

# RESTORATION SOUTHSIDE

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RESTORING BROKEN PEOPLE AND PLACES



## GIVING OUR LIVES AWAY IN THE CITY

Throughout the world, God is moving people to cities. For the first time in human history, over 50% of the world lives in a city. It is widely projected that by 2050 that number will increase to 75%. There are five million new people moving into the cities of the developing world every month. According to the Wall Street Journal and The Atlantic, approximately 32% of Americans in the millennial generation live in cities — and 88% of them want to.

*“I would argue that there is nothing more critical for the evangelical church today than to emphasize and support urban ministry...If Christians want to reach the unreached, we must go to the cities. To reach the rising generations, we must go to the cities. To have any impact for Christ on the creation of culture, we must go to the cities. To serve the poor, we must go to the cities.” - Timothy Keller*

Jesus urged his followers to be a “city on a hill” (Matthew 5:14), a city of light introducing hope and healing to the cities of the world. Given global population trends, cities are the most strategic place to influence the world with the gospel, the greatest message the world has ever known.

## WHY CHURCH PLANTING?

According to a 2014 Pew Research Center study, the average age of a member in the PCA is 59.<sup>1</sup> This same study makes projections about global population, which are startling. They discovered that "millennials are expected to overtake Boomers in population in 2019."<sup>2</sup> Not only is the denomination aging, but the expected majority of the population is soon to be a younger generation.

"God cannot see an empty space without longing to fill it"

Phillip Kenneson says, "Every generation in every culture must take up the hard work of discerning the opportunities for and the obstacles to embodying the gospel faithfully in that place and time." The hard work that we feel called to is church planting as it gathers believers in a place to be a sign post to the King and his Kingdom as he is renewing and restoring all things. This is why leading missiologist C. Peter Wagner has said, "Planting new churches is the most effective evangelistic methodology known under heaven."

## WHY THE SOUTHSIDE?

With Chattanooga once called "America's Dirtiest City," Thomas Wheatley aptly put it in Forefront, "Chattanooga is in the midst of a boom."<sup>3</sup> While the Chattanooga Metropolitan Statistical Area has experienced a "23.5% of the MSA population growth occurred in the City from 2000-2010, a staggering 57.7% of the growth was in the City from 2010-2015."<sup>4</sup> As the city develops and evolves, there is an influx of industry, business, and residential units, specifically along Main Street and South Broad Street, with much more to come with the potential nearby city supported developments. With this immense urban development, we hope the Kingdom will grow as the city that we call home grows.

## THE TEAM

A study done by the Center for Missional Research demonstrated that starting with an excellent staff appears to be significantly associated with higher than average attendance. "The presence of this staff team system increases church plant attendance among twofold in year 1 and nearly fourfold by year 3 compared church plants not employing this strategy."<sup>5</sup>

Jared has been in full-time ministry for 9 years. He has been recommended as ready to plant by the MNA's consulting assessment. He and Erin have been happily married for 12 years. They came to LMPC in 2013. He received his bachelor's degree from Covenant College in 2005, where he ma-



<sup>1</sup> <http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2016/07/11/which-u-s-religious-groups-are-oldest-and-youngest/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2018/03/01/millennials-overtake-baby-boomers/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://nextcity.org/daily/entry/welcome-to-chattanooga>

<sup>4</sup> The South Broad District Study: A Vision for Revitalization (January 29, 2018), page 9.

<sup>5</sup> <https://pcamna.org/churchplanting/documents/CPStudyPCA.pdf>

jored in English and Biblical studies. Moving back to his hometown of St. Louis, he studied at Covenant Seminary and received a Master of Divinity in 2008 and a Master of Arts in Counseling in 2009. Prior to coming to LMPC, Jared served as an assistant minister in Houston, Texas. He and his wife Erin have five children. Erin has experience teaching in the high school context, teaching english as a second language, and serving on a children's ministry staff in a local church. Jared's free time is full of trying new restaurants with Erin, wrestling with (and protecting his daughter from) his ninja sons, marveling at his twin baby boys, grilling and eating red meat, laughing hard with friends, cheering for the St. Louis Cardinals, playing tennis, practicing yoga and marathons...on Netflix.

"Having worked with Jared Huffman closely now for years, I am confident he has both the personal constitution and spiritual gifts that significantly prepare him to embrace church planting with a measure of readiness. The vulnerable and transparent way Jared preaches is rooted in solid Biblical exposition and heart-deep delight in Jesus. His delight in people and their individual stories makes serving people of all walks of life a sensed privilege for Jared. I commend both Jared and this church planting endeavor to you for consideration as a worthy investment of resources and support." -Joe Novenson

In order to reach this exploding neighborhood, Restoration Southside will begin with an exceptional team. Joining the Huffmans will be Ben and Anne Charlotte Hooper.

