



Faith Covenant Church believes in taking ‘next steps’ together. It’s the way God works in our lives as individuals and as a community – moving us along in faith and obedience, one step at a time.

The FCC family is in the process of discerning God’s wisdom on what could potentially be a significant next step: the planting of a new church.

God’s Spirit has seen to a season of growth and fruitful ministry over the last few years at FCC, and it seems that the timing is right to multiply that with which God has gifted this community.

Our vision is for another Evangelical Covenant in Winnipeg that uniquely presents the Gospel of Jesus Christ in another area of the city and shares in Kingdom work alongside with Faith Covenant Church.

Jesus said, “What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade.”
~ Mark 4:30-32

God’s work in the world is one of sending and multiplying. The Father sent the Son, Jesus Christ. Christ called His first followers whom he, in turn, sent out into the world to baptize and make disciples. The book of Acts portrays the extension of the work of God through the Church, as new communities of believers rise up wherever the Gospel is preached. From a small beginning, God does an incredible work and His love is made known throughout the world.

God continues His work in the world today through His Church, by the power of the Holy Spirit. Church planting in particular has a special role to play in that work.

It has been consistently shown that new churches have a unique way of reaching new generations, new residents, new people groups, and those who are “unchurched.” Further, church plants bring encouragement, vitality, and creativity to the broader community of the Church.

In North America, 3500 churches close every year – only 1500 are planted. In light of this, our denomination, The Evangelical Covenant Church of Canada, has identified church planting as its number one priority.

So, what would this kind of ‘next step’ look like...?

This planting effort is envisioned as a partnership between Faith Covenant Church and the Evangelical Covenant Church. A core group of 20-25 people, along with the planting pastor (Gavin Jensen), would be commissioned by FCC to begin the work of planting a new church in 2012. FCC, along with the conference and denomination, would financially partner to see to a viable beginning for this new ministry.

We believe that, through prayer and hard work, God can bring life to a new Covenant Church community in this city that can multiply the work He has begun here at FCC.

We ask to pray and participate in this season of discernment and preparation. Consider:

- What is Faith Covenant Church’s ‘next step?’
- What words, images, and stories from Scripture come to mind as you pray about where God is leading FCC?
- How does the idea of a church plant make me feel? What about it excites you? What makes you nervous?
- What is *your* part in *whatever* God has in store for FCC?

If you would like to discuss this vision for a church plant further, please contact one of the pastoral staff or a member of our leadership council:

Pastoral Team

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Church Plant Proposal

November 2011

PREAMBLE

Faith Covenant Church believes in taking 'next steps' together. In 2008 FCC took the step of purchasing a modest facility in Winnipeg's Beaumont neighbourhood which it had been utilizing since 2003. Following this step of faith, God's Spirit has seen to a season of significant and fruitful ministry and the faith family has grown.

The momentum of this season of growth has presented the rich opportunity to take another 'next step' together: the planting of a new church. This notion of undertaking a church plant has been a hope of several members of the FCC family, and it seems that the timing is right to multiply that with which God has gifted this community. The energy and resources necessary (both people and fiscal) are available; FCC is poised to take this next step together through the planting of a second Covenant church in Winnipeg.

VISION:

Our vision is for another Evangelical Covenant Church in Winnipeg that uniquely presents the Gospel of Jesus Christ in another area of the city. We envision that this new autonomous congregation will work in a collaborative ministry partnership and share in Kingdom work alongside Faith Covenant Church.

METHOD OUTLINE:

- FCC will commission a launch group – a minimum of 20-25 people – to call the church plant their new home church, participating in serving and giving accordingly.
- The primary planting pastor will work to provide care and leadership to the church plant and fostering connection and collaborative ministry between FCC and the plant.
- The "Life Together" household will pursue relocation to the plant neighbourhood, being counted amongst the launch group, providing their energy and gifts to the burgeoning plant's ministry.
- A financial partnership will provide for a feasible launch and moves the church plant toward self-sustainability.

PROPOSED LAUNCH TIMELINE:

- **November 2011:** Tentative agreement reached with Peter Sung, director of church planting for the ECC, for the plant plans to move ahead.
- **January – April 2012:** Begin gathering a core group to pray and plan, working toward the cohesion and development of this group.
- **May – August 2012:** Target neighbourhood/community activities, making personal connections while preparing for services.
- **September 2012:** Launch weekly services, continuing neighbourhood ministry and community network development.

PROPOSED GROWTH BENCHMARKS:

- **September 2012:** Have a core group of 20-25 committed launch members.
- **September 2013:** Be on trajectory for 50% financially self-sustainable by year end.
- **April 2014:** Have a weekly service with an average attendance of approximately 50 people.
- **December 2015:** Financially self-sustaining.

STAFFING PLAN:

In this proposal, Gavin Jensen assumes the role of the planting pastor. Erik Anderson and Cody Anderson will continue to serve the community of Faith Covenant Church.

Gavin's departure from the pastoral staff at FCC will result in the need to reassess the staffing scenario here. Responsibilities and ministry portfolios will need to be shuffled. It is clear that the changes to the staff structure open up the opportunity and even necessitates lay leadership taking a next step at both FCC and the new church plant.

A NOTE ON HISTORY AND NEW THINGS:

In recent years there has been some difficulty in starting a second church in Winnipeg. These ventures have been critiqued and evaluated, and, while it may not be possible to determine all the reasons for the lack of success thus far, there is confidence that the present situation and proposal provides a more promising opportunity than was seen in past attempts, for at least five significant reasons:

1. This proposal begins and remains one of team-based ministry. This kind of ministry partnership provides fertile ground for creativity, and contributes energy, challenge, and encouragement in daily ministry.
2. This proposal begins with a committed core group of 20-25 persons from FCC who would be commissioned for the work of planting.
3. This proposal targets an area of the city (the northwest of Winnipeg – north of the Assiniboine River, and west of Main St.) that presents favourable conditions for a church plant.
4. This proposal presents a feasible financial scenario which maximizes the money contributed by financial partners while having a plan to move the plant toward financial self-sustainability within three years.
5. This proposal comes about in a season of the life of the ECCC in which it has made church planting its primary priority.

FINANCIAL PARTNERSHIP:

This proposal seeks a financial partnership between Faith Covenant Church, the Evangelical Covenant Church, and the Evangelical Covenant Church of Canada, asking each party to generously contribute toward the planting of a second vibrant Covenant church in the city of Winnipeg.

Faith Covenant Church is being asked to commit to the following:

- A core group of 20-25 people committed to serving and giving to the ministry of the church plant.
- An initial investment of \$25,000 for planting expenses.
- Continued provision of the shared office space.
- Access to office and other equipment, as well as other team expenses discerned to be appropriate.

The ECC and ECCC have tentatively agreed to commit the following:

- An investment of \$100,000 over a four year term, as follows:
 - \$20,000 in 2012
 - \$40,000 in 2013
 - \$25,000 in 2014
 - \$15,000 in 2015