



THE  
MANCHESTER  
PROJECT

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PLANTING A GOSPEL-CENTERED  
CHURCH IN MANCHESTER, CT

*For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord. (2 Corinthians 4:5)*



## *Greetings!*

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about the Manchester Project. The flow of this prospectus reflects the unfolding of our church planting story. It begins with the “what” and then lays out the “why” and “how” behind the Manchester Project. My prayer is that as you read this prospectus you would be encouraged in the Lord Jesus Christ and excited about the advancement of the Kingdom of God through the proclamation of the gospel.

On mission together with you,

*Garet Halbert*



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# The Manchester Project is a **strategic gospel mission** targeting the suburb of Manchester in Greater Hartford

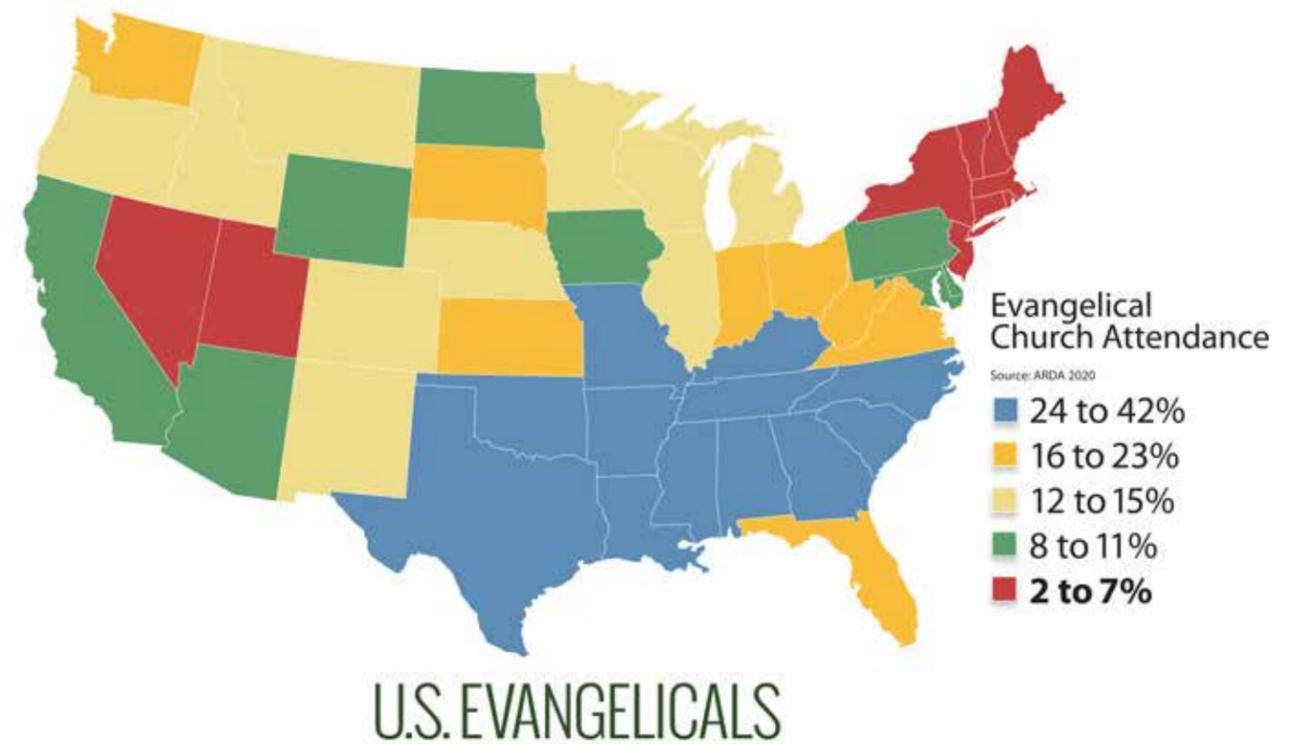


Church planter Garet Halbert and his family are putting down roots in Manchester to plant a church that will, by God's grace, be part of a focused effort to reach Greater Hartford with the gospel. This work is the convergence of years of focused preparation, partnership-building, and a desire to take the gospel where it is most needed. As you read these pages, please consider how you can support the Manchester Project.



