a contact list for the planter.

The planter must be gifted to model by his own practices and to lead others to reach individual non-Christians and to guide them into faith and maturity in Christ so that they too will become multiplying disciples. As this path of spiritual formation occurs in the lives of more and more people in Springfield, through the efforts of the church planter and those he trains, a movement will take shape that will gain momentum as an increasing number of multiplying disciples evangelize, establish, equip, and export those in their circles of influence. Lord willing, concentrated efforts in evangelizing and making disciples of a few will lead to saturation of the area with the gospel and expansion through natural connections throughout the state.

The planter will be ordained or able to be ordained in the PCA.

- **Governance**

PNI will appoint a commission to serve as a temporary Session of the new church. The church planter will be included as a member of the commission and will serve as its moderator. In addition to the church planter, the temporary Session will consist of a minimum of two teaching elders and two ruling elders from PNI.

- **Additional help**

PNI anticipates the planter working with the PCA's Ministry to State and a local ministry, Civil Servant Ministries, for help connecting with workers in the state capital.

- **How will Grace Presbyterian Church be involved?**

Grace will provide prayer, financial support, elders for the temporary Session, people who might be willing to live in Springfield, contacts in Springfield, logistical support, and encouragement of the planter.

- **Finances**

The new church will embark upon an intentional strategy toward financial self-sufficiency. Since this plant will begin without a core group in place and will target non-Christians through a deliberate strategy of evangelism and disciple-making, we will assume internal giving from new church members to be zero during the first year and then gradually increase to full support of a particularized church. In the meantime, the internal giving will be supplemented by \$24,000 per year provided from PNI, along with additional funds provided by Grace, other outside sources, and support raised by the planter.

- **Contact**

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