



TREASURING
CHRIST CHURCH

Ann Arbor, Michigan

prospectus





Greetings!

Thank you for taking time to learn more about Treasuring Christ Church. The vision and mission of TCC was born out of a desire to go where the gospel was not known and the church was not established. This journey initially led our family towards considering international missions in the Middle East. Through ministry experience, clarity in gifting, and training in the local church, God has given me a heart for North American church planting. During this time, I have had the privilege overseeing both Student and College Ministry within my local church, which deepened my understanding of the need and potential of reaching and equipping the next generation. These experiences have led me to solidify two convictions: 1) I want to go somewhere that needs the gospel and healthy local churches and 2) I want to go somewhere that has the potential of becoming a church planting hub. Our prayer is that Treasuring Christ Church would be a church with a vision that extends as wide and far as the Great Commission.

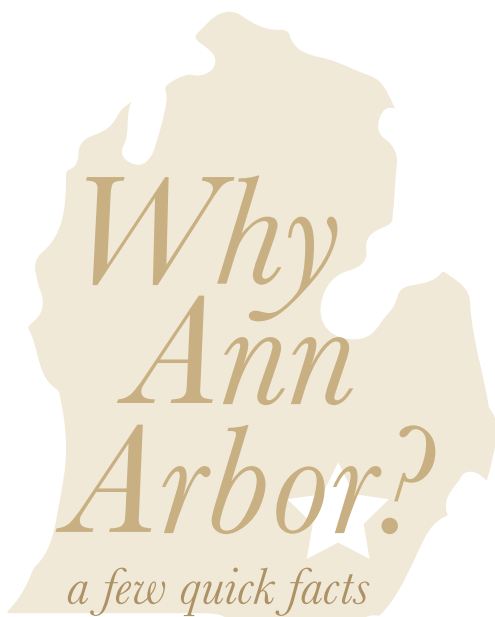
After an exploratory trip four years ago to Dearborn, MI, I actually found myself drawn to the nearby city of Ann Arbor. As you will see in the pages that follow, Ann Arbor not only has a great need for the gospel but it also has great potential for the gospel to be advanced among the next generation and to the ends of the earth. After our first trip to the area in 2015, we were confident of God's leading in this direction. We have continued to see God's direction and provision in developing our core team and preparing to be sent from Open Door Church in Raleigh, NC. Through seeking God in prayer and the affirmation of our sending churches, we desire to plant Treasuring Christ Church in Ann Arbor, MI with a vision to reach Southeast Michigan, North America, and the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ. We are now taking the next step of forming strategic partnerships within our denomination, with like-minded local churches, and with businesses and individuals.

We hope and pray as you learn more about Treasuring Christ Church that you will join us in praying for the work of the gospel in Ann Arbor, partnering with us through your financial support, and possibly even consider joining our church planting team.

Michael Guyer

LEAD PLANTER

LOCATION



POPULATION: 119,000

MEDIAN AGE: 27

THE NATIONS ARE HERE 17% of residents born outside of US

3 SBC CHURCHES 1 for every 39,000 people

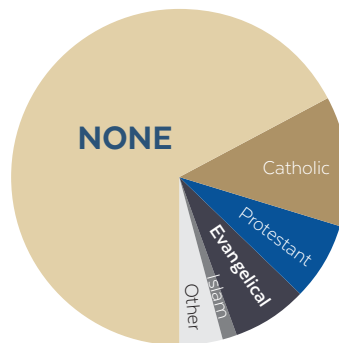
STRATEGIC SENDING LOCATION

A few of the major cities within 4 hours: Chicago, Detroit, Toronto, East Lansing, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Indianapolis, Pittsburgh

83,700 STUDENTS IN THIS AREA



RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION



NONE: 67.2%
CATHOLIC: 12.4%
MAINLINE PROTESTANT: 7.5%
EVANGELICAL: 7.35%
ISLAM: 1.3%
OTHER: 4%

WHY ANN ARBOR?