# New England is the **least religious region** in America

What was once home to Christ-proclaiming churches, gospel-centered seminaries, and the First Great Awakening is now a region with the top 5 most "post Christian" cities in America. The mission base that used to send out pastors and missionaries all over the world is now the mission field that needs gospel laborers more than ever.



“  
*New England is the new American missional frontier.*  
 - Jared C. Wilson  
 ”

## Church planting is one of the best means of fulfilling the Great Commission

In the early church, men like the Apostle Paul sought to fulfill the commission from Christ by traveling throughout the known world preaching the gospel in cities and gathering believers into local congregations. This is the tradition we see in Scripture and the model shown to be most effective today for evangelizing the lost and reaching the next generation.



It is **important** to realize the Great Commission is **fulfilled** by church planting, and the Great Commission cannot be **properly** fulfilled without planting churches.  
- Clint Clifton



We **encourage** our members to leave us to found other Churches; nay, we seek to **persuade** them to do it. We ask them to scatter throughout the land to become the goodly seed, which God shall **bless**. I believe that so long as we do this we shall **prosper**.  
- Charles Spurgeon



## Church Planting Passion

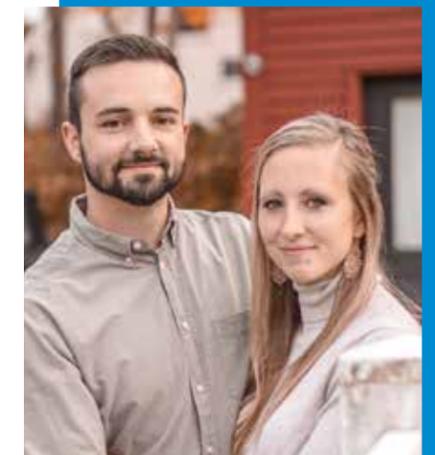


Garet & Heidi Halbert with their four young daughters: Selah, Sophia, Noël, & Naomi.

Our passion for reaching the lost and calling to church planting began in a local church in Kansas City, MO. As we grew in our faith as members of Faith Community Church, we became burdened for those who had not heard the gospel and did not have a gospel-preaching church nearby. That burden became a desire to church plant and a willingness to go to one of the most spiritually lost regions in America. Understanding that church planting is one of the most difficult tasks and that New England is

one of the most spiritually dark places, we recognized the need for church plant training. So, Heidi and I moved our family to Vermont in 2020 to begin our training for church planting with the NETS Center for Church Planting and Revitalization.

*I'm **excited** to work alongside Garet for the sake of the **gospel** to the glory of Christ, to put down **roots** in the Manchester community, and to make it our home.*  
- Heidi Halbert



## EDUCATION & MINISTRY EXPERIENCE

### EDUCATION

- BA in Biblical Studies, Midwestern College | Kansas City, MO, 2016
- MDiv, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary | Kansas City, MO, 2019

### MINISTRY EXPERIENCE

- Youth Pastor at 10th Street Baptist Church | Trenton, MO, 2013-2016
- Interim Pastor at Jamesport Baptist Church | Jamesport, MO, 2017

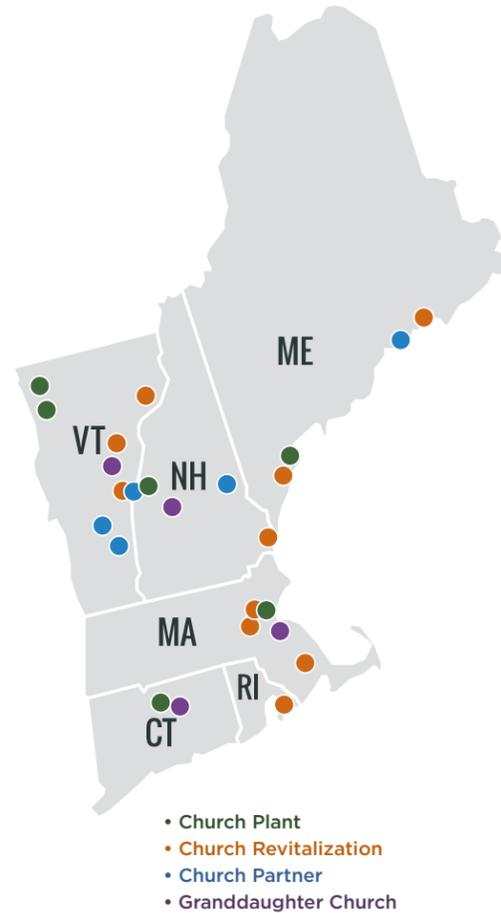
### PASTORAL DEVELOPMENT

- Elder in Training at Faith Community Church | Kansas City, MO, 2017-2018
- NETS Church Planting Resident at Christ Memorial Church | Williston, VT, 2020-2023

