

General Instructions: Fill out this application form and send it with your membership fee to the FELLOWSHIP OF GRACE BRETHREN CHURCHES, P.O. Box 386, WINONA LAKE, IN 46590. The deadline for application is January 1st in order to be considered in the following annual conference. If you wish to request an extension of this deadline, include a letter of reference from a cooperating district missions board, a sponsoring church that is already a member of the FGBC, or Grace Brethren North American Missions.

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Official Name of Church  
Life Spring Church

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Church Mailing Address  
1031 E Harris St

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City	ST	Zip
Brownsburg	Ind	46112

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Phone	Email
317-858-5483	pigabriel@aol.com

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Meeting Place  
.Firer Territory Conference  
Center

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Pastor or principle leader  
Philip J. Gabriel

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Address  
Same as above

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City	State	Zip
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Phone	Email
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Has your church joined a cooperating district? If so, which one and when?

Currently talking with Tom Avey and Ron Boehm. Tom Avey suggested we submit application first Please review the Constitution and Manual of Procedure for the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches. Note carefully ARTICLE III and ARTICLE IV of the Constitution and ARTICLE I of the Manual of Procedure which deal with the membership requirements new FGBC churches are to meet.

How did your local church take official action to subscribe to the Covenant and Statement of Faith as found in Article III of the Constitution of the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches, Inc.?

Official action was taken by elder consensus in November 2007

List the present responsible officers of the congregation with titles:

Philip J Gabriel—pastor/elder  
Mark Stergar—elder in training  
Michael Dotlich—elder in training

John Modafferi—elder in training

How will you identify your affiliation with the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches? (ie: on a church sign, letterhead, church bulletin, etc).

It will be identified on a church bulletin—we have no permanent sign at this time.

Describe your practice of Triune Immersion and the Threefold Communion Service

As of this date we have not performed triune immersion—but when new converts come we have been granted permission to use Eagle Creek GBC. We will participate in threefold communion service on a quarterly basis and on the months off the “bread and cup” on a monthly basis

In seeking membership in the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches, does your church recognize the obligation of mutual encouragement and cooperation with other congregations and agree to fulfill the membership requirements as stated in the Constitution and Manual of Procedure?

Yes

How many members do you presently have? \_\_\_\_\_

We have no formal membership as of yet, but currently 50-60 coming

Check received on 12/7/07, check 1044 for 100.00

## **Project Overview for Life Spring Church, Brownsburg, Indiana**

In an area where communities expand and population bases grow it would tend to give one the impression that the Gospel must be growing at the same rate. However, upon further research you find that is not the case. If anything, the sharing of the Gospel and people coming to Christ has steadily spiraled downward in this bedroom community of Indianapolis. Through the leading of God and the establishment of new churches our prayer is that we will be used by Him to reach this community for Christ.

### **BIG PICTURE**

Brownsburg, Indiana is in the second fastest growing county in the state of Indiana, and the 53<sup>rd</sup> fastest growing county in the nation. Here are some notable statistics concerning Brownsburg:

#### **Annual Growth Rate**

- \* 2000 Population 59,449
- \* 2006 Population 69,930
- \* 2011 Population 78,429 estimated

#### **Households With Children**

*Brownsburg* 41.2% vs. *USA* 33.4%

#### **Adult Age Groups in 2006**

<i>Brownsburg</i>	<i>USA</i>
Age 15-34 (Busters) 34.3%	34.7%
Age 35-54 (Boomers) 41.4%	36.4%
Age 55 or more (Builders) 24.4%	28.9%

#### **Housing Types**

<i>Brownsburg</i>	<i>USA</i>
Individual Houses 81.3%	60.3%
Houses Built in 1990's-41.4%	17.0%

#### **Education Levels**

<i>Brownsburg</i>	<i>USA</i>
Less than High School-8.1%	19.6%
Bachelor's Degree or More-32.3%	24.4%

#### **Average Household Income**

<i>Brownsburg</i>	<i>USA</i>
\$78,143	\$54,814

(Demographics by Church of the Nazarene)

**Summary:** Brownsburg is an upper-middle class area with a higher concentration of Baby Boomers and has witnessed an explosion of new home starts in the 1990's. This rapid expansion continues has remained steady at the same rate up to 2007.

## **SPIRITUAL CONDITION**

The spiritual climate of Hendricks County and the town of Brownsburg, Indiana has been described by other church planters as “hard ground”. The term “hard ground” is supported by the following statistics:

- 56.8% of county population based on a 2000 survey of 149 denominational groups is unregenerate.
- Only 20% of people attend an evangelical church on a Sunday morning.
- Assembly of God and Independent Christian Churches had an overall increase in membership of 46.3% from 1990-2000.
- Lutheran-Missouri Synod, Church of God-Anderson, and Southern Baptist Convention experienced a 41.1% to 77.6% decline in membership.

