



Redeemer Church

Plant Prospectus

Redeemer Church, Huntsville exists to share God's good news and be equipped to love him and neighbor in every area of life in Huntsville and beyond.

LAUNCHING FALL 2023

Contents

Place	4
Opportunity	8
Convictions	10
Our life together	14
Our vision	16
Stewardship	18
Plan	20
Call & commitments	21



Welcome to

HUNTSVILLE

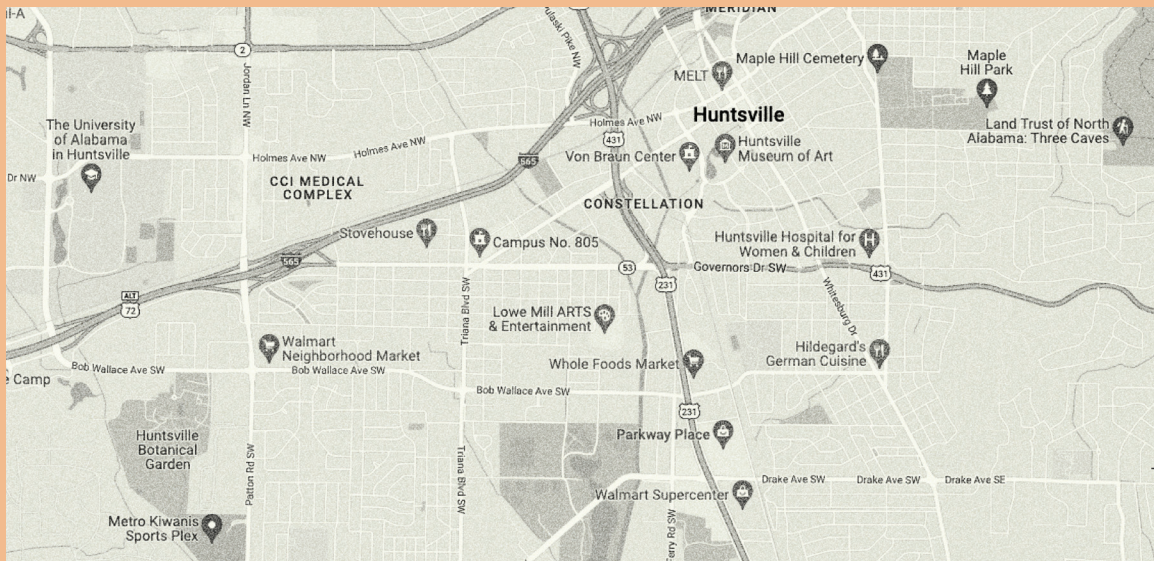


THE ROCKET CITY

HELLO
GRADIENT

Huntsville, AL

- Earned “Best Places to Live in US” in 2022-23, unseating Boulder, CO
- Largest city in Alabama; could surpass Birmingham as largest metro in 2030
- Roughly 450 people move to Huntsville every month
- 16th fastest growing area in United States
- In last two years, nearly \$2.5b in economic development from firms like Mazda/Toyota, Blue Origin, LG Electronics, GE Aviation, and more
- Median age: 38.8 yrs old
- Two universities and two colleges
- Top 20 busiest air cargo ports in country, just ahead of Seattle-Tacoma International

