

*“So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;  
it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish  
that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the  
thing for which I sent it.” (Isaiah 55:11)*

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Advancing the Gospel in *Cincinnati*

Lay Ministry &  
*MNA SecondCareer*





Mission to North America  
Presbyterian Church in America

1700 N. Brown Road, Suite 101  
Lawrenceville GA 30043  
T: 678.825.1200 • F: 678.825.1201  
[www.pcamna.org](http://www.pcamna.org)

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## From the Coordinator

*You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. (Matthew 5:14)*



Dear Friend,

Most of the church planters included in this issue of *Multiply* did not realize that they wanted to pursue church planting until they experienced firsthand what it takes to launch a new church. Whether already in ministry at the time, or participating as core group members, they each spoke of being drawn by the excitement and energy that comes along

with spreading the Gospel in such a direct way. As they worked alongside experienced church planters raising support, meeting neighbors and investing themselves in the community, each of these men was led by example and encouraged to pursue the Lord's calling according to the gifts God has given him.

For this reason alone, it's important for laypeople to be exposed to the ins and outs of church planting. You never know what the Lord might lay on your heart. In addition, laypeople are often called by God to the kind of crucial roles in church planting that only laypeople can fill. MNA SecondCareer helps laypeople and potential ministries make this connection.

In this issue, we feature a vibrant church planting network established by North Cincinnati Community Church in Mason OH, which has grown rapidly over the past eight years. Led by their church planting pastor Walter Wood and lay coordinator Dick Fenstermacher, the network has helped launch six new churches in the Cincinnati area while also sending church planters to Arizona and Alabama. These new churches draw people from all walks of life to encounter the Gospel of Jesus Christ. NCCC's focus on relationally driven ministry and a supportive leadership style paves the way for the Gospel to go forth. You'll also learn about MNA SecondCareer, a program connecting workers and volunteers with opportunities to serve church plants across the nation in many different capacities.

As always, I'm thankful for your prayerful support of MNA. Through your prayers, God is drawing people from every walk of life out of darkness and into the light. Please continue to pray for PCA churches across North America as they hold out hope to the lost, bringing the love of Christ to their own communities.

In His name,  
Jim Bland, MNA Coordinator



# Lay Ministry & MNA SecondCareer



Church Planting Team Leader Dick Fenstermacher ▲



“We’re called to be faithful — not called to be remembered,” says Dick Fenstermacher, a former Ford Motor executive and director of the Church Planting Team at North Cincinnati Community Church. Before moving to Ohio eight years ago, Dick helped plant Lake Oconee Presbyterian Church in Georgia, serving as a ruling elder. Dick recalls a recent visit to the now-thriving church. “Someone came up to us and asked, ‘Is this your first time visiting?’” he chuckles. “That was a hoot for me.”

At NCCC Dick has a unique vantage point. “When we moved to Cincinnati, my wife and I wanted to be part of a church with a vision for church planting,” he says. “I believe it’s the most effective means of evangelism. We found that NCCC’s session already had a vision to plant 10 churches in 15 years. What’s exciting to me is that the commitment is there. It’s not just another vision — the pastor himself models it. It’s a joy to be a part of it.”

Dick provides leadership for NCCC’s Church Planting Team, which gives oversight to the logistical, administrative, financial and legal aspects of planting a church. They facilitate every aspect of the church planter’s move into the area. The involvement of lay leaders like Dick is crucial to this task. “It’s a joy to be a part of taking the Gospel to the world,” he says. “I look at the other team members and they have giftedness that I don’t have. You just serve in the area for which you’re suited. People have to understand what their special gift is and where they can be effective disciples as the body of Christ works together.”

“When I first became a believer,” Dick admits, “I was reluctant to share my faith openly in the way I wanted to. But reading the Great Commission where Jesus says, ‘All authority has been given to you,’ I thought, ‘Wow, it doesn’t get any better than that.’ That gave me the confidence to begin sharing my testimony around the country.” Dick hopes to encourage others to do the same.

Currently there are about 250 mission churches across the PCA. MNA SecondCareer connects laypeople with these and other ministries that could best use their unique talents. “The reason we’re doing all of this is to reach the lost,” observes Dick. “For me, that’s where it really begins.”