Ben has served LMPC as a volunteer, retreat speaker, youth intern, and now as the Pastoral Intern. A Nashville native and recent Covenant College graduate, Ben is committed to loving the city and hopes to church plant in the future. Ben is married to the inimitable Anne Charlotte [Strawbridge].

Our initial staff team will also include a seasoned professional Worship & Arts director and a children's director to lead two ministry areas that will be vital and strategic to the church's launch and growth.

## THE VISION

*Restoration Southside Church exists to restore broken people and places.*

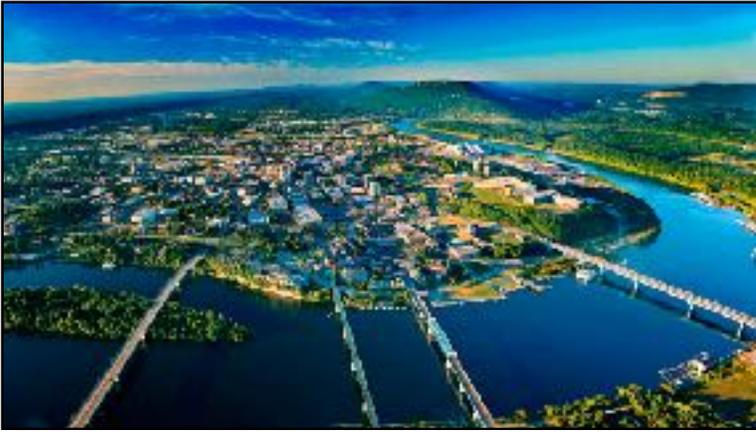
Restoration Southside seeks to celebrate Christ and serve the Southside by loving people and places to life. While churched Christians will be essential to a successful launch, Restoration Southside will be an attractive place for the unchurched, de-churched; the seeker and the skeptic.

***We are a church that seeks to restore broken people and places through:***

### **(1) Mission**

- Creating space for curiosity, doubts, and questions
- Warmly welcoming those that don't share our faith
- Championing aspects of culture that reflect the beauty of Christ
- Winsomely communicating and embodying the gospel





## (2) Authenticity

- Speaking honestly of our own brokenness, loneliness, and need
- Listening gently with one another
- Living in intentional, transparent relationships
- Celebrating stories of grace
- Relying on Jesus for forgiveness, restoration, and change

## (3) Sacrifice

- Giving our lives away in the city
- Leveraging our particular gifts and callings to love the city to life through our work
- Partnering with ministries in Chattanooga to empower and assist their service
- Leading in a church planting movement for the sake of the city

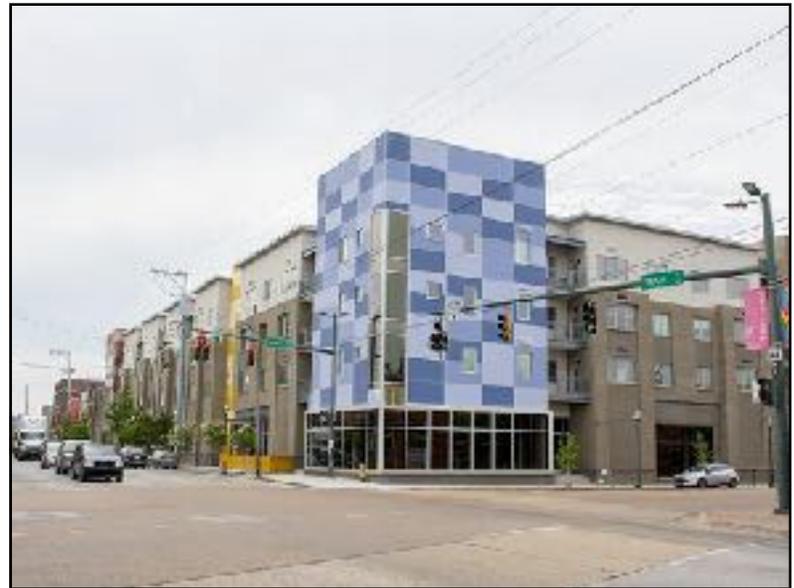
Prior to beginning public worship services, a series of prayer and gathering events will be held in order to pray and build a critical mass of people who share the vision and will serve as the launch team.

We would like to invite Prayer Teams of 3-5 people from every church in TVP. We will support that prayer with updates and introductions each week for 120 days prior to launch. We are asking for Church Plant Prayer:120days:10min./day. CPP:120:10

Blessings,

Ted Strawbridge

TVP Pastor of Church Planting And Renewal



*"May a merciful God preserve me from a Christian Church in which everyone is a saint! I want to be and remain in the church and little flock of the fainthearted, the feeble and the ailing, who feel and recognize the wretchedness of their sins, who sigh and cry to God incessantly for comfort and help, who believe in the forgiveness of sins."*