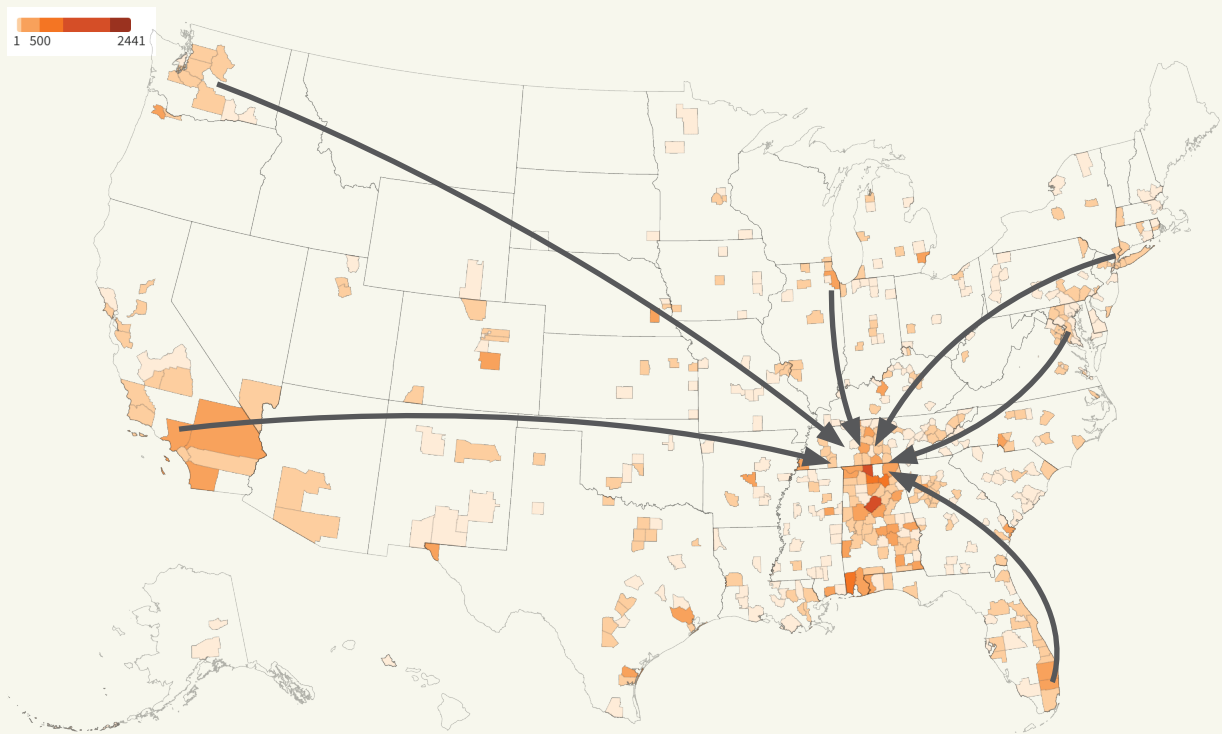


SOURCES

Adam Smith, "Groundbreakings and new developments mirrored Huntsville's growth in 2022," Huntsville City Blog, December 28, 2022, <https://cityblog.huntsvilleal.gov/groundbreakings-and-new-developments-mirrored-huntsvilles-growth-in-2022/>

University of Alabama, "Huntsville," Economic Outlook for Alabama Metropolitan Areas, 2019, <https://hsvchamber.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/2019-Economic-Outlook-Huntsville-Metro-Area.pdf>

U.S. News & World Report, "Why Huntsville Is the Best Place to Live in the U.S. in 2022-23," May 17, 2022, <https://realestate.usnews.com/real-estate/articles/why-huntsville-is-the-best-place-to-live-in-the-u-s-in-2022-23>.



Most of the people
who have moved to the
Huntsville area in the
last five years are from
some of our nation's
*most unchurched and
underchurched regions.*

Figure 1. Migration to and from Madison County, Alabama. Ramsey Archibald, "Huntsville area adds 3,200," March 2022, AL.com, <https://www.al.com/news/2022/03/huntsville-area-adds-3200-people-each-year-from-migration-fueling-rapid-growth-in-north-alabama.html>. Data from U.S. Census Bureau.



Why Huntsville?

Huntsville is under-disciplined and becoming unchurched.

"Bible Belt" Christianity has been very well documented, and the peculiar accents of Southern religion have attracted commentary from many corners.

Before COVID-19, four-in-ten Huntsvillians did not attend regular religious services. That number has increased since 2020. It is expected to rise still more as those relocating to Huntsville are coming from traditionally unchurched cities.

Discipleship failure is complicated by the unique character of Southern religion itself: success in ministry is measured in charisma and not faithfulness. That charisma is failing.

The rejection of this brand of religion has led to a new subculture: exvangelical. In many of the pulpits that remain occupied, Jesus might be "famous," but he's not the Lord God.

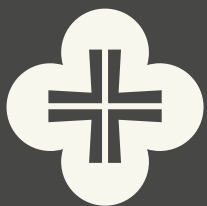
Many churches in Huntsville are in in early-stage decline, and some actively resist efforts to revitalize. Worse, many are dying faster than healthy churches can replace them.

Huntsville is a defense and technology hub.

In 2021, Huntsville became Alabama's largest city.

Already known as the "Rocket City," the city has earned the moniker "Silicon Valley of the South." It's a title well-earned. Facebook and Google are moving data operations into the metro area. The FBI is opening a second headquarters in the city to complement Quantico. This will focus on cyber defense and counterintelligence. More, the Department of Defense has announced Huntsville as the site of the newly created Space Force.

This makes Huntsville hyper-educated.





ImpactAlabama suggested that the hyper-educated are an underreached people in Alabama and a new congregation is needed to reach these skeptics.

