

GREENVILLE FIRST WESLEYAN CHURCH CONSULTATION

FEBRUARY 28 – MARCH 2, 2014

NOTE: The purpose of this consultation is to determine how to leverage the legacy of Greenville First Wesleyan Church (its past, its current congregation and its facilities/grounds) along with Iglesia Wesleyana Amistad, a nearby Wesleyan Hispanic congregation, to develop a combined ministry that will result in fulfilling the Great Commission with greater effectiveness in the West Greenville area of the city.

STRENGTHS

1. Facilities: God has blessed this congregation with an extremely large facility for the size of the congregation. This facility has the potential to be used in a wide variety of ways to help the people achieve an outward focused mission and a compelling vision.
2. Scriptural Beliefs: This congregation is committed to preaching and teaching the Word of God. People have spoken about how the teaching in Sunday school and the preaching in the worship service contribute to their growth as disciples.
3. Former Pastor and Staff: There is an appreciation for the ministry of Pastor Steve Stanley and the church staff during the last six years. That ministry has produced a focus for reaching the local community. This has resulted in attracting people new to the church. New community ministries have been initiated including AWANA, the community garden, the school lunch program and increased use of the facilities by community groups.
4. The LBA: The local board of administration recognizes that the congregation needs to face serious changes in order to not just survive but fulfill God's mission for His Church. They have been willing to explore a different path in hopes of calling a pastor that will lead the church through spiritual transformation.
5. Missional Thinking: There is a small growing band of people within the congregation (representing various generations) that recognize that God did not put His Church here for Christians but to mobilize Christians to seek and to save those who are lost. These people are far more concerned about meeting the needs of the lost than fulfilling Church expectations designed to please Christians.

CONCERNS

1. The Great Commission: Greenville First is being disobedient to God for failing to make new disciples for Jesus Christ on a regular and consistent basis.

2. A New Leader: Greenville First lacks a pastor who can lead the congregation to minister effectively to the urban community that surrounds it.
3. A New Church: Greenville First has declined to the point where it does not possess adequate resources to achieve the mission of God in the urban context in which it exists.
4. A New Mission and Vision: Greenville First does not have a mission that fits the Scriptures and possesses no compelling vision.
5. New Funding: Greenville First does not have the funding to make the changes that will enable it to, not only survive, but be obedient to Jesus Christ.

PRESCRIPTIONS IN LIGHT OF THE PURPOSE STATED ABOVE

1. The Great Commission: Both congregations (Greenville First and Amistad) will hold a combined Sunday morning worship service on the Greenville First Campus. There will be multiple purposes for this service. First, both congregations will seek forgiveness for failing to make new disciples for Jesus Christ on a regular and consistent basis. Second, both congregations will seek forgiveness from each other for the behaviors that caused them to part ways in the past. Third, the people and leaders will pray that God will break their hearts for the community and give them a vision and a passion for the community and the people within the community who do not know Jesus Christ. Fourth, the Greenville First congregation will ask God to forgive them for the poor stewardship of their facilities over the years and then give those facilities back to God in an act of rededication. Finally, both congregations will pray that God will give them a compelling vision with accompanying strategies for seeing spiritual change in the community, both individually and spiritually. This day of prayer will be led by the District Superintendent. When the worship service is over people will be given the opportunity to walk and drive the community to pray for the salvation of lost people and to see the community changed because of the work of God's Holy Spirit. This day will occur by April 27, 2014.
2. A New Leader: Greenville First will employ a pastor, who not only meets the expected standards of spiritual character and leadership, but also meets the following criteria:
 - Has led a congregational ministry of 400 or more people with effectiveness
 - Has a love for and understands urban ministry
 - Possesses a track record of leading congregational health and growth
 - Possesses the ability to develop a multicultural congregation and ministry
 - Will work in harmony with a Hispanic co-pastor
 - Has the business acumen to lead a large growing multi-congregational ministry

Knows how and possesses a track record of developing leaders
Has the desire and knowledge to develop networks with community leaders
The district will conduct a national search for such a pastor
The process for selecting this pastor will begin once the vote is conducted

3. A New Church: Greenville First and Iglesia Wesleyana Amistad will cease as two separate churches to form one new congregation. This congregation will have a new name and meet on what is now the Greenville First campus. Pastor Dumar and the new pastor at what was Greenville First will function as the senior pastors with the new pastor acting as a first among equals in light of the required expectations and ministry experience listed in the new pastoral role expectations stated in prescription number two. In order for such to occur, both congregations, will go into Developing Status to allow the new pastors and the district to design this new entity and develop the process by which it will happen. Both congregations will, on the same Sunday (the date to be determined by the DS) meet for the last time as separate entities. During the last worship service each congregation will celebrate all that God has accomplished over the years through both. In the new church there will be the two senior pastors, one combined LBA and the two congregations will meet in the worship center the following Sunday in two services. One service will be in English the other in Spanish. This one new congregation, with two worship services, will share all the other ministries of the church e.g. children, youth, AWANA, Sunday School, recognizing that there will be adult ministries that may meet at different times when language requires it. When this report is accepted, should that be the case, both congregations will move into Developing Status and the process of becoming one multicultural congregation will begin.
4. A New Mission and Vision: The purpose for creating the new congregation is to have an urban church that is on mission to reach the community in which it exists. And since the community is multicultural the church must be multicultural. This means that the English speaking service will need to become much more colorful in both those who sit in the service and those who lead from the front. The mission of this new church will be that it exists to honor God by making more disciples for Jesus Christ. The vision must be about two numbers, the number of new converts each year and the number of people each year being touched with the love of Jesus Christ. This new church must model that it exists, not for itself but for those who do not yet know Jesus Christ. Amistad is losing their home of ten years with all of its memories and blessings. The Greenville First campus needs to change as well. This means removing the pews and replacing them with chairs, changing out the light fixtures, painting the worship center, and providing coffee and refreshments in the back of the worship center on Sunday morning. The community will be reached as the focus is on children. Bryant Building needs to become a room dedicated to children that is used all week, along with the gymnasium for reaching children. It is a new day and God is calling this new congregation to great things for the Kingdom. These changes will be

implemented in the next twelve months as the plan for the new congregation becomes reality.

5. New Funding: The District is committed to funding this new church and the changes required with a minimum of \$125,000. The funding is to help pay for the new pastor, provide Pastor Dumar a raise, fund part-time children and youth persons and make needed renovations.

THOSE WHO REGULARLY ATTEND GREENVILLE FIRST WILL VOTE TO ACCEPT OR REJECT THIS REPORT BY APRIL 6. IF ACCEPTED THE DISTRICT WILL CONDUCT A NATIONAL SEARCH FOR A NEW PASTOR AND PROVIDE THE FUNDING FOR CHANGE. IF REJECTED THE CONSULTATION PROCESS IS OVER.

Dr. Paul Borden
Rev. Buddy Rampey
Rev. Stan Hoover
Dr. Aron Willis
Rev. Duffy Smith