



SACRED CITY
C H U R C H

“Two cities have been formed by two loves:
the earthly by the love of self, even to the contempt of God;
the heavenly by the love of God, even to contempt of self.
The former, in a word, glories in itself, the latter in the Lord.”

(Augustine, *The City of God*, XIV, 28)



God is building a city on the foundation of his one-way love, A Sacred City.

the quad cities

The Quad Cities is a blend of youthful energy, progressive ideas, American values, artistic expression, and economic growth, right in the heart of the Midwest.

Hosting a population reaching almost 400,000 the Quad Cities is midway between Minneapolis on the North and St. Louis on the South; Chicago on the East and Des Moines on the West.

The area's 300-mile market of nearly 36.5 million people comprises nearly 15% of the nation's population making it the largest 300-mile market in the United States West of Chicago.

The Obama administration has awarded \$230 million in federal funding for an Amtrak connection between Chicago and Iowa City that will establish a passenger rail link in the Quad-Cities for the first time since the 1970's. This will unite the Quad Cities to the markets and culture of Chicago and the University of Iowa.

The QC is home to eight colleges including Palmer College of Chiropractic considered to be "The Fountainhead" as it was the first school of chiropractic in the world and brings students from diverse cultures into the Quad Cities.

The Figge Art Museum is one of the oldest art institutions in the country and is considered the first municipal art gallery in the United States.

These unique attributes make the Quad Cities a strategic location for being a launch pad to start missional movements across the Midwest.

a renewed city

Sacred City Church exists to bring the gospel into our cities, families, and everyday lives in order to see Jesus transform the separated into the sacred.

We focus on three things: *Gospel, Community, and Mission.*

Gospel

The Gospel is a message to be told (Mark 1:14; Acts 14:21). It is God's response to the bad news of sin. Sin is a person's rejection of God's creator-rights over him (Romans 1:16; Genesis 3). It is the good news that God has acted in history to conquer evil and reconcile sinners to himself through the perfect life, brutal death, and glorious resurrection of Jesus (2 Cor. 5:21; Romans 3:23-26; 1 Cor. 15:1-12). It is the redemptive story of creation-fall-redemption-restoration. We believe that the gospel is the answer to every question (Romans 1:16-17).

Community

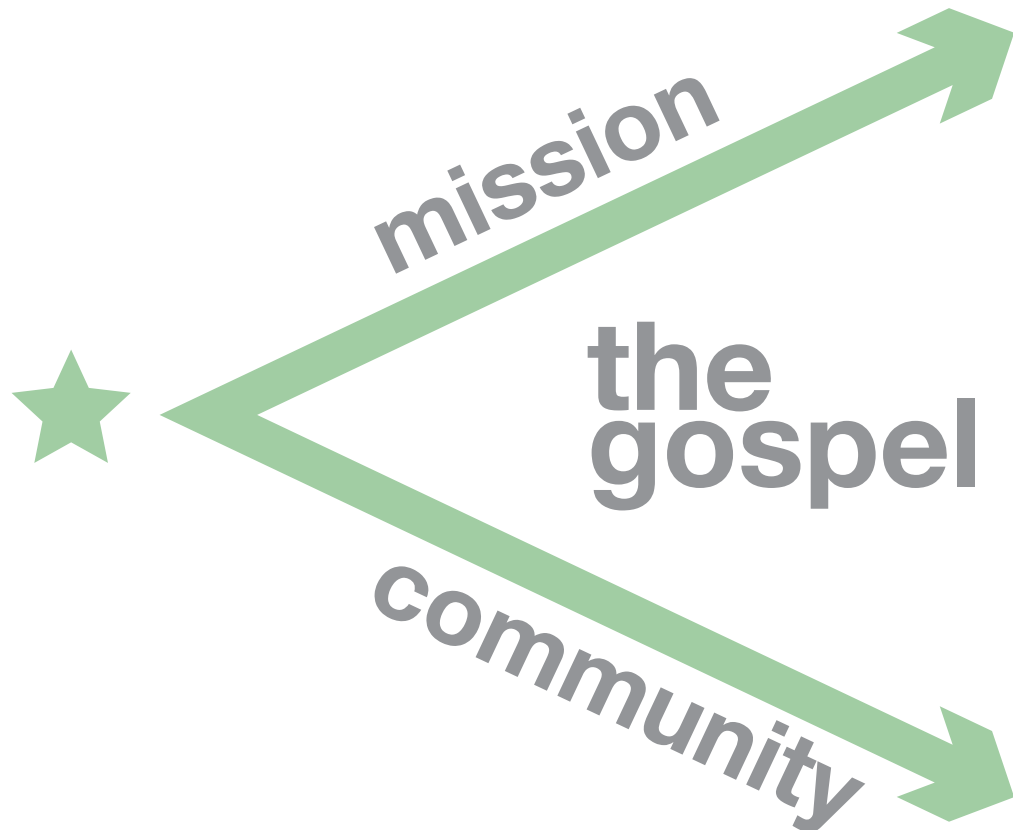
When people think of church they often think of a building or Sunday morning event that merely requires their presence. Sacred City sees church as a people not a place. In fact, we see ourselves as a gospel family. What makes a gospel community distinct from other forms of gathering is that we believe community is both the hermeneutic and apologetic of the gospel and that all community is missional and all mission is to be communal (Acts 2:42-47).

