



A Classroom
Where
every child
is
LOVED

I LOVE
PICTURE
THIS

RAISING THE BAR FOR
WHAT'S CONVENTIONAL

A City where
NO ONE GOES Hungry.

A NEW DEFINITION
FOR SUCCESS



A PROMISE INSPIRED...

Back in the '80s, Mark and Sheila Beeson moved against all popular advice and counsel to Granger, Indiana with their young children. They didn't have extended family or friends waiting for them, just a vision to start a different kind of church that related to people on their terms. They didn't have all the answers to the questions people were asking. Nobody had ever done church like this before.

What they did know, however, was enough to keep them going and enough to sacrifice an easy road for the cause... **helping people take their next step toward Christ... together.**

They started in their living room with 10 people and 25 years later, Granger Community Church has attendees in the US, India, Singapore, the Philippines, Canada and the UK. We're a church with many locations—from 5,000 at the Granger campus to 20 people at a prison re-entry center to 400 people at the RV Hall of Fame in Elkhart to 100 people at Monroe Circle Community Center and more than 1,500 gathering weekly online from all over the world. We're a church with many expressions—hipsters and adrenaline junkies, accountants and artists, conservatives and liberals. The world is our gathering place with café tables, bus stop benches and cubicles as our pews and conversations as our sermons.



Mark & Sheila in 1990

ABOUT OUR LEADER

Our lead pastor is not normal. Mark Beeson is an adventurer, pioneer, storyteller and artist whose photographs are just as compelling as his communication. Above all else, he's a bold spiritual entrepreneur who doesn't subject people to what they need to do, but invites them to a life of purpose by calling out the God-given potential inside of them.

He's an accomplished scholar with a doctorate who relates to others in their comfort zone. He's an extreme extrovert who loves people as much as he loves the still quiet of nature. He has a reputation for strong faith, dependability, integrity and servant leadership. He places a high value on encouragement while acknowledging everyday challenges, hopes and heartbreaks. Our leader is, in so many words, one-of-a-kind.

ABOUT OUR CHURCH

Jesus was someone who stretched the faith of those around Him. He constantly dared people to see things differently, to act differently and to live differently. Rediscovering Jesus is not for the faint-hearted. There are difficult questions to be asked and dearly-held assumptions to be challenged.

That being said, you'll find a different culture here. We embrace risk. We are not afraid to try new things. We are not afraid to fail. We're a real-life community on the move—humans living our human lives, making mistakes, experiencing triumphs and joy, doing the best we can with what we've been given, finding our next steps toward Jesus and helping others do the same.

We're a little bit of a paradox—constantly balancing between the foundational and the progressive—sharing an ageless truth with inventive approaches that will melt your face off and give your heart an extreme makeover.

Granger Community Church is not your grandfather's church (unless it is, in which case, your grandfather is awesome).

OUR DISTINCTIVE DNA

After 25 years of growth and changed lives, our mission and values remain constant. This is the code we all live by. It's what shapes our culture. It's what drives our day-to-day. We repeat these sayings often and own them individually.

Helping people take their next step toward Christ... together.

PEOPLE MATTER

1. **We value the people Jesus values.** That is to say, everyone matters to us. *Luke 5:30-32*

NOTHING HUMAN IS FOREIGN TO US

2. **We strive for cultural relevance.** We don't speak spiritual jargon. Our music is loud and we communicate like it's 2011 (not 1911). *1 Corinthians 9:19-22*

UNITY IS NOT UNIFORMITY

3. **We encourage personalized spiritual growth.** When it comes to a relationship with God, we understand that, unlike Snuggies, one size does not fit all. *Ephesians 4:15-16*

NOT EVERYONE PLAYS TROMBONE

4. **We value everyone playing his or her part.** There is no assembly line. We want every individual to use his or her unique gifts, talents and abilities to connect others to God. *Galatians 6:4-6*

NO LONE RANGERS

5. **We value teams.** This is a no-ego fly zone—a team outperforms the individual in the long run every time. *1 Corinthians 12:25-27*

CLARITY BREEDS WISDOM

6. **We value clear Biblical teaching.** We ultimately trust Scripture because it is ultimately trustworthy. *Psalms 119:130*

HAVE A FRIEND & BE A FRIEND

7. **We nurture life-giving relationships.** We believe that names are meant to be known and people are meant to be loved. Like CPR for your soul, life-giving relationships are as important as breathing. *Ecclesiastes 4:9-10*