# The NETS Center for Church Planting & Revitalization

The NETS Center trains and sends men to plant and revitalize gospel-driven churches in New England and beyond, and equips others to do the same.

A study of over 40 denominations found that coaching, mentoring, peer networks, and spousal support are critical to church planting success. Since 2000, The NETS Center has offered all this and so much more. Training is comprehensive and hands-on, including hermeneutics and theology, management skills, individualized counseling, and preaching and leadership opportunities. The wives' track equips women to grow and thrive as ministry partners. Support continues into the field. Each church plant and revitalization becomes part of the NETS Network, a growing family of gospel-preaching, mission-minded churches committed to caring for one another for the life of each church.



Find out more:  
[www.theNETScenter.org](http://www.theNETScenter.org)



## Pastor Steve Thiel

Steve Thiel launched Christ Proclamation Church in October of 2014, in Windsor, CT. Within a few years they became a self-supported church with a passion to plant more churches. From the start, Steve envisioned a church planting church, one that would reach Greater Hartford and beyond with the gospel. Steve and his wife, Linda, are committed to coaching and supporting Heidi and I as we embark on the same gospel mission in Manchester, CT.

“  
 Church planting is the **most effective** way to reach a lost world because, by definition, church plants are **outwardly oriented!** - Steve Thiel  
 ”

