

VOL. 1 ISSUE 1 • SPRING 2024

# VENTURE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Official Newsletter of the Sander Family

## OUR CALLING

After 8 years in the Kansas City metro area, it would have been easy to ignore it. But as Ben fought for his life against Covid in 2022, it became clear that God had a new calling, not only for him, but for our family. We prayed, explored, and waited for whatever it might be. In February of 2023 Ben met for coffee with an old colleague. This trusted man told him “you have the heart of a church planter”. He went on to share the need the whole state of South Dakota has for restoration movement churches. After some more prayer and research, we were connected with two church planting organizations. The process has sped along from there. In late July, the NPEA (Northern Plains Evangelistic Association) invited our family to take a trip to the Rapid City area to see what God wanted to show us. We quickly fell in love with what we found. Not only is Rapid City’s population rapidly growing, it’s proximity to the outdoors can’t be beat. This calling was only further affirmed in our assessment with NEXUS in Dallas in early September. It was a weekend that both stretched and encouraged us as we learned more about the gifts God has uniquely given us and the church that God has already planted in our hearts. At the end of assessment, both church planting organizations offered us their support to plant a church in Rapid City, SD. This summer we aim to do just that.



The Sander Family - Ben, Kelli, Emmalyn, and Hayley

## THE MISSION

**HELPING PEOPLE DISCOVER WHO THEY ARE IN CHRIST SO THEY CAN LIVE OUT THEIR GOD-GIVEN PURPOSE**

venture: daring to go despite the risk

At Venture Christian Church it is our mission to help you discover and refine your identity in Christ within a biblical worldview. Armed with that knowledge we want to partner with you as you strive to discover and live out your God given purpose.

We are burdened for those who are far from Christ and resolve to a venture like mindset of living outwardly for Christ’s name sake.

**It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.**

GALATIANS 2:20

## A GROWING CITY

With a population of nearly 75,000 people, Rapid City is the second largest city in the state of South Dakota and rapidly growing. With an upcoming expansion to the Air Force Base, an influx of 15,000 to 30,000 new people is expected in the next 3-5 years. This is a boom that will only add to the need for more kingdom workers in the Black Hills. As we stood on top of the hill of Dinosaur Park this past July and looked over this city, God tugged at our hearts for His people here. The plains to the east, the hills to the west, this area is not only beautiful, but ripe for the Harvest.



## TWO ITEMS

In an antique store stacked to the rafters with insignificant items, Ben and I struggled to find something that fit the assignment: finding something that spoke to what God was teaching us through our NEXUS assessment weekend last September. What was God telling us about this crazy idea He planted in our heart over a year ago? We were still very much in the mindset that maybe God would still say no.

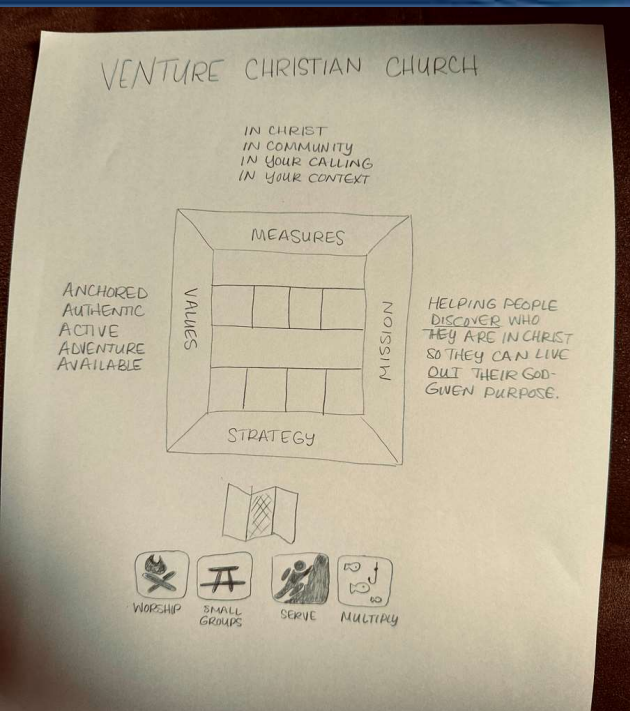
We're both planners, fixers, 10,000 foot view workers who get stuck in the details. Mission minded, goal oriented, we often forget to stop and have fun. As one of the assessors had told us lovingly earlier that day, we can be the type of people where fun goes to die. We're thankful for the assignment and will keep these items in a prominent place in our home.

For we are God's  
handiwork, created  
in Christ Jesus to  
do good works,  
which God  
prepared in  
advance for us to  
do.

EPHESIANS 2:10







## A WORK IN PROGRESS

In March we had the opportunity to travel to Dallas, TX to attend NEXUS's church planting workshop, Art of the Start. This was one of their largest and most diverse training sessions to date, serving 9 different projects from 8 different states and 4 distinctively different people groups. Not only was it exciting to be putting ideas and thoughts into words for ourselves, but incredible to sit in the room with these Kingdom minded brothers and sisters in Christ. To hear their stories, their heart and vision for their church plants all over the country was nothing short of inspiring.

We were able to start putting our own thoughts, dreams, and ideas into words (and bonus pictures) as we began walking through the mission and vision of Venture Christian Church. This is still very much a work in progress as we continue to pray and think on the values, measures, mission, and strategy surrounding our vision frame that will be the core of every single thing we do moving forward.

## HOW TO GIVE

You can financially support VCC by becoming a monthly, annual, or one time gift supporter.

Two ways to give...

Online: visit <https://tinyurl.com/3uztddht>

Online: Scan the QR Code below

OR

Checks can be sent to:

NPEA

PO Box 647

Spearfish, SD 57783

Checks should be made payable to the NPEA, writing "Ben Sander Church Plant" in the memo line

## HOW TO PRAY

- For our transition from the KC area as we work to wrap up our ministries here and get our house ready to sell
- For our travels this summer as we seek to finish up support raising
- For our mission and vision framework as we seek to set the crucial foundation to build everything else on
- For our family as we say goodbye to the life we've known here for 8 years and as we venture out into the unknown
- For the hearts that God already has for us in Rapid City, that He would be preparing a core group to hit the ground running with
- For the associate or associates that God has called to VCC as we seek to find the right persons to come along side us
- That we are able to get fully funded by mid July

COMING FALL 2025

