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1. Are we currently in debt, and will we incur debt to accomplish this vision?

We plan to complete this project without incurring any additional debt. We believe in being fiscally responsible, and Granger Community Church undergoes a full *voluntary* audit every year to ensure our financial stability. And, even though an outside financial analysis has shown that our ministry could support nearly twice the debt we currently carry, our administrative council and pastors prefer to keep our debt at a level they feel is truly responsible. In fact, the last time we borrowed money was in 2004. We’ve seen what overwhelming debt can do to a family, a business, a community. And we’re not going there.

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2. Will there be other options to serve in the community, like **Second**

Saturday, but multiple times a month/week? You can currently choose from a wide variety of volunteer opportunities in the community. We have more than 20 teams operating on a regular basis, each with their own focus – and with needs you may be perfectly equipped to help meet.

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3. Who are we working with to design the new spaces? Our strategy for getting things done is simple: find the right people with the right talents, put them in the right places, and let them do what they do best. We think we've had pretty good results with that approach so far. For every aspect of the new spaces, we're partnering with carefully selected experts.

- ▶ **Environments: [Visioneering Studios, Helman-Sechrist Architecture and Narrow the Road].** The best and the brightest urban planners, architects and construction managers will help us bring our vision to reality. Their professional portfolios include theme park designs for Disney and Universal Studios; striking residential and commercial properties throughout north central Indiana; and construction management for complex expansion projects like the Notre Dame football stadium.
- ▶ **Education: [Chris Whitmire]** Our research team is being led by an incredibly capable volunteer who has been attending GCC for nearly 15 years. Chris is an Early Childhood Consultant in the Berrien Country RESA program. She has her

Master of Science degree in education and has been working in education for the past twenty years.

Expansion: [Ron Vandergriend]. An active executive in the field, Ron has launched more than 30,000 churches and trained over 15,000 pastors in 30 different countries. His vast experience will be a tremendous asset.

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- 4. Who is leading our preschool team?** Chris Whitmire is an Early Childhood Consultant in the Berrien County RESA program. She has her Master of Science degree in education and has been working in education for the past twenty years.

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- 5. When will the preschool open?** Our goal is to open during the 2012 school year, and we're working hard to make that happen.

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- 6. Will we also have a childcare?** Great question! We're currently researching this possibility. We want to provide high-quality educational programs that meet the needs of our community – and, ultimately, childcare may be a part of that.

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7. There are so many types of preschools—what will ours be like and how much will it cost? We are still defining our curriculum and teaching philosophy. But, the GCC senior management team has been working with our expert education panel to outline our preschool’s values, which naturally go hand-in-hand with GCC’s values. You can read about them [here](#).

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8. What is that building on the Northeast corner of the picture? What can we say? We like to dream big! And it makes sense to project and plan for future growth so that as resources become available, we can add the elements on our campus “wish list.” Like an outdoor pavilion, a student center and more.

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9. Will the Chapel/Commons/Café/Bookstore be open normal business hours or have extended hours for meetings/gatherings/coffee with friends? The Commons, café and bookstore will most likely follow conventional retail hours. The chapel’s schedule will include open time slots available for events such as weddings and funerals – plus preset prayer time every day. For example, we might set aside 6 – 8 a.m., Monday through Friday, for personal prayer time, when anyone can come in to sit and pray. No matter what other events are scheduled, those prescheduled prayer times will remain consistent. The chapel schedule will be [public? posted online?], so you can see when it’s available – and when it’s not.

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10. What is the purpose of the Chapel? Will our weekend services be moving to that space? Can you give us any specifics about what it'll look like and how it will be used? We're building the chapel to provide a space where our congregation and the community can hold weddings, funerals and other sacred gatherings. The chapel will offer a spacious feeling that draws people in, with lofty ceilings that lead the eyes upward, toward spiritual connection with God. Our vision is for the Granger campus to evolve into a faith-based community center, where people can come not only to worship but also to connect with others, find resources, celebrate milestones and bring friends.

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11. Have you considered having a permanent baptismal pool at the Granger campus? Yes, we have one planned for the chapel. Also, our master plan shows a permanent outdoor baptismal pool which could be added in the future.

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12. What does “holistic family ministry” look like? It's no secret that GCC is having a profound influence on the children in our community – or that one of the reasons we provide such great programming for kids is to give their parents an hour or so to worship and hear from the God who loves them. But, we want to do more for the family itself. By providing more tools, more resources and more

training for the most demanding, important – and sometimes overwhelming – job we could ever have: parenthood.