The religious landscape of Huntsville will shift dramatically in the next five years as Gen-Z matures and additional families move to the region to capitalize on the tech/intel job markets.

And, Huntsville is sprawling.

By land area, Huntsville is the 29th largest city in America. In area, it is larger than Philadelphia, Denver, Atlanta, or Las Vegas in area. Per capita, it is just behind Grand Rapids and Salt Lake City in population.

The city's new master plan emphasizes a focus on density in the urban core to sustainably handle the expected population boom, which includes walkable communities, revived transit networks, and more. Better, however, is the city's efforts to back this plan with concrete steps, such as rewriting zoning requirements.

In the mean time, the sprawl diffuses the "life" of the city in microregional zones, and residents are willing to commute to those zones.

As the city invests in an urban core, churches are needed in that same core to make disciples.

Huntsville needs more healthy churches.

SOURCES

The City of Huntsville, "Population Growth," *The Big Picture* (September 14, 2018), accessed December 29, 2020, <https://bigpicturehuntsville.com/process/demographics/>.

"Mission Site Locations in the Huntsville Alabama Area," *ImpactAlabama*, accessed December 29, 2020, <https://alabama.missional.world/sites/huntsville-mission-site-map/>.

Ted Ownby, *Subduing Satan: Religion, Recreation, and Manhood in the Rural South, 1865–1920* (University of North Carolina Press, 1990); Barry Hankins, *Uneasy in Babylon: Southern Baptist Conservatives and American Culture* (The University of Alabama Press, 2002); Carolyn Renée Dupont, *Mississippi Praying: Southern White Evangelicals and the Civil Rights Movement, 1945–1975* (New York University Press, 2013)W; et. al.

Colleen Batchelder, "Exvangelical: Why Millennials and Generation Z are Leaving the Constraints of White Evangelicalism" (DMin diss., George Fox University, 2020).

Colton Corter, "4 Reflections after Listening to 18 Hours of Sermons in America's Biggest Churches," *9Marks Journal*, accessed December 29, 2020, <https://www.9marks.org/article/4-reflections-after-listening-to-18-hours-of-sermons-in-americas-biggest-churches/>.



In the last few years, more Protestant churches have closed permanently than were planted. Lifeway Research demonstrated that the rate of closure has been accelerating since 2014.

Yet, our population continues to grow.

We see a harvest ready.

We want a flourishing Huntsville.

We want Huntsville to experience all the joy the gospel holds out for human beings. This means we work for a holistic valuation of life from birth to death, invest in mercy among the needy, seek neighborly conciliation, and press for personal holiness. We know that God's revelation is the only possibility for true human happiness.

We want Huntsville to hear a greater story.

Because we know the promise of God's revelation, we desire all people to see the world's competing promises as the falsehoods they are. We know this can only be accomplished by whimsical witness. Huntsville can only flourish in the light of the gospel. And they'll never know the good news unless we tell them.

We want Huntsville to feel radical hospitality.

We know that people won't hear us unless they feel our love. And they won't feel our love unless they are invited into the spaces where that greater story has its greatest impact: our backyards, kitchen counter, and living room couch. It is in these spaces that people will hear the greatest story that leads to human flourishing: that God became man to bring humanity into his abundant life.

We exist to share
God's good news
and be equipped
to love him
and neighbor in
every area of
life in Huntsville
and beyond.

We are for Huntsville.

We live in a post-Christian society and want to live as faithful sojourners and exiles. That means we want to seek the good of our city, because we understand the call of God has situated us in Huntsville at this very moment. So, we want to engage for the sake of the world, building life-giving communities, businesses, and civic institutions to witness to the beauty of holiness and God's design for human flourishing. Ultimately, we want to see disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ made in Huntsville.

We are passionate about whole-life gospel thinking.

Captivated by the Lordship of Christ, we agree that there is not a square inch over which Christ doesn't claim: "Mine!" God calls individuals to steward every aspect of their life in light of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Even fewer understand the vocational and avocational demands of the gospel. Discipleship should address every facet of life: How do I parent in light of the gospel? How do I work in light of the gospel? How do I host guests in light of the gospel? How do I care for aging parents in light of the gospel? We want to see our members equipped for whole-life discipleship.

We are rooted in the past and working for the future.

We know we aren't the first people to read our Bibles or gather as churches. The Church was before us and it will be after us. We want to find our place in the great work of God through human history of redeeming a particular people to himself. So, we embrace a Reformed confession and the liturgical rhythm of historic Christianity as a way of gleaning wisdom and guiding our pastoral, theological, and missional instincts.

