



A ministry of Maranatha New York

Ministry Portfolio

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Executive Summary of Our Vision from Burden

God's Story

We believe that God gifted His only son, Jesus Christ, in order to provide redemption to the world. His ultimate plan included giving a piece of Himself, in order to reconcile us back to Him and to redeem and save his treasure...you. We believe in the infallible word of the Lord, as expressed through scriptures [the bible].

"I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. "

- Galatians 2:20

My Story

I have spent my entire life learning about Christ. There have been strong seasons and weak seasons in my relationship with the Lord. Through it all, I have found that Christ cared more about loving me than judging me and that gave me freedom.

Realizing God's immense love allowed me to open my heart to His transformative GRACE. In my heart, I carry the words of the Apostle Paul:

"For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people."- Titus 2: 11

This solidifies my belief that sin doesn't hold a power greater than grace and that ALL people have access to it; access to Him.

Our Story

The vision of The Gathering is to provide a place where the "churched" and "unchurched" can equally partake in the presence of the Holy Spirit and community. In a city that so often seems divided by socio-economic struggles, God has a plan for redeeming what is rightfully His. The Gathering is intended to be an active and caring part of the solution to saving the lost of Hempstead, NY.

Our leadership model has a foundation of scripture as well as applicable discipleship aimed at growing the knowledge of Christ within disciples as well as the importance of family and community. We intend to create an environment where God's intended structure for family is taught, implemented and modeled from leadership all the way to the visitor.

Hempstead's Story

In 2018, Hempstead celebrates 375 years since its land was sold by local natives for a mere \$100 (in today's economy). Hempstead would become a financial hub and a known place of commerce over the next three centuries. Modern day Hempstead, is a place still rich with cultures and commerce. With an approximate population of 59,000 people, Hempstead is a tremendous place for spiritual harvest.

Despite the innumerable amount of good that happens in Hempstead, it is without a doubt, that in the past 60 years, Hempstead also became known for being one of the more dangerous areas of New York and the East Coast. A migration of city crime found its way from the NYC boroughs to the micro-metropolis called Hempstead.

Hempstead, is a village with many churches but with low impact to the community both in spirituality and community service. Hempstead suffers from problems ranging from homelessness, gangs, to severe poverty. This city is in grave need of a strong move of God, by way of a church body that focuses on the betterment of the soul and mind of the community, as a whole. The gospel needs to show fruit in our city.

Functional Doctrine of the Church

What is the Church?

The Church is a body; A body of believers in Jesus Christ; A family, living and breathing. Church is a safe place where all can find comfort in the presence of the Holy Spirit. The church demonstrates grace to all regardless of gender, belief, race, ethnicity, or way of life.

Why does it exist?

The Church exists to provide hope; hope by way of the cross. The church does this by teaching scriptures to believers and teaching believers the invaluable privilege of making disciples of Jesus Christ through all the world.

What is the identity of the Church?

The Church is family. A family modeled by the structure established by God through scriptures. God the father, Jesus the son and our Lord, and we the children.

How do we protect her identity?

The best way to protect and maintain her identity is to be sustained in scriptural foundation. Corporate and individual relationship and devotion with Christ will continuously help protect the identity of the Church.

How do we put her identity on display?

It is imperative that the church display identity in all that is taught and all that is done. We must live what we preach and teach, daily. Identity must be a part of daily living as well as a spiritual experience. We should live, and breathe that identity.

Executive Summary of our DNA

Church Tagline:

“Limitless love, for all people”

Supporting Scripture for Tagline:

“For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people.”- Titus 2: 11

Church Philosophy:

The Gathering has a mission to see Christ presented to all the people in our community. Our responsibility is to demonstrate the life-changing impact of God’s grace to all who may know and especially to those who don’t yet know him, through love, scriptures and service.

Our Mission:

The Gathering is called to proclaim the Gospel of Christ and the beliefs of the evangelical Christian faith, to maintain the worship of God, and to inspire in all people a love for Christ, a passion for righteousness, and a consciousness of their duties to God and to our neighbors. We pledge our lives to Christ and covenant with each other to demonstrate His Spirit through worship, witnessing, and ministry to the needs of the people of this church and our communities.

