

Church Launch FAQ

In full dependence and humility to God, the elders are a group of men from the body called to shepherd, oversee, lead, and care for our body (1 Peter 5, John 21, Acts 2, Acts 6, Acts 20). The elders have been led (we believe by the Holy Spirit) to adopt a culture of church planting as an effective method to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ in our community. This is a unanimous decision by the elders. As a part of Mission 2018, we shared our intention to specifically launch a church. Our communication with the body on this topic so far may create the perception that all details of the church launch are unknown and open. While there are parts of the launch that the elders have intentionally left for a team from our body to help influence going forward, this will be within the framework of plans already determined by the elders. Allow us to humbly share this framework and where we think the Lord is leading us.

Why Church planting?

In the new Testament, particularly Acts and the Epistles, the primary vehicle of the great commission was the local church. Paul was sent by local churches and received into, or started local churches, throughout his journeys finally ending in Rome. When Paul went to new cities, he preached the gospel. Men and women were converted and joined into the body of Christ. The Body of Christ is both their union with Christ and also their union with His body, the church (Ephesians 4). Therefore, the work of missions for Paul was a holistic gospel that included the body of Christ, known as the church.

Our work, at First Baptist Durango, is to reach the lost with the gospel, build the contextualized local church and send people out into the world. Through this, we accomplish the great commission through Biblical means and ends. We will use whatever form is necessary to accomplish this purpose within a Biblical and historical framework.

Why a church launch?

The gospel compels us to see people transformed by Christ. The church is the primary instrument, the people, that God uses to be ministers of reconciliation to a dead and dying world. We, through a new church, will have an opportunity to reach additional people in the community with a contextualized work in an area of the county with a growing population.

What kind of church launch is this?

The launch will **begin as a campus of First Baptist Church of Durango**. While tethered to FBD, the launch will be a distinct body with its own personality. **The long-term expectation is to transition this campus launch into a healthy and autonomous church body.** This will occur as mature launch leadership is established, financial independence is demonstrated, and as the Lord leads and provides.

Who is the leadership?

The campus model provides staffing, accountability, support, and stable elder leadership. The elders selected Jeff and Jimmy for their gifting and passions to lead the shepherding efforts for this specific launch, so they will be the primary sources of launch communication. **They do so with the unanimous support of the elders.** There will be shared leadership in direction and teaching for an extended season. After a period of time, we will evaluate if there is a specific leader emerging, either already in leadership or outside of current leadership, based upon God's call. Also, lay leadership will include select leaders from the congregation committed to the church launch. (Prov. 11:14; 24:6; Acts 20:28)

What is the timeline?

We are in the process of Church Launch meetings with those interested in going, sending or who are unsure. **The next meeting dates are October 28th as well as November 11th and 25th at 5PM.** Currently, we would like to have our first corporate gathering on Christmas Eve. While this is our hope there is much to do between now and then. Pray with us that the Lord would go before us as we plan. Secondly, our next target would be Easter Sunday.

What will be the foundation? Closed handed issues?

By design, we have left things like meeting day, meeting time, meeting location, service personality, programs, and more open for an initial launch team to help define. In contrast, there are things that are defined about the launch. **As a campus of FBC, we know the core beliefs (regarding the Word, the Gospel, the Church, and more), statements of faith, convictions regarding biblical elder leadership, and anchoring to the truths**

of evangelical and reformed traditions will stand as they do with FBC. Good, biblically-supported doctrine and theology are the guardrails that keep the local church from becoming either a lukewarm, dark, un-salty reflection of our culture or a cult. We know that gospel communities, small gatherings that allow us to experience and practice the gospel in life with fellow Christ followers, will be a core foundation of the launch. We know that there will be a regular large-group worshipful celebration gathering of the body to include music and preaching of the Word in the launch. You may have heard us refer to these as the "closed-handed" things -- the things that we cling tightly to. We elders refer to them in this way because we do not believe they are ours to decide, but the Lord's.

(Acts 2:37-47; 1 Timothy 4:13-16)

Who is involved?

All of us. That can include those who are "going," "sending or not yet sure but wish to actively support and assist those who "go". This is especially important since those who are not-yet-sure may not know until more of the as-yet-undefined aspects of the launch are determined. You are all welcome to join the launch meetings and be part of the launch team. Ultimately, we are each called to be part of one local church; to grow roots together with fellow Christ-followers, to invest in service and ministry together, to be mutually-accountable with pastoral leaders who pray for and encourage you, and to glorify God. For those unsure they will "go" or "send", you are not called to make the decision right away about which ultimately be your church. We will be praying for you and are convinced that God will lead you accordingly.

What Programs?

We will determine program needs based upon the people whom God brings. As God brings these people, we will assess demographics and the details will be decided by the launch team and the leaders who rise up.

We anticipate the need of volunteer leadership in key areas such as worship arts and assimilation.

Is there a relationship between the church launch and the Hope Springs property?

First, it is primarily the need for the gospel in La Plata County that drives our desire to launch a church. Secondly, while we cannot definitively plan to use the property in Hope Springs at this time, we nonetheless desire to leverage what God has already provided to further His kingdom. In this case, ownership of property in a high-growth area of the county certainly represents the potential for use in ministry.

What is the cost of leadership time and energy?

The lay elders will shepherd and keep the leadership team of the church launch accountable to shepherd well in both places. In addition, the body must be the body. If there are gaps, God made His church with many members in order to support, sustain and work alongside one another for the good of the church and the Kingdom as a whole.

How much of our volunteer base will be a part of the church launch?

We will not know the answer to this question until we have an idea as to who is interested in committing to the vision of a church launch.

Where will the budget and finances for the church launch come from?

We have a proposed \$30k capital and \$30k operations budget for the first year. Those funds will come from both Missions 2018 funds and the general budget. We will operate with the concept of one church and one budget in two locations.

All of funding for 2019 will come from Mission 2018, none from general budget.

What is the role of the body at 3rd and 11th?

To continue to be a body that loves God, loves people and makes disciples. The church launch is a fruit of the beauty of the Gospel at 3rd and 11th. Also, this is an opportunity for those that remain at 3rd and 11th, to be able to see the pruning and fruit of the gospel from their own body spur us on to make disciples and have new opportunities for the body to be the body.

Promotion and development

The new church launch will have its own website and distinct name. Word of mouth as well as other means will be the emphasized promotional plan. Please call the church, if you would like to be a part of a team that would like to promote the church launch.