

HOPC Church Plant

Rationale:

1. Multiply healthy reformed Presbyterian gospel-preaching churches in Grand Rapids with the hope of developing a West-Michigan Presbytery
2. Spin off a church plant because Harvest is reaching current capacity
3. Keep location transportation-friendly to target area
4. Prefer to move toward downtown with an eventual goal of planting churches in the downtown core

Gelling-Stage: aim to accomplish within 6 months

1. Determine area(s) to cast a net to determine if the Lord is calling us to plant there (**Alger Heights** area)
2. Commit to praying corporately and individually for this area and the Lord's leading
 - a. Send out letter informing congregation of goals, plans, invitation to pray
 - b. Short sermon series on church planting to kick off weekly meetings
 - c. Speak with other reformed churches in that area
3. Invite HOPC members living in those areas and others interested (both within and without HOPC) to meet together
 - a. To begin early (January or February) in 2011
 - b. Presentation and q and a at congregational meeting
4. Find a place to meet for the information meetings (someone's home? Building?)
5. Host weekly information meetings for 6-8 weeks in order to gauge interest and viability
 - a. This is a 6 week bible study that may turn into a church plant
 - i. There is no guarantee this will go through. The Lord must lead and we must be sensitive to his leading and timing. We'll plant some seeds and see if the Lord gives growth to our desire.
 - b. Vision-casting and cost-counting in those 6 weeks.
 - c. Pastor and elder will lead study and report progress to Session
6. Seek to identify possible core group members
 - a. Identify households which are stable, hospitality-oriented, committed to church planting (2 year commitment), practice evangelism/outreach
 - b. Seek to identify possible elders and deacons as core members
7. Advertise the group to the community
8. Find an evangelist/church planter by end of first 6 months
 - a. If the group gels, finding an evangelist is high priority

Gathering Stage: aim to accomplish within 12 months

1. Identify and receive commitments from core group households
2. Identify and receive commitments from current officers (elders, deacons)
 - a. Men with a real zeal for the ministry, who can work with the evangelist.
This is a lot of work and commitment and strong leadership is necessary.
 - b. These men need to be dedicated to serving the plant
3. After 6-8 week study continue meeting twice a month: once for a prayer meeting and once for Bible study and planning
4. Remain part of Harvest OPC but work toward separate finances and organization (shared oversight, separate budget to begin?)
5. Dale and Francis share pulpit responsibilities
6. Regular mid-week bible study with goal of evening (and morning) worship by end of the year
7. Advertise to community through facebook, internet, flyers, newspaper, etc

Growing Stage: aim to accomplish within 5 years

1. To have a healthy, self-sustaining, reformed, gospel-preaching OPC in Grand Rapids
2. To have 2 elders and 1 deacon as members of the church (developed or transferred)
3. To be setting aside some funds for another plant