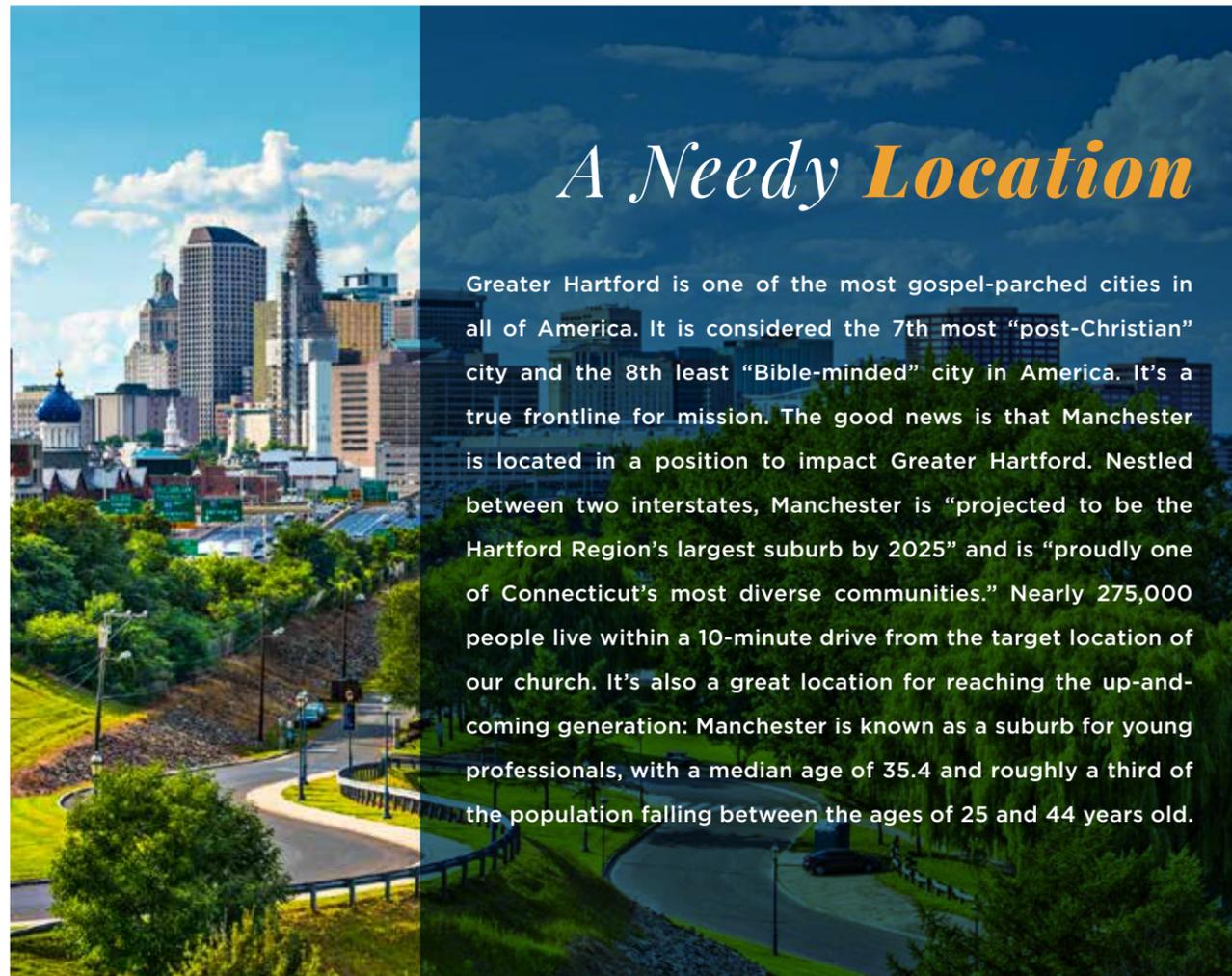
## Christ Proclamation Church

By God's grace, Christ Proclamation Church continues to grow and their desire to begin a church planting movement because they have seen and experienced the power of the gospel in sinners being saved by grace and now living for Christ. And we are excited to partner with them as they plant more churches. As our sending church, Proclamation has committed funds, prayer, people, and, most importantly, ongoing coaching. New England has been called a church-planter's graveyard, and Heidi and I are grateful to know that Proclamation is for us, with us, and behind us as we endeavor upon this gospel mission.



## A Strategic Motivation

The motivation to plant a church in Manchester, CT is driven by a strategic vision for church multiplication. We believe churches plant churches and Proclamation and I want to do that together both now and in the future. We are driven by a vision of churches planting churches together so that the gospel can get to the lost more quickly and they can hear, believe, and be saved. Our collective passion is to see more gospel-preaching churches throughout Greater Hartford and New England that have pastors who love nothing more than God, hate nothing more than sin, preaching nothing but Christ, and are seeing people constantly coming to faith and growing in grace, all to the glory of God.



## A Needy Location

Greater Hartford is one of the most gospel-parched cities in all of America. It is considered the 7th most “post-Christian” city and the 8th least “Bible-minded” city in America. It’s a true frontline for mission. The good news is that Manchester is located in a position to impact Greater Hartford. Nestled between two interstates, Manchester is “projected to be the Hartford Region’s largest suburb by 2025” and is “proudly one of Connecticut’s most diverse communities.” Nearly 275,000 people live within a 10-minute drive from the target location of our church. It’s also a great location for reaching the up-and-coming generation: Manchester is known as a suburb for young professionals, with a median age of 35.4 and roughly a third of the population falling between the ages of 25 and 44 years old.

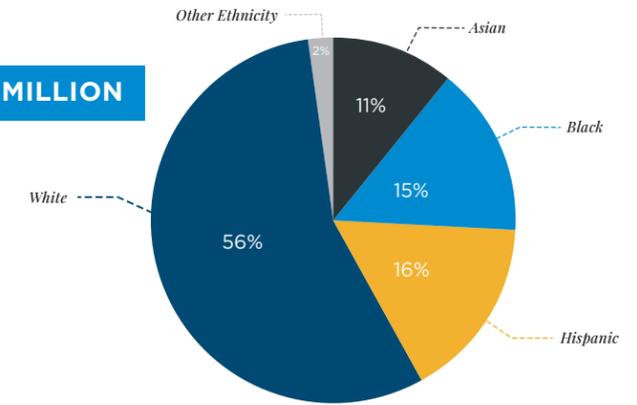


POPULATION OF GREATER HARTFORD: **1.2 MILLION**

POPULATION OF MANCHESTER: **60,000**

HOUSEHOLDS IN MANCHESTER: **24,952**

MEDIAN INCOME: **\$78,598**



### MANCHESTER AT-A-GLANCE

<b>52%</b>	Atheistic, Agnostic, or Unaffiliated with an Established Religion
<b>30%</b>	Catholic
<b>15%</b>	Other Religions
<b>3%</b>	Evangelical (.8% Baptist)