NEVER STOP AT FINE

8. **We strive for excellence.** We know there is no reward for squandered potential, half-hearted effort or lukewarm faith. *Colossians 3:17*

TO CHANGE THE GAME, CHANGE THE FRAME

9. **We embrace innovation.** We think big, take risks and hold a healthy disregard for the impossible. *Isaiah 43:19a*

YOU DON'T NEED A TITLE TO BE A LEADER

10. **We value leadership.** We believe in transformational leaders who demonstrate holiness, integrity and positive influence in the lives of others. *1 Timothy 4:12b*

WE'RE A BUNCH OF SELL-OUTS

11. **We practice whole-hearted devotion to Jesus.** We believe that love is a greater measure of devotion than religious zeal. When you love Jesus first, you love everyone else better. *Matthew 22:37-38*

WHEN THE TIDE COMES IN, IT LIFTS ALL BOATS

12. **We engage in community transformation.** We make a lasting difference in our communities. Where it is dark, we bring the light. *Isaiah 32:18*



438 people were baptized in 2010.



Student ministry attendance is up over 25% from last year with 400 students involved weekly.



The people of GCC gave generously in a down economy—more than \$346,000 in the 2010 Christmas Offering.

Every week more than 1,500 people watch Granger services online from 46 states.



In a six-month window last year, we added an additional 250 churches in India.





South Bend recently ranked #8 on a national list of dying cities. - Newsweek



"Americans are spiritual, but they have begun to seek spiritual experiences outside traditional religions." - Gabe Lyons



"87% of young adults who don't attend church labeled Christians as judgmental." – Gabe Lyons, *UnChristian*



12.6% of the residents of Elkhart County live below the poverty level.



2016 VISION

The differences at Granger Community Church in the next five years will be greater than the changes of the past twenty-five. GCC is not just an institution or location; we are a movement of people who understand we are Jesus' plan to transform and heal communities. We accept the challenge and we are raising the bar.

The number of people being the Church in their neighborhoods, schools, cafés and communities seven days a week will outnumber the number of casual Christians just going to church.

We will have remodeled the Granger campus and programs to help not just our congregation, but the greater community, with Jesus at the center.

Every follower of Jesus will be a reproducing follower of Jesus. And every church will be a reproducing church.

- Every follower of Jesus has a “missional impulse” within them; we will help believers in the GCC family discover and activate this impulse to make a difference in their world.
- We will equip Christ-followers to leverage their leadership and expertise in every domain of society (justice, education, healthcare, government, religion, business and the arts).
- We will transition children and student ministries into a holistic family ministry, partnering with parents to disciple their children and students for 936 weeks—from the time a child is born until they turn eighteen.
- We will find, celebrate and tell stories of our people “being” the Church at every opportunity.

- The Granger campus will become a gathering place for the community. We will build a chapel to help people through life-defining moments with inspirational architecture. We will build a Commons where people meet and friends gather. We will add paths, benches, pavilions, fireplaces and water features that invite people to enjoy the beauty of God's creation.
- We will utilize our fabulous Children's Center and launch a weekday faith-based preschool and/or daycare to meet the growing needs of parents as they try to raise their kids with virtue.
- Like Monroe Circle Community Center has done for a neighborhood in South Bend and like this remodel will do for Michiana, every location or gathering in our growing GCC network will exist for the unique transformation and elevation of the neighborhood, village, city or region where they are located.

- We will offer life-changing gatherings for worship and teaching in our current locations and launch three additional sites in our region with 9,000 gathering as one church in five locations.
- We will raise the temperature for life-on-life discipleship so it is normal for people to become reproducing followers of Jesus by owning their personal growth. Consumer-oriented Christians will, by design, not feel comfortable long-term.
- We will distribute high-quality content wherever and whenever it is needed. At any time we will be able to teach, train and inspire thousands of people as they gather from their home, church, business, or wherever they are located.
- We will launch and equip Granger Community Church start-ups all over the globe. All expressions—micro, mega, multi, rural, suburban, urban, multi-ethnic, local, domestic and international—will be united by the same mission and DNA. We will be a movement of more than 100,000 missional followers of Jesus gathering as 2,000 reproducing churches.

RAISING THE

BE the Church

B

ACTIVATE the Campus

A

REPRODUCE at every level

R



In 2010, we began a process to gather input from the highest number of people possible—from our congregation and the community—to discover ideas, unearth synergy and create ownership for the vision that will launch the direction of our ministry for the next season. These are a few of the word-for-word dreams that inspired the vision you now hold...

