



MISSIO DEI
COMMUNITY CHURCH



CHURCH PLANT PROSPECTUS

GREETINGS!

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about the vision God has given us for Missio Dei Community Church in Pittsburgh, PA.

One of the first things you'll notice about Pittsburgh is the great number of bridges. There are 446 bridges in Pittsburgh, to be exact. While this may seem a bit extreme, there is good reason for their numbers. Pittsburgh sits at the convergence of three rivers, the Allegheny, the Monongahela, and the Ohio rivers. These rivers make Pittsburgh an ideal port; however, they also create

a natural barrier to land travel in and out of the city. The volume of bridges surrounding Pittsburgh solves this issue by providing many access points across these three rivers.

However, despite the many points of accessibility those in Pittsburgh have to the city, these same people lack accessibility to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. While church buildings dot the landscape and hills around Pittsburgh and the shores of the converging rivers, these buildings are empty shells, reminders of a faith of Pittsburgh past.



This is why we've named our church Missio Dei. We desire that the leaders of this church and the members who join us be continually reminded that this body of believers does not exist for its own glory and its own mission, but for the glory and mission of Christ, who is the head of the body, the Church, and who holds preeminence over all things. (Col. 1:18) We believe that God has given us a mission to display His glory in Pittsburgh and around the world, a mission that calls us to die to ourselves and live for Christ. (Gal. 2:20)

We hope and we pray as you learn more about Missio Dei Community Church that you will keep us in your prayers, that you will consider financially supporting us in this mission, and possibly even consider joining our launch team.

With much thanks,

**MISSIO DEI COMMUNITY
CHURCH LAUNCH TEAM**



MISSIO DEI LEADERSHIP TEAM



CODY BOCKELKAMP Lead Planter

Cody was born and raised in Harrisburg, PA. He and his wife, Jessica have been married since 2016. He worked throughout his Bachelor's degree ministering to youth through a local church and leading small group Bible studies at Liberty University, where he met TJ. Cody also had an opportunity to be part of the launch team of Fusion Church in Manheim, PA. Cody currently works as a Police Officer in Prince William County, VA while serving in lay ministry at Pillar Church in Dumfries, where he met Donald. Cody regularly preaches and teaches in the ministries at Pillar. While serving as a Police Officer, Cody and Jessica developed a deep passion for the people of Pittsburgh and felt the Lord calling them to plant a church there. Currently, in preparation to plant, Cody is going through the church planting residency program with Pillar Church under the guidance of Pillar's elders.



DONALD FILES Leadership Team

Originally hailing from the Northeast, Donald was raised in Central Florida, and has been working in various ministry leadership positions in Florida, Georgia, Alabama, and Virginia since 2009. He earned his BA in Ministry in 2012 and his MA in Christian Studies in 2016, both from the Baptist College of Florida. In 2013, Donald surrendered to the call of the church planting ministry, passionate about the local church and going to areas of extreme lostness. Since 2015, Donald has been serving with the North American Mission Board, working as the assistant to the Send City Missionary for the DC Metro Area and attending Pillar Church, where he met Cody Bockelkamp. In 2016, Donald felt a calling to join Cody in his efforts to plant a church in Pittsburgh. Donald is currently serving as a pastoral assistant and completing a church planting residency with Pillar under the guidance of its elders in preparation for the plant.



TIMOTHY SUTTON Leadership Team

Timothy (TJ for short) was born and raised in Parkersburg, WV. He attended and graduated Liberty University with a degree in Religious Studies with a concentration in Theology and Apologetics. During his time at Liberty University, TJ organized and led small group Bible studies for small group leaders. He is currently working towards his Masters of Divinity at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. While in seminary, TJ received a call from Cody to pray about joining a team to plant a church in Pittsburgh, PA. Over a period of several months, the Lord began to reveal a calling to Pittsburgh in his life. In 2017, TJ committed to joining the leadership team for the Missio Dei Community Church plant.

