



Christ Proclamation Church

RESIDENCY PROGRAM



I AM
THE GOOD SHEPHERD.
***** THE *****
Good Shepherd
lays down his **Life**
FOR THE SHEEP.
JOHN 10:11



JESUS SAID TO HER,
I AM
***** THE *****
RESURRECTION
AND THE *Life*
Whoever believes in
me, though he die,
yet shall he
Live.
JOHN 11:25



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WHAT IS THE PROCLAMATION RESIDENCY PROGRAM?

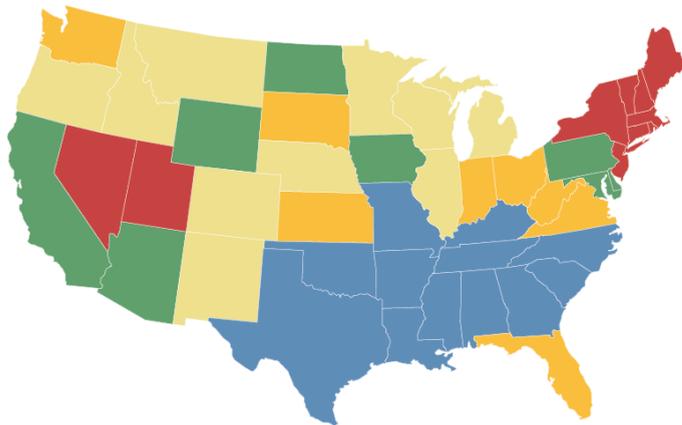
The Proclamation Residency Program provides an opportunity for prospective pastors to minister alongside a senior pastor within the context of a healthy local church while acclimating and assimilating to New England. Our desire is to train the next generation of pastors for long-term ministry in Connecticut who love Jesus, hate sin, walk in righteousness, preach the gospel, shepherd the flock of God among them, dedicate their lives to advance God's kingdom, and die not caring if anyone remembers them.

WHY CONNECTICUT?

IT'S A NEEDY PLACE

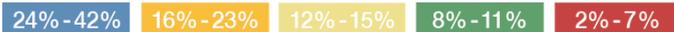
In Romans 1:25, Paul says,

“ They exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator. ”



Evangelical Church Attendance

SOURCE: ARDA 2020



In Connecticut, most people seek created goods to bring them joy, contentment, and lasting satisfaction. Power, prestige, and prosperity have become their gods. Our generation longs for peace, but they will never find it apart from the Prince of Peace.

Most Post-Christian Cities in the US

- 1 Springfield, MA
- 2 Portland, ME
- 3 Providence, RI
- 4 Burlington, VT
- 5 Boston, MA
- 6 Albany, NY
- 7 **Hartford, CT**



In 2019, Protestant church closures
outpaced openings by **50%**

– Lifeway 2020



1 out of every 3 adults in
Connecticut identify as religiously
unaffiliated - atheist, agnostic, or
nothing in particular.

– Pew Research 2023-24

– Barna 2019

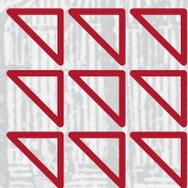


IT'S A HISTORIC PLACE



First Great Awakening **JONATHAN EDWARDS**

In 1734, gospel preaching sparked revival flames. Out of a town of 1,200, Edwards reckoned that 300 people were saved in 6 months.



Historians estimate up to 20% of New England was converted during the First Great Awakening—some 25,000–50,000 people!

— Michael Haykin
Jonathan Edwards: The Holy Spirit in Revival

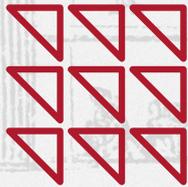
“ There was scarcely a single person in the town, old or young, left unconcerned about the great things of the eternal world. ”

— Jonathan Edwards
A Faithful Narrative of the Surprising Work of God



Second Great Awakening **ASAHEL NETTLETON**

In 1801, revival came to North Killingworth, CT and by December, 32 new converts were added to the church. Among them was Asahel Nettleton, who had a strong desire to become a missionary to the heathen.



The number of people converted to Christianity as a result of his ministry is estimated to be 30,000.

(Tyler, Bennet and Andrew Bonar, "The Life and Labors of Asahel Nettleton" (Carlisle, Pennsylvania: The Banner of Truth Trust, reprint 1975)

In 1826, Nettleton became alarmed by the "new measures" being employed by Charles Finney. He believed salvation was a work of God alone and therefore rejected the practice of altar calls and revival meetings. He became Finney's most vocal critic.

Hambrick-Stowe, Charles E., "Charles G. Finney and the Spirit of American Revivalism" (Wm. B. Eerdmans 1996)

IT'S A STRATEGIC PLACE

The Connecticut Baptist Association (CBA) is a group of like-minded, autonomous Southern Baptist churches, who are focused on the health and vibrancy of existing local churches and bringing a faithful gospel witness to every community.