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13. What is a “missional community?” It’s hard to describe because each one is so organic and unique. But, one analogy that has been helpful is “a platoon of people living on mission to BE the church among a pocket of people.” Most groups will be 20-50 in size, a smaller church within the church. They will live outward beyond themselves, demonstrating the Gospel in word and deed to their neighborhood, workplace, or pocket of people they are called to. Missional Communities will integrate with the life of the Granger campus, Elkhart Site or Monroe Circle Community Center.

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14. What is an essential church? It’s what we’re doing to reach people who will never step foot in a larger, organized church. The strategy is to take church to pockets of people with culturally relevant expressions that look different than traditional “church” gatherings.

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15. How will the leaders of these groups be trained? As with other areas of our ministry, we start by identifying people who have a natural aptitude for leadership – and a desire to serve – and then we equip them with ongoing training in theology, practical skills and character formation. We’ll use a coaching approach,

training 15 – 30 leaders at a time throughout the course of a year, with weekly support and accountability. We already have several individuals interested, and the training will start in the next few months. [Back to top](#)

16. How will this concept of missional communities and essential churches

grow and expand? Think rabbits! Every missional community and essential church will be designed to spin off additional groups, led by those who have gone on to participate in the leadership training. The potential for exponential growth is huge – and by God’s grace, we will become a movement of 100,000 missional followers of Jesus, meeting in 2,000 reproducing churches by 2016!

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17. You mentioned that training will be offered for those who want to

participate in this new vision – can you tell me more about that? We’re developing a basic track to help people discover their “missional impulse” – a combination of what they are uniquely wired and inspired to do plus the specific applications in which they can make the biggest impact. Over time, we’ll identify and develop coaches within the various “domains of society.” The coaches will be a resource for others who want to serve in specific areas. Just like finding a mentor when you’re trying to start up a business, tapping into the experience of people who’ve discovered their own missional impulse and are actively living it out can be immensely helpful.

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18. What’s the hype about “activating” my missional impulse and “engaging the domains of society”? We’re asking you to look at your specific domain within our society and our community – like education, healthcare, justice, the arts, family, business, and government, to name a few. Since this is already your comfort zone, it’s only logical to ask God, “How do you envision me bringing your kingdom *here*?”

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19. How are you going to find these coaches – and make sure all the training is consistent? There are scores of people in this church who are already following their missional in their day-to-day lives. We are learning from them what is helpful and what isn’t, what they wish someone had told them, and what they might do differently – so that we can develop a rubric for coaches and a set of best practices. Some of this information will be centralized and some will be online. But the ultimate goal is to get the “organization” out of the way and allow people to begin to connect and network directly.

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20. How will the trained leaders be held accountable so they stay true to the mission, vision and values of GCC? By dramatically increasing our equipping and training. We will continue our commitment to the weekend services. This is a very important time for us to come together. Where we are inspired by the arts and we sit under the teaching of the word of God, But we want to create new environments that are a lot more like boot camp. That’s less about inspiration

and more about the actual tactics of being the church and living this out on a day-to-day basis.

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21. How and when will you choose the location of GCC's next church site? We

want our regional sites to be as close to the Granger campus as possible, so we can expand from the inside out. We have scores of families coming to our main campus from nearby communities, so it makes sense to choose one where we already have an inroad of sorts. We may next expand to Goshen, Edwardsburg, Niles or Plymouth – we don't know yet for certain. We are also working simultaneously to start more and more churches in India and across the United States, though these will undoubtedly differ from our regional sites.

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22. How will you track community impact with so many doing so much all over

the world? An interesting question. There is a certain tension between controlling expansion and facilitating a movement. Sometimes, the tighter you hold onto control, the less likely you are to inspire a true movement that becomes viral (in the best sense of the word). Obviously, some control is essential. That's why we're committed to providing great training, great coaches and great networking opportunities. Our primary tracking tool will be technology – that much we know. We know we will need to have people use the same measures and track the same trends and vitals, but honestly, we're still figuring it all out.