OUR MISSION

**LOVING GOD.
SERVING OTHERS.
LIVING ON MISSION.**

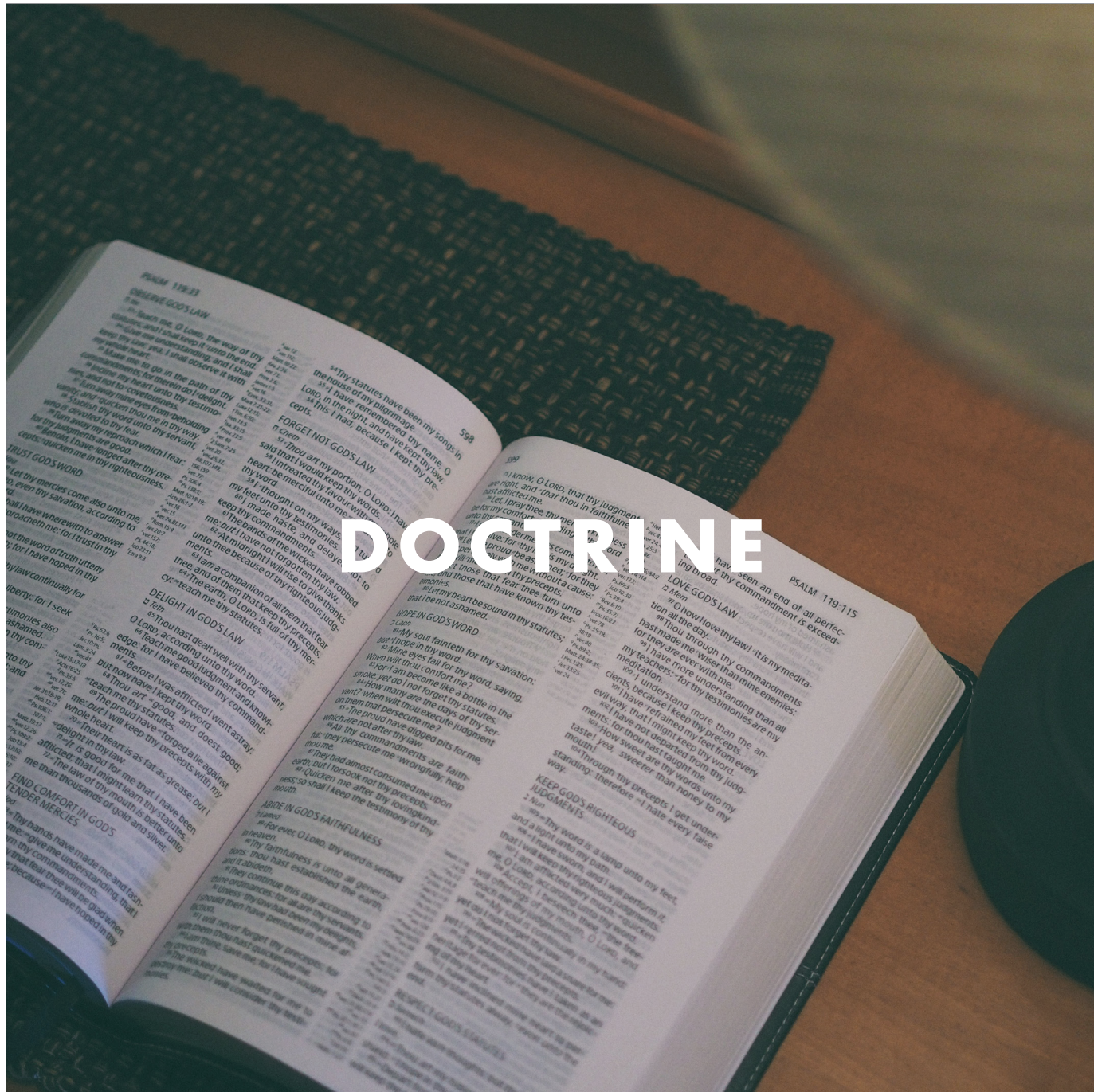


First and foremost, Missio Dei Community Church exists to love God and enjoy Him forever by worshipping Him and bringing glory to His Name. Our love for Him and His truth is the foundation upon which we exist as individuals, and as a church community. Jesus summed up the first 5 commandments by saying “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind” (Matthew 22:34-37). Missio Dei Community Church exists to foster love for the LORD and a worship of Him both individually and corporately through the preaching of His Word, which is rooted in the person and work of Jesus Christ, corporate worship bringing our hearts to align with Him, and prayer rooted in dependence and faith in Jesus who stands on our behalf (Hebrews 4:14-16).

