



The plan:

Abide Church Springfield

A Southern Baptist, Reformed, multi-generational Church plant in Southwest Springfield.

Mission

Abiding in Christ. Making disciples. Multiplying for God's glory.

Vision

To see people transformed by the gospel, rooted deeply in Christ, and sent out to bear lasting fruit through disciple-making and church multiplication.

The anticipated launch date would be on or around Easter 2027.

Why Springfield?

The Springfield Metropolitan Area is home to more than 500,000 people.

Despite Springfield's reputation as the "Bible Belt Buckle," approximately 80% of the population do not attend church on any given Sunday. In a city known for its Christian heritage, the vast majority of people are disconnected from the local church and many have never heard a clear presentation of the gospel.

At the same time, approximately two-thirds of the churches in the area are plateaued or in decline. While many faithful churches continue to labor for the Kingdom, the reality is that church decline has limited the ability of many congregations to effectively reach their communities.

So Springfield faces two challenges: a lostness problem and a church health problem.

Some may ask, "Why not simply revitalize existing churches?"

Church revitalization is needed and should be pursued whenever possible. However, revitalization requires churches to recognize their need for change and embrace the difficult work that follows. Even if every declining church were successfully revitalized—a tremendous accomplishment—we would still need additional healthy churches to reach the hundreds of thousands of people who remain disconnected from the gospel.

That is why church planting matters.

Abide Church seeks to be one of many gospel-centered churches working together to fulfill the Great Commission by proclaiming Christ, making disciples, and helping people know and follow Jesus.

Why Southwest Springfield?

Southwest Springfield is one of the fastest-growing areas of the city.

New housing developments, apartment communities, and expanding neighborhoods continue to bring more people into this part of Springfield each year. Yet despite this rapid growth, there are very few churches located within the immediate area.

Between west Springfield and Republic, only one congregation currently meets along much of this growing corridor. While we thank God for every faithful church that proclaims Christ, the reality is that the population growth in this area far exceeds the current local church presence.

This creates a significant opportunity for gospel ministry.

Abide Church desires to establish a healthy, gospel-centered church that will faithfully preach God's Word, make disciples, equip families, and engage the community with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Our goal is not to compete with existing churches but to join them in reaching a rapidly growing community that needs more churches, more disciples, and more gospel witness.

We believe that planting healthy churches remains one of the most effective ways to fulfill the Great Commission, and southwest Springfield presents a unique opportunity to do exactly that.

The need:

Partner churches.

A partner church would pray for, participate with, and/or financially support Abide Church.

The most important need is prayer. As we are in the initial phases of preparation, we ask that you pray for workers who are sent, pray as we seek and discern a place to meet, and pray for the financial needs of the church.

As you pray, we would ask for you to pray about how you could participate with Abide. As we continue towards our launch date, we need participants at all levels – from core team members who participate in shaping the church to church teams that would help with outreach events.

We would also ask for you to consider financial support of Abide in these early stages of the plant.

As a partner church, what should you expect to receive?

First, you should expect to receive prayer in return.

Second, you should expect regular updates.

This means that the partner churches can expect to receive regular updates about Abide and the ministries as they are supported by the churches involved in the local plant.

NAMB/SEND network and other church or organizational funds would go to the sending church (South Haven) for distribution and accounting to maintain oversight.

Finally, as a pastor of a church that has partnered with a church plant, I cannot tell you exactly how the Lord may choose to bless your church through this partnership.

What I can tell you is what the Lord did at Harmony Baptist Church after we partnered with The King's Church in Columbia.

Within the first year, our congregation doubled in size. We witnessed nine baptisms in a single year—more than we had seen in the previous five years combined. Today, Harmony is one of the healthiest churches in Pulaski County, a remarkable testimony to God's grace compared to where we were before.

Now, I am not suggesting that partnering with a church plant guarantees growth or numerical success. The Lord alone gives the increase. What I am saying is that when churches commit themselves to the multiplication of the gospel, God often uses that obedience to strengthen and mature the churches involved.

For us, the vision was simple. Our elders and I believed God was calling us to support the multiplication of the gospel. We had already begun pursuing that mission locally, and it became clear that the Lord was leading us to extend that vision beyond our own community.

I believe the churches of Springfield desire the same thing. I believe your church desires the same thing. We all want healthy churches that faithfully proclaim the gospel, make disciples, and obey the Great Commission.

Healthy churches planting healthy churches benefits everyone involved. Sending churches are strengthened. Partner churches are encouraged. New churches are established. Most importantly, Christ is glorified as the gospel advances.

The King's Church does many things differently than I would. Our styles, methods, and preferences are not identical. Yet they are a thriving, healthy church that loves Christ, preaches the gospel, and makes disciples. Their example, testimony, and shared commitment to reaching the lost have challenged and encouraged us to become healthier as well.

You have my word—for whatever that may be worth—that I have no desire to drift in unhealthy directions. I do not intend to veer to the left into charismatic excesses, nor to the right into hyper-Calvinism or legalism. My desire is to plant a healthy, vibrant church that abides in the grace and truth of Jesus Christ.

My goal is to work alongside sending churches, partner churches, and even those who choose not to support this effort, united by a common mission: reaching Springfield with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

If God chooses to bless your church through this partnership, I believe that blessing will ultimately be found not merely in numbers, but in greater faithfulness, deeper discipleship, stronger churches, and more people coming to know Christ.

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