CURRENT SITUATION

- Empty Pulpits
- Retiring Pastors
- Declining Churches
- Gospel Confusion
- Unreached Locations
- Strategic Cities

**Jesus said to them,
“The harvest is plentiful,
but the laborers are few!”**

Luke 10:2

“ With all the dying churches and vacant church buildings, revitalization may be the most powerful church planting strategy for New England. ”

– Wes Pastor, NETS President

- **Church Planting** - Process of establishing a new church, which is a group of Christians who gather for worship, fellowship, prayer, and ministry.
- **Church Re-Planting** - Strategic approach to dissolve a dying church and start a new one, with new leadership, name, mission, vision, and philosophy of ministry.
- **Church Revitalization** - The supernatural work of God to restore health in a church, evidenced by a renewed commitment to the Great Commission.
- **Church Merger** - When two churches become one through the combining of people and resources to do ministry together as a healthy body of believers.

WHY SHOULD YOU GO?

COMMAND TO GO - THE GREAT COMMISSION

King Jesus commands us to live on mission for Him! Matthew 28:19-20 – Jesus said to them,

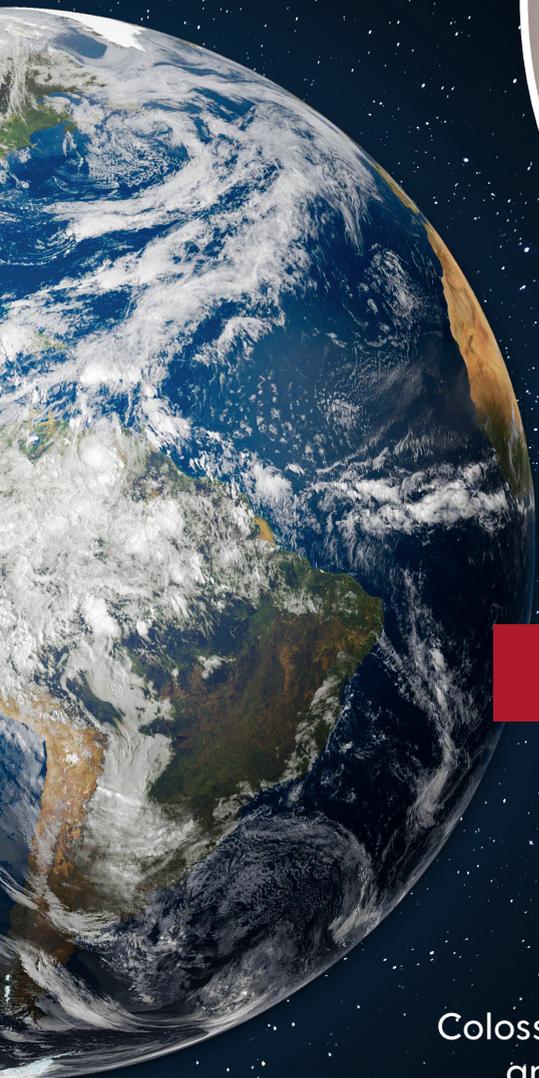
“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.”

REASON TO GO - THE GLORY OF GOD

We were made to know God and enjoy Him forever. We are passionate for God’s glory to be known again in Connecticut.

Habakkuk 2:14 – “The earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.”





WAY TO GO - PREACHING THE GOSPEL

Our call is to proclaim Christ and Him crucified. This should be every pastor's privilege, goal, and passion.

Colossians 1:28-29 – “Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.”

WHAT IS THE PROGRAM?



FAMILY ACCLIMATION

Chance for men and their families to acclimate to New England.



CULTURAL ASSIMILATION

Opportunity to embrace the culture and become a New Englander.



PERSONAL PREPARATION

Desire for future pastors to be willing, worthy, and wise, growing in personal holiness, pastoral ability, and ministry gifting.



LOCATION ASSESSMENT

Visit towns, analyze demographics, identify needy places, and determine the most strategic location for you and your family to do ministry.



MINISTRY APPLICATION

Residents will be sent, by God's grace, to a location within the Connecticut River Valley where they will minister, Lord willing, for the rest of their lives.