What is our Strategy?

At The Gathering, we believe in the 3 part strategy of disciple making.

- 1) **Serve God-** Above all, we believe that God is our unwavering compass for all that we do.
- 2) **Serve Community-** God calls us to love one another as He has loved us (John 13:34). We are committed to loving our neighbors and our community just as God has commanded us to do.
- 3) **Serve the Mission-** We strongly believe in the mission of making disciples of ALL nations. Just as grace is available for all, so is knowledge and growth in Jesus Christ.

Our Core Values:

- **We believe lost people matter to God, and therefore, they matter to the church.** This includes the concepts of relational evangelism and evangelism as a process (Luke 5:30–32; Luke 15; Matthew 18:14).
- **We believe life-change happens best in community.** This includes the concepts of discipleship, vulnerability, and accountability (Luke 6:12–13; Acts 2:44–47).
- **We believe excellence honors God and inspires people.** This includes the concepts of evaluation, critical review, intensity, and excellence (Colossians 3:17; Malachi 1:6–14; Proverbs 27:17).
- **We believe loving relationships should permeate every aspect of church life.** This includes the concepts of love-driven ministry, ministry accomplished in teams, and relationship building (1 Corinthians 13; Nehemiah 3; Luke 10:1; John 13:34–35).

How do we measure the spiritual health of our members?

At Grace, we strongly believe that an active Holy Spirit can transform an individual; therefore the “fruits” of their spirit will be evident (Galatians 5:22-23). We encourage spiritual growth in all those who *choose* to become part of our The Gathering family. Should there be a family member who is lacking of these fruits, leadership shall follow through with assisting that family member, gracefully, lovingly and biblically.

Executive Summary of Pillars and Platforms

	PILLARS	Serve God	Serve Community	Serve the Mission
PLATFORMS	Sunday Gatherings	Teaching Scriptures	Worship together	Grow as a family
	Media (website, social media, youtube)	Christ centered messages posted	Community related resources	Integrate spirituality into content
	Lighthouses (MCs)	Small group bible study	Create location relationships	Sharing Christ to visitors in small settings
	After School Program		Help area children who are mostly unattended with their schooling	Create and nurture relationships with parents and others in the community
	Membership		Consolidate into family	New member classes

Pillars

The above-mentioned pillars, can only work if we are able to mobilize as a church. The idea is to motivate the church by teaching and relaying vision from leadership to family members. In understanding the vision, hopefully that will lead each family member to choose a role that will best fit their spiritual gifts and talents. Ideally, we will have teams for each pillar.

Platforms

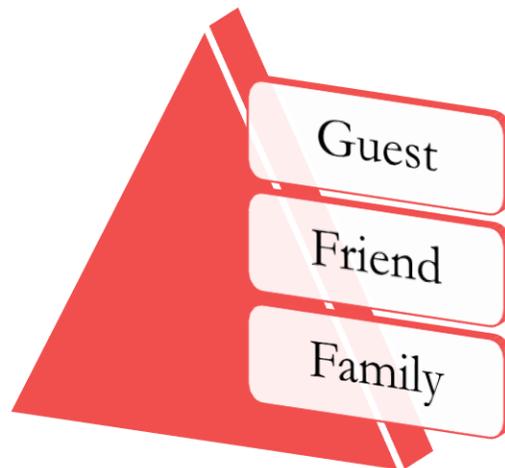
Each platform is aimed at the context of our local church. The platforms are meant to assist the church in meeting each level of discipleship making at The Gathering

Leveraging to Make Disciples

It is imperative that accountability within each of the pillars and platforms exist in order to create health in disciple-making. No one person should oversee any of above pillars and platforms. All should have assigned and trained leadership based on personal abilities, gifts, and interest. All leadership teams should report periodically to the lead pastor.

Executive Summary of Assimilation Model

Our Assimilation Model:



Guest: First or second time visitor

- Arrives at parking lot and is met by a volunteer and directed towards front door.
- Volunteer at front door greets guests with a handshake and asks if this is their first time.
- Guest is led to lobby for coffee and cake.
- Guests led to a seat and handed a welcome card.
- Welcome cards taken by volunteer at any point during meeting.