We belong to one another.

We know the Bible describes the church using many different images. But all those images have one thing in common: they require others. Critically, we cannot do the things that Scripture commands apart from one another. Our prayers of confession and adoration, public readings of Scripture, singing of psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, and dedication to the apostles' teaching are not private affairs. Our faith is public and communal. So, we give ourselves to one another in covenant membership.

Statement of Faith

Redeemer Church, Huntsville confesses the Christian faith, in accordance with Scripture, as an expression of beliefs for our covenanted membership. While we use a confession of faith as a guide, we submit all such statements to Scripture as our final rule of correct belief and faithful practice. To that end, the following reflect a biblical understanding of these topics.

THE SCRIPTURES

We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired, and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction. It has God for its author, salvation through Christ for its purpose, and truth without any mixture of error for its content. It reveals the principles by which God will judge us. Therefore, it is and shall remain to the end of the world the true center of Christian union and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions should be tried.

THE ONLY TRUE GOD

We believe that there is one, and only one, living and true God. He is an infinite, intelligent Spirit, whose name is the LORD, the Maker and Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth. He is inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy of all possible honor, confidence, and love. In the unity of the Godhead there are three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. They are equal in every divine perfection, yet carry out distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

HUMANITY & THE FALL

We believe that humanity is the special creation of God, made in his own image. God created them male and female as the crowning work of his creation. The gift of gender is thus part of God's creation. It is immutable. The gift of marriage consists of the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime, and it models the way God relates to his people.

Humanity was created in holiness, under the law of his Maker. By voluntary

transgression, however, humanity fell from that holy and happy state. As a result, all mankind are now sinners, not by constraint but by choice. Being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the law of God, they are now positively inclined to evil. Therefore, mankind stands under just condemnation to eternal ruin, without defense or excuse.

JESUS CHRIST, THE WAY OF SALVATION

We believe that the salvation of sinners is entirely of grace, through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God, Jesus Christ our Lord. By the appointment of the Father, he freely took upon himself our nature, yet without sin. He honored the divine law by his personal obedience, and by his substitutionary death made a full atonement for our sins. He rose from the dead and is now enthroned in heaven. Jesus unites in his wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfections and, as such, is qualified in every way to be a suitable, a compassionate, and all-sufficient Savior.

JUSTIFICATION

We believe that a great gospel blessing which Christ secures to those who believe in him is Justification. Justification includes both the pardon of sin and the promise of eternal life. It is not given in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but only through faith in the Redeemer's blood. By virtue of this faith his perfect righteousness is freely imputed to us by God. Justification brings us, immediately at the time of salvation, into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God, and secures every other blessing needful for time and eternity.

THE FREENESS OF SALVATION

We believe that the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the gospel. It is the immediate duty of all to accept these blessings by a heartfelt, repentant, and obedient faith. Nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth, but his own inherent depravity and voluntary rejection of the gospel, which only magnifies his condemnation.

GRACE IN REGENERATION

We believe sinners must be regenerated, or born again, to be saved. Regeneration consists in the giving of a new and holy disposition to an otherwise rebellious sinner. It is accomplished in a way that is above our comprehension by the power of the Holy Spirit and in connection with divine truth, thus securing our voluntary obedience to the gospel. The proper evidence of regeneration consists in the holy fruits of repentance, faith, and newness of life.

REPENTANCE AND FAITH

We believe that repentance and faith are sacred duties and inseparable graces that are wrought in our souls by the regenerating Spirit of God. He convinces us of our guilt, danger, helplessness, and of the way of salvation by Christ, causing us to turn to God with true sorrow, confession, and pleas for mercy, while at the same time receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as our Prophet, Priest and King, and relying on him alone as the only and all sufficient Savior.

GOD'S PURPOSE IN GRACE

We believe that election is the eternal purpose of God, according to which he graciously regenerates, sanctifies, and

saves sinners. Being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man, election includes all the means in connection with the end of salvation. It is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, being infinitely free, wise, holy, and unchangeable. It entirely obliterates boasting and promotes humility, love, prayer, praise, trust, and an active imitation of God's free mercy. It encourages the greatest possible exercise of human responsibility. It may be discovered by its effects in all who truly believe the gospel. Election is the foundation of Christian assurance, and confirming our election deserves the utmost diligence.

SANCTIFICATION

We believe that sanctification is the process by which, according to the will of God, we are made partakers of his holiness. It is a progressive work. It begins in regeneration and is carried on in the hearts of believers by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit—the Sealer and Comforter—by the continual use of God's appointed means, especially including the word of God, self-examination, self-denial, watchfulness, prayer, and the oversight and fellowship of a local church.