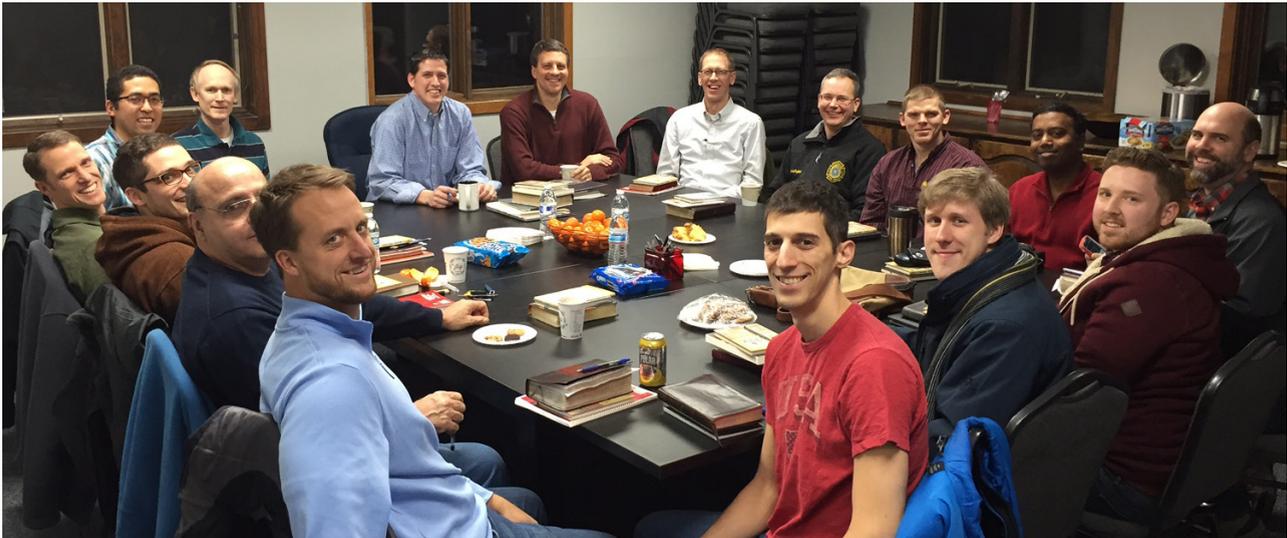
WHO WILL TRAIN US?



Steve Thiel

OUR PASTOR

- » Came to faith in a New England church plant
- » Served as a youth pastor in a healthy Vermont church
- » Received his M.Div. from Southern Seminary
- » Graduated from the NETS Center for Church Planting
- » Planted Christ Proclamation Church in October 2014
- » Director of the Connecticut Baptist Association
- » Chaplain in the Connecticut Air National Guard





OUR CHURCH

- » God has been faithful to add to our number, year after year, those who are coming to faith and growing in grace
- » Started with 80, grown to over 300
- » Baptized 77 people in 10 years
- » Currently have 154 members



OUR MISSION

- » To see God display His power by saving sinners and sanctifying saints through faithful gospel proclamation.
- » To facilitate the growth of churches, in both quantity and quality, in the Connecticut River Valley through assisting, revitalizing, and planting.



OUR PLANT

- » In June 2023, Christ Proclamation Church relocated Garet Halbert to Connecticut to be their first church planter.
- » Christ Redemption Church launched on September 29, 2024 in Manchester, CT.

WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT?

1 PASTORAL COACHING

- Participate in member care and visitations
- Observe entire membership process
- Provide pulpit supply in local churches
- Prepare funeral and wedding services

2 THEOLOGICAL TRAINING

- Exercise biblical exegesis skills
- Complete readings and assignments
- Articulate and defend theological positions
- Strengthen sermon process including theme, outline, flow, and manuscript

3 LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

- Participate in weekly staff meetings
- Observe monthly elder meetings
- Attend congregational meetings
- Understand financial documents
- Develop fundraising skills

4 MINISTRY PARTNERSHIPS

- Meet local like-minded CT Pastors
- Attend NETS network meetings
- Participate in CBA Leadership Team
- Attend Small Town Summits
- Identify strategic relationships



5 DISCIPLESHIP INSTRUCTION

- Love the people of God at Proclamation
- Evangelize the local community
- Disciple members in your Life Group
- Observe pastoral counseling sessions
- Assess membership testimonies

6 MARRIAGE MENTORING

- Manage the difficulties of marriage
- Mentoring specific to women's ministry
- Navigate counseling situations as a couple
- Cultivate a healthy ministry rhythm
- Thrive in communication

7 LOCATION ASSESSMENT

- Complete demographics assessment
- Assess strength of churches
- Determine ministry strategy
- Identify local ministry allies
- Relocate and engage

WHAT IS THE STRATEGY?

COMMITMENT

Take time needed to determine prospective pastor's gifting and ability in order to best place him for long-term ministry in Connecticut.



DURATION

The duration of the residency is customized for each prospective pastor.

- » 1 Year - Assessment Period
- » 2-3 Years - Training and Placement

Our desire is to train the next generation of



PARTNERS



SUCCESS

- » Connecticut Baptist Association (CBA)
- » Converge Northeast (CNE)
- » New England Training and Sending Center (NETS)
- » Baptist Convention of New England (BCNE)
- » New England Urban Church Planting (NEUCP)

- » Elder in a Healthy Church
- » Pastor of an Existing Church
- » Revitalize a Declining Church
- » Re-Plant a Dying Church
- » Plant a New Church

pastors for long term ministry in Connecticut.



Pastor Steve Thiel - 860.338.0253

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