- Email welcome to happen within 24 hours of guest's visit.
- 2 follow up invitations (from assigned hospitality volunteer or a pastor) will follow after initial email welcome. No 3rd follow up if no interest is shown.
- All guest information should be entered in to attendance database.
- ALL GUESTS WILL MEET WITH LEAD PASTOR AFTER EACH GATHERING FOR A "MEET AND GREET"

Friend: Has visited more than two times and has shown interested

- After interest has been shown, friends should be connected to a Lighthouse.
- Friend should be connected to lighthouse leadership for follow up
- An interest meeting should be set up between a pastor, LH leader and friend to discuss plans and involvement
- Friends ARE able to volunteer at any point in this step. (with approval and oversight from leadership)
- New member class will be offered if membership is desired.

Family: has made a decision to join as a covenant member and has gone through new member classes

- ALL FAMILY MEMBERS MUST GO THROUGH NEW MEMBER CLASSES
- New member orientation will introduce new member classes and membership processes. (learning our DNA, our mission, and our vision)
- Family is encouraged to pursue becoming leaders in any department that may use their gifts best. (All member are called to some form of leadership)
- The expectation of a family member is that we all live and grow gracefully and maintain ourselves as our "brother's keeper" for accountability and encouragement.
- The responsibility of the vision falls and is shared on all those who *choose* to become family members.



The Gathering Leadership Team (current)



Isaac X Badaraco- Pastoral Care and Teacher



Diorca Badaraco- Ministry Logistics and Administration

Gap Commitment Chart

Local Needs					
Ministries		Homelessness	Broken Families	Spiritual Apathy	Poor Biblical Fundamentals
	A	Clothing and Hot food Drive	Family Counseling- After school program	One on ones	Bible study curriculum - Sunday gatherings
	B	Mary Brennan Inn partnership	CASA - partnership	Outreach and community events	Lighthouses
	C	E.O.C. partnerships	SS partnerships and resources	Community Open Mics or Vid Game days	Leadership development classes

Executive Summary of Missional Communities (Lighthouses)

Missional Community Definition- AKA Lighthouses

Our missional communities are area-specific groups whose goal is to do “life” together and saturate their neighborhood with the gospel of Jesus Christ. They are to run almost as their own plant, providing teaching, counsel, accountability, and other resources to this that form that group.

Members are assigned to those “Lighthouses” by where they live. Changes may be made after discussion with their MC leader and Pastor(s).

Missional Community Stages

At the church plant stage, a missional community may be started at minimum of 5 people in a specific region. If a region has less than 5 people, they will be assigned to another missional community. Multiplication is part of the mission for Lighthouses with the end goal of potentially planting a church in that neighborhood. Though Hempstead is our immediate area, we are looking to expand outside of that immediate area and establish Lighthouses in those areas (Uniondale, Roosevelt, West Hempstead, Franklin Square, Mineola, and Garden City)

Missional Community Field Leadership Team Composition

Each Lighthouse will be assigned a leadership couple consisting of a Lighthouse director, and a coordinator. As the Lighthouse experiences growth, leadership and positions will be expanded. Preferably a couple (married or engaged) will head up lighthouses. The director is responsible for overseeing the day to day of the group and the coordinator will be responsible for setting up events, coordinate bible studies, and assisting the director with follow ups.

Missional Community Rhythms

Once lighthouses are established, the expectation will be for meetings to happen on a weekly basis. The activities for those lighthouses will vary for each but should include recreational time, fellowship and most importantly, bible study time. The purpose of lighthouses is not only for “church,” related activities. Instead, it is a group that learns to grow and live life together as a family, within a family. By lighthouses being established in different communities, it ensures that no one is left behind, and everyone has accountability to a lighthouse leader and their lighthouse family.

Missional Community Health Tracking

As lighthouse members grow in life together, and become accountable to one another, health will be measured between family members. Current standing should be reported to Lighthouse leadership and Pastors. Ideally, current standing of individual members should be discussed quarterly. We want to be with family members celebrating victories, but we also want to be with them in moments of struggle, internally or externally.