Ann Arbor is located in Southeast Michigan, approximately 45 minutes from Detroit. It is best known as the home of the University of Michigan. Go Blue! It has an estimated population of 119,000 within the city and 350,000 in the surrounding area. Some consider Ann Arbor the state's rare jewel with historic charm, world-class educational and research centers, a rich mix of cultures, and a steadily growing population and economy. It is regularly on top-10 lists for best college towns, most livable cities, and best places to work. However, it is not the uniqueness or merely the size that compels us to go. We are compelled to go to Ann Arbor because of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Having come to know and be transformed by the gospel, we now go to display and declare the gospel. Through this lens we are able to see the need and the potential of Ann Arbor in fulfilling the Great Commission. We are planting Treasuring Christ Church because we believe there needs to be more faithful churches in Ann Arbor and Southeast Michigan that seek to multiply disciples in all of life and to the ends of the earth.

The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few

The Need

Ann Arbor is the home of *The Victors! Hail! to the victors valiant; Hail! to the conqu'ring heroes; Hail! Hail! to Michigan, the champions of the West!* There is much to celebrate about its storied past and much to anticipate about its hopeful future. Yet, Ann Arbor remains a place filled with darkness. Apart from the hope of the gospel, men and women from all over the world come to Ann Arbor to pursue the idols of power, wealth, and status. Like all idols, these things do not satisfy in the ways they promise. In addition, over 65% of Ann Arbor residents have no religious affiliation and only 7% identify as evangelical. While God has worked in Ann Arbor in the past and there is evidence of his ongoing work, the need still outweighs the present work and workers. We believe God has called us to plant Treasuring Christ Church in Ann Arbor in order to push back the darkness with the light of the gospel. **Luke 10:2**, *"The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."*



The Potential

Engaging the Disconnected

Ann Arbor is one of the least religious cities in the United States — over 65% identifying with no religious affiliation. In an increasingly secular and unchurched environment, there are thousands of men and women disconnected from the church, wrestling with doubts, and increasingly skeptical of traditional religious beliefs. The answer is not to change the message or dismiss the questions. The answer is to engage the disconnected with compassion and without compromises, to tell the better story of the gospel, to listen well and answer questions honestly, and to display the beauty of community found in the local church.

Mobilizing the Next Generation

Within six miles of one another there are two major universities — the University of Michigan and Eastern Michigan University — and one of the largest community colleges in the state, Washtenaw Community College. Between these three schools, there are over 80,000 students — 80,000 students who need to hear the gospel, embrace Jesus Christ, become a part of the family of God, be equipped to make disciples, and be sent on mission throughout North America and to the ends of the earth. The reality of a college town means that there are not only 80,000 students now who need to be reached, equipped, and sent but that there will be another 80,000 students every 4–6 years who need to be reached, equipped, and sent. This will not be an easy task, but the opportunity is great to mobilize the next generation.