### Evangelical Percentage of Other Major Cities

Nashville, TN	38%
Charlotte, NC	28%
Cincinnati, OH	24%
Indianapolis, IN	23%
Kansas City, MO	22%

## A Ripe Occasion

In God’s providence, the time seems ripe to plant a church in Manchester. According to a study on religious preferences, Manchester has recently seen both an increase in those who are open to the reality of God and an increase in those who cannot find “the right faith community.” Christ Proclamation Church is seeing the substance of those statistics as they increasingly reach families in the Manchester area. So our desire is to jump in where God is at work. By God’s grace, Manchester is open to the gospel, Christ Proclamation Church is ready to send families and finances, and Heidi and I are ready to spend and be spent for the souls of those who will hear the gospel and believe in Christ Jesus our Lord for eternal life.

## An Ongoing Mission

To plant a Christ-centered church in Manchester, CT through the preaching of the gospel from all of Scripture for the salvation of sinners and the glory of God that will then plant more churches in Greater Hartford and beyond.

Our core values are the overflow of what we believe: that God has spoken to us in **the Bible**, which has **the Gospel** as its focus, and is to be **proclaimed** to all peoples resulting in radical **salvation** to whole-hearted **worship** of God through Christ in a genuine and diverse **community** with **godly leaders**, together on Christ's **mission** by **planting churches** that exist solely for the advancement of the gospel and the glory of God.

## The Bible

**We value the Bible because it is God's Word to us.** He has revealed Himself to His created beings in the 66 books of the Bible, which is inerrant, authoritative, sufficient for all of life, and declares the gospel of Jesus Christ from Genesis to Revelation. (2 Timothy 3:15-17; 2 Peter 1:3-4, 21; Luke 24:27, 44-47; John 5:46-47)



## The Gospel

**We value the Gospel because it alone is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes.** The Gospel is the message of Scripture that God offers salvation to undeserving sinners from His eternal judgment against sin through Jesus' death on the cross, burial, and resurrection from the dead three days later. The gospel is our greatest need and there is no other means by which sinners are saved and saints are sanctified. (Romans 1:14-17; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4)



## Proclamation

**We value the proclamation of the gospel because it is the divinely appointed means of getting the good news of salvation to sinners.** The church has been entrusted with the gospel and has been commanded to proclaim Christ to all peoples in every nation so that they may believe in Him and have eternal life. (Matthew 28:18-20; Romans 10:13-15)



## Salvation

**We value clarity on true saving faith because there is no other matter more important than salvation.** Sinners are saved by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone, but that faith is never alone. It is a faith that works itself out in love for Christ and His church, and in a progressively transformed life. (Ephesians 2:8-10; Galatians 5:6; James 2:14-26; Matthew 7:21, 25:31-46)



## Worship

**We value whole-hearted worship of God through Christ in the power of the Spirit because it is the goal of salvation.** We have been redeemed by the precious blood of Christ and are now inclined toward God to worship Him with all of our mind, heart, and life as the only reasonable response to so great a salvation. (Romans 12:1-2; Titus 2:11-14; Revelation 5:9-10)



## Community

**We value community because when Christ brought us near to God in salvation, He also made us one family, made of people from every tribe, tongue, and nation. We value real, biblical community.** A place where we welcome and accept people from every race, social status, and background and commit ourselves to a particular local church so that we can be there for one another, build up one another, and reconcile with one another in the inevitable conflicts of being a family. We also value this kind of community because we know that love for one another is the one command of Christ and the most compelling witness to the unbelieving world around us. (John 13:34-35; Ephesians 4:1-3; Romans 13:8; Matthew 5:23-24, 18:15; 1 John 4:7-11; Acts 10:34-35)



