



BECAUSE WE BELIEVE

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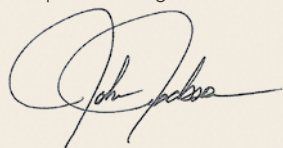
Most everything we do in life we do because there is some level of reward. We go to work because of a sense of accomplishment...and the paycheck helps with the necessities of life. We establish relationships because we feel connected to other people. We participate in a hobby because of the enjoyment we receive from it. We eat for strength...and because we like to eat. Well, you get the picture. Just about everything we do, we do for a motivating reason. For people of faith, Because We Believe...we act in certain ways in our lives as well. We live with a sense that God is involved in our lives, that He is watching our lives, and that He is ultimately going to hold us responsible for the way that we have lived our lives.



*We believe in the amazing
grace of Jesus Christ*

These days at The Gathering, we are living Because We Believe...! This is a call to action. It is a declaration. Many people talk of believing, but never transfer it to action. Our belief demands a response. As a spiritual family, our response is that we are moving forward! Recently, God provided land for us to build a permanent home. Ten beautiful acres in a wonderful location are creating a magnificent future for the awe-inspiring, life-changing ministry He has started in a group of people called The Gathering. As our future becomes clear, we are all going to be called upon to share our resources, our time, our talents, and our gifts to watch the patchwork of what God is pulling together in us. Weekly, I hear stories of how God is changing people's lives. And, I believe, this is only just the beginning. The doors He is opening in the heart of our city, the safety He is creating for broken and wounded people to find hope and healing in renewed relationships with Him are amazing. Because We Believe...we are acting on our past. Because We Believe...we are acting on our future. Because We Believe in our message, our community, and our future, I can't wait to see what is on the other side.

Experiencing Grace,



We believe grace and people can really meet.



OUR JOURNEY

Do you ever really think about what you believe? Do you ever really take the time to think through all the things that are thrown at you on a daily basis and how you respond to them? What you think about things? How you feel? Your world can sometimes be divided into containers: your work, your school, your friends, your church. And how you function and respond in each of those worlds can be different and confusing. Church should be a place where you can find the answers to the issues that life throws at you. A place where you can be free to explore, be loved, welcomed, accepted.

So in November of 2006 a group of people asked the question, "Can a church like that really exist?" The answer was a resounding, "yes!" Jeremiah 29 talks about how God knows the plans He has for us, "plans for hope and a future". Armed with that promise, that group of people set out believing in a goal of creating a church built on the belief in hope, hope for life change, hope for redemption, hope for grace from a God that knows we are not a perfect people. But loved us enough to send His Son for us.



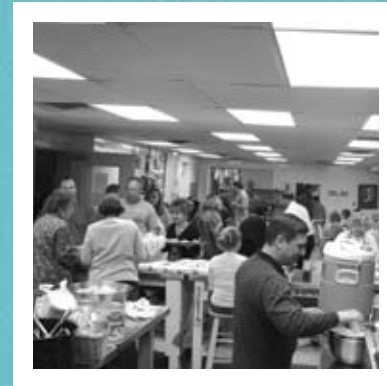
We believe in not doing life alone

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

So that's how we started. Born out of a belief that grace and people REALLY can meet, we set out to create a church where people could be free to come as they are. Broken, hurt, beat down, confused, sick, weak or just plain tired of doing church in the usual plastic way. Caring more about where they are going than where they've been.

So where does The Gathering go from here? We have been totally depending on God for answers. After months of searching, we believe that He has shown us the location of our church home. He is doing some tremendous things, all with a group of totally imperfect people. That is what makes it so wonderful, so miraculous! That is why "We Believe"!

*We believe in where people are going,
not where they have been*




For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

~ Jer 29: 11-13

THE 3 C's

As strange as it may sound, most churches don't know why they exist. Oh, to be sure, there are the pillars of the Christian faith, but somehow, on a practical level, that all just gets muddled in to a confusing mixture of cultural expectations and traditions. Consequently, the church's mission becomes a potpourri of everyone's different perspective of what it is "supposed to be." It is vital for us to know our mission if we are to achieve it with any level of success. Clearly, God has given us an exciting vision. How we carry that vision out, though, is just as important. We want everyone who is a part of The Gathering family to know that we are committed to this mission!



We believe in not playing the game of plastic religion....