Secondly, Missio Dei Community Church exists to not only to love God but also to love and serve people. We see the example that Jesus brings that Christians are never called to piety apart from people. Throughout His life, we see Jesus confronting the religious elite for having an external piety that never manifested in a love and care for the people surrounding them (Matthew 23:1-32). We believe it is the heart of God that our love of Him and His Word, sinks so far into who we are, it is manifested on a daily basis. Micah says we are to “act justly, love

mercy” while we walk with the LORD (Micah 6:8). We are committed to fostering a biblical community in which believers are able to grow in their relationship with the LORD through “iron sharpening iron” (Proverbs 27:17) and a community that loves and seeks to uplift one another and see others as greater than ourselves (Philippians 2:3)

Lastly, Missio Dei Community Church exists to equip and encourage God’s people to live on mission and to make the name of the LORD known everywhere. We are committed to develop and deploy every believer as missionaries into their communities, families, and workplaces for the sake of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and to establish other multiplying, gospel-centered bodies of believers in both local and global communities. Jesus has called and established His Church as the primary means by which the Great Commission is fulfilled! “Jesus came near and said to them, ‘All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations...’” The Gospel has the power to take a people rooted in proud tradition and community solidarity and establish a local body of believers which can be a beacon of hope in a hurting, broken world. We at Missio Dei desire to plant 20 churches in the greater Pittsburgh area in 20 years!



DOCTRINE



GOSPEL

The Gospel is found in the person and work of Jesus Christ on behalf of sinful humanity to restore relationship with Him. Jesus was sent by the Father, conceived of the virgin Mary through the Holy Spirit born both fully God and fully man. Jesus lived a perfect life under the law and underwent the miseries of this life, the wrath of God, and the cursed death of the cross; that he was buried. He was raised by the power of the Holy Spirit three days later conquering death in order that through faith and repentance in Him on might trade their sin for His righteousness and new life.

(Genesis 3:15; John 3:16; Luke 2:1-21; Luke 24:1-12; Romans 5:21; 2 Corinthians 5:21)



TRIUNE GOD

God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable, in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth. There is only one true and living God. There is one God but three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Each is same in essence and equal in power and glory.

(John 4:24; Psalm 89:14; 90:2; 147:5; James 1:17; Revelation 4:8; Exodus 34:6, 7; 1 Timothy 1:17; Numbers 23:19; Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:19)



AUTHORITY OF SCRIPTURE

The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, being given by divine inspiration, are the Word of God, the only infallible rule of faith and practice. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter. The Scriptures mainly teach what man is to believe about God and what duty God requires of man.

(Psalm 19:7-10; 2 Peter 1:21; 2 Timothy 3:16; Jeremiah 15:16; Hebrews 1:1-2; 4:12; 1 Peter 1:25)



MANKIND

Mankind is the special creation of God, made in His own image. He created them male and female as the crowning work of His creation. He made a covenant with man that he should live and enjoy all the benefits of creation but Desiring to be like God, our first parents forsook the obedience of faith, ate of the forbidden tree, sinned against God, and fell from the innocence in which they were created.

(Genesis 1:26-30; Genesis 2:5-7; Genesis 3:1-7; Romans 5:12)



AUTHORITY OF THE CHURCH

The Church of the Lord Jesus Christ is an autonomous local congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the two ordinances of Christ, governed by His laws, exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word, and seeking to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth.

