

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

AUGUST 17TH, 2025 // VISION SERVICE

WORSHIP

SIMPLE AND EFFECTIVE CORPORATE WORSHIP

We always have **worship, verse-by-verse teaching from the Bible**, and **time to respond regardless of what stage of faith one is in** via a pastor or elder available to **answer questions, a prayer** team for anyone who needs prayer, and **communion**.

NEXT

AN EASY NEXT STEP IN THE PROCESS

On the second Monday of every month, we invite anyone interested in learning more about The Experience to come take a tour, hear my story, hear the church's story, and take their next step in the process.

- This is where I get to meet a lot of you, and you get to know more about this place and who we are.

DEVELOPMENT

- **Following Jesus:** This is a 7-topic course that helps to equip you to understand the core beliefs of Christianity and how we live those out at The Experience Community Church. Meets weekly for 7 weeks starting on **October 8th.**; **Authentic Discipleship:** 12-week course about how to be an effective disciple-maker. Meets weekly starting on **August 20th.**

COMMUNITY

INTENTIONALLY BUILDING COMMUNITY

We encourage people to not only be in groups but to be in and lead groups that are intentional about **reaching people, discipling**, and **multiplying** into more groups.

- We create community via large group/small group format in ECCO, Students, Development Courses, and with our Life Groups.

SERVE

BLOCK SERVICES CREATE MORE OPPORTUNITY

We have many serving opportunities in the church (**Nursery, ECCO, EON, Encounter, Hospitality, Parking, Security**, etc.) and through the church (**\$000** and **nonprofits** we support).

- Different serving opportunities have different levels of commitment which create opportunities for everyone.

MISSIONS

- **Our city and state:** our 4 campuses (Boro, Cannon County, Tully, and the Ville); **Our nation:** Garden City Church and New Life Church (Mass.), City Church (NY), Hope Church (DE), and 6 other domestic partnerships; **Our world:** El Salvador, Egypt, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Eastern European Mission (EEM), and 13 other international partnerships

FINANCES

WHY DO WE SHOW FINANCES?

We are transparent about finances because we want to **live above reproach** (1 Timothy 3:2), **be good stewards** (1 Peter 4:10; Matthew 25:29), and **honor your sacrifice** (1 Corinthians 4:2). We are not doing this to brag, guilt, or manipulate you but to earn your trust.

- **We are frugal, benevolent, and careful about how we use your giving!**

2025 FINANCIALS FOR ALL CAMPUSES

- Budget: \$15.5m; YTD spending is \$7.9m. We are currently \$472k under budget.
- Projected income: \$19m; All excess has gone into savings. With our rate of tithing and wise stewardship, we will be able to do God's will without going into debt or doing fundraising campaigns.
- Full- and part-time salaries for all campuses: **\$4,874,640 (31% of budget, 26% of income)**. The national average is 50–55%; Health Benefits (included): \$1,737,924
- Police and Sheriff Dept.: \$119,000 (present during all services in Boro and for directing traffic on 41a here in the Ville); Outside CPA: \$15,000
- Ministry Expenses: \$1,516,525; All expenses to serve nursery through adult ministries (supplies, gear, printing, other materials, subscriptions, etc.)
- Operating costs: \$1,549,700; Utilities, rent for Tullahoma, cleaning services
- Construction costs: \$1,200,000; Mayday and ECCO build-out in Boro as well as maintenance/repairs for each campus
- Outreach/Benevolence: **\$4.65m (30% of budget, 24.5% of income)**; Individuals needing help, schools, missionary needs, nonprofits, church plants, etc.; The national average is 10% for churches.
- Debt: **\$0**. We currently own 3 of our 4 buildings and rent our Tullahoma campus. We are trimming expenses and saving up to buy it in cash.

2025 SHELBYVILLE CAMPUS

- Operating and Ministry expenses: **\$476,865**; Budgeted Expenses: **\$197,843**; Salaries and Benefits: **\$279,022** (4 full-time and 2 part-time employees)
- Total Network Cost: **\$5,470,209** (shared by all 4 campuses); YTD Income: **\$244,042**; 2025 Projected; Income: **\$522,000**

THE NETWORK (SHARED BY ALL 4 CAMPUSES)

- Our share of Network Expenses: **\$1,367,552**
- Many of you only see the 5 of us here on the team at the Shelbyville campus, but there are 30+ people who work hard to protect, create, plan, and implement so much of what happens here in Shelbyville, and we are only responsible for a portion of that expense out of our budget.

COMMITMENT TO THE VISION

I do not know who gives at this church. Whether one believes tithing is mandatory or not, it is impossible to argue that Christians should not financially contribute to the mission of the church.

- **If we are going to advance the gospel, it will take not only time and effort but also a financial commitment.**

ALL OF US SHARING THE WEIGHT

This church has never done, nor will we ever do, a building campaign, pledge cards, or ask for any additional financial commitment from you other than biblical tithing.