“It’s my dream that we double our current physical and online communities and that we start new physical campuses near and far.”

“I dream the church will be a true cultural force...one that breaks down barriers between people and spreads a viral infection of love in our community.”

“I dream the people of Granger will continue to be the church outside the four walls.”

“I can see us doing more with more campuses in Niles and the west side of South Bend.”

“A community center that is available to have events, meetings, luncheons and more.”

“Our church becomes a staple in the community...a place our community turns to for help and guidance.”

“We need a daycare for babies...this way we can care for children in the community and share the love of Christ daily with kids.”

“A place where reaching out to the needy becomes an absolute norm, not a random act of kindness.”

“Be available for important life moments and host weddings and funerals on-site.”

A CASE OF CONTRASTS

These are some of the ways we’re thinking about the differences in the new vision.

CHAPTER 1 (1986-2010)	CHAPTER 2 (2011 and beyond)
Get the community into the church.	Get the church into the community.
Church planting focus in India.	Church planting focus worldwide.
Church defined largely by weekend service.	Church defined by “where you are.”
Primarily centralized, top-down structure.	Primarily decentralized and organic movement.
Primary stats are attendance and giving.	We begin also tracking community impact and “loving others.”
Buildings serve the church—the community is invited to join.	Buildings serve the community—the congregation also meets there.
One central campus, two other gathering places.	Hundreds of gathering places.
Everything branded “Granger Community Church.”	“Granger Community Church” is The HUB of a larger movement.
People come to the church building to do their ministry.	Ministry isn’t confined to a building. It happens wherever you are.
Separate ministry for children, youth and adults.	A comprehensive family ministry that encompasses the entire spiritual development of the child and education of the parents.
Want to get married? Need a place for a funeral? Find another building.	We will have dedicated staff and space to stand with you and support you on these days of transition or crisis.



ABOUT OUR TOMORROW... THE GENIUS OF “AND”

We are growing and we are reproducing. But we aren't happy with the rate of that growth. The truth is, even though more than 10,000 would say Granger Community Church is “my church,” there are more people in our region who aren't involved in church now than in 1986, before GCC was around. So we are re-thinking how we “do” church. Culture is changing and we can't approach the next five years doing things the same way we have for the last 25. The trends speak for themselves—a smaller percentage of our community is connecting with the same methods that made an impact in the past. It's time for a change.

Nearly every church in America could be described with three words: “Come to us.” They build facilities and programs to get people to come for an hour on Sunday to sit in straight rows and listen. Current research shows that “model” of church works for about 40% of the population. And so we are going to continue to do the best we can through our weekend services. However, there are 93,000 people within five miles of our sites who will likely never be reached through a message series delivered from the platform. And they matter so much to us that we are finding new ways to take church to them.



Should our church focus on an inviting environment for new people with attractive music, arts and experiences to reach them for Jesus? (Some call it attractational.) Or do we focus on meeting people's needs where they are and help them become disciples right there, realizing they might never attend a church service with us? (Some call it missional.) What's the answer? Being attractational or missional?

We think it's both.

That's where The Genius of AND comes in. We're putting the power of an attractational AND missional strategy together; continuing to offer a safe place for more people to come to us AND going out to reach more people where they are.



NOW YOU'RE TALKING...

These are real quotes of real people after reading the final vision for the first time in late January 2011.

i love the idea of taking church to the community.

The vision energizes me and calms my subconscious fear of going stale.

Love the chapel vision where you can be a part of GCC in the capacity of experiencing joy of a wedding and comfort when losing a loved one.

I'm excited simply because we are moving toward a new objective and not keeping the status quo.

Excited about taking Jesus to people that won't come "here."

I am only 14, but I know that when I grow up I want my kids to be a part of all that goes on here at GCC. This vision is big, but I believe it WILL change the world one step at a time.

I'm excited about the chapel & commons that will give guests a "safe" reason to visit our church.

It all excites me! The plan to reach a percentage of people who would not even be a real focus in many churches - what a full expression of God's love and grace!

The 2016 vision is inspiring! Thank you for dreaming big and believing the impossible.

This vision is very exciting, because we are intentionally breaking out of the "church paradigm," and approaching more practices of the EARLY church.

Excited about the commons space. We need more of the "cool" spaces, like the new Uptown Kitchen, where people can gather and just "be."

Excited to be able to reach out to people around the world through video that we produce and put online.

Early care + development for infants, in a quality environment, is irreplaceable. Love the daycare/preschool initiative.