(Matthew 16:17-19; Acts 2:41-42; Acts 14:23; Ephesians 1:22-23; Colossians 1:18; 1 Peter 5:1-4)



EVANGELISM

It is the duty and privilege of every follower of Christ and of every church of the Lord Jesus Christ to endeavor to make disciples of all nations. The new birth of man's spirit by God's Holy Spirit means the birth of love for others. Missionary effort on the part of all rests thus upon a spiritual necessity of the regenerate life, and is expressly and repeatedly commanded in the teachings of Christ.

(Matthew 9:37-38; Matthew 24:14; Luke 10:1-18; John 15:7-8; Acts 1:8; Romans 10:13-15)



For further information regarding our doctrinal positions, please reference:

Baptist Catechism

cdn.desiringgod.org/pdf/blog/A_Baptist_Catechism-new.pdf

Baptist Faith and Message 2000

sbc.net/bfm2000/bfm2000.asp



CORE VALUES

1 GOSPEL-CENTERED

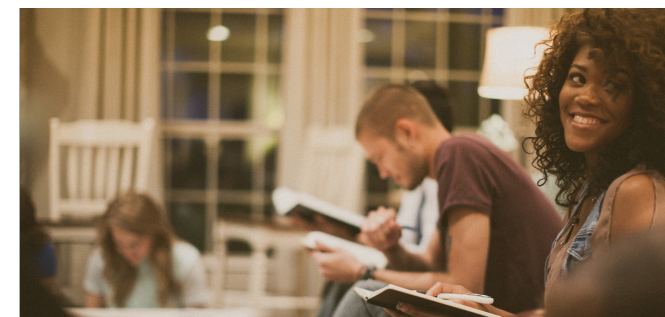
The Gospel is the only means by which we as sinful people are returned to communion with a holy God. It is the Gospel of Jesus Christ that compels us to preach and evangelize (2 Corinthians 5:14-15), it is the lense through which we read scripture (1 Corinthians 2:6-16), and it is the reason we worship God in both song and in deed (Colossians 3:15-17). Therefore, we at Missio Dei seek to make the Gospel central in all of our decision making, planning, speaking, outreach, and discipleship.

2 AUTHORITY OF SCRIPTURE

We believe Scripture is the Word of God and the primary means by which God has chosen to make Himself known to all people. It is precious, empowering, and authoritative to God's people (2 Timothy 3:16). Therefore, we desire to submit every decision of Missio Dei to the authority of Scripture, and seek to make Scripture the foundation for the preaching and teaching ministry of the church. In addition, we believe expository preaching and teaching best honors the text of Scripture.

3 INTENTIONAL EVANGELISM

We believe that humanity is in a desperately fallen state without any hope of salvation apart from the Gospel of Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:1-3). We also believe that Jesus commissioned His Church to proclaim this Gospel to all nations. We see Jesus model evangelism through intentional conversations and relationships with lost people (John 3:1-21; 4:1-26; John 8:48-59). We, therefore at Missio Dei are committed to make every effort to share the Gospel so that we might “snatch” some from the fire (Jude 1:23), and we desire to motivate believers in Christ to intentionally build relationships with people and preach the Gospel through their words and deeds (2 Corinthians 5:14-15).