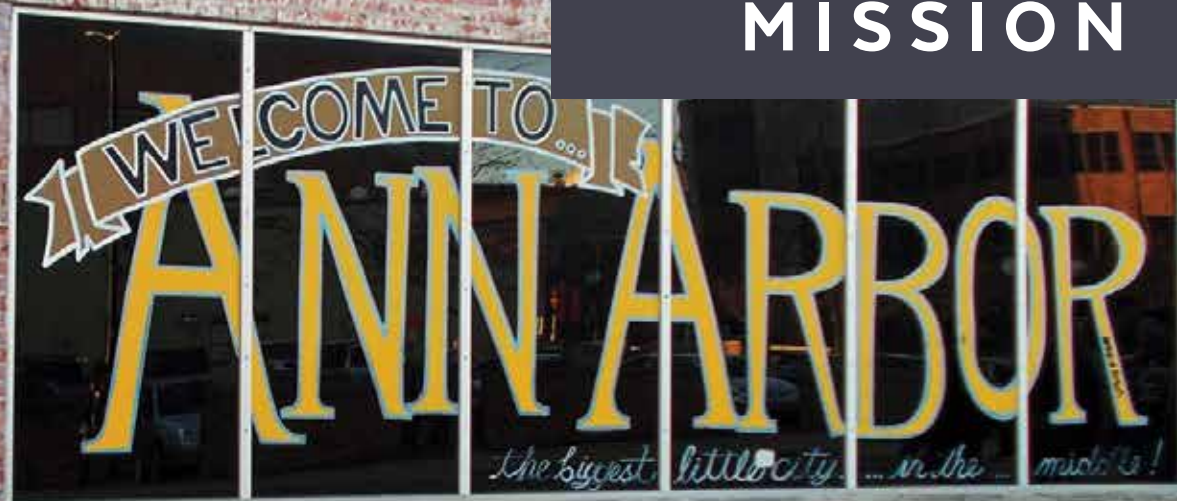
Reaching the Nations

The nations are coming to major cities all over North America. This is no different in Ann Arbor. Due to the presence of the university, over 17% of the population of Ann Arbor is foreign born. Ann Arbor has the second largest Japanese community in the state of Michigan. It also has a growing Arab American population and is only 20 minutes away from one of the most concentrated Muslim populations anywhere in the United States (Dearborn, MI). In addition to reaching the nations in Ann Arbor, our desire is to reach the nations from Ann Arbor as we develop and multiply disciples and churches all over North America and the world in places like Chicago, San Francisco, Japan, and India.

VISION

Vision

*To see Jesus Christ treasured
in Southeast Michigan,
North America, and
to the ends of the earth.*



*Treasuring Christ Church exists to glorify God by multiplying disciples who **delight in, declare,** and **display** the gospel in all of life and to the ends of the earth.*

DELIGHT

The gospel is good news of great joy. We were made to know and delight in God. We were hardwired to worship. But we rebelled against the God we were made to enjoy. The good news of the gospel is that we have been redeemed by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Therefore, we can know and delight in God just as He designed us to do. When we delight ourselves in Him, He is most glorified in us. At Treasuring Christ, we seek to invite others to find their joy and satisfaction in the One who created us and redeemed us in Jesus Christ.

DECLARE

The gospel is good news to declare. It is by its very nature something we must share. Jesus lived the life we could not live in perfect obedience to the Father, He died the death we deserved to die upon the cross, and He rose from the dead victorious as Lord over all. If He is Lord over all, then He must be declared to all people and in all of life. Therefore, we seek to declare the gospel to Christians and non-Christians alike because Jesus is better and we need to center our lives around Him. At Treasuring Christ, we declare the gospel through faithfully preaching God's Word and engaging others with the gospel in our daily lives.

DISPLAY

The gospel is good news to display. We best display the gospel when we are being transformed by it. Therefore, we seek to spur one another on to be more like Jesus in our daily lives, relationships, and work. We also desire to seek justice, show mercy, selflessly love and humbly serve others like Jesus in our community and around the world. The life of every Christian and every local church is meant to display the truth and beauty of the gospel before a watching world. At Treasuring Christ, we put the gospel on display as we gather and scatter weekly, living our lives on mission.

CORE VALUES

1

Scripture

The Christian faith is rooted in the Scriptures — the Old and New Testament. It is true and trustworthy. It is the final authority and sufficient for all aspects of life, faith, conduct, and ministry. **Therefore, we are a people under authority.** *2 Timothy 3:14-17; Hebrews 4:12; 2 Peter 1:16-21.*

2

Gospel

The gospel is the good news of God's redemption of sinners and his fallen creation through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is the power of God unto salvation. It is of first importance for our salvation and is to be the center of our lives. **Therefore, we are not ashamed of the gospel, but make it our aim to know it deeply, apply it faithfully, and share it boldly.** *Romans 1:16-17. Romans 5:1-11; 10:14-17; 1 Corinthians 15:3-8; 2 Timothy 1:3-8.*