THE PERSEVERANCE OF SAINTS

We believe that all true believers endure to the end. Their persevering attachment to Christ and to his people is the grand mark distinguishing them from false professors. A special providence watches over their welfare, and they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

A GOSPEL CHURCH

We believe that a visible church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers, joined together by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the Gospel. A visible church observes the ordinances of Christ, is governed by his laws, and exercises the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by his word. The only scriptural officers of the church are Elders (also called Pastors), and Deacons, whose

qualifications and duties are defined in the Epistles to Timothy and Titus.

BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER

We believe that Christian Baptism is the immersion in water of a believer, into the name of the Father, and Son, and Holy Spirit. This demonstrates, in a solemn and beautiful emblem, our faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Savior, with its effect in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life. Baptism is pre-requisite to the privileges of church membership and the Lord's Supper. We likewise believe that the Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby the members of the church, following earnest self-examination, use bread and the cup to commemorate together the dying love of Christ. These two ordinances belong to the gathered church, serving to mark off believers from unbelievers and to make the church visible on earth.

THE LORD'S DAY

We believe the first day of the week is the Lord's Day. It is a Christian institution for regular observance. It commemorates the resurrection of Christ from the dead and points to the rest that awaits the people of God. It should include exercises of worship and spiritual devotion, both public and private. Activities on the Lord's Day should be commensurate with the Christian's conscience under the lordship of Jesus Christ.

CIVIL GOVERNMENT

We believe civil government exists by divine appointment for the benefit and good order of human society. Government officials are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored, and obeyed. The principle exception is for matters contrary to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscience, and the Prince of the kings of the earth.

THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE UNRIGHTEOUS

We believe that there is a radical and

essential difference between the righteous and the unrighteous. Only those who through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and sanctified by the Spirit of our God, are truly righteous in his esteem. In contrast, all those who continue in rebellion and unbelief are unrighteous in his sight, and under his curse. This distinction holds both in and after death.

THE WORLD TO COME

We believe that the end of the world is approaching. At the last day Christ will descend from heaven and raise the dead from the grave to final retribution. Then a solemn separation will take place, as the wicked will be sentenced to endless punishment, and the righteous to endless joy. This just judgment will fix forever the final state of men in heaven or hell.

*Adapted for use from the New Hampshire
Confession of Faith*

In addition to the articles outlined above, we affirm as faithful rules in the teaching ministries of the church:

The Canons of Dort (1619)

The Second London Confession (1689)

Barmen Declaration (1934)

Chicago, Biblical Inerrancy (1978)

Chicago, Biblical Hermeneutics (1982)

Danvers Statement (1988)

Cambridge Declaration (1996)

Nashville Statement (2017)





Our Life Together





Photo by Sean Pavone. Licensed through Envato Elements.

We root ourselves in God's sovereign grace by

- Gathering every Lord's Day to remind ourselves of the promises of God's grace through the reading of Scripture, singing of psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, participation in the Lord's Supper, and hearing the Word of God proclaimed by faithful men.
- Covenanting together in regenerate membership to spur one another on to persevere in grace.

We pursue biblical wisdom and knowledge of God by

- Orienting ourselves within the spiritual disciplines of the Christian life in community.
- Teaching the doctrines and practices of the Christian faith in adult education.

We cultivate authentic relationships for meaningful life by

- Pursuing gospel friendships within the body for mutual aid and encouragement.
- Creating a witness of radical hospitality in a world of increasing polarization and loneliness.