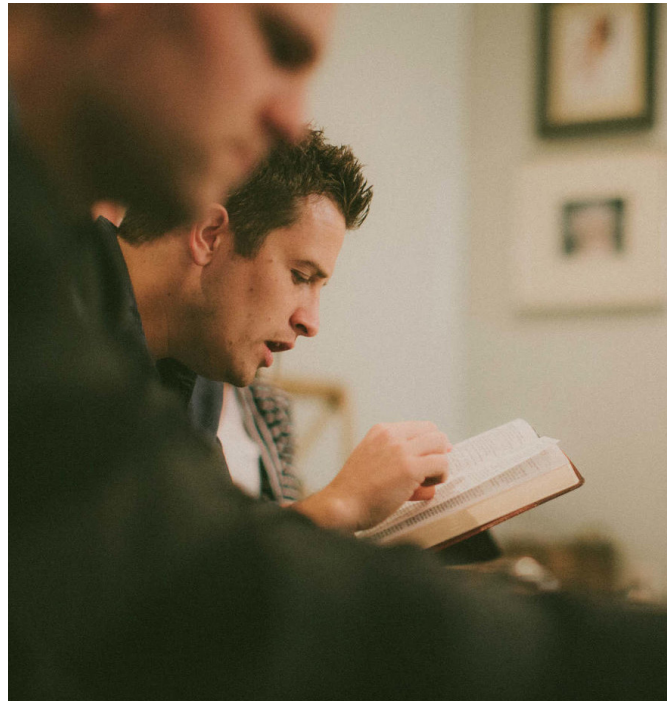


4 BIBLICAL COMMUNITY

We believe that the Christian life is not meant to be lived in isolation, but in biblical community with other believers. Biblical community both endears us to each other and to God. Therefore, we are committed to praying for one another, sacrificially serving one another, encouraging one another, holding each other accountable, and discipling one another (1 Thessalonians 5:11; James 5:16; Hebrews 10:24-25).

5 DESTINATION DISCIPLESHIP

We seek to establish a community where our members regularly and intentionally engage in discipling one another. We see discipleship modeled in Scripture through Jesus' training of Peter, James, John (Mark 5:37; Mark 9:2) and through Paul's relationship with Timothy (1 Timothy 1:2; 2 Timothy 1:1-2). Destination discipleship is discipleship with goals. We believe discipleship is most effective and advantageous when done through setting and working towards achievable measurable goals, or destinations.



6 MULTIPLICATION

We believe God desires to see all people come to a faith in the Son (2 Peter 3:9), and that He has established the local church to be His means of accomplishing that mission (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:7-8). We, therefore, are committed to devoting significant time and resources to plant churches that plant churches in order that every person has access to the gospel and a local church.

7 GLOBAL-FOCUSED

We believe it is the mission of Jesus to have the gospel preached to every tribe, tongue, and nation so that all may hear the good news of the Gospel (Matthew 24:14; Revelation 7:9). As a church, Missio Dei will seek to be intentional about global missions through giving sacrificially to international missions organizations and through actively sending our members to help plant churches globally.

8 MERCY & JUSTICE

We believe that every person has inherent dignity because they are created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27). More than that, we believe Jesus' church has a divine mandate to bring relief to the needy and justice to the oppressed and marginalized (Deuteronomy 15:7-11; Proverbs 31:8-9; Matthew 25:34-40). As a church, Missio Dei is dedicated to encouraging our members to engage injustice and need in our community and our world.



“IN MY OPINION, OF THE MAJOR CITIES IN NORTH AMERICA, PITTSBURGH HAS THE GREATEST NEED FOR CHURCH PLANTS. WE ARE PRAYING THAT GOD WILL PROVIDE THE RIGHT LEADERS TO SPARK A MOVEMENT IN PITTSBURGH AND THROUGHOUT THE NORTHEAST.”

KEVIN EZELL

President of the North American Mission Board

PITTSBURGH, PA

Once known for its thriving steel industry and robust blue-collar work force, Pittsburgh now confidently rests as a leader in medicine and technology. Today, Google, Apple, Bosch, Facebook, Uber, Nokia, Autodesk, and IBM are among 1,600 technology firms that have offices in the city. In addition, loyal fans of the Penguins, Steelers, Pirates and more know the city as a hub for awards and excellence in sports. As a city rich in tradition, there is no shortage of food, culture, arts and activities in Pittsburgh. In just the past few years, The Economist ranked Pittsburgh as the most livable city in mainland America, only adding to its growing reputation as one of the most habitable cities in the Northeast.

