



## GET ROOTED INFORMATION SESSION

### HISTORY OF GARDEN CITY

- **PART 1:** Garden City Church was birthed from a two-year prayer and worship expression created in the living room of Pastor Gerald and Lauren Murphy. In the fall of 2018, the Lord invited Pastor Gerald and Lauren to open up their home to young adults from around Columbus that were hungry for the presence of God. Powerful encounters with Jesus were experienced as the body gathered around the name, beauty and majesty of Jesus Christ. Multiple denominations and church backgrounds were represented and true unity was experienced as we met together in the word and in worship. From these living room gatherings, a corporate expression was launched in coffee shops around Columbus. From Grove City to downtown Columbus, this sound of worship and praise from a unified body of believers reverberated monthly. The Lord called us to name the ministry, The Garden Project. The heart and desire was to see the presence of God disciple believers into their call as Kings and Priests; to see the body of Christ commissioned carrying and releasing the presence of Jesus, establishing atmospheres of praise, seeing the Kingdom of God advance, enthroning Jesus in every sphere of influence we've been called. It truly is the presence of God that is going to transform our neighborhoods, the marketplace and the city overall!
- **PART 2:** In the fall of 2019 the Lord began to speak to Pastor Gerald and Lauren about a church birthing forth from The Garden Project. After 9 months of prayer, they resounded "YES" on May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The following day, Pastor Gerald and Lauren were invited to come and see this building (3880 Clime Rd. Columbus, Ohio). On June 3<sup>rd</sup>, Pastor Gerald and Lauren were gifted the building to open the doors as Garden City Church. The story of Garden City cannot be shared without honoring Bible Community Church. For 48 years Bible Community Church ministered and preached the gospel out of this building. Pastor Ed Adkins built this building and founded Bible Community Church. His daughter Angie Schneider, long time friends of Pastor Gerald and Lauren, felt the Lord prompt her to share the opportunity to take over the building and continue the legacy of her father's ministry to Pastor Gerald and Lauren. After a vote was passed for Pastor Gerald and Lauren and the Garden City Church team to begin the ministry, Garden City held its first corporate worship celebration on September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020.
- **PART 3:** The name Garden City is the result of agreeing with what God desired in the Garden of Eden and looking forward to the New Jerusalem to come!

## VISION/MISSION/VALUES/BELIEFS

- **VISION:** To be an Apostolic hub, awakening and equipping the Bride of Christ to bring transformation in the city of Columbus by advancing the Kingdom of God, starting on the westside of Columbus!
  - **What is an apostolic hub?**
    - It is a community of believers who deeply identify with the call to worship Jesus by responding to His corporate command to make disciples of nations (Matthew 28:18-20); to see every person walk in their identity and authority given to us at the beginning (Genesis 1:26-28); a community of believers, not just members, but ministers! It is a church that is not just looking to gather but to send. It is a church that is committed to partnering with the gifts, callings, and destinies of each person as they are disciplined into Kingship and Priesthood (Exodus 19:6, 1 Peter 2:8-9, Revelation 5:8-10) to what we all as children of God are called, everywhere we're given influence.
    - It is the integration of corporate gatherings, the other ministries you would expect in a healthy church (Romans 12:3-8, Ephesians 4:11-16, 1 Corinthians 12:4-11), paired with non-profit (Matthew 25:31-45) and social enterprise (Luke 8:1-3) expressions that exist to serve the community around it. We are seeking after the advancement of God's Kingdom and real transformation (Acts 19) as a result of these three expressions of Jesus' church coming together. Finally, we are convinced that as an apostolic hub, God is calling us to intentionally partner with other churches, nonprofits and social enterprises that share this same mission.
  - **Why the westside of Columbus?**
    - The question was asked: "Can anything good come from the westside?" We believe in "YES!"
    - The westside is top 5 in every undesirable area in the state, in multiple cases nationally.
      - Infant mortality
      - Murder/violence
      - Drugs
      - Sex trafficking
      - Poverty
      - Illiteracy rates
    - We believe God desires a pouring out of His spirit and to advance His Kingdom in the westside of Columbus, becoming a resource to the rest of the city (north, south and east), an oasis, an example of rebuilt ruins and restored walls and streets (Isaiah 58:7-12). We desire to join the numerous ministries, kingdom non-profits and enterprises who also feel the call to see the westside transformed by God!

