



THE COLUMBIA, MD CHURCH PLANT (PCA)

Columbia, MD: It's All Here, Now

The Columbia, MD Church Plant exists to see the diverse people and institutions of Columbia captivated and compelled by the hope and beauty of Christ.

Jesus says to all those who are weary and burdened: "I am your rest".

NewTown desires to lead people to that rest.

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COMMUNITY IS STRONG

Columbia, MD is one of the first planned communities in the United States and the leadership has intentionally fostered a strong community throughout its 37 years in existence. In the trade mark statement "Columbia, MD, It's All Here, Now," Columbia prides itself in providing you more in a home and a community than any other town its size.

Moreover, one of Columbia's founding principles was to promote diversity among its residents. In fact, the community's symbol—the People Tree—celebrates the reality that the people of Columbia come from all walks of life and are joined in the community, which fosters their growth and well-being.

BELIEF IS WEAK

Most of the 97,000 people in Columbia do not attend church. They are heavily influenced by New Age philosophies, universalism and secularism. This belief system affects life materially,

relationally, politically, culturally, and morally.

WHY COLUMBIA?

Columbia is right in the middle of the fourth largest job market in the country, providing easy access to major employment centers in Washington, Baltimore, Annapolis, and Columbia.

Columbia is projected to grow by 9.1% and faster than the entire U.S. population (5.3%).

Columbia boasts an extremely high racial/ethnic diversity. African American and Asians are the fastest growing groups.

The people of Columbia place a high concern on time for recreation, satisfying job/career, aging parent care, finding life direction, social injustice, and long-term financial security.

Therefore, the Gospel of Jesus must be present here, humbly yet boldly, to foster real community, to provide lasting security and to positively influence our culture.

Gospel Centrality

OUR VISION

We believe that God has called us to be a diverse community of worshippers who, gripped by the gospel of grace, consistently reach out to bring hope and freedom to the diverse people of the Columbia area. As part of this vision, we desire to impact all who come (skeptic, seeker, or follower) to become free as they live as God's instrument of love, mercy, and justice.

We are a church that loves and is committed to the Columbia area. We will always strive to welcome and include everyone who visits.

OUR MISSION

**Becoming a Diverse Community,
Serving a Diverse Community with
the Hope and Beauty of Jesus
Christ.**

OUR VALUES

- **Worship** –We value our freedom to corporately worship the Living and Ruling God in Three Persons— Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—for it is in the Gospel of Jesus Christ that we are made acceptable to worship God! Therefore, we will strive to be God-honoring and culturally relevant in all we do as it relates to our worship.
- **Community** – We value our freedom to pursue honest and authentic relationships for it is in the Gospel of Jesus Christ that we are free to love others!

Therefore, we will be a church of small groups. Small groups are central to who we are, how we grow in our faith journey and how we lovingly serve one another in the church and our local community.

- **Reconciliation** – We value our freedom to pursue racial, cultural, gender, socioeconomic and generational reconciliation for it is in the Gospel of Jesus Christ that we are thoroughly reconciled with God and with one another. Therefore, we will prioritize and invest our very lives to reconciliation that is empowered by the Gospel of Jesus Christ who has come to break down the dividing walls of all kinds of tensions and divisions.
- **Mercy** – We value our freedom to show compassion to those who are spiritually and physically in need for it is in the Gospel of Jesus Christ that daily shows us that we are in need and receive much mercy. Therefore, we will prioritize and invest in Mercy Ministry.
- **Culture** – We value our freedom to winsomely and creatively influence and impact the culture for it is in the Gospel of Jesus Christ that not only our lives are changed but whole communities! Therefore, we are a church committed to engaging and edifying “every square inch” of the Columbia culture.

Leadership

Our church with its partners seeks to start churches in the Baltimore and Washington DC area.

All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. (2 Cor. 5:18-19)

CHURCH PLANTER PROFILE

Jeff and Val Rickett have been part of the Presbyterian Church in America since 1992. In that year, they started attending Chapelgate Presbyterian Church in Howard County. In 1994, Jeff and Val moved to St. Louis, MO to attend Covenant Theological Seminary. While in St. Louis, they helped a core group to plant a church in the inner city of St. Louis.

Upon graduation, they returned to Chapelgate until 2001 where Jeff was Associate Pastor, specializing in small groups and pastoral care. He also served as the pastor of small groups at Broadneck Evangelical Presbyterian Church near Annapolis, MD. Before being called to the pastoral ministry, Jeff served in the banking industry for nine years and Val taught for 12 years.

Jeff and Val have two living children: Samuel and Amanda Grace.

PARTNERS: PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA AND THE CHESAPEAKE PRESBYTERY

This project is affiliated with two organizations: The Chesapeake Presbytery which includes churches in the Baltimore and Annapolis area and Mission to North America of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA).

Chesapeake Presbytery plants churches in the Baltimore/Washington DC area. Mission to North America recruits, assesses, trains and supervises church planters to establish PCA churches. Jeff and Val have been assessed and approved for church planting.

We will be a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America, a denomination with historic roots in classic biblical Christianity, reaching the United States and Canada, with missionaries throughout the world.

How You Can Get Involved

THE FINANCIAL CHALLENGE

Columbia, MD is a very wealthy and expensive place to live in America. However, most of the population is struggling under debt, even though salaries are comparatively high. The average salary is around \$93,000. Our goal is to raise enough funds to begin a church even if congregational giving is low. As well, we plan to start with a multiple paid staff in order to model our goal of diversity. As the congregation grows, we hope this church would become a major source of church planting funds in the future.

PARTNERING GOALS FOR THE COLUMBIA, MD CHURCH PLANT

We seek Partnering Churches and individuals to reach these goals:

<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>	<u>Year 3</u>	<u>Year 4</u>	<u>Total</u>
\$96,000	\$160,500	\$198,000	\$210,000	\$664,500

How this Goal may be reached:

2 Presbyteries giving combined	\$ 57,500
4 churches/Individuals giving \$50,000 each,	\$200,000
6 Churches/Individuals giving \$25,000 each,	\$150,000
Other	<u>\$257,000</u>
Total	\$664,500

**THIS SUPPORT MAY BE GIVEN OR PLEDGED
OVER A 4 YEAR PERIOD.**

PROJECT TIMELINE

Year 1, 2005 - Jeff and Val moved to the area in April 2005. Contact with neighbors and building relationships has begun with a hope to start three small groups by the Fall. Since February, the core group has been meeting Sunday nights and consist of a diverse group of 12-15 adults. We are hosting monthly summer picnics at a public lake in Columbia.

Year 2, 2006 – Weekly services will begin early 2006 assuming God has gathered 50 or more people. Small groups will expand and lay leadership will be developed.

JOIN OUR PRAYER TEAM

We seek people who will support this project in prayer. Our prayer team receives regular updates by email. Let us know if you want to join our prayer team by calling us or emailing us at:

jeff@newtownchurch.net.

SEND CONTACTS AND REFERRALS

If you have family members or friends in the Columbia area, feel free to refer them to us. Or, drop us a note at: jeff@newtownchurch.net. We'd be glad to contact them!

SUPPORT FINANCIALLY

We seek financial support at several levels.

- Flagship Supporters
four churches or individuals giving \$50,000 each
- Mission Supporters
At least eight churches and individuals giving \$10,000-50,000
- Personal Supporters
individuals giving whatever they are able.

We welcome regular giving that is spread out over the full four years or over a shorter time period as you feel led. One time gifts will be helpful to cover startup expenses.

Contributions may be sent to Mission to North America, designated for the Columbia, MD Church Plant.