**For more information, visit [pcamna.org/second-career](http://pcamna.org/second-career).**

## Trinity Presbyterian Church



From left to right: Chuck Hickey; Craig Speicher; church member Rick Paffrath; church member Daniel Hickey

Trinity Presbyterian in Ludlow KY (Cincinnati Metro area) began as a Bible study in 2004, led by an elder at Church of the Covenant in Cincinnati. From a background in law and business, Chuck Hickey completed his seminary education by distance learning and was called as a church planter. Earlier this year, Trinity was blessed with the opportunity to buy a church building constructed by the Roman Catholic Church in the late 1800s. The building serves not only as a meeting place, but gives a community focus for ministry to church members who have been largely commuting. Currently working as a defense contractor, session member Craig Speicher is licensed to preach and working toward ordination as an associate pastor. In her short history as a church, Trinity has already been instrumental in the launch of another mission church, Grace Fellowship in Middlesboro KY, led by former Navy Chaplain Don Aven.





# Advancing the Gospel in Cincinnati

Over the past eight years, North Cincinnati Community Church has successfully launched five mission churches in the Cincinnati area, in addition to mentoring church planters serving in Troy OH, Tempe AZ and Huntsville AL. These new works have grown from a strong desire to see the Kingdom of God grow through the most effective means of evangelism — the planting of new churches. Led by founder and senior pastor Walter Wood, Jr., and supported by a church planting network of pastors and lay leaders, NCCC hopes to plant ten more over the next two decades.

## A Network that Connects & Equips Leaders

Originally from Alabama, Walter long felt the call to open up new avenues for Gospel ministry. He worked with Campus Crusade as well as Perimeter Church in Atlanta GA. Mentored by PCA Pastors Frank Barker and Randy Pope, Walter is the type of pastor who inspires and equips those around him to use their gifts to draw people to Christ. “Walter is an eminently disciplined man with a robust devotional life,” says Marc Champagne, associate pastor at NCCC and church planter of Redeemer Church in Mason. “His spiritual steadiness undergirds much of what we might call ‘success.’”

While Walter’s leadership guides the efforts of NCCC’s church planters, an equally crucial key to their success has been the development of an effective church



William Plott, planting in Huntsville AL, participates in leadership with the Cahaba Park Church Planting Center in Birmingham. Others in the leadership group include (front row, left to right) Hunter Brewer, Tom Saxon, James Dickson, Ben Carmichael. (back row, left to right) Jonathan Shuggart, Chris Peters, Murray Lee, William Plott.

planting network. Headed by layman Dick Fenstermacher, this group provides logistical oversight, a monthly prayer meeting open to area pastors, and a church planters forum led by Walter.

“It all began four years ago,” says Walter, “when one of our area pastors, Glenn Durham, initiated a monthly prayer meeting for PCA pastors in the city. We began praying together, which drew us closer together. We’re sharing prayer requests, talking about new churches, and bringing in church planters, which provided the beginning stages of the network.” The forum is composed of area church planters who meet once a month for discussion and prayer. “We’re just trying to learn and grow. It’s a learning community as well as a fellowship and prayer community,” says Walter.

The road has not always been easy. Their first church plant did not work out, for various reasons. “It was a good experience



for us, overall,” Walter comments. “We learned a lot from it. I didn’t give the church planter enough attention,” he says, “and so now I remind leaders to pay attention to their people. Your people must own your vision and embrace it for themselves. They want to be led, and you’ve got to make sure the people are with you.”

This careful attention is exemplary of the whole network. Joshua Reitano, who was formerly on staff at NCCC as a youth minister, began New City Presbyterian in 2009. New City is located in the more urban setting of Oakley and attracts a lot

*Advancing God’s Kingdom is always on the radar; it’s always what we’re talking about.”*

*-Joshua Reitano, New City Presbyterian*







*“We have a method and we train people in sharing the Gospel,” says Walter. “In Cincinnati, there are a lot of people who call themselves Christian, but there’s a great need for Christ, for the Gospel.”*

*-Walter Wood, North Cincinnati Community Church*



Hannah Feng (left) and Faith Bentley (right), Redeemer Church, Mason OH

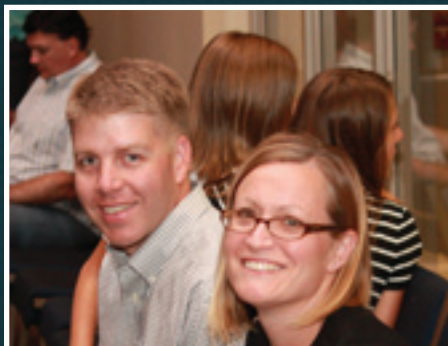
of young people. Joshua says that the church planting network cultivates an environment of inspiration, encouragement and support. “Like they say, things are often more caught than taught,” says Joshua. “But I think it’s probably both. I had the benefit of working for six years alongside Walter and the folks at North Cincinnati. Even when I wasn’t consciously thinking about what the church plant would look like, I was picking up things just by working with great people.” Joshua continues, “Some of it was just time and preparation and rubbing shoulders with these guys and being in a church culture focused on church planting. Advancing God’s Kingdom is always on the radar; it’s always what we’re talking about.”