(Association of Religion Data Archives)

In Addition: Brownsburg is made up of 2 mega-churches of which one, Bethesda Baptist has been disintegrating over the last five years from a Sunday worship attendance of nearly 2,000 to just recently around 500 people. Other church planters have detected a spiritual shallowness even though people may claim a church affiliation.

**Summary:** Hendricks County remains a vast wasteland of unsaved individuals, not enough evangelical churches to support the evangelization and growth of the county, and a parched soil even amongst the churches that are in desperate need of revival and renewal. If we are to saturate our area with spiritually healthy churches that implement personal and community transformation, we will need one vital church for ever 1,000 people. With only 18 evangelical churches the need is great, and we must start new churches to effectively reach the lost and disciple the flock.

## **NEED**

Why plant a church? The need is overwhelming because of a rapidly growing population, the migration of people moving from Indianapolis to the suburb of Brownsburg, a desperate spiritual climate, a high percentage of unchurched and unreached, and inadequate church leadership that has brought distrust to the people. That is the need for this city and for the population as it continues to move west, but there is also a great need to return and claim new area in metropolitan Indianapolis as the church vacates the areas that it once held

## **THE CALL**

I, Phil Gabriel, came to Christ as a young 10 year old boy at a revival service in my Baptist Church in Kokomo, Indiana. I was raised in the church with good moral parents, but never understood what it meant to be a Christian. It wasn't until age 28, that I came to full knowledge of the Lord of my life and His desire for me.

Through God's miraculous guidance and timing, I sensed the call to ministry the following year and worked for two years in my local church setting, and then perceived the need for formal education. It was at this time I attended and graduated from Moody Bible Institute.

## **MINISTRY EXPERIENCE**

Since the call to full-time service, I have been able to do many different ministries. I came to Indianapolis and worked for WXIR-WBRI Christian radio with a daily hour and a half talk show called “Christian Focus” focusing on the needs of the Christian family. While at the radio station, U.S. Senator Dan Coats-IN asked me to be a part of his staff in Indiana. I was privileged to head his Cultural Conservative and Religious Affairs and represented this born-again senator to his constituency. The possibility following his re-election in 1992 to go to Washington, D.C was turned down by me because of a growing family and the demanding hours needed to serve.

Over the next few years I wanted to begin to preach and pastor, so I was a bivocational pastor of two small United Methodist Churches in Decatur County, served a 1 year interim pastorate for a large Disciples of Christ Church, and led a new church plant in Greensburg, Indiana, while serving as National Trade Sales Manager with Gospel Light/Regal Books.

I later was hired on the staff of Brownsburg Christian Church, a mega-church of over 3,000 people and served in various positions, Christian Education pastor, Small Groups pastor, Outreach pastor, and finished my ministry as Pastoral Care minister.

Following my ministry at Brownsburg Christian Church, I was CEO of a small communications company for a year....but had refused to follow the call to plant a new church for over 4 years. The reason I had refused to answer this call was because in my short time of ministry I witnessed several church splits, politics not the things of the Lord, authoritarian pastors who viewed the church as theirs, and the over programming of God’s people, and the deteriorating maturity and transformation of His people It wasn’t until God reaffirmed to me and I responded that He had prepared me for such a time as this.

## **CALL TO CITY**

I have lived in Brownsburg off and on for over 17 years. I have many connections with families through ministry over the years. Having several years of history gives me a perspective that many NEW church planters do not have, and that is the direction the city and county seem to be headed. I am not sure that it is any different than other cities in the United States, but I have a deep love for His people here in Brownsburg.

## **CORE VALUES of Life Spring Church**

1. We value the power of prayer and becoming a church of prayer. (Matt 21:13,22; Acts 1:14; 2:42; Philippians 4:6; I Timothy 2:8)
2. We value proclaiming the authority of God's Word without apology. (2 Tim. 4:1-5; Hebrews 4:12.)
3. We value lifting high the name of Jesus in personal and corporate worship. (Mark 12:30; John 4:23-24; John 12:32)
4. We value the demonstration of biblical community through Christ's love and fellowship. (Acts 2:42; 44-46)\_
5. We value sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ. (Matt 9:36-38; Romans 1:16; Ephesians 6:19-20)
6. We value that believers are to have an intimate and growing relationship with Christ. (Luke 14:26-33; Hebrews 5:11-14; James 1:4)