- **WHAT IS GARDEN CITY CHURCH?**
  - Home Church Network
  - House of Prayer and Worship
  - Source for discipleship and equipping
  - Focused on community development (Eden Center)
  - A corporate expression (Bi-Weekly Worship Celebrations)
    - Kids Ministry
    - Youth Ministry
  
- **MISSION:** Garden City Church exists to pursue communion with Jesus by hosting His presence, do life together in community as brothers and sisters in Christ and use our influence to cultivate our city for the advancement of God's Kingdom as we look forward to the return of Jesus Christ our King.
  - **The Three C's**
    - **COMMUNION:** *Being with Jesus* is our greatest desire. Garden City is a church where the Bride of Christ has permission to live abandoned and laid down with adoration and devotion to Jesus; to dwell in the house of the Lord, beholding Jesus, and engaging in dialogue with Him as our highest ministry and purpose (Psalm 27:4). Jesus is worthy of our worship. We were created to worship and glorify Jesus, to abide in His presence as we see in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 2) and in the New Jerusalem (Garden City Revelation 21) to come! As Jesus is lifted high above everything else we do, our primary reason for gathering is Jesus Himself. Ministering to Jesus' heart is prioritized above all else (Luke 10:38-42), an irresistible canopy of His glory (Isaiah 4:5) will saturate hearts, draw the lost and broken into salvation and healing (Psalm 40:3), and establish His throne and Kingdom (Psalm 23:3), displacing the kingdom of darkness and its effects in the spiritual realm (Ephesians 6:12). This is our foundational and fueling desire for everything that happens practically and tangibly in our community.
    - **COMMUNITY:** *Becoming more like Jesus* is the result of growing and maturing in our faith. This happens in the context of community and family. We were baptized into the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:3, Ephesians 4:1-4) and we need each other; better together! In the family of God, there is grace to confess sins to one another (John 5:16), to exhort one another (Hebrews 3:13), teach and admonish one another (Colossians 3:16), along with several other charges experienced in the community of believers (John 5:16, Hebrews 3:13). All of this is unto us growing and maturing in our faith as a corporate body bringing glory to our King as He fills the earth with Himself (Ephesians 1:23).
    - **CULTIVATION:** *Bringing Jesus' Kingdom wherever we go* flows out of COMMUNION with the Lord and COMMUNITY with one another. We, as a body, are given the charge to pray for the Kingdom of God to come to the earth, our city, our homes, our neighborhoods and our workplaces, as

it is in heaven (Matthew 6:10). We believe this is in preparation for the return of the Lord Himself, where He will establish once and for all the perfect and eternal reign of God in its full expression on the earth (Daniel 7:13-14, 1 Corinthians 15:24).

## VALUES & CULTURE

### ● VALUES:

- **Honor:** We will seek to Honor God, one another and the call of God upon this church in all we do (Colossians 3:23, Phillipians 2:1-4).
- **Gratitude:** We will seek to carry hearts and postures of gratitude, and thanksgiving for who God is, what He has done, what He is doing and the privilege it is to partner with Him (Psalm 100:4, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).
- **Humility:** We will seek to imitate Christ, the servant of all, walking in humility before God and before one another (Matthew 11:28-29, James 4:10, Matthew 23:11, John 13).
- **Generosity:** We will seek radical generosity (our time, talent and treasure), toward one another and to the community. Everything we have belongs to God and is used for His glory (1 Chronicles 29:6-9, Psalm 84:10, Matthew 19:21, Acts 4:32-35, Acts 20:35).
- **Excellence:** We will seek to do everything we do in a spirit of excellence as unto the Lord (Daniel 5:12, Colossians 3:23).