We craft opportunities to love our neighbors by

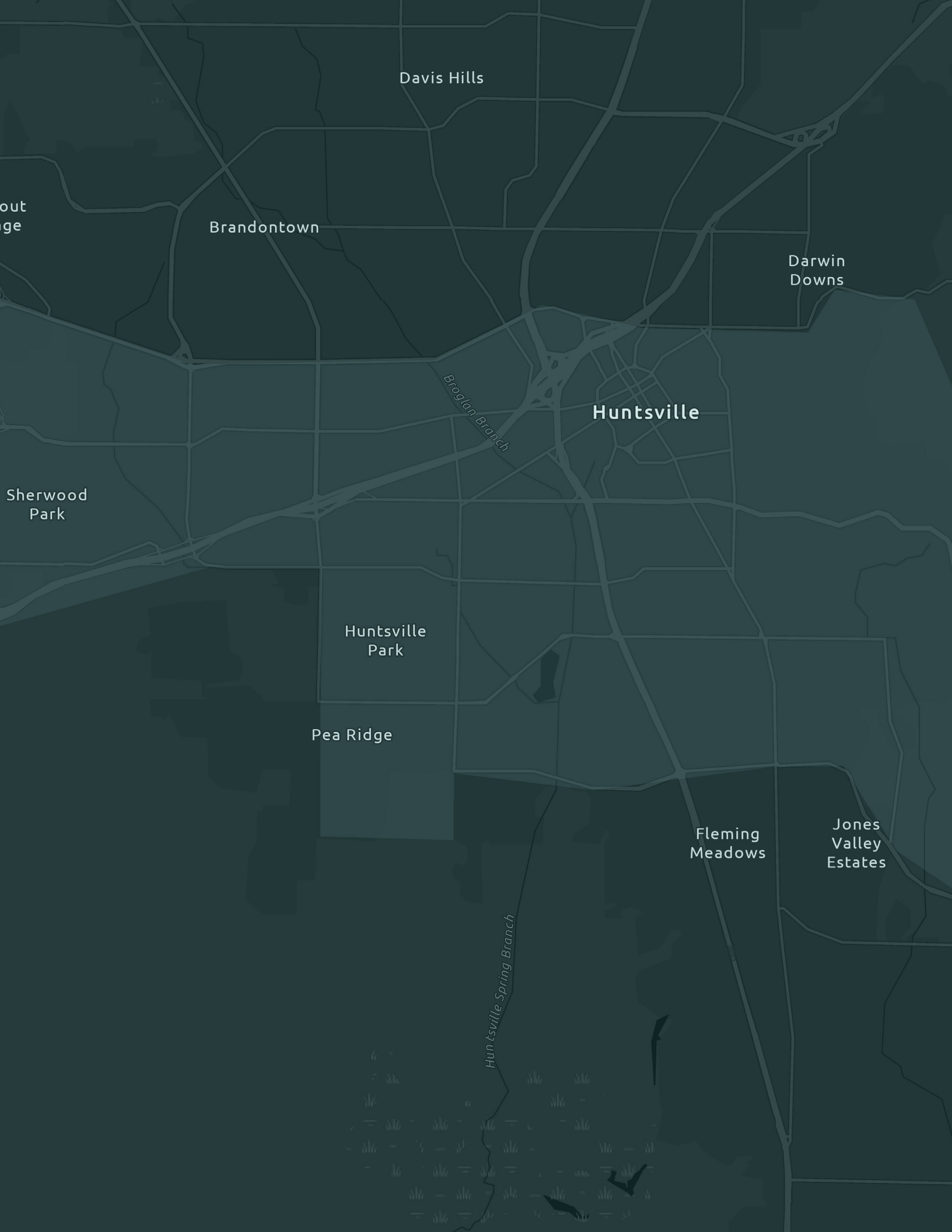
- Inviting neighbors, skeptics, and seekers here and beyond to discover the answer to their toughest questions is in Christ.
- Seeking to advance our unique and diverse vocations at the intersection of kingdom expansion and civic flourishing.
- Sending our best people to plant healthy churches in our city, region, and around the world.

In Huntsville, we want to see...

a healthy church in Huntsville where believers invite the skeptic and seeker into their home and life to see that God's good news is the answer to their heart's longing. We be a home where people belong by rooting themselves in the history of what God has already done. We will see them join in the work towards the future He is creating. We pray God will bless our efforts with increased influence and opportunities to serve our city and beyond.

We will know if God has blessed our efforts...

- If church members rest in the finished work of Christ.
- If church members invite skeptics and seekers to hear God's good news.
- If church members discern with wisdom and knowledge the good, beautiful, and true.
- If church members know God and obey him.
- If church members love one another.
- If neighbors know our church members.
- If church members submit every vocation in life to the Lordship of Jesus Christ
- If church members exercise kingdom influence in Huntsville and beyond.