2,500,000
PEOPLE LIVE IN THE CITY



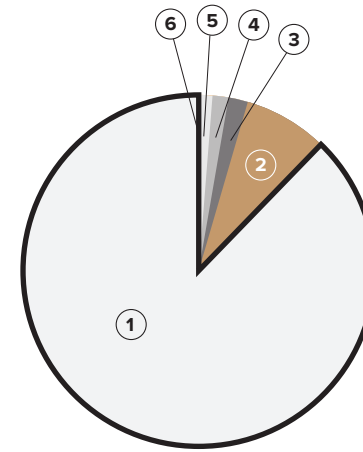
**ONE CHURCH FOR EVERY
42,890 RESIDENTS**

57

**SBC
CHURCHES,
CURRENTLY**



**POVERTY
RATE: 12.3%**



ETHNIC DIVERSITY

1. 87.6% White
2. 8.3% African American
3. 2.1% Asian & Pacific Islander
4. 1.7% Two or More Races
5. 1.6% Hispanic
6. 0.1% Native American

7.6%

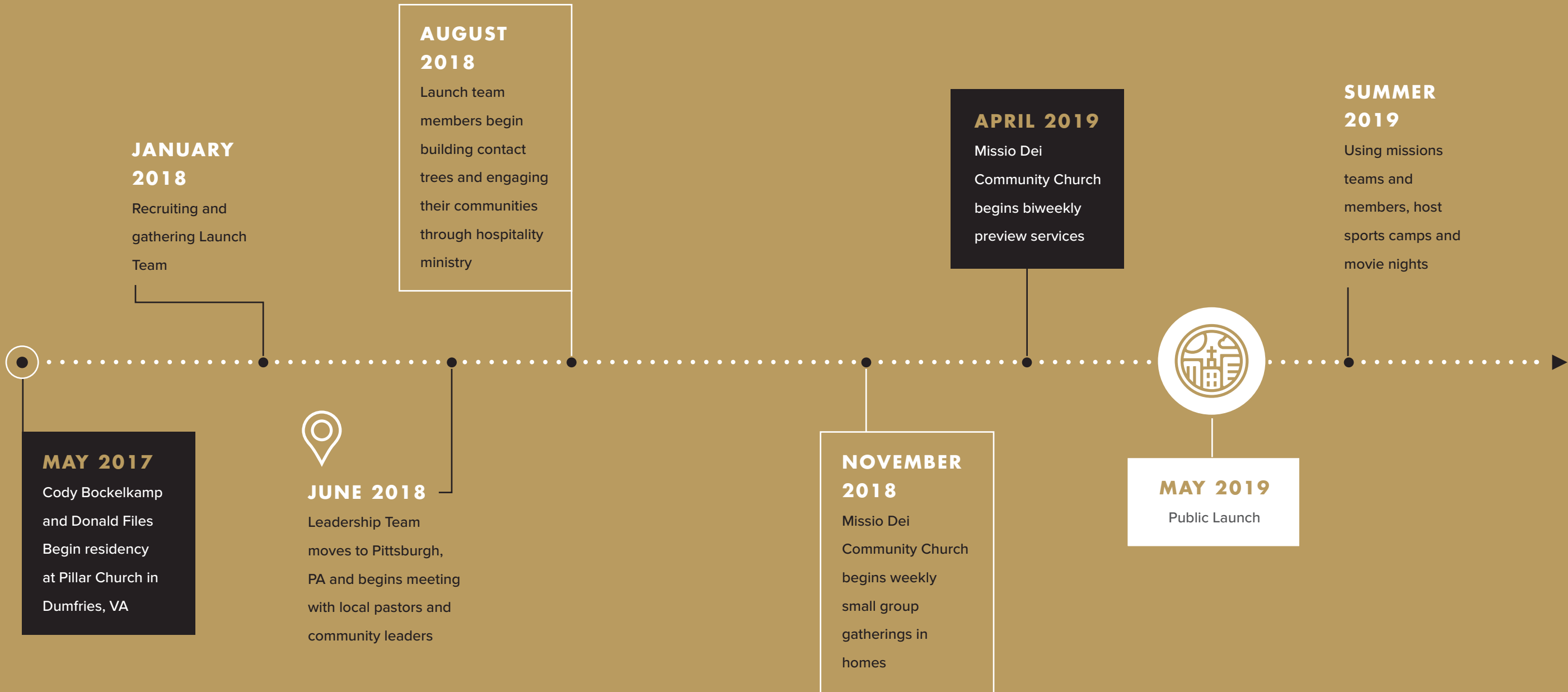
**ASSOCIATED
WITH EVANGELICAL
CHURCH**



WHY PITTSBURGH?