### ● CULTURE:

- We are a Ministry and a Movement (Numbers 9:17).
- We will contend for a multi-expressional community (Revelation 7:9).
- We are committed to Jesus the Man, Mission, Message and Method (John 14:6).
- We will run towards the Mess knowing it produces Maturity (James 1:2-4).
- We will choose Presence over Performance every time (Ezekiel 44:15).
- We will respond to the call to the mountain over the demands of the multitudes (Matthew 14:23).
- We say “Yes” to the Process, knowing it is necessary for Purpose (John 21:15).
- We are committed to Purity in our public and private lives (1 Thessalonians 5:23).
- We will build from Rest, making a difference at a sabbath’s pace (Exodus 20:8-11, 2 Chronicles 14:7)!
- We will see convergence of biblical principles, emphases and mandates that traditionally remain separate.
  - Example: Witness Matthew 10 (disciples walking in supernatural power) and Matthew 25 (disciples serving the least of these) coming together.
- We will seek wholeness by experiencing and stewarding the deliverance that Jesus provides through His cross and resurrection (Matthew 6:11-13, 1 Thessalonians 5:23).
- We will submit to God’s Word, Will and Ways while growing in the Wonder of who He is (John 6:68)!

## BELIEFS

- **The Kingdom of God:** We believe that the Biblical narrative is primarily about God's rule and reign on the earth, Him dwelling with humanity in perfect relationship; for all things brought under His dominion, and His desire for His government stewarded by humanity (Genesis 1:26-28). We believe that it is only through the revelation of Jesus Christ and His gospel that this is received. Jesus Christ is the King of Kings, whose mission is to glorify God in announcing, inaugurating and demonstrating the Kingdom of Heaven has come to the earth (Matthew 3:17). The culmination of this assignment is the victory of Jesus over the power of sin, death, hell and the kingdom of darkness through His shed blood, cross and resurrection. The Old Testament covenant(s) with Israel and prophecies were pointing to this all along. We believe that salvation, the church, how we perceive our purpose and identify as human beings, what we should seek first in our lives (Matthew 6:33) and what we put our hope in remain centered around Jesus as King and the reality of God's Kingdom coming to the earth as it is in heaven, and everlasting dominion (Daniel 2:44, Matthew 6:10).
- **Apostles Creed:** We believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. We believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, Our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic (universal) Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting (eternal death/hell for the unrighteous and eternal life/new heavens and earth for the righteous) (Matthew 25:46).
- **All are born into sin and need to repent, believe and receive salvation through Jesus Christ:** We believe that all men and women are born into sin (Psalm 51:5, Ephesians 2:1-3). We believe that all men and women are in need of salvation received only through Jesus Christ (Acts 4:12, 1 Timothy 2:3-5, Titus 3:3-8); that repentance (changing of mind and behavior) is a necessary part of salvation (Mark 1:15, Acts 2:37). The kindness of God leads men to repentance (Romans 2:4). For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16).
- **The Centrality of Christ and the Supreme Sufficiency of His Word as truth:** We believe that everything we are called to as a church is sustainable and enjoyable when focused primarily on the beauty and revelation of Jesus Christ. Even beyond desiring the results of ministry for revival and breakthrough, we believe that loving God is a worthy goal and reward in and of itself. We believe that God Himself is our reward. We are invited to abide in His presence and love, experiencing His complete joy and eternal delight (Genesis 15:1, Psalm 16:11, 1 John 4:16). It is our joy and privilege to act as "priests" before the Lord, ministering to Him (Ezekiel 44:15) coming out of a culture of prayer and worship with a renewed love for God and man (Matthew 22:37). Moreover, the Word of God is supremely sufficient, the truth. It is through the word that we know God, His desires and purpose, Jesus is revealed and how we govern our lives. The

Word is an anchor for why, how and what we say and do as a church (Luke 10:42, John 6:68, Hebrews 4:13, 2 Timothy 3:16).