3

Worship

We were made by God and for God. Our lives are meant to be act of worship in response to who God is and what He has done. Because of sin our worship is misdirected — focused on the wrong things and people. Through the gospel, God is seeking worshipers who treasure Him above all things. We treasure him through prayerful dependence, joyful obedience, and faithful service. **Therefore, we seek to be and make disciples who worship the Lord Jesus Christ with our entire lives — time, gifts, and resources.** *Genesis 1:27-28; Deuteronomy 30:1-10; Ezekiel 36:22-32; John 4:16-26; Romans 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 10:31.*

4

Family

Through faith in Christ, believers of all backgrounds — cultural, ethnic, generational, socioeconomic — are united as one in the family of God. We relate to one another as brothers and sisters. We belong to one another and seek to pray for one another, speak truth in love to one another, and build one another up in Christ. We seek to love and serve others who have not yet followed Christ, so that they may be reconciled to God and brought into His family. **Therefore, we prioritize meaningful relationships in our community and meaningful membership in the local church.**

Matthew 18:15-20; Acts 2:42; Ephesians 2:11-22; 4:11-17; Hebrews 10:23; 1 Peter 2:9-12.

Discipleship

Jesus' final words to his disciples define the priority of the church — make disciples. This means relationships not programs are the mission. A disciple is someone who follows Jesus, has been changed by Jesus, and helps others do the same. **Therefore, we intentionally pursue making disciples who make disciples.** *Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 8:34-38; Luke 9:23; 1 Corinthians 10:30-11:1; 2 Timothy 2:1-2.*

5

Mercy & Justice

The outworking of the gospel in the lives of believers should be marked by showing mercy and doing justice. Mercy is meeting basic needs out of a compassion that flows from the gospel. Doing justice is being committed to serving the marginalized and oppressed, working for the reconciliation of all races and ethnicities, and defending the right to life from conception to natural death. **Therefore, we seek to love our neighbors, regardless of who they are, not only in word but also in deed.** *Genesis 1:27; Psalm 146:9; Is 1:17; Jeremiah 9:23-24; 22:3; Micah 6:8; Matthew 25:31-46; Luke 10:25-37; James 2:1-7.*

6

Culture

Since God calls us to live in specific places and among specific people, we seek to listen and learn. We desire to open up conversations, learn people's stories, and help them find their place in God's story of redemption. While we cannot compromise what we believe, we seek to engage other with compassion, gentleness, and respect. **Therefore, we aim to engage our culture with the compassion of Jesus yet without compromising the message of the gospel.** *Matthew 5:14-16; Philippians 2:14-16; Colossians 4:5-6; 2 Timothy 2:24-26; 1 Peter 3:14-15*

7

Kingdom

The kingdom of God was inaugurated in Jesus' first coming and will be consummated in his second coming. We now live in between these two comings where we experience in part the reign of Jesus while also longing for its completion. **Therefore, with our eyes set on the coming kingdom of God, we seek to be a church that reflects the diversity of God's kingdom in the community of our church — all peoples, tribes, and languages. We also desire to see God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven, so we send laborers and plant churches to advance the gospel.** *Mark 1:14-15; Ephesians 2:11-22; Philippians 1:27; James 2:1-13; Revelation 4:4-6.*

8

GATHERING

RHYTHMS

*the
Strategy*

GROUPS

DEVELOP

MULTIPLY

Through the weekly rhythms of gathering and scattering, Treasuring Christ Church will seek to develop and multiply disciples in all of life and to the ends of the earth.

GATHERING

Treasuring Christ will gather weekly to remember and celebrate our great God and Savior. We will gather to worship, to build up God's people, and to be strengthened for God's mission in all of life and to the ends of the earth. Believer, seeker, or skeptic, all are welcome at Treasuring Christ as we seek to know and follow Jesus Christ.