Doing things differently will allow us/GCC to achieve the vision simply because we are not doing things the same old normal way.

CHATTER REPORT...THIS JUST IN...



Not entirely sure why I'm following @gccwired on Twitter. I'm Catholic. But I guess I'm also just eternally intrigued by them & all they do. – Scout (via Twitter)

@markbeeson challenged our @gccwired church to become the best version of ourselves and not be lazy about it. He keeps me on my toes :) Go! – Bruno (via Twitter)

My friends, aka the church, are an inspiration. – Jessica (via Twitter)

Going to journey class tonight and diving deep into the bible @gccwired was the best way to get me to be the man I want to be! – Ted (via Twitter)

Winter state of emergency declared & still @gccwired unloaded & delivered 10 semis of food all over Michiana! /ilovemychurchoftoughguys! – Courtney (via Twitter)

2011 will be my 4th year at Granger Community Church. I love every moment. – Will (via Facebook)

Asked five families if we could come in and pray for them. Five families said that would be very nice. Priceless. – Todd (via Facebook)

Just started attending GCC last October - I love this church and its community! Cannot wait for Bible Journey class to begin again. You help me in my walk with God, which sometimes feels slow, but is always moving me closer to Him. Thank you! – Cathy (via Facebook)

We've practically packed out @gccwired this morning, and the worship was incredible. So glad I woke up and didn't miss this. – Elle (via Twitter)

What an amazing experience tonight! So appreciate Steve's willingness to share his story. He was the photographer for my wedding nearly 8 years ago and he did an amazing job despite his personal life...the photos don't even come close to the awe I felt while he played that saxophone! I literally had tears streaming down my face as I listened to the most beautiful version of Amazing Grace I've ever experienced! – Peggy (via Facebook)

I'm not exactly sure why, but the arts open a door to a much closer relationship with God... Thank you, GCC, for shining The Light so brilliantly... – Buddy (via Facebook)

The old Me would have stayed home and said "I'll watch service online" and never do it. #themiwanttobe gets to @gccwired and leans in. – Brad (via Twitter)

Raising the B.A.R. online // @gccwired considers their online community! I no longer feel left out. Thank you" – Becky (via Twitter)

South Bend is #8 on Newsweek's dying cities, yet God is using places like #campraybird and @gccwired for life. – Jacob (via Twitter)

My area was truly blessed today by Granger Community Church !!! They not only brought boxes of food & boxes of personal care items door-to-door, but they also help plow us out and unbury us! Thanks so much! I know I am truly thankful. After all the shoveling I did, having you guys show up was not only amazing, but very encouraging! – Freedom (via Facebook)

Awesome dude just bought a large gift card in the cafe then told us to buy other guests' drinks!! Merry Christmas @gccwired – Dian (via Twitter)

The people of @gccwired are absolutely incredible! Nothing like the joy of today's #FoodDrop11 to start #2011 ! We will not be stopped!! – David (via Twitter)

@gccwired what an inspiring sermon today. I'm a newbie to GCC but I absolutely love it. I can't wait to continue my Sundays at GCC :) - Christy (via Twitter)

As always, filled with peace and wisdom following Dr. Bob teaching @gccwired. Don't know what I'd do without my amazing church family. – Katherine (via Twitter)

@gccwired is one of the first places where I found people who actually looked like the me I wanted to be. So thankful for their guidance. – Laura (via Twitter)

Absolutely incredible message!!!! Always leave feeling the love of our God, renewed - Saturday night, WOW!!!! I am speechless - that my friends doesn't happen often! Hope you can experience it! I thank God for GCC - and the incredible, devoted ministry that inspires us weekly! – Michelle (via Facebook)

@gccwired this weekend's message touched so much of the me I used to be, thanks to God I'm becoming the me I want to be!! – Angela (via Twitter)

Tonight's service was God-inspired. The ride back home opened a previously closed loving-relationship. Thank you, Dr. Bob for being God's conduit! – Lohr (via Facebook)



the
NEW NORMAL PROJECT
a movement of people who don't hold back

We do have a new vision. But in many ways, we're doing what we've always done. Our mission hasn't changed. However, society *HAS* changed and the way we've connected with people in the past won't work today. It requires us to learn new things, adapt and change where necessary. We can't dream or will it to be; we actually have to back up our convictions as part of God's story. Are you ready for a call to action that will accelerate this dream to a reality?

- Think about your story and share it with others.
- Pray about what God wants to do in and through you and respond to His prompting.
- What's my part in this vision? How am I going to back it?



WHAT'S IN STORE