- **If we will just be faithful to what the Bible asks, we will have more than enough to accomplish**

everything God wants us to do!

LOOKING AHEAD EXPERIENCE RECOVERY

Large group/small group format for all people who struggle with habitual, debilitating sin. This is designed to not only help with chronic sin but to integrate people into the church, long-lasting community, and eventually serving.

- This is beginning at our Boro campus on September 11th, and meetings will be every Thursday from 6:30–8:30 PM.

GRIEF MINISTRY

A safe space for people who have experienced the loss of a loved one in the last 3 months to 3 years. Meetings will be in a large group/small group format and will be capped at 90 people.

- This will be on Monday evenings at our Boro campus. Go to the app or website for more info and to sign up.

SPANISH MINISTRY

We desire to grow in our ability to minister to the Spanish-speaking community. We are actively working towards making the 11AM service one that Spanish-speaking individuals can attend.

- We are working on software to be able to translate multiple languages in real time through headphones/app at any service.

CONNECTING OUTREACH

We are restructuring our outreach events to be more effective and connected. Our big outreach events will all be connected together while focusing on our neighbors around the church.

- Community Cleaning Day>Fall Festival>Thanksgiving Meals>Experience Christmas

3 (OR 2?) YEAR PLAN

BORO NORTH: LAUNCHING JANUARY 25TH

We have purchased 31% of a shopping center off Northfield in Murfreesboro to **plant a second Boro campus** to take some pressure off of the current campus and reach people on that side of town.

- Savut and Mike will teach. It will be more stripped down with simple worship. We hope it pulls 10% from the current campus.

IT DOES NOT TOTALLY FIX THE PROBLEM

Boro North will help relieve some pressure but will not ultimately fix the overcrowding at the current campus.

- We have explored many opportunities but feel like God has shut doors while opening up opportunities for us to **plant smaller versions of the Boro campus in surrounding areas.**

PURCHASE LAND FOR PARKING/OFFICES (BORO)

We are desperately trying to buy land that touches the current Boro campus so more parking can be created, and offices can be moved off site to make room for nursery and ECCO.

REPLACING THE ROOF AT THE BORO CAMPUS

We have been putting this off for a long time but will move forward with replacing it.

ECC MCMINNVILLE: LAUNCHING JAN. 2027

We have most of the team ready to launch in McMinnville. This campus will help relieve our Cannon County campus and open doors in Warren County. Soft launch is October 2026.

PORTABLE OFFICES FOR CANNON COUNTY

We are purchasing a metal building to get the offices out of the campus to build out classrooms for ECCO.

THE TULLAHOMA CAMPUS

We are currently paying rent for a building very similar to the current Boro campus in Tullahoma. Our plan is to purchase it or something comparable to it within 2 years.

- The Tullahoma campus is 2 years old and is consistently running over 500 people on the weekends.

DOING IT ALL DEBT FREE

We are proactively watching our spending and aggressively saving so we can continue to plant churches and serve others while remaining debt free.

- Boro North = \$4.2m (\$3.2m spent); Parking/land = \$4m; McMinnville plant and CC portable = \$1m; Tullahoma building = \$3.4m

THE CHALLENGE

NOT LOSING SIGHT OF OUR (HIS) MISSION

As we continue to grow and prepare for long-term ministry in this city, state, nation, and world, **we cannot lose sight of what God is blessing at this church: teaching the truth, loving and welcoming all people, and serving the city!**

WE HAVE MUCH WORK TO DO.

We are fighting against a strong current of a culture that is promoting principles and beliefs contradictory to Jesus and His Word.

- We must radically love all people and have a desire to get to know them. We must also know, value, and live out biblical truth. We must have a genuine love for all people while never compromising biblical integrity.

REACHING THE UNCHURCHED

We must continue to reach the unchurched in our community. 48% of people in our area claim to have a church home. There are about 25k in Shelbyville and 53k in Bedford County.

- There are more than 12k unchurched people in our city alone, and more than 25k unchurched in Bedford Co. The harvest is truly plentiful (Matthew 9:35–38).

WHAT NOW?

- As God continues to give us direction, please **pray** for and **be patient** with us as we try to navigate it.
- Out of all of our campuses, we have the most fluctuation in attendance. **Make being at church a priority.**
- If currently giving, **thank you!** If not, please **pray about what that looks like for you.**
- Take advantage of the tools **available to you.**
- If you have never been to a **Next Class**, attend the next one.
- Get plugged in to the **Discipleship Process**. This is how we find community and grow.
- Fight against isolation through joining a **Life Group**. There is an Intro to Life Groups **today at 1 PM here in the sanctuary.**
- Love the people in your “world!” We are called to be ambassadors for Christ and servants to the people around us. We cannot forget that **the local church is the light of the city.**
- We have to fight against **growing weary, apathetic, distracted, or confused.**
- In order to fight against these things, we must **pray, read, listen, and obey.**