- **Identity of the Believer:** We believe that God desires a relationship with all men and women. In and through Christ, believers are justified (no longer guilty of sin, but innocent and at peace with God) (Romans 5:1). We believe that in and through Jesus Christ and by the power of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8, Acts 2:1-4), that believers are sanctified and continue to be sanctified (set apart as holy to God, morally right, free from sin, pure) (1 Corinthians 1:2, 2 Thessalonians 2:13). We believe that believers are to participate in their sanctification, cleansing from what is dishonorable (1 Thessalonians 2:21), purifying themselves as Christ is pure (1 John 3:3). Through salvation in Jesus Christ we become children of God (John 1:12). We believe that through salvation in Jesus Christ the believer becomes righteous, brought into restored relationship with God, and a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17-21). We believe that, as adopted children of God through Jesus Christ, we are called blameless, holy and beloved before God as He predestined us (Ephesians 1:3-6). We believe that as children of God, we were created to worship and glorify God in every part of our lives (Romans 12:1-2, Colossians 3:23, Hebrews 13:15). We believe that, as children of God, we are co-heirs with Jesus Christ, sharing in the inheritance He has received by overcoming the power of death, sin, hell and the grave by way of His life, blood, cross and resurrection. We, as believers, are called to share in His sufferings that we may share in His glory (Romans 8:12-17). We, as believers, are given access to the divine nature of God (1 Peter 1:1-4). We, as believers, are called to reflect the nature and character of God (Matthew 5:43-48, Luke 6:35). We, as believers, are given authority on the earth from Jesus over demons, the devil and his kingdom (Matthew 10:7-8, Mark 16:15-20, Luke 10:18-19). We, as believers, are called to identify as the Bride of Christ, awaiting His return and the marriage supper of lamb (2 Corinthians 11:2, Ephesians 5:27, Revelation 19:6-9). We, as believers, are called forth as disciples of Jesus Christ (Luke 14:26, 27, 33). We, as believers, are called to be a kingdom of priests unto the Lord (Exodus 19:6, 1 Peter 2:8-9, Revelation 5:8-10).
- **The Tabernacle of David (as our foundation and primary ministry):** It is our privilege to see and participate in the rebuilding of the Tabernacle of David (2 Samuel 6:17, 1 Chronicles 16:1) as described in Amos 9:11-12. We agree with God's desire to have a dwelling place characterized by prayer and worship. We celebrate and acknowledge the historic moves of God resulting from 24/7 prayer, and strive to become a church of believers that embody that same heart and spirit in our region partnering with other communities of prayer and worship (Amos 9:11-12, Acts 15:16).
- **The Ekklesia - Church:** We believe the local church is the hope of the world; the church being those who are no longer bound by the kingdom of darkness and the spirit of the age (antichrist spirit), but are translated into the Kingdom of God (Colossians 1:13). The church is comprised of those who are called out, through the gospel of Jesus Christ, living lives set apart to God for His glory in this present earth, actively advancing God's Kingdom, awaiting the return of the Lord. The church is empowered by the gospel of Jesus Christ, the power of the Holy Spirit and His ministry gifts (Romans 1:16-17, Romans 12:3-8, Ephesians 4:11-16, 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, 1 Corinthians 13-14). The church of Jesus Christ is the vehicle through which the gospel, the Kingdom of God, and

transformation is brought to communities and nations (Matthew 16:18-20, Matthew 28:18-20, Ephesians 1:23). The church is a part of the evidence of God's rule and reign on the earth, His mercy, faithfulness and grace, a sign post of what is to come (Revelation 21).

