



South Side Christian Church

Our Mission

To Love God and Love People

The Journey of Multiplicity

Multiplication and replication are at the heart of the church's mission. Jesus set the stage with his disciples during his ministry with miracles and parables that emphasized the power of the kingdom through multiplication. Upon his departure he commissioned his small band of disciples to take his message to the ends of the earth. Some challenge! This would require the principle of multiplication.

As seen in the book of Acts, the movement resulted in an explosion of new Christ followers and churches. They were building communities of believers that loved God and loved People (Acts 2:42f). Since the early biblical account, communities of believers have been multiplying all around the world. Each instance begins with a passion for Christ and for helping others find their way back to him. What follows is the creative energy and loving sacrifice to establish new communities.

Whether it is church planting or a multi-site church, God's multiplication strategy is at work. South Side Christian Church was birthed as a result of such a vision when a group of people from West Side Christian Church left their own church body in 1944 to begin a new one. Sixty years later South Side would cast a vision for starting new communities as a means for expanding the mission of the Church and to better reach Springfield for Christ through a multi-site approach: one church worshiping and serving in two (or more) locations. Inspired by the dream, several of our people went and transformed an industrial garage into a gathering place where a new community of believers could flourish and grow. What started as a core group of 75 people in 2006 has grown to a steady weekly attendance of 200 and growing. Considering that the American church overall is declining at a rate of 9% this is a great victory and testament to the value of establishing new communities. Since that time over 125 new people seeking Jesus and community have come through the Southwest Campus of South Side Christian Church. 71 decisions have been made to follow Christ and be baptized. New ministry leaders have evolved.

There is much to celebrate not the least of which is the courage necessary to carry out this bold initiative. South Side is unique as an early adopter of the multi-site strategy in our community. In fact most of today's largest and fastest-growing churches now have multiple campuses. Not unlike those other churches, South Side's experience in the establishment and administration of multi-site ministry has been a learning process. We move forward with a better understanding of its challenges and a clearer road map for more effective ministry.

While multi-site facilities may be a part of the ministry strategy at South Side, it is important to emphasize that facilities are not the starting point. At the very core, the ministry of multiplication begins with finding where we can bring Christ to others; to be a transforming presence in our community. Hence the goal of this campaign is to not just to challenge our financial giving but to

underscore the need for South Side and all of its members to be multiplying at every level:

- Multiplying followers of Christ
- Multiplying leaders
- Multiplying small groups
- Multiplying churches
- Partnering with other ministries to further multiply the Kingdom

The Stewardship Challenge

Each of us is on a journey of faith, and together we are on a journey as a family of disciples at South Side. We ask you to join together in taking a step of faith. This mission needs \$1,600,000 to insure that the unique ministry of the Southwest Campus will continue. From a practical standpoint, finalizing the purchase of the SWC will allow South Side to move forward with its ministry of multiplication. It is our hope that a successful campaign can free up funds for more ministry opportunities that advance the cause of Christ in our community and around the world. We ask you to join us on a spiritual journey resulting in a three year financial commitment over and above our regular giving, beginning on November 21, 2010. This next step of faith seems daunting. It is a step that is beyond any of us as individuals, but it is not beyond what God can do through the collective efforts of those within his church. When we are faithful to Him he can and will do great things!

The Journey to Here

In the summer of 2006, South Side opened a new ministry at 3040 Hamlin Avenue on the southwest side of Springfield. That ministry is now known as the Southwest Campus. After nearly four years of operation, we feel that this ministry has borne fruit and that it should continue. Some of the victories we have seen are:

- 75 Baptisms

- 125 new members.
- 8 Small Groups (6 more will start in September)
- Sunday morning worship attendance over 200 this past spring and summer.
- Shana Stine has accepted God's call to be a full time missionary in Kenya working with an orphanage called Jump for Joel which provides education, food, and health care for over 200 kids in the slums of Nairobi.
- Adam Lanter has grown to the point that South Side felt led to hire him on as a part time staff person as our Ministry and Involvement Coordinator.
- David and Lindsey Lasley, campus ministers at UIS who attend the Southwest campus and lead a small group were ordained into full time ministry this year.

The venue and approach has allowed us to connect with people that we would otherwise not have been able to reach.

The elders have been committed to the ministry of the Southwest Campus since its inception. In July of 2006 the congregation voted to enter into a 3 year Contract for Deed for the SWC property. In 2008 the congregation voted to purchase additional land connected to the SWC property. Along with that purchase the congregation also approved a two year extension on the Contract for Deed and approved the purchase of the building at the end of the contract extension. It is our intention to complete the transaction for the Southwest Campus facility on or before August of 2011. This campaign will provide the financial resources to give the Southwest Campus a permanent home while minimizing or eliminating the need to incur debt. This will provide a solid foundation to build upon as we continue on our journey.