RHYTHMS

Treasuring Christ will also scatter every week to live out the various callings that God has placed upon our lives—parents, children, students, employers, employees, friends, and neighbors. In these places and with these people, we will seek to declare and display the gospel as we learn people's stories, engage their questions, share meals together, love people where they are at, serve their needs, show that Jesus is better, and declare the gospel with clarity and boldness.

GROUPS

As Treasuring Christ scatters throughout the week, we will gather in small groups to share life together as a family and to grow as followers of Jesus. We want to share life with one another because we were created and redeemed to be in relationship with God and one another. In turn, God uses relationships in the body of Christ to shape who we are in Him. Small groups provide an occasion to share a meal together, discuss God's Word, and spur one another on to faithfully declare and display the gospel in all of life.

DEVELOP

Treasuring Christ's mission to make disciples requires that we develop leaders. Leaders are disciples makers. We will seek to develop leaders to serve within Treasuring Christ and be sent out to serve and plant churches. In partnership with other like-minded churches, Treasuring Christ will provide summer internship opportunities and residential training opportunities through Generation LINK. The goal of Generation LINK at Treasuring Christ is to raise up laborers who will impact nations for the kingdom in the marketplace, as church planters, and as pastors.

MULTIPLY

Treasuring Christ believes the best way to advance the gospel is to plant more healthy churches. To that end, we are committed to be a church planting church. Through raising up leaders from within our church and partnering with other like-minded churches, Treasuring Christ will seek to plant churches throughout Southeast Michigan, North America, and to the ends of the earth.



For more info about Generation LINK, visit www.generationlink.org





We are...

Confessional

Baptist Faith and Message 2000
<http://www.sbc.net/bfm2000/>

Baptist

Affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention
www.sbc.net

Elder-Led & Congregationally Ruled





Michael Guyer

Michael and Emily have been married since 2011 and have one daughter: Amelia. They met at Liberty University in Lynchburg, VA and have lived in Dallas, TX and Raleigh, NC. Emily is a work-at-home mother, graphic designer, and disciple-maker. In 2012, Michael began serving as the Minister to Students at Open Door Church in Raleigh, NC. Michael has earned a B. A. in Pastoral Leadership and Biblical Exposition from Liberty University. He has also earned a M.Div. in Advanced Biblical Studies and is currently working to complete his Ph.D. in Biblical Studies from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, NC.



Chris Woods

Chris and Amelia have been married since 2011. They have three daughters: Lanie, Lila, and Ellie. Chris and Amelia met while attending Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and they currently live in Wake Forest, NC. Amelia is a registered nurse at Wakemed Hospital while also serving her family as a stay at home mom. Chris has earned his B.A. in Biblical Studies and his M.Div. in Christian Studies from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. He served full time at Wake Cross Roads Baptist Church for 5 years and currently works as a Sales Director for a large company based in Raleigh, NC. The Woods are active members at Open Door Church in Raleigh, NC where Chris and Amy both serve in the college ministry and special needs ministry. Chris and Amelia have a great passion for the local church and for church planting and are excited to be a part of what the Lord is and will do in Ann Arbor.

TIMELINE

Phase 1: Prepare to Plant **(June 2017-May 2018)**

- Develop prayer team
- Continue to build core team
- Build strategic partnerships
- Lead vision tours with potential church and ministry partners
- Develop discipleship and leadership development strategy

Phase 3: Plant the Seed **(January-April 2019)**

- Practice relational evangelism and hospitality
- Identify ways to serve the city and campuses
 - Disciple new believers
- Seek additional core team members
- Identify potential deacons
- Start new small group
- Secure a meeting location
- Take core team through initial membership process
- Establish pre-launch interest and worship meetings