## **OUR VISION**

We envision Life Spring Church as becoming a Northwest 'tent peg' around a greater vision for the Indianapolis area and becoming the recruiting, training and sending station to **develop new spiritual communities** in Brownsburg, and in Hendricks County, and the Northwestern quadrant of greater Indianapolis

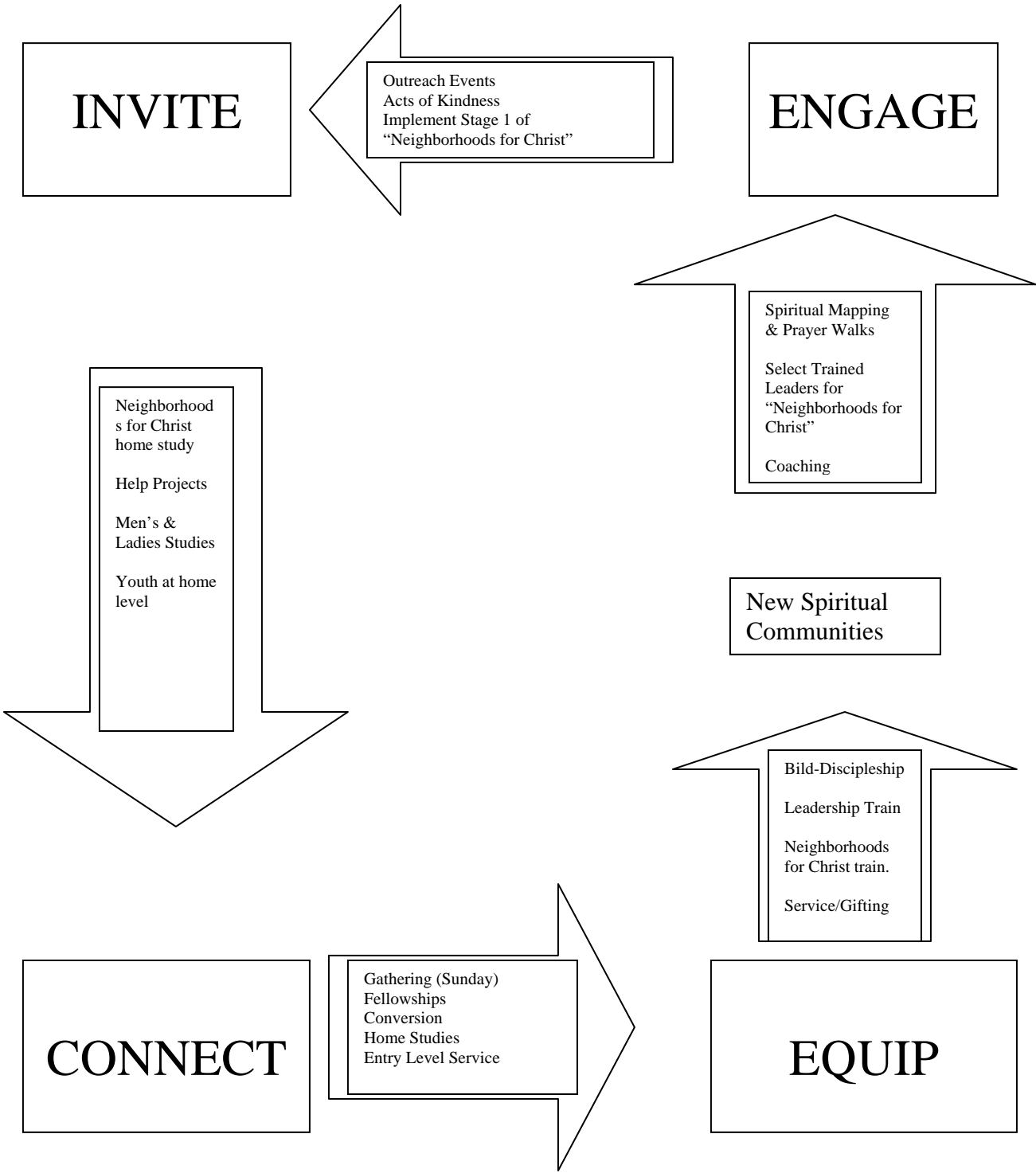
We envision Life Spring Church becoming a house of **prayer** and not just a church that prays. This may include prayer walks in our neighborhoods, prayer gatherings in our homes, times of corporate prayer and times of individual prayer. At Life Spring we sense the calling of uniting our churches through the avenue of prayer beginning with the pastor of Life Spring Church and other local and county pastors..

We envision Life Spring church developing an incarnational model of **outreach** by building bridges with local neighborhoods, communities and people groups through modeling Christ and intentional service to bring new people into His kingdom.