## Evangelism & Outreach

“We have a method and we train people in sharing the Gospel,” says Walter. “In Cincinnati, there are a lot of people who

call themselves Christian, but there’s a great need for Christ, for the Gospel.”

“People get involved in a Bible study or small group, and they come to Christ,” he continues. “We proclaim the Gospel in word and deed. We live it, and we share our faith.” This guiding principle of “being the city on the hill,” a metaphor taken from Matthew 5:14 for how the church holds out hope for the community, guides each church plant, even though every particular community looks different.



Chad and Erin Grindstaff, Living Hope PCA, Fairfield OH

Joshua adds, “One of the most important things that I’ve learned from my time at NCCC is to view preaching as a way not just to speak to the church, but to speak to the community. We try to speak as if the community is listening in. That creates a dynamic where folks feel like they can bring their friends.” It may seem like a small point of distinction, but this preaching emphasis has resulted in unchurched people regularly attending worship services at New City.

## Focusing on the Multiethnic Community

Marc Champagne is another church planter who is naturally drawn toward people from different cultures. Walter and others encouraged Marc to plant a church in the area. As he began interacting with Chinese and Indian leaders in the community, he and his family began meeting weekly with a group of Indonesian, African American, Chinese, Indian, and Caucasian families for fellowship and prayer. They found guidance and inspiration in Mark DeYmaz’s book, *Building a Healthy Multi-Ethnic Church*. “Churches should reflect their communities,” says Marc, “and most urban and suburban communities are no longer homogenous units.”

Mason City Schools offer Hindi and Mandarin classes as well as an excellent TESOL program, which draws a lot of internationals to the area. “Most of the international population in our area is Indian and Chinese, and that is reflected in the mix of first and second generation Asians we have in our church,” says Marc.

Redeemer Church has hosted two international dinners, which were attended by families from nearly twenty nations. “We want to create a space for those who have



Marc Champagne, Redeemer Church, Mason OH





North Cincinnati Community Church ▲  
Lee Veazey (left) welcomes a visitor to Grace  
and Peace Presbyterian, Covington KY. ►



encouraging thing to watch this come together,” says Lee, “but it’s also been a real challenge, because people who don’t normally associate with one another are learning to love people they wouldn’t naturally be attracted to. That’s the beauty of it. The Gospel goes out to all indiscriminately. The Gospel is what unites us.” This is the vision of NCCC leadership — a metro area filled with churches who serve their communities and proclaim Christ.

never had exposure to the Gospel to dialogue with Christ and His followers,” says Marc. “We’ve also met with school leaders to confirm the need to provide English classes and transportation or assimilation help for immigrants. We are planning a door-to-door survey effort to learn more about our community and to offer prayer, modeled after a well-received approach by World Harvest Mission to the South Asian population in London.”

As Marc’s family has grown to love their community, the response has been encouraging. “Our Indian friends across the street told us a few weeks ago that we are the only friends they have in the city — and they’ve been here for two years.”

Part of what makes NCCC stand out is how the congregants have responded to leadership and over time incorporated the focus of the church into their daily lives. “It’s a congregation committed to the Kingdom,” observes Marc. “NCCC has succeeded because the people in the pew have either bought into the vision or are

longsuffering enough to sustain the hard realities of changing dynamics. They are willing to endure the harder parts of being a mission and not just a home.”

Across the Ohio River on the Kentucky side of the Cincinnati metro area, . Lee Veazey, pastor of Grace & Peace Presbyterian Church, also emphasizes the call to minister among those whom God brings into your community. “I knew nothing about walking by faith until I became a church planter,” he laughs. Among those who participate at Grace & Peace, a number are unchurched or dechurched. “It has been such a deeply



Walter Wood (top left); NCCC send-off for Marc and Jill Champagne (right) and their children (left to right) Noelle, Micah, Noah, and Sophia.

### Church Planters with whom NCCC has had a mentoring and supporting role:

- New City Presbyterian Church in Oakley OH – Pastor Joshua Reitano
- The Oaks Community Church in Middletown OH – Pastor Bryan Lopina
- Grace & Peace Presbyterian Church in Covington KY – Pastor Lee Veazey
- Living Hope Presbyterian Church in Fairfield Township OH – Pastor Chad Grindstaff
- Redeemer Church in Mason OH – Pastor Marc Champagne
- Valley Presbyterian Church in Madison AL – Pastor William Plott
- New Valley Presbyterian Church in Tempe AZ – Pastor Scott Brown

For more information, visit [northcincy.org](http://northcincy.org).



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