Phase 5: Growing **(June 2020 and Beyond)**

- Begin formal small group leader training
- Continue different mercy ministries in the city
- Develop plans for future church planting
- Cultivate national and international missions partnerships
 - Establish internship program
- Establish consistent national & international mission trips
 - Send and receive Summer LINK participants
- Commission national and international missionaries
- Add elders and staff on needed basis

Phase 2: Cultivate the Soil **(June 2018-December 2018)**

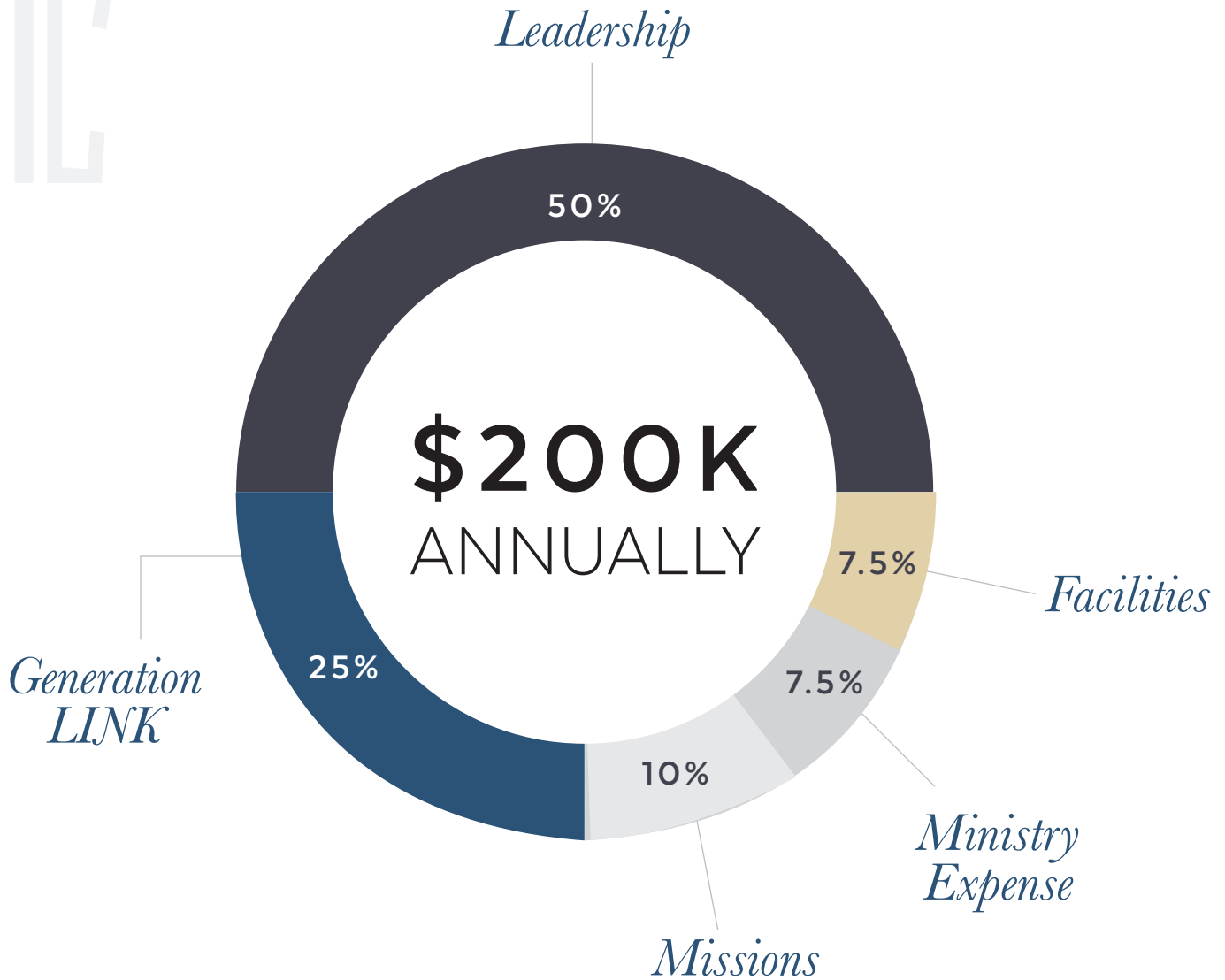
- Relocate core team
- Learn and get to know the culture
- Establish regular meetings with key pastors and planters
- Begin full or part-time jobs for those working bi-vocationally
- Attend city and neighborhood events
- Finalize church documents & solidify incorporation status
- Core team begins meeting as small group
- Network with other gospel workers in the city
- Establish presence at University of Michigan

