

Messiah North County
Executive Summary of the Planning Report
Prepared by Timothy Siburg

What Has Been Done

In October 2015, a Core Visioning Team was formed of leaders and members of Messiah North County. This team's tasks included: review the work, research, and original vision behind Messiah North County and then compare with current data, needs, and realities; discern immediate community needs; discern possibilities for Messiah North County, and highlight points of action and focus, as well as general area to focus in geographically; and once the vision has been reviewed, affirmed, and/or adjusted craft the vision for action moving forward and then move onto the next phase. This team met and did good work between October 2015 and March 2016. Much of the data from census and growth sources was confirmed and expanded upon.

In conversations with civic leaders, it was determined that the ideal location for a "new" church and or preschool would likely be in Ridgefield at:

- If building a stand-alone preschool, somewhere off of the south side of Pioneer Street between the two roundabouts which are west of I-5.
- If building a stand-alone church, likely somewhere off of North 65th Avenue, just east of I-5, and just north of the site for the new Clark College campus.
- Either site or area could work well for a combined church-preschool structure, because of close proximity to I-5.

The Vision of Messiah North County

As originally stated in the early 2000's, "The pastors and leaders of Messiah have discerned God's call to multiply this congregation to grow the Kingdom by developing a second site. The community to be served will benefit from the presence of a Lutheran congregation and the Word and Sacrament emphasis that it would bring. Messiah is actively learning how to do a second site start-up, primed to succeed in this venture, and wants to grow- with all of the administrative efficiencies; all the benefits of injecting the healthy D.N.A. of Messiah into a new community of believers; and all the important resources Messiah has to offer including its fast-growing and ELEA certified preschool."

In analyzing this vision, the following goals and objectives were articulated in the early spring of 2016:

- Grow the worshipping community of Messiah North County, and with the Holy Spirit's leading double in size this year.
- Though there are currently few young families worshipping regularly at North County, creating a worshipping body that is open, inclusive, and inviting of young families is critical.
- Discern about Messiah's ability to go alone or partner with another group to offer a preschool in Ridgefield.

With these outcomes and goals articulated, the vision team finished its work, and now it is time for the next step of reorganizing as smaller action teams around these objectives and how to realize them.

What is Happening Now?

Action Teams are currently being formed around the key areas noted by the Vision Team. These action teams will focus on: the question of a preschool; the creation of a finance and business plan to make it happen; the question of real estate and property available and needed; the potential for partnerships

with other groups and organizations; and for invitation, faith formation and community engagement. These action teams will have 5-7 people each, featuring a mix of people from the two campuses, members, and staff. The action teams will meet for no more than 60-90 days. These teams will report their findings to the Church Leadership Team, and disband as organized by the end of September.

The **objectives and outcomes** of the Action Teams are as follows:

- The Preschool Action Team will provide research and written details of what an ideal preschool in Ridgefield (North County) would look like. This team will offer guiding perspectives on what kind of size, space, staff, organizational structure, etc. that would be needed.
- The Real Estate/Property Action Team will review land and real estate costs and availability in the Ridgefield focus area. They will submit their findings to the CLT and the Finance/Business Plan Action Team.
- The Finance/Business Plan Action Team will compile scenarios for costs, and funding for Messiah North County that will guide the next 6 months-3 year period. Once the Preschool, Real Estate/Property, and Partnership Action Teams have shared their findings, the Finance/Business Plan Action Team will select the scenario most appropriate, and finalize projected costs as well as identify potential funding streams. This scenario and an overview of the costs and income structures will be provided to the Church Leadership Team. If a capital campaign is deemed appropriate, an additional outcome would be to form a capital campaign steering committee.
- The Partnership Action Team will explore potential partnerships to share space at a new location in Ridgefield (North County) in addition to a potential preschool. (Examples might be an office for Lutheran Community Services Northwest.) Findings regarding potential partners will be shared with the Finance/Business Plan Action Team as well as the Church Leadership Team.
- The Invitation/Faith Formation/Community Engagement Action Team will discern monthly ways for Messiah to be in the larger North County community, and create a 1-year calendar for the 2016-2017 year, and then begin to put into practice with key people and leaders. One immediate outcome will be a decision of whether to participate in the 4th of July parade or not. (Registration for this is due by June 27.)

Anticipated Timeline of Potential Next Steps

1. Form the Action Teams by the end of May 2016 and allow them to work to their objectives.
2. Poll the North County congregation regarding the name of the worshipping body, and share findings with the Church Leadership Team by June 2016.
3. The Action Teams provide their summary findings and recommendations to the Church Leadership Team by the end of September 2016.
4. The Church Leadership Team determines the appropriate next step(s) in fall 2016. Hopefully this will include the formation of a steering committee from the whole congregation, both sites, to move this work forward.
5. By fall 2018, worshipping and having a preschool at a more stand-alone site in Ridgefield.