## Leadership

**We value a plurality of godly male leaders because God has given leaders as under-shepherds for the life and health of the church.** The church needs leaders to preach the gospel with fidelity, exemplify the gospel with godliness, and defend the gospel with boldness and humility so that the church may know Christ, stay faithful to Christ, and stay focused on the mission of Christ until He, the Chief Shepherd, returns for His people. (Ephesians 4:11-16; Hebrews 13:7, 17; 1 Peter 5:1-4; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-16)



## Mission

**We value the mission of the church because it is the calling of our lives.** To know Christ and make him known in all the world is the Great Commission given to us by our Lord and what we live for as the church. (Matthew 28:18-20; Luke 24:44-48; John 20:21; Acts 1:8)



## Planting Churches

**We value church planting because it is one of the best means of fulfilling the Great Commission.** To fulfill the Great Commission, we need gospel-proclaiming churches peppering the landscape so that those dead in sin may hear the gospel and live. Rather than becoming inward focused, we want to press out to proclaim Christ in areas with need of a gospel witness. And as God saves sinners, we seek to gather those believers into new local churches that continue to be a gospel presence in the community. (Matthew 28:18-20; Romans 10:13-15, 16:20-21)

We believe that our **values** drive our **vision** and are eager to see them become **reality**.

Our **vision** is to see God display His power by **saving** sinners and **sanctifying** saints through the **faithful preaching** of the gospel by all of the members to His eternal **glory**

## We envision...

**We envision** a church that is convinced that God has revealed Himself to us in the Bible. That cherishes His word and celebrates that God has spoken to us and has not left us alone to grope for the meaning of life.

**We envision** a church that sees Christ as the whole point of Scripture and eagerly desires to know Him from Genesis to Revelation.

**We envision** a church that isn't ashamed of the gospel and recognizes it's the only means of obtaining salvation and therefore, faithfully and relevantly proclaims Christ and Him crucified from all of Scripture, in all contexts, to all people, pleading in prayer that God would bless gospel preaching.

**We envision** a church that is clear about what the gospel is and how the gospel changes a person. A church that displays the freeing power of the Spirit in lives characteristically marked by love, joy, and self-control. We want to do everything we can to help everyone know God truly and experience salvation fully.

**We envision** a church that is for Manchester and the Greater Hartford area by seeing it impacted with the gospel of Jesus Christ as sinners are transformed from rebels into worshippers, who offer themselves as living sacrifices to God because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus as Lord.

**We envision** a church that loves much because they've been forgiven much. A church characterized by genuine and committed community that sacrificially loves one another, put others first, and humbly reconcile the conflicts that are sure to happen in the church family, knowing that there is nothing more pleasing to God nor more compelling to the world that we desire to reach with the gospel.

**We envision** a church that has godly, humble shepherds who are pacesetters, who are godly, missional, and lead in gospel fidelity and gospel fruitfulness, whom the members of the church look up to, gladly submit to, and faithfully support.

**We envision** a church that breaks the mold of being inward-focused and is outward oriented by making the mission of the church the calling of their lives. A church characterized by eagerness; an eagerness to share the gospel in the Greater Hartford area, an eagerness to invite guests to gospel-focused events, and an eagerness to partner with other churches that are gospel-minded as well.

**We envision** a church planting church that's most excited about others knowing and loving Christ by strategically planting churches, sending out our best servants, and sacrificially supporting these new churches.



Fall 2020 - Spring 2023

### PREPARATION PHASE

- Completed Church Planting Assessment with NAMB & Converge
- Completed NETS Church Planting Residency Training
- Raised Initial Funding for Transition to Manchester, CT

Spring 2023 - Summer 2024

### RECRUITING PHASE

- Build Relationships in the Community
- Complete Fundraising for the Church Plant
- Start Local Bible Studies
- Recruit Committed Core Team

Summer 2024 - Launch

### PRE-LAUNCH PHASE

- Train Core Team for Launch
- Hold Outreach Events Leading Up to Launch
- Hold Preview Services until Ready to Launch

*Launch Date in Fall 2024*

Launch - Fall 2027

### STABILIZATION PHASE

- Gather for Sunday Worship Services
- Continue Recruiting & Launch Ministries
- Develop Leadership

First 4-6 Years

### EXPANSION PHASE

- Become a Self-Sustaining Church
- All Ministries Expanded and in Regular Rhythm
- Local Community Relationships Being Built & Solidified
- Leadership Pipeline Producing Leaders in the Church

