



LEONARDTOWN BAPTIST CHURCH
QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION
May 27 and May 31
SUMMARY OF QUESTIONS ADDRESSED

1. Why are we doing this?

Because Jesus called us to. He said, “lift up your eyes and look on their fields that they are white for harvest.” What was true 2000 years ago is still true today. The fields are ripe for harvest, and we are called to go and gather in that harvest. There are a number of ways that churches do this, but we believe the multi-site strategy is the most effective means to accomplish it. In fact, the surveys that were completed asked that very question and the vast majority indicated they either agreed or strongly agreed that multi-site helps us fulfill the Great Commission. It enables us to grow the kingdom of God, yet retain the closeness of a smaller group. One of the struggles that many people have is the sense of a loss of community in a larger church. The multi-site approach enables us to better retain that closeness, that “family feel,” in the group with which we’re involved, yet at the same time it recognizes the call to reach others and bring them into the kingdom and the church. Thus, multi-site enables the paradox of growing larger while remaining smaller. In addition, it avoids some of the pitfalls of the typical church plant. Because it remains closely tied to an established and successful body it has the availability of resources that most church plants do not have.

2. What / When / Who – What is the plan? When will we start? Who will be the Pastor? What will the format be?

All excellent questions. In brief:

- A. September 2009 – We will begin a service in the CLC at 11:15 utilizing existing LBC Bible Fellowships and nurseries. The service will have live music and live preaching (Pastor John).
- B. January, 2010 – We will take that group and transplant to a new location. At this point the new site will begin providing its own Bible Fellowships and nurseries.
- C. Pastor John will be serving as the campus pastor. This doesn’t mean that he is the senior pastor of the new site. He is still an Associate Pastor of LBC. Pastor Mark is still the senior pastor of LBC. Pastor John will be shifting his responsibilities by preaching, most frequently, at the new site. He will also preach periodically at the main campus. Pastor Mark will preach periodically at the new campus. In addition, Pastor Allen will also be preaching from time to time.
- D. The planned format for the worship services is to be similar to what LBC is like now. We will have a worship team that will lead the group in quality worship and we expect that the atmosphere will be much as it is now relative to dress. In the future, that may vary at other sites depending upon where those sites are and the group of people we are trying to reach, but for this first off-site campus, we anticipate the atmosphere being very similar to what it is like at LBC currently.

3. Where will the new site be?

The location is still being determined. Specific criteria are being utilized in the selection of the site. These criteria can be found online and include:

- 1.) Location – Near a sufficient number of people to be reached.
- 2.) Facility - Having a major roadside view; a multi-purpose room and appropriate classroom areas; restrooms; sufficient on-site parking; and being appropriate for church space.
- 3.) Availability – Is the site available when we need it?
- 4.) Cost – Not to exceed \$1000 per week.
- 5.) Reliability - Available a minimum of 50 Sunday mornings per year with the potential to be available at least one week night eventually.

We are planning for the first site to be toward the southern end of the county, in the midst of a large population base. As noted in the preliminary motion, the groups bringing this recommendation (consisting of approximately 40 people) will continue to investigate potential sites and be tasked with selecting the meeting site by mid-August.

4. What about the impact on nearby churches, especially nearby SBC churches?

We believe that impact will be either minimal or non-existent. A few folks have asked about this, however, we believe this is a concern based more in perception than in reality. New churches are started regularly and they typically do not impact area churches. Other local churches have been started in the Leonardtown area with no impact on LBC. The goal in this effort is not to reach other church members anyway. It is to reach the unchurched. Churches have different DNAs and unique atmospheres that draw people to them. Just because a new work begins nearby an existing church does not mean people are going to leave their church and go to that new work. As far as the other SBC churches in St. Mary's county, both of the other pastors are aware of our efforts and know we are not seeking to take members from them. In fact, if folks from other SBC churches come to the new site out of curiosity they will be encouraged to return to their church and be faithful to them.

5. How many people are we planning to be a part of this new site? Are people expected to stay at that site or eventually be able to come back to our current campus?

Ideally we would like 80-100 to go initially. We believe this is a good number to begin a viable work. A core group to fill key leadership positions will be asked to commit to make this new site their Sunday morning worship site. As that site grows, our goal is for it to reach a point where, along with our existing campus, we can eventually start another site using people from both campuses. Our goal is for people to be committed to the campus where they attend and serve. Obviously nobody would be forbidden to come back to the current campus or beginning to attend the off-site campus if they don't go initially, but we will be encouraging folks to remain committed to the campus where they feel the Lord has placed them to serve.

6. Is this a "site" or a "plant"?

In reality, all "sites" will be with a view toward a "plant." Our long range goal is to saturate St. Mary's county with the gospel. This will require more than one site and many more churches than currently exist. We envision some of the "sites" remaining under the LBC banner. However, some of the sites will eventually be able to be self-sustaining and could become independent, autonomous congregations. At that point they may be "planted" as their own congregation; however, we would likely continue to have a close camaraderie as we work

closely with them to continue to reach St. Mary's county. Whether a site becomes its own plant is a decision that LBC would make at an appropriate time.

7. How will we maintain unity between the sites?

Much as we do now to have unity in one church with two services. We make specific plans for times to be together – whether that is fellowship dinners, church picnics, etc. In fact, one thing we are looking to do is to move baptism services back to special Sunday night services, which we did years ago. This will enable people to come together for a special time of worship no matter which service they attend, or which site they attend. We also need to understand that “unity” does not mean “knowing everybody.” Sometimes we confuse the two. In a church the size of LBC we will never know everybody. But we can have unity as we all gather around the same Savior, the same mission, and the same vision. And we can make intentional efforts like those mentioned above to help in bringing all the groups together.

8. How will this be funded?

The Stewardship committee has established an “Expansion Fund” that people can give to now. We've been blessed with approximately \$30,000 that has already been given toward this effort. These funds will be used to purchase needed items for the new site. Ongoing costs such as rent, materials, etc. will be figured into the budget for the new year. The site will be an arm of LBC, so all offerings received at the site will support the LBC budget and, likewise, the LBC budget will support the operations of the site.

9. Will we need additional pastors?

Yes, eventually. We anticipate that with the first site we will be able to cover the need with our three existing pastors. As we progress and grow, however, we anticipate having the resources to provide for an additional pastor. This will be done, ideally, at the point in time that we are preparing to launch a third site.

10. How will we meet the need for additional volunteer positions at the new site when we often seem to be short at our current site?

This is an excellent question and valid concern. Many times we become comfortable with how things are going at church and do not see the need to step forward and serve. Also, we often make the assumption that because there are a larger number of people who attend then all the needs must be met. Even talking about this move to multi-site has helped people to see the need to step up and serve. We will be asking people prior to making this move to agree to fill the needed positions of service such as: Bible study teachers, ushers, worship leaders, greeters, set-up crew, multi-media workers, etc. In addition, a number of folks have already indicated on their survey that they would be willing to step into roles of service, both at the new site and at the existing site.