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23. How does building a bigger church/destination teach us to be the church

outside our walls? We understand the disconnect there. But, although it may seem like a paradox to *be* the church while *going* to church, the truth is that the two actions are intertwined. We may be making a commitment, individually and collectively, to be the church – but there is no intent to devalue the act of attending a service. On the contrary, the scriptures are very clear that we are supposed to be meeting together, where we can share the experience of worship and have a richer, more meaningful bond with each other and with God. On the other hand, if the totality of our faith lies in coming to church, we’ve missed the point. Our vision is to consider our facility not as a destination but as a hub. A place where, just as the planes at an airport, we come to “refuel.” To get our flight plan and our flight crews. To invite passengers on board. And to take off as scheduled on our mission into the outside world.

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24. As we grow and add all of these Essential Church/Missional Groups and multi-sites, how are we going to stay connected and share a common

vision – *without* letting people slip through the cracks? We’ve always known God loves small churches. Why do you think He made so many of them? The intimacy and community of a small church just can’t be beat. And it’s one of the reasons we are launching in the new vision—launching literally thousands of little churches within the big church.

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25. When you say that this vision came from the congregation, how was the survey done? I know I was never asked. About a year ago, we asked the entire congregation to join in this process over several months, through volunteer brainstorming sessions, a Web portal for feedback and informal conversation. We even invited the community at large to participate, asking them to tell us their dream for what church could and should be in this area. Literally thousands of people responded – including people who don't even go to our church.

Then we took all of that input (hundreds and hundreds of pages) and distilled it down into a first draft of the vision. From there, we took it back out to groups all over the church – small focus groups who gave us more feedback. And, again, we compiled the results and made revisions. In all, we've been through that feedback-revision-feedback loop about five times, fine-tuning the vision each time.

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25. Why wouldn't God just want our culture to continue to flourish in its current state? What's wrong with the way things are? We're well aware that some churches operate with an "us-versus-them" mindset, staying in their comfortable, exclusive silos to remain safe from a sinful, out-of-control world. Not us. Have you noticed we're not exactly known for playing it safe? No matter how bad it may be "out there," it's where we're headed. To show people there is no

doubt that they matter to God and to us. And to bring more of “up there, down here.

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26. What do we mean by “justice in the domains of society”? Consider people of this church living on mission the criminal justice system, law enforcement, fighting fires or family services caring for those in our community who have been abused or marginalized in some way. We want to make sure we are intersecting again and again in all of these initiatives with new levels of training, networking and support that wasn’t available before.

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28. How do you envision GCC impacting government? We are still exploring opportunities and defining our goals in this area. But, for the sake of example, let’s look at what Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, California, has been doing. Founded by Rick Warren, author of *Purpose Driven Life*, the church has established a civil forum, where community leaders get together to discuss important issues. And, though these meetings are sometimes marked by robust debate, they allow people to intelligently consider both sides of an issue in an atmosphere of civility and collaboration – changing the entire political tone in their community. These forums have even expanded to a national level on occasion, hosting a debate for presidential candidates a few years ago.

Whatever we do, we want to connect with and serve our representatives more effectively. So we're asking ourselves how we can better pray for them, encourage them, and support them in their work while we let them know that they matter to God and to our communities.

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29. What is the timeline for the building projects and new programs? How much is it going to cost and how are we going to pay for it?

IF WE GIVE... WE GET

\$3,200,000 – A great start!

- Launch additional sites like Elkhart by end of 2012.
- Break ground on The Commons this summer (2011).
- Complete by next summer (2012).
- Open preschool in September 2012.
- Kick- off the leadership coaching and training plans for missional communities and essential churches.

\$6,200,000 – Everything listed above, plus...

- Break ground on the Chapel next summer (2012) for a mid-2013 opening.

\$7,000,000 – We can start right away!

- Break ground on the Chapel this summer (2011) to open next year.

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30. Do we still have funds from the *My Life* campaign and, if so, will they be used toward this project? This project will require additional funds for

construction, but the good news is that a significant percentage of the Commons addition has already been funded by those who gave during the My Life campaign from 2007-2010. We have \$2 million in the bank already, thanks to the faithful contributions from 1,508 families.

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31. What are we doing to move toward a “green” campus? We actually have been doing some research on that and it’s incredibly pricey on the wind turbine kind of things. For a million and half bucks you could put up a really cool wind turbine that could power this whole plant and bring in some money because you are powering things around. But the technology is too soon and we’re in a flight path and there are other things that are a problem, but yeah we are pursuing those kinds of questions.

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