- **Israel:** We acknowledge the Biblical narrative of God's rule and reign on the earth, which cannot be told apart from God's covenant(s) with Israel (Genesis 12:1-3, Exodus 19-20, 32-34, 2 Samuel 7); that Jesus Christ is a Jewish man, the King Messiah of Israel appointed to sit on the throne of David and govern the earth forever (Micah 5:2-5, Matthew 2:6, Luke 1:32-33, Luke 2:11). Jerusalem will be called the throne of the Lord and all nations shall gather to it, to the presence of the Lord in Jerusalem (Jeremiah 3:17). We stand with God's desires, plans and purposes for the nation of Israel and the Jewish people as a light to the nations, that the salvation of God would reach the ends of the earth (Isaiah 49:6). This is not based on the righteousness of Israel, but on humbly agreeing with the plans of a Good God. We recognize that by praying for Israel we enter into a special blessing from the Lord (Psalm 122:6-7). We believe that a portion of the Gentile assignment in the church is to provoke Israel to jealousy; that their eyes may open to see Jesus Christ as their Messiah (Romans 9-11). God's desire is for Jew and Gentile to become one in Christ (Galatians 3:28); one new man in Him, a holy temple, a dwelling place for the Spirit of God. We acknowledge there are many Messianic Jews (Jews that believe Jesus is the Messiah) on the earth and that number is growing (Ephesians 2:11-22). We believe the covenant made with Abraham and Israel is unto the blessing of the nations, through Jesus Christ (Genesis 12:1-3, Galatians 3:16, Galatians 3:26-29). Finally, we are committed to honoring the three annual feasts first given to the people of Israel and now we are blessed to share as a part of God's family. The Feasts of Passover, Pentecost and Tabernacles all point to Jesus and are meant to be celebrated in every generation of God's people (Exodus 34:1-28, Leviticus 23, Deuteronomy 16).
- **The Return of the Lord/Garden of Eden-New Jerusalem:** We acknowledge that Jesus is returning to judge the living and the dead, and this reality should impact how we live (John 5:26-29, 2 Timothy 4:1-5). We believe in and look forward to the restoration of the Garden of Eden and the hope of New Jerusalem, new Heavens and new Earth. We acknowledge that this is contingent upon the literal, physical return of Jesus Christ which we, as a kingdom of priests, are called to hasten through prayer and worship (Matthew 24, 2 Peter 3:10-13, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, Revelation 21).
- **Kingdom Culture/Preaching the Gospel:** We value and affirm the importance of creating and developing a prayer and worship culture in the context of families, the marketplace and communities (Acts 4:23-31, Acts 10:34-46, Acts 17). We believe the gospel of the Kingdom should be preached in our churches and in public (Matthew 10:7-8, Mark 16:15, Acts 1:8, Acts 5:42). We believe the Kingdom of God is here now, but not yet in its fullness (both here and coming). By taking the culture of prayer and worship and preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ in our spheres of influence, we desire to make known the reality of the King and His Kingdom in our communities. Through prayer and worship and preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ, we are establishing the

rule and reign of Jesus (Psalm 72:15), releasing justice (Amos 5:21-24, Micah 6:8) and righteousness in our society (Psalm 89:14).

- **Ordinances of the Church:** Water Baptism is in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and by full immersion (Matthew 28:19). Holy Communion is The Lord's Supper consisting of the Body and Blood represented in the bread and fruit of the vine (Matthew 26:26-29).
- **Sexual Purity:** We believe in the sexual purity of the believer (1 Corinthians 6:12-20, 1 Thessalonians 4:3). A commitment to God to have healthy relationships, that are Christ-honoring by not engaging in sexual relationships outside of marriage, not living with someone of the opposite sex outside of marriage and not engaging in or pursuing same-sex relationships (1 Thessalonians 5:22, 1 Corinthians 6:7-11).
- **God's design for marriage and family:** We agree with God's design for marriage, a covenant (commitment to permanence) relationship between one man and one woman (Genesis 1:27-28, 2:18, Ephesians 5:31).
- **Biblical Standards on gender:** We agree with the biblical standards on gender (Genesis 1:27-28).
- **Sanctity of Life:** The Word of God teaches that each individual is known by God from before the foundation of the world (Jeremiah 1:4-5, Psalm 139:13-17). Our Omnipotent, Omniscient, Omnipresent God has pronounced His blessing upon the life of a child (Psalm 127:3-5). Since all life exists for God's purposes and all human lives are equally sacred, we believe the life of the unborn (and born, with emphasis on orphans) child is blessed by God and must be preserved, nurtured and protected.