CONNECTION

First we want to help people to Connect with God on an authentic basis. This is not about religious conformity or plastic clichés. No, we want people...people far from God, and people who have known Him for decades to move in close for a real, personal, and intimate relationship with Him.

intimate relationship with Him

COMMUNITY

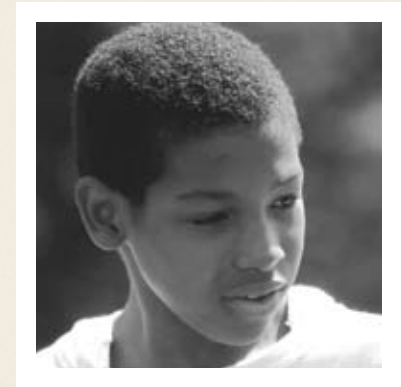
Next, we want to encourage and equip people to move into a Community with Others. We need each other. Yet, for past hurts, broken trust, or personal issues, we tend to keep others at a distance. Real community, though, is the place that God has created for us to experience the journey of life. It is here that we share each other's burdens, victories, and love.

we share each other's burdens, victories, and love

COMPASSION

The third leg of our mission is to share Compassion with our Community. We cannot be obedient to our calling to follow Jesus Christ until we have engaged in genuine action and compassion for the least, the last, and the lost. So, we will seek to be the hands, feet, mouth, ears, and heart of Jesus to a hurting world around us. We must show them that there is a loving Savior who loves them and cares deeply for them.

compassion for the least, the last, and the lost






WHAT WE BELIEVE

Why do we do what we do? And what do we believe? At The Gathering we believe that church should not be an ugly word or a place that people are afraid of. We believe that The Gathering has to be a safe place for people who are far from God, people who Jesus would have hung out with, can come and explore to begin their own journey with Him. And, it is a place where many of us, which have been on this journey with Him for a while, can come and grow and help show others the way.

'Because We Believe' is not just a financial journey, but is a spiritual one as well. We hope to answer some of your questions. Hopefully, we will provoke some conversation with you about what you believe.



*We believe in serving
a living God and being
His hands and feet*

THE ASK

There is no doubt that God is at work at The Gathering. But there is so much more to do. A new church home will help us to open doors to opportunities for life-change in our community, throughout Dayton and the world! Your financial commitment will help us accomplish the mission that we believe God has given us.

We believe everyone has a place in the Kingdom of God...

INVEST: BECAUSE WE BELIEVE

We are asking that you prayerfully consider what your financial commitment will be. We are asking that you give over and above your tithe, which should be 10% of your gross income. Over the next two years, your commitment to Because We Believe will help The Gathering continue to move forward Because We Believe in our mission, our future and our eternity! Please fill out the tear-off pledge card and choose your commitment level.





OUR SHARED COMMITMENT

Because We Believe is so vital to the life of The Gathering, our Board and Management Team members have led the way in this effort. This group of amazing men has personally committed \$65,000. In addition, many of them have personally signed \$100,000 lines of credit to guarantee this effort to our bank! Talk about Believing! We say it again; they are an amazing group of men!

Here is the need that is left before us: our goal is \$1,000,000 \$300,000 in cash

- This will enable us to use that to secure a traditional mortgage note.
- This cash gift can come in many forms, multiple gifts or even an interest- free loan.

\$700,000 in pledges for the next 2 years

- This will secure the amount needed from the bank which will allow us to continue to build our church home to our current plan.

This may seem like a lot – it is a lot! Here’s what this really means – we all have to contribute! The beauty of this is that we all are making this journey together. There is no sacrifice that is too insignificant, no gift too small. Every gift counts.

CREATIVE IDEAS FOR GIVING

If a cash gift is not an option right now, consider these ideas:

- Stock Certificates
- Mutual Funds
- Securities held in brokerage account

Any of the above are accepted through The Gathering’s fund at the Dayton Foundation, You can also give electronically (debit card or ACH) through www.e-giving.org.

THE JOURNEY BEGINS

Because we believe in our message our new home will be more than a building of concrete and steel. It will be a place of hope and healing, a place with real people who are consumed with pointing others toward a loving Savior. But we won't be restricted by its four walls. Make no mistake about that. God is about people, not about buildings. His amazing love and grace will not be contained in a building. Our new home will simply be a starting place for a life- changing-ministry of a people called The Gathering. The journey begins.... Because We Believe...



The Gathering
where grace & people meet

www.thegatheringdayton.org