Mission

Mission is not what we do. It's who we are. We are a community of missionaries to the Quad Cities. We are kingdom bringers. God is not just interested in the salvation of humans, but in the restoration of all of creation to its original "good" (Gen. 1:31; Rom. 8:19-22).

The gospel not only calls us into community and sends us out on mission, but the power of the gospel is the only thing that will keep us in community and on mission. Being in community and on mission reveals our continual need for grace found only in the gospel.

gospel formation



**THE ONLY WAY TO
MAKE DISCIPLES
IS IN COMMUNITY
ON MISSION.**

the sacred life: our identity

We believe action follows being. Therefore, we do not define ourselves by what we do. We are a people of God, centered on the gospel to live in community and on mission together.

We see ourselves as a Gospel Centered Family on Mission to the cities; learning to live everyday life with Gospel Intentionality.

Family - *We are children of God who live and care for each other as a family.*

God has always desired a people-an earthly family-who would live in such a way that the world would know what he is like. Jesus said that those who live in his ways and obey his Father are truly his family. Through Jesus we believe we are children of God and brothers and sisters with each other. As family we see it as our obligation to personally care for the needs of one another - both physically and spiritually. We disciple, nurture and hold each other accountable to this covenant life together. We do this through missional communities and Sunday gatherings. (Genesis 12:1-3; John 1:12-13; Romans 12:10-16)

Missionaries - *We are sent by God to restore all things to himself.*

God sent his son, Jesus, to earth to take on human form and live within the culture. He worked, ate and interacted among the people. Living in such a way that those around him could see and experience what God was truly like. Jesus came so that all people, places and things could be restored to a right relationship with God. In the same way, we believe we are missionaries sent into our culture to restore all things to God through Jesus. We live this out as part of a missional community. (John 1:14; 20:21; Colossians 1:19; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21)

the sacred life: our identity (cont.)

Servants - *We are servants of God who serve others as a way of life.*

Being fully God and fully human, Jesus took on the posture of a servant. He gave his life, even unto death, so that others could experience salvation, peace and restoration. Jesus said, "I am among you as one who serves..." All those who follow Jesus are called to serve in the same humility. For us this means joyful submission to God, leadership and to each other, as we serve whomever God brings into our lives. (Matthew 20:25-28; 25:31-46; John 13:1-17; Philippians 2:5-11; 1 Peter 2:16)

Learners - *We are disciples of Jesus who take responsibility for our own development and the development of others.*

As a young man Jesus grew in both height and wisdom. He learned from local religious teachers, by living in community, and through regular times of listening to God. Jesus called others to follow his ways, to be his disciples and live in obedience to all that God commands. He then sent these followers out to make new disciples. We believe we are also called to be followers of Jesus who take responsibility for our own development and the development of others. This includes both our personal time with God as well as involvement together in training provided by spiritual leadership. (Luke 2:52; Matthew 28:18-20; Ephesians 4:11-13; 2 Timothy 2:2)

This Identity makes all of life sacred because it is placed in relationship to the living God, our heavenly Father. Out of this Identity flows natural rhythms of life.

the sacred life: our rhythms

We chose the name Sacred City to reinforce the fact that all life is sacred. There can be no division between sacred and secular. "Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account" (Hebrews 4:13). This means that our gospel identities produce gospel rhythms in the context of everyday life.