At the onset of this journey, South Side was faced with a dilemma for additional space. The need for more capacity coupled with the renewal of multiplication strategies as a church growth concept gave birth to the multi-site pursuit for South Side. Nearly 10 years ago we realized that South Side as it existed at MacArthur had

reached a threshold of physical capacity that could not be sustained. South Side Christian Church would struggle to grow beyond its existing levels without major investment in physical facilities for building space and parking. Expanding MacArthur site would cost millions. The option of relocating to a new and larger facility would be even more costly and would move us geographically from what we believe is a fertile area for ministry in the MacArthur area. The addition of the SWC allows us to maintain our place of mission in the MacArthur neighborhood while also pioneering new frontiers for ministry.

How does 3040 Hamlin assist in the journey?

From the earliest planning for multi-site ministry, we believed that our congregation needed a greater presence in the southwest quadrant of Springfield. All demographic information showed that this area of our community will see the most growth in the future. Our original intent was to rent or lease a facility in this area of Springfield. After several months of searching no suitable locations were found for rent or lease. We were given the opportunity to use a facility on a try-before-you-buy arrangement. It turned out to be the perfect venue for the ministry of the Southwest Campus! It meets all of our current needs and in addition, has numerous avenues for growth and ministry well into the future of our journey as a congregation. This facility has integrated into the ministry of South Side as a whole and will continue to integrate into the future. So far this facility has been used for the following ministries that involved the church as a whole or served as a general outreach:

- Garage-A-Palooza, an event that reached out each summer to 150 kids, 60% of whom do not attend South Side Christian Church.
- Sprouts, a ministry to mothers and toddlers reached over 150 different families this past spring.
- The Mix (a gathering for high school students) has met at the Southwest campus since its inception.

- Our Day of Service this past spring allowed 190 volunteers to embrace 18 different projects, 5 of which were housed at the Southwest Campus: clothing giveaways, a blood drive, office work for Jump for Joel, military care packages, and outdoor construction work.
- The Recreation area is currently being used by a local youth football team and our horsing group from Garage-A-Palooza. It has also been used by local baseball teams and individuals for practice.
- Christmas Dessert Theater
- Birthday Parties, Baby Showers, large parties and events for the community.
- Indoor camping during the winter.
- All church potlucks like our Thanksgiving meal, Missions Emphasis Dinner, and Congregational meetings.

The future possibilities are numerous and this facility allows us a greater flexibility as we move forward together.

How will the money be used?

After paying for the costs of the campaign, 100% of all funds collected will be used to pay for the facility at 3040 Hamlin Avenue. If debt is incurred to complete the purchase, funds will be used to pay off that debt as they are received over the three year period of the campaign. Any funds collected above and beyond what is needed to purchase the facility will be used for physical improvements to either the MacArthur Campus or the Southwest Campus.

Will debt be incurred to purchase 3040 Hamlin?

The leadership of South Side is receptive to the responsible use of debt to purchase property or facilities for ministry use when necessary. We are absolutely opposed to the use of debt to fund day to day ministry operations. Presently South Side has a mortgage on

a house across the street to the north of our MacArthur campus. This mortgage is presently the only debt South Side has an obligation for. The house is for sale. A mortgage of \$308,000 was incurred to purchase land adjacent to the Southwest Campus. That loan has been paid off in its entirety. As a matter of history, South Side has had a mortgage of one kind or another for most of its history.

If we are able to raise enough money to meet the needs of this vision, there will be no debt incurred to purchase the facility. If it is necessary to secure a mortgage to complete the purchase, we will only consider a debt obligation that the congregation can manage. Even so, there are variables involved that we cannot predict, such as future interest rates, the timing of cash flow from our capital funds drive and the financial status of the congregation if and when the time comes to take out a mortgage loan.

From a purely logistical standpoint, a short term mortgage will likely be necessary even if we receive commitments and gifts of \$1,600,000 as we will need to allow the congregation enough time to meet its pledges. The congregation must close on the 3040 Hamlin facility no later than August of 2011. We must pay the total due at closing, so a loan will probably be necessary to bridge the time for the commitments to come in over a three year period.

Estate Gift

We have been blessed as a congregation to be the beneficiary of an estate gift. While this gift has not yet been received, we anticipate that South Side will receive \$575,000 in the fall of this year. As a leadership, we are allocating the majority of the gift to the purchase of the facility at 3040 Hamlin.

Hiring a Senior Minister

We recognize that undertaking this campaign will involve a tremendous amount of faith and commitment from the leadership and congregation. It is vitally important that as the campaign gets under way we insure nothing detracts from the focus on this endeavor. In light of this, if a prospective Senior Minister has not been affirmed by October 1, we will not present a candidate to the congregation for an affirmation vote until after the “First Fruits Sunday” celebration the first Sunday in December, 2010.

Partnering with Lincoln Christian University

Lincoln Christian University’s (LCU) Vice President of University Advancement, Gordon Venturella CFRE, will serve as our coach and consultant for this campaign. Gordon has conducted similar campaigns across the country for seventeen years, many of these in Illinois. LCU has been a mission partner of South Side for over 40 years. Many of our current and former staff are alumni. We are pleased to have this newest relationship with a trusted and long time resource for ministry.