

## **The Bridge - Profile Information**

**1. What specific ministry goals have been developed from our mission and vision statement for the next 5 years?**

- *To reach unchurched individuals and bring them to Christ, building a church where there had been none*
- *That The Bridge will be self-sustaining, financially, in 5 years.*

**2. What new program or outreach ministry expansion do we hope to provide in the next 5 years? (It also requests a long range or strategic plan be attached).**

- *We want to expand, to be part of the Kirkwood Community College campus ministry, reaching out to those attending the school, and those living near campus.*
- *We want to continue to reach out to the various neighborhoods connected with our location by hosting various quarterly activities, small groups etc.*

**3. Comment on one event or experience over the last year that has significantly contributed to the spiritual life of the congregation.**

*Watching God at work, as the vision he instilled in us as a group, for The Bridge has come to be and is already bearing great fruit in the following ways: attendance, small groups, a new attendee involvement in various committees and activities. We feel we have been richly blessed, as many new to The Bridge since October have begun to call this their church home.*

**4. What special training/experience is desired of our new pastor?**

*Evangelism and outreach are definitely areas that are important to growing this church.*

**5. Describe the strengths of our church, the best of what we are as a community, and what we can offer a new pastor?**

*We are in a prime location, in a new facility that is central to many neighborhoods (some new, some new and still growing) and prior to The Bridge, had no church in the immediate area. A pastor new to this congregation will have the opportunity to make a significant impact in what this church becomes as a community and they will be given the flexibility to try new things. In addition, this new pastor will be supported by a group of dedicated team members, and a mother church that is passionate about building a base for people to come to know God.*

**6. Explain the strategies or ideas that most excite this church in becoming missional.**

*We have been very deliberate to apply authenticity, with an honest open approach to the teaching and application of God's word. We have developed a modern service and have been intentional in making sure we try new things.*

**7. Name three of our church's most passionate hopes and why they are significant.**

- *To grow as a body, both in number and in unity*
- *To be an authentic, welcoming, worshipful and nurturing place where people feel loved, welcome and safe.*
- *To bring the Good News of the gospel to those around us. To grow in our walk with God, personally and as a community.*

**8. How do you hope someone who visits our church would describe what they consider to be most important?**

*We hope they will see us as a Christ-centered, biblically based group that welcomes all without judgment and are open to sharing how God has work in our lives. We hope that they will see God living in us.*

**9. Name at least one challenge facing our new pastor.**

*There will be many challenges for a new pastor in a new church, both we can see as immediate are:*

*Growing our presence and identity in this community.*

*We established The Bridge with 4 volunteer teachers, each with their own unique gifts and styles. The attendees have commented many times how the like those differences so it would be an adjustment for attendees with a primary pastor, although we would like to have that pastor develop and maintain a volunteer team of people who are willing to regularly teach as well*

**10. Describe our vision and hopes for the church and Pastor over the next 5 years.**

*Aside from being self-sustaining, we also hope that we would be well equipped and ready to begin the process of planting another church.*

**11. Identify what makes this church uniquely attractive to people in the community.**

*There is no church in the immediate area and we are surrounded by many diverse neighborhoods, some new that are near Kirkwood Community College. We have also worked to bring worship in a new way. There is a huge opportunity for outreach and growth based on this location. So many people new to The Bridge have commented that they have always been thinking a church was needed in this area, and many had been praying for that.*

**12. Describe changes currently occurring in the community in which the church ministers and identify ways God is acting among us to meet those new challenges.**

*The economy is a struggle, some of the families living in this area are lower income. Also, the city is still struggling to recover from the floods of 2008. We want people to see us as a support for those who are having hard times, and we want them to see God's love for them through our actions. We currently collect each month for the CHCC (mother church) Food Pantry, we have offered service projects in the past in the local area, and plan to continue that practice.*

*The small groups are becoming an important part of the lives of those involved. We have formed a committee of people who are looking for ways to connect people to people and God and are reviewing service opportunities.*

**13. What percentage of the persons who live within 1 mile of our church are un-churched, and what is our strategy to reach un-churched people in our community?**

*We are not sure of the percentage, but we assume it to be high. Our initial strategy was direct mailings, passed out flyers, advertised on the radio, placed yard signs, community outreach by giving away free coffee at a local coffee shop, and we have performed service projects. Looking forward, we plan to continue with the yard signs (so many told us that is why they came that first week). We urge attendees to spread the word and bring a friend, and other service activities. We are also in the process of planning neighborhood activities such as: Concerts, barbeques, potlucks, and church in the “park”.*