Listen - *We set aside regular times to listen to God both backward and forward.*

Jesus listened to God in prayer to know his Father's will. We are also called to listen to God. We listen 'backward' by regularly interacting with God's word and the son. We also believe he speaks today through his spirit in us and through creation. We spend time actively listening 'forward' to hear what God is saying to us today. We also take time to listen to others stories and help them find their lives within God's story. (Mark 1:35-37; John 16:7-15; Hebrews 1:1-3; Romans 1:20)

Celebrate - *We gather together to celebrate God's extravagant blessings.*

God calls people to regularly celebrate his goodness and grace. We gather weekly in missional communities and regularly as a larger family, to share stories and celebrate all that God is doing in and amongst us. We invite everyone to these celebrations as a way of displaying God's glory. (Leviticus 23; Acts 2:42-47; Hebrews 10:24-25)

Eat - *We regularly eat meals with others to invite them into the community of God.*

Meals are a daily reminder of our common need for God and his faithfulness to provide both physically and spiritually. Jesus called us to remember him and his sacrifice for us through a meal. When we eat together, we commune around this truth. We regularly eat meals with those not in our immediate family or circle of close friends, discipling them toward a life of dependence on God. (Leviticus 23; Matthew 6:11; 26:17-30; Acts 2:46-47; Romans 12:13)

Recreate - *We take time to rest, play, create and restore beauty in ways that reflect God to others.*

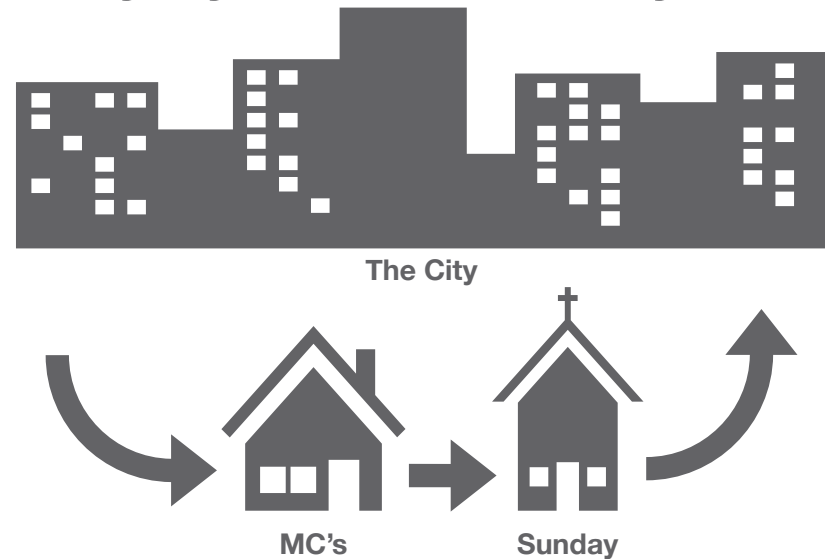
After powerfully and joyfully creating the universe, God rested. We were created in his image and therefore were made to joyfully create and rest as well. We regularly take time to rest, play, create and restore beauty in ways that reflect what God is like to our community. (Genesis 1-2:3; Deuteronomy 5:12; Mark 2:23-28; Hebrews 4)

Sacred City A Missional Church

Many churches offer a wide array of programs, events, and services in order to attract people and form them into disciples of Jesus. This program-centered approach to discipleship has a glaring weakness: while programs and events keep people busy, they rarely shape people's souls. Too many Christians are spiritually immature and culturally unaware, isolated from the real world by a thick layer of church activities.

The structure of Sacred City is different by design. Our goal is for the gospel to shape us and to find expression in our actual lives. So we rely on a few simple structures to facilitate gospel formation. We gather together in missional communities for life on life spiritual formation, we come together weekly for worship, and we develop leaders through formal training and gospel-centered discipleship. Outside of these structures we seek to live a normal life in the city, expressing the gospel daily as we live out our gospel identities and rhythms. Rather than simply asking people to come to church we are seeking to be the church.

Everyday life / Missional Rhythms



Missional Communities

Main entry point into church life.
Intentionally sharing life together and spiritual formation.
Working out gospel identities and rhythms.
Engaging culture together: People and Place.

Sunday Worship Gathering

A gathering of missional communities.
Emphasis on Jesus, his gospel, and his mission.
Liturgy shapes theological formation.

Leadership Development

Life on Life Gospel-Centered Discipleship in Community and on Mission.
Missional Church Membership.
Porterbrook Theological Education.
Leadership Training.
Church Planting Apprenticeships.

sacred city: missional timeline

Pre-Move (*January 2011 - May 2011*)

Have *one* large Missional Community (MC) that meets once per month. We will focus on modeling and mentoring the Gospel Community Mission (GCM) DNA that we want to see in each Missional Community.

Go through Gospel Centered Life study by Bob Thune.

Have informal gatherings (meals and mission) once per month to get to know one another's stories.

Encourage connecting outside of group for coffee and conversation and ask them to have a couple over for dinner at least one night per week.