We envision the building of the body of Christ at Life Spring through an intentional **discipleship** becoming a church of small groups, providing resources to parents to build their families, and the building and equipping of leaders necessary to accomplish the vision.

Finally, we envision the need for revival. With the rising apathy of most Christians, the increasing rise of sin, immorality in our membership, and our apparent inability to see many real converts brought into the kingdom, we must **pursue personal, corporate and community revival** by seeking Christ and fostered in an environment where spiritual truths can be maximized.

LIFE SPRING CHURCH MODEL



## **Mission Statement**

Guiding people to an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ.

## **Key Result Areas**

**Prayer**-to teach, model, and allow God to create a house of prayer.

**Mission to Community**-reaching out through service and the building of relationships in our community.

**Mission to the World**-to establish and support spiritual communities in our county, country and foreign lands.

**Family Development**-to be transformed through the Word of God and to make the building of His kingdom an everyday reality in our lives.

**Leadership Development**-to develop leaders who will shepherd, equip and build the kingdom of God in new spiritual communities.

## **First Year Action Plan (October 2007 to September 2008)**

### **Church Planting Team Activities**

1. New Public Launch in Easter 2008.
2. Develop membership process Jan 2008
3. Pray for, seek out new facilities.
4. Educate the church on the role the church must play in today's culture.
5. Create a Community Bridge Team ministry that develops monthly strategic points of contact for evangelism, researches and finds opportunities to meet needs in our community, and builds bridges to the body of Christ.
6. Select a Prayer Coordinator to guide and teach us in prayer.
7. Find a network of church planters who will meet regularly for prayer, accountability and encouragement.
8. Create initially a women's ministry and men's ministry to disciple.  
Goal: Equipping all age groups. Nursery - Adult  
Use: BILD International's as a possible resource for discipleship in future after sufficient review.  
Develop SPRING groups in homes.
9. Create relationships with other churches for periodic fellowship, greater outreach and prayer.
10. Apprenticeship of potential elders—Go through Biblical Eldership by Alexander Strauch



#### Administrative Activities

1. Continue to develop, plan, and budget as the Lord blesses, provides, and leads.
2. Complete initial set of by-laws Jan 2008
3. Develop Financial Team to oversee funds, budgets and advise pastor/elders.
4. Look for a person gifted in administrative duties to help.
5. Develop Summer 2008 events

#### **Two Year Goals (September 2008-August 2009)**

##### Prayer

1. Develop triplet prayer partners to pray for Sunday services and each other.
2. Develop a strategic prayer plan for city and begin implementation.
3. Prayer Coordinator to teach/train on Sunday mornings in service on prayer or prayer related subjects.

##### Mission to Community

1. Find creative ways for discovery contacts in our city. Goal is to reach every household in Brownsburg.
2. Create a partnership with a business and meet community needs together.
3. Select what annual community events to participate in.

##### Mission to World

1. Prepare with cross-culturally minded people ways in which we can participate in the gospel in urban Indianapolis & Marion County
2. Establish a mission budget.

##### Family Development

1. Establish an ordered discipleship process-being established to maturity for the kingdom of God.
2. Selection and training of men and women to serve the needs of the Life Spring body.
3. Establish leaders for children, middle school, and high school age levels and integration to an active role in the body of Life Spring.

##### Leadership Development

1. Select, confirm and train 3 to 4 elders
2. Mature apprentices in preaching and equipping duties.
3. Release shepherding and prayer duties to these trained men.

## **Three to Five Year Goals**

### **Prayer**

1. Set aside times of prayer to pray for revival and city of Brownsburg.
2. Invite other churches into concerts of prayer.
3. Train prayer counselors
4. Strategic plan to have prayer walked our city by fifth year.

### **Missions to Community**

1. Creation of a centralized facility to meet community needs such as food, clothing, medical facility, etc.
2. Church Camp experiences for needy children.
3. Substantial ministry resources directed toward the welfare of the city through interested churches and city leaders.

### **Missions to World**

1. Partnering with other church planting organizations in establishing a new biblical community in Hendricks County or Marion County
2. Sending of adults and high school youth to cross-cultural mission projects and the expansion of the Gospel.
3. Sending out of trained church leaders to ministry opportunities.

### **Family Development**

1. To have committed members progressing through their ordered discipleship process—being equipped, maturing, serving and identifying how they fit in the purposes of God.
2. Identifying, recruiting, and developing new disciples.

### **Leadership Development**

1. Send out trained elders to new biblical communities to establish new leadership.
2. Select future leaders and design leadership training based on development of first elders.