Davis Hills

out
ge

Brandontown

Darwin
Downs

Brogan Branch

Huntsville

Sherwood
Park

Huntsville
Park

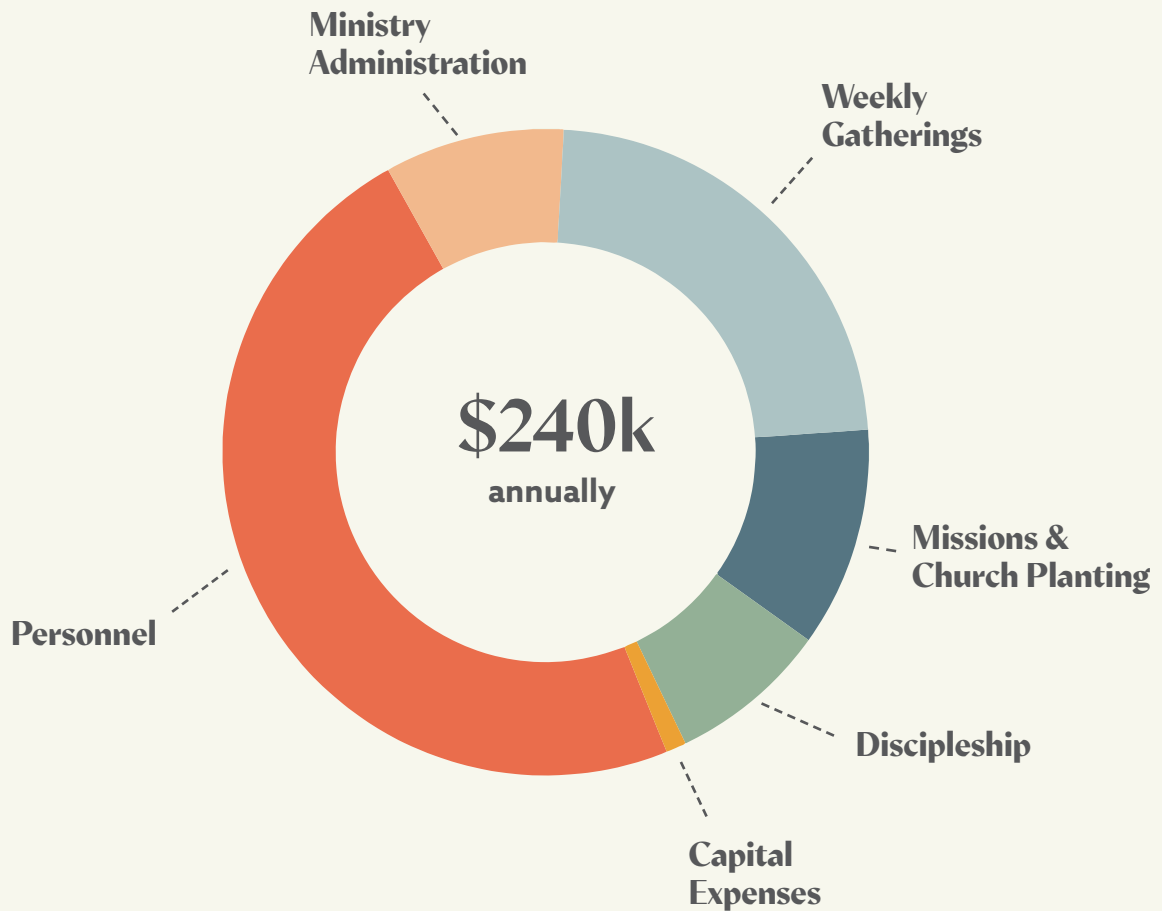
Pea Ridge

Fleming
Meadows

Jones
Valley
Estates

Huntsville Spring Branch

Stewardship



\$88k to be ordinary giving
of 15 family launch team

\$152k to be raised externally through
partner networks & churches

Individual Partners

<i>Partner</i>	<i>Monthly Gift</i>	<i>Partners Needed</i>
Supporter	\$50	10
Builder	\$100	5
Upholder	\$250	4
Founder	\$500	2

Church and Network Partners

<i>Partner</i>	<i>Monthly Gift</i>	<i>Partners Needed</i>
Supporter	\$250	6
Builder	\$500	5
Upholder	\$1000	3
Founder	\$2000	3
Sender	\$5000	1

Funds given to support the mission of Redeemer Church, Huntsville will go to support the evangelistic efforts of the lead planter and a team of leaders dedicated to the successful planting of Redeemer.

