



NEXT: Steps July 17, 2011

The contents of this document were presented by Pastor David Butler, the Council of Elders, and the Changing More Live Vision Implementation Team, to CenterPoint Church on Sunday, July 17, 2011.

For five months **our** Changing More Lives Vision Implementation Team (Craig Chartier, Steve Chartier, and Dean Eggert) has been working on the question: “What steps are necessary to best implement the vision God has for CenterPoint Church?” The team has met for many hours of prayer, study, and discussion, has met with the Council of Elders, and has presented to the Elders a proposed framework from which all of our strategic decisions would arise. The Elders, the Changing More Lives Vision Implementation Team, and the church staff, have also spent time with an outside consultant team – The Church Solutions Group – to bring to the process perspective, expertise, and experience.

From these efforts, your Council of Elders humbly presents the following progress update outlining the three core parts of our vision implementation strategy

1. OUR FIRST PART IS WHAT WE CALL OUR “FOUR ESSENTIAL COMMITMENTS” – We believe there are four essential commitments that are at the heart of who we are as church and should inform all we do.

CenterPoint Church exists to:

- *Bring God glory in all that we are and do.*
- *Become a church unchurched people love to attend.*
- *Call people to a life of full devotion to Christ.*
- *Be a vital part of God’s kingdom building work from here to the nations.*

2. OUR SECOND PART IS WHAT WE CALL OUR “NEXT PROCESS” -

Consistent with our mission, the leadership of CenterPoint Church has embraced a strategy and process known as “NEXT,” built around creating environments and steps to help adults, students and children come to know God, embrace the Jesus life, grow in Him, and live beyond themselves in His service.



Are you new to CenterPoint Church or just wondering what’s next?

Everyone has their own starting point and pace they are comfortable with when it comes to exploring matters of faith. So whether you are new to faith, returning to faith or desire to grow in your faith, we hope to meet you where you are.

At CenterPoint, our core mission and passion is to introduce people to God through Jesus Christ and encourage a growing relationship with Him. To effectively pursue this mission we need to define what it looks like when someone has a growing relationship with Christ. We define that according to three pursuits...

intimacy with God

community with insiders (meaning other believers)

influence with people outside the faith.

If a person can say at any point in their maturing process that they are growing in these three areas we believe that individual is in a growing relationship with Christ.

We realize that we as a church can do nothing to make people grow relationally. The only thing, and best thing, we can do is to partner with the Holy Spirit in asking what is the best environment for these relationships to be encouraged.

So, we’ve decided to focus our energy on creating “next” environments – environments where the Holy Spirit is free to encourage growth in individuals as they take their *next step* in deepening their relationship with God through Christ. Every “next” environment is created by asking, what would be *biblical, appealing, engaging, and most helpful* for the particular group that is attending – children, students, singles, couples, or families? And, is this environment encouraging and equipping people to pursue intimacy with God,

and/or community with insiders (other believers), and/or influence with people outside the faith?

To help us better focus and facilitate our environments, we have organized our environments as rooms in a home:

Our...

FOYER environments are designed for *guests*.

Our goal for the FOYER environments is that people would **enjoy** it and **return**.

Our primary guest environments are the weekend worship service, KidZone, and Mid-Week for students.

Our...

LIVING ROOM environments are for people to meet *friends*.

In the LIVING ROOM we want people to **connect**.

The primary LIVING ROOM environments are Access, Starting Point, Connect, Life at CenterPoint, and Common Ground for young adults and Strategic Service teams.

Our...

KITCHEN environments are where people become *family*.

In KITCHEN environments, we want people to experience **community**.

Our primary family environments are Group Life, Classes @ CenterPoint, Leadership Development and Making Ripples.

In summary, our responsibility as a church is to **create environments, train people to lead the environments, and engage people with the environments**. God's responsibility is to **change lives**.

3. OUR THIRD PART IS WHAT WE CALL "MAXIMUM USE" Based on our partnership with The Church Solutions Group, the Council of Elders and the Changing More Lives Vision Implementation Team have explored ways to maximize our current location and facilities at 20 North State Street. With the help and expertise of The Church Solutions Group we have and are discovering better ways to serve the worship, spiritual growth, ministries and outreach of CenterPoint. These discoveries are now being formulated into a proposal by Church Solutions Group to increase and enhance our capacity for ministry on 20 North State Street. This is being done given the new and extraordinary work we believe God is doing in and through the CenterPoint Church family. A work we believe God will continue to do in even greater measure in the days to come.

PART 3 – DAVID BUTLER

Q HOW HAS GOD BLESSED US AS A CHURCH?

From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked (Luke 12:48b)

Q WHAT ARE THE SPIRITUAL NEEDS OF THE GREATER CAP REGION?

Q WHAT IS GOD’S ASPIRATION FOR CENTERPOINT CHURCH?

²⁰ Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop—some thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times what was sown.” (Mark 4:20)

¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷ Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell will not prevail against it. (Matthew 16:16-18)