Pray together for our city, friends, and family.

Ask questions to foster missional thinking:

What does being the "sent ones" of God look like for us in our context? What are the needs, pains, and fears of our city? How could gospel people meet those needs?

Move and Multiply (*June 2011 - August 2011*)

Multiply MC into two MC's.

Determine the mission for MC's (A people and place).

Gather monthly/bi-weekly for worship and preaching to establish our Sacred identity and rhythm.

Gather bi-weekly/monthly around missional spaces (Theology pub, Fight nights, Art shows, Concerts).

Take both MC's through The Story of God/Story formed way.

Identify Apprentices and begin preparing and developing them to lead future MC's.

Take a GCM DNA inventory of our MC's to determine strengths and weaknesses and overall health. Health with determine reproduction, not need.

Pray about a place to gather.

sacred city: missional timeline (cont.)

Multiply and Gather (*September 2011 - October 2011*)

We will multiply MC's into 3-4 MC's.

Focus heavy on DNA health and growth in Gospel, Community, and Mission.

Launch Fight Clubs of 2-3 individuals in gospel centered discipleship.

Create rhythms around our Missional Spaces (Concert nights, Fight nights, Art shows, Theology pubs) that lead people back into our MC's.

MC's go through the gospel centered life together.

Launch Porterbrook Leadership and Theological Development (1 year and 2 year)

- *Goal 10 men in 1 year, 5 men in 2 years*

Gathered and Scattered (*November 2011 - December 2012*)

When we have between 60-80 people in healthy MC's with designated apprentices we will launch open weekly gatherings on Sundays.

Start expository sermon series.

Launch children's ministry.

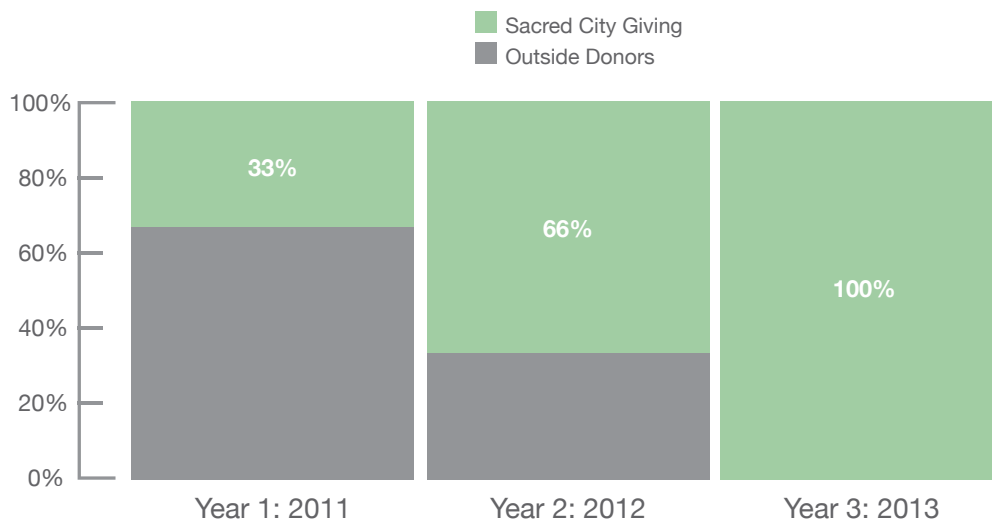
Launching an open weekly gathering is not the end all-be all of Sacred City. This is just another way to equip our people to be gospel centered in community and on mission together.

Multiply from 4 to 8 MC's.

MC's go through the Story Formed Way and the Gospel Centered Life together twice a year.

fundraising

We pray that Sacred City would be completely self-sustaining by 2012. That means, to get this new church off the ground, we need to raise \$100,000 for our first year of operation and a total of \$225,000 for the first two years. This money will be used to support strategic leaders, administrative and promotional needs and a rental facility once we launch. The chart below shows how we will transition from being a church supported by outside financial partners to becoming a self-sustaining, reproducing church.



In order to meet our two-year goal of \$225,000 Sacred City is looking for churches and individuals to join us as financial partners. Some have the resources to give boldly and consistently over the entire two-year stretch, others can only commit at this time to a one-time gift. In the life of a young, missional church, truly every dollar makes a difference.

thank you.

Will you join us in God's mission by helping us plant Sacred City Church in the Quad Cities?

Give online at sacredcitychurch.com or send checks to:

Sacred City Church
PO Box 3864
Davenport, IA 52808

Contact Info:

Lead Pastor

Justin Dean

justindean@sacredcitychurch.com

563-529-1001