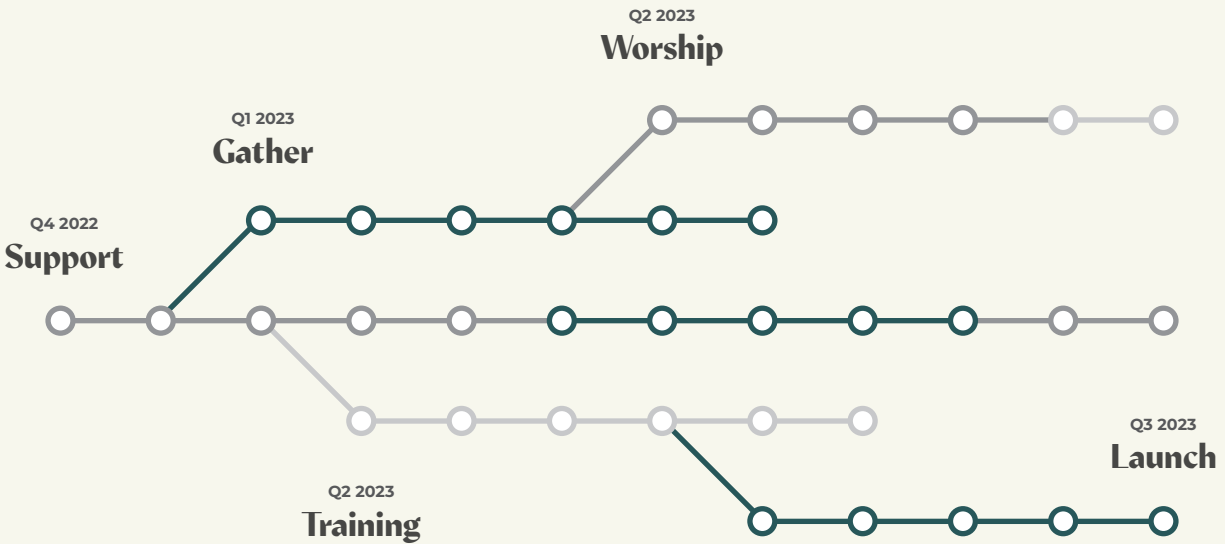
Until Redeemer is fully established with its own internal financial oversight mechanisms, one of our partner churches will oversee the receiving, reporting, and expenditure of all funds.

To make a secure gift to Redeemer Church, visit <https://redeemerhuntsville.org>





Roadmap



Support	Gather	Training	Worship	Launch
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establish online presence• Complete final assessment processes• Contact potential supporting churches	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monthly public prayer and worship meetings• Contact local congregations to commission core families• Recieve counsel from Providence to identify local RCH elders• Prayerfully seek worship space	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Train community group leaders• Launch two community groups• Recruit, screen, and train RKs volunteers• Establish ChMS volunteers• Train gathering deacons	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Grow core team to 35 family units• Continue monthly public prayer and worship meetings• Soft launch RKs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establish covenant membership in session meeting w/ congregation• First public gathering in Fall 2023• Begin Christian education• Begin RKs



Planter's Call & Commitments

Both Zach and Morgan are from the Huntsville metro area, and our families are solidly rooted in the area. Meeting in college, both Zach and Morgan discerned a call to a life of ministry and mission. So after graduating college, the two of them moved to Louisville, Kentucky to receive training at Southern Seminary.

Morgan graduated with her M.A. in biblical counseling, and she is committed to seeing women in our city growing the knowledge and wisdom of the Lord. Zach secured his M.Div. and PhD with the intention of rigorous pastoral ministry. In fact, almost all of his drive to secure a PhD came from his experience seeing fellow Huntsvillians who were hyper-educated or skeptical slip into apathy. He knew a return to Huntsville to minister would require significantly more training than his M.Div. alone would have provided.

While in Louisville, Zach served as a pastor at Cedar Creek Baptist Church where he discerned his call to pastoral ministry over academic ministry. Surrendering posts at Southern Seminary, he stepped into a pastoral role at Rivertree Church in early 2020. He began sensing a call to plant when he began to see so many transplants move into the city from 2020-2021. By the end of 2020, two mentors were encouraging him to pray about church planting to reach and disciple these seeker-skeptics and hyper-educated, image-bearers. For two years, he prayerfully set the encouragement aside. Now, sensing God's timing, Zach is partnering with Providence Baptist Church to see a healthy church planted in Huntsville.

He commits the following to any and all supporters of this kingdom endeavor. These are taken under submission to the two sending churches, and they reserve the right to release him from these commitments:

- Zach will lead a holy life, keeping himself above reproach, in a pattern consistent with Scripture's requirements for undershepherds of Christ's church.
- Zach will lead his family to commit to Redeemer Church, Huntsville's faithfulness for five years after being commissioned by his two sending churches.
- Zach will live in the Huntsville area during the entire tenure of his pastoral leadership of the people called Redeemer Church, Huntsville.
- Zach commits to plant with plurality with qualified men from the start.
- Zach commits to sending regular updates to all supporters.

REDEEMERHUNTSVILLE.ORG



Redeemer
Church