While Pittsburgh sits as one of the 32 Cities that the North American Mission Board has committed to focusing resources to for the purpose of starting new churches, the city has been largely overlooked by church planters. Pittsburgh is a growing changing city, and if we are to reach the over 2 million people in the greater metro Pittsburgh area, we must begin by planting gospel-centered multiplying churches.

TIMELINE



BUDGET NEEDS

ANNUAL BUDGET

\$175,350

PERSONNEL

\$90,180 (51%)

MINISTRY & MISSIONS

\$38,320 (22%)

SUNDAY GATHERINGS

\$46,850 (27%)

STARTUP EXPENSES

\$15,000

The leadership at Missio Dei Community Church truly believes that church planting is free. The only thing a church plant needs is a ready leader, a missionary leader, ready to commit his life to take the Gospel into a lost world. Practically speaking, however, we recognize that the work benefits from the resources we have to give. It is our desire to be able to support two full-time ministers who can give their days to the hard work of planting this church. In addition, our budget will allow us to rent a storefront in our neighborhood to minister out of throughout the week, provide resources for outreach events, fund mission trips that will imbue global missions into the DNA of this new church, and purchase the practical equipment that we will need to hold services each Sunday.

During the pre-launch period of the plant, these funds will be directed through our sending church, Pillar Church to provide accountability and administrative assistance.

PARTNERSHIPS

SENDING CHURCH

Pillar Church

NETWORKS AND DENOMINATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

North American Mission Board

www.namb.net

Southern Baptist Convention

www.sbc.net

MENTORS

In addition to submitting ourselves to the oversight of the elders of our sending church, Pillar Church, we desire to place ourselves under the mentorship and accountability of a few godly and experienced men who have gone before us in church ministry and leadership. The following men have agreed to serve in that capacity:

CLINT CLIFTON

Send City Missionary, DC-Baltimore

COLBY GARMAN

Lead Pastor, Pillar Church

GET INVOLVED

1 PRAY

- Pray for salvations in our city.
- Pray for relationships to develop and flourish in our city.
- Pray that Missio Dei would find favor with community leaders and other ministries and organizations working in the City.



2 PARTNER

Join the launch team: As Missio Dei Community Church moves forward with its launch, move to Pittsburgh with us and leverage your career to join a church planting movement. We are praying that God would provide 30 committed adults from a variety of cultural, socioeconomic, and generational backgrounds for our Launch Team by Fall of 2018. If you are interested in being a part of the Missio Dei Launch Team, fill out the application on our website and we will be happy to discuss how you can get involved.

3 BECOME A PARTNER CHURCH

By becoming a partner church of Missio Dei Community Church, your mission becomes our mission.

- Send short-term mission teams
- Provide training to our team
- Serve our team creatively through letters, gift cards, etc.

4 PARTICIPATE FINANCIALLY

Give to the mission of planting a gospel-centered multiplying church in the city of Pittsburgh, PA. When you give, you are participating in the mission God is doing in this changing city.

Consider Giving in One of the Following Ways:

1. \$2,500 / Month
2. \$1,000 / Month
3. \$500 / Month
4. \$ _____ / Month
5. \$ _____ one time gift

Giving is safe and simple. You can give securely online at missiodecc.com/give by selecting Missio Dei in the drop down menu after following the “Give Online” link, or by mailing a check addressed to Pillar Church, SBC with Missio Dei Community Church in the memo section to:

Pillar Church
P.O. Box 622
Dumfries, VA 22026





MISSIO DEI
COMMUNITY CHURCH

WEB missiodeicc.com

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