## FINANCES

- **Current Budget Highlights:**
  - 25% Monthly Bills
  - 17% Contracted Staff (Media/Communications, Admin, Cleaning, Sound Engineer)
    - Does not include Pastor Gerald or Lauren
      - Goal is to not pay for a full time Pastor until after Year 2 and will be reevaluated at that time.
  - 2% Local Outreach/Ministries (goal 5%)
  - 2% Global Missions (goal 5%)
  - The remaining budget consists of supply ordering, kid's ministry budget, events, church systems and a miscellaneous fund.



## GARDEN CITY CHURCH LEADERSHIP

- **Apostolic/Prophetic Council**
  - **Responsibility:** Provide guidance, accountability, and support towards advancing the overall vision of Garden City Church and The Garden Project.
  - **Qualifications:** Regional and or international influence. Experienced in the areas of church building, business development, and overseeing non-profit work with a focus on community development. These members must be called to the overall apostolic/prophetic function, with fruit!
  - **Meeting Rhythm:** Once a year
  
- **Pastoral Council**
  - **Responsibility:** Provide guidance, accountability, and support to the leadership of Garden City Church, along with helping make financial decisions.
  - **Qualifications:** Citywide and local influence (Columbus, Oh.) as a pastor/leader of a congregation and or non-profit, with fruit.
  - **Meeting Rhythm:** Quarterly
  
- **Lead Pastors**
  - **Responsibility:** Embody the vision, mission and values of Garden City Church
    - Cast vision for the church, maintain cultural synergy, exemplify spiritual and relational health
    - Ensure there are healthy and effective organization structures, policies, procedures, systems and strategies
    - Teach and preach biblically and theologically sound lessons regularly, as well as officiate weddings, funerals and perform baptisms
    - Care for the sick, elderly, shut-in and isolated community members
    - Along with the financial board, ensure the financial integrity and stewardship of the church
    - Develop and oversee staff departments and leadership of the church
    - Held accountable by the apostolic and pastoral council of the church
    - Oversee the work of the E.D.E.N center and all secondary ministries/partnerships
    - Sign the leadership commitment page and spirit of agreement page
    - Attend Garden City Church services, conferences, leadership nights and events
    - Tithe to Garden City Church
    - Develop (spiritually, personally, and as leaders) directors, better systems (communication, admin, etc.) advance the vision of Garden City Church
    - Host weekly directors meetings
  - **Accountability:** Lead Pastors will be accountable to the Pastoral Council and the Apostolic/Prophetic Council
  
- **Elders**
  - Goal is to eventually have elders in the church consisting of staff and laymen.
    - See 1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:6-9.

## NEXT STEPS

- Give your life to Jesus.
- Get baptized.
- Join/start a Home Church.
- Come to the House of Prayer and Worship.
- Get Involved and Serve.

## GET INVOLVED AND SERVE

- Garden City Church desires to grow as a community of believers who seek the tangible presence of The Lord. We gather, serve and sow as a corporate body with the purpose of bearing prosperous fruit in our church, in our city and in God's Kingdom.
  - Benefits of serving:
    - It is worship to the Lord (Colossians 3:23).
    - It is the definition of greatness in the Kingdom of God (Matthew 23:11).
    - It is a blessing and deeply fulfilling (Acts 20:35).
    - It is the way in which we invest in the body of Christ and use our gifts (Romans 12:3-8).
    - It builds community with other believers (1 Corinthians 12:13).
    - It reaps eternal, lasting fruit (Matthew 6:19-24).
    - It demonstrates the heart of a disciple and one who is seeking to reflect Christ (John 13).
- Join a team! Visit the [Garden City Church website](#).
  - Hospitality (Welcome and Parking)
  - Worship Team
  - Creative Team
  - Children's Ministry
  - Food Pantry