First 6-10 Years

### MULTIPLICATION PHASE

- Contribute to the Planting of Churches with Christ Proclamation Church
- Supporting Other Local Churches and Revitalizations
- Plant First Daughter Church



## CURRENT BUDGET

	2024	2025	2026
<b>STAFF</b> (salary and benefits)	\$89,000	\$101,600	\$105,200
<b>MINISTRY</b> (outreach, worship, missions)	\$7,000	\$18,000	\$24,000
<b>FACILITIES</b> (equipment, utilities, insurance)	\$30,000	\$24,000	\$24,000
<b>OFFICE</b> (supplies and accounting)	\$12,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
<b>ADVERTISING</b> (radio, website, print)	\$13,000	\$16,500	\$16,500
<b>GIVING</b> (Denominational & Church Planting)	\$800	\$5,400	\$9,800
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$151,800	\$180,500	\$194,500

## CURRENT FUNDING

	2024	2025	2026
<b>INDIVIDUALS</b>	\$21,000	\$21,000	\$21,000
<b>DENOMINATIONS</b>	\$24,000	\$21,000	\$18,000
<b>CONNECTICUT CHURCHES</b>	\$15,000	\$12,000	\$6,000
<b>MISSOURI CHURCHES</b>	\$9,600	\$9,600	\$9,600
<b>SUNDAY OFFERINGS</b> (projected)	\$8,000	\$54,000	\$98,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$77,600	\$117,600	\$152,600
<b>CURRENT DEFICIT</b>	<b>(\$74,200)</b>	<b>(\$62,900)</b>	<b>(\$41,900)</b>

## CURRENT NEED

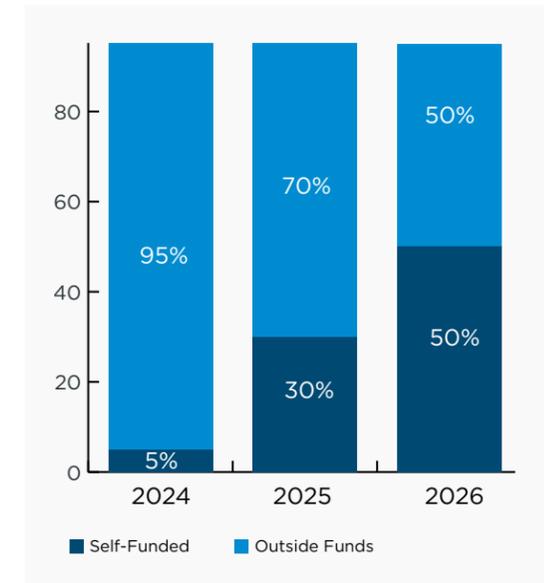
<b>INDIVIDUALS</b>	\$6,000	\$3,600	\$2,400
<b>FOUNDATIONS</b>	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$12,000
<b>CHURCHES</b>	\$56,200	\$47,300	\$27,500
<b>TOTAL FUNDING NEEDS</b>	<b>\$74,200</b>	<b>\$62,900</b>	<b>\$41,900</b>

## PRAY

- For God to draw like-minded families
- For God to meet the financial needs
- For God to save people in Manchester
- For God to keep us faithful to Him

## PARTNER

- We need monthly giving to help sustain us through the early years
- We need one-time giving to help with upfront costs



## JOIN

- Join our Monthly Newsletter: Keep up-to-date on how things are going and how you can be praying for us.
- Join by Promoting the Project: Tell others of what the Lord is up to in Manchester, CT so that they might pray, partner, and join.
- Join us in Manchester: If you're willing and able to relocate, we would love for you to consider joining us on mission in Manchester.

***Will you consider a three year commitment to pray and financially support us?***

“Partners support us financially and in prayer. And while they're blessing us, **they are blessed** as well. Individual and Church Partners can be part of a mission to the most **gospel-parched region** of our nation. Praying for new churches **excites hearts** for the salvation of souls.”

***Thank you*** for prayerfully considering an **investment** in the Manchester Project. We pray that God will use it for the **advancement** of His Kingdom in Manchester and Greater Hartford.



# Contact

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*"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you because of your partnership for the gospel" (Phil. 1:3-4)*