Phase 4: Taking Root **(April 2019-May 2020)**

- Recruit a missions team from sister churches for launch
- Host first Summer LINK team
- Launch first "public" service
- Meet for corporate worship each Sunday
- Develop leaders
- Establish and conduct membership class
- Launch new small groups on a need basis
- Establish age specific ministries



BUDGET NEED



Ann Arbor, MI is an expensive area to live, rent a gathering space, and operate as a church. Therefore, we project a need for \$200,000 annually in order to compensate a personnel, Generation LINK, ministry expenses, missions, and facilities. In order to meet our budget, we are seeking to build strategic partnerships through our denominational networks, local churches, and individuals who will financially support Treasuring Christ Church for three to five years in prayerful expectation that we will be primarily supported internally through the faithful giving of our members by our fourth and fifth year .



Partner with us

①

Connect:

Do you know someone who lives in or near Ann Arbor that would benefit from being a part of Treasuring Christ Church? We would love to connect with them and share more about Treasuring Christ. As our team members are seeking full-time employment, maybe you know someone that can connect us with meaningful employment opportunities in the city. Contact Michael Guyer at msguyer@gmail.com or 919-671-0707.

②

Pray:

We have not because we ask not. We need God's presence and power to accomplish His work. Would you join us in asking for God's provision and blessing upon Treasuring Christ Church? We desire to partner with others in the body of Christ to ask God to draw the lost to Himself, to establish His church in Ann Arbor, and to bless the work of Treasuring Christ. To sign up for our Prayer Update, contact Michael Guyer at msguyer@gmail.com or 919-671-0707.

③

Give:

We are confident that God will supply all that is needed to plant Treasuring Christ Church through the resources and gifts of God's people. He has already begun doing so through the commitment of our sending churches. However, we need the additional financial support of partnering churches and individuals to establish and build up Treasuring Christ Church. Since we are confident in what God has called us to and confident that God will provide, we ask you to give — whether that is a one-time gift or a monthly contribution. Our greatest need is to develop a team of monthly givers who support Treasuring Christ Church over the next three to five years. To learn more about how you can give, contact Michael Guyer at msguyer@gmail.com or 919-671-0707.

④

Go:

We believe God is working to build the right team to be plant their lives and reach those far from Christ in Ann Arbor, MI. Perhaps He is calling you to be a part of our team. If you are interested in learning more in joining our church planting team, contact Michael Guyer at msguyer@gmail.com or 919-671-0707.



Help us plant

Giving By Check?

All gifts are tax-deductible. Checks and gifts should be made out to “The Pillar Network” and mailed to:

The Pillar Network
9801 Durant Road
Raleigh, NC 27614

*Please designate the gift to “Treasuring Christ Church” on the memo line of the check or on a separate note.

Giving Online?

Go to thepillarnetwork.com. Click “Give” (top right). Scroll down to “Please click here to give now.” Existing users can log in and new users can create a new login. To give one time, select “Quick Give,” and you will not need to create a login. Designate your one-time donation or recurring donations to “Treasuring Christ Church.”

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T R E A S U R I N G
C H R I S T C H U R C H

C O N T A C T U S

MSGUYER@GMAIL.COM

919.671.0707

WEBSITE COMING SOON