

ANNUAL REPORT 2021



Surprise Church
BISMARCK

From the Lead Pastor



Matt Anderson

It is such an honor to be your pastor, and I thank you all for the sacred privilege of pursuing Jesus with you. This was certainly an important year for regaining momentum at Surprise. We watched dozens of new people get involved in Community Groups and Ministry Teams, expanded our efforts to reach people in our city, and improved our ability to help people grow one step at a time. Further, we saw both worship attendance and giving increase to their highest levels since before the pandemic, which was quite exciting. We also appointed our first Elder Board to protect and oversee our vision, which has been carefully and eagerly crafted the next three years. With your prayers, involvement, and financial support, we'll aspire to help 200 grow spiritually this year, while expanding our Community Groups to reach three new cities. By 2024, we will aim to guide at least 316 people on the path of spiritual growth and reach twenty cities. See our full *Master Plan* on page 5, and don't miss the stories of growth on page 7!



From the Executive Director

Ann Hagerott

2021 was a challenging year for most churches as many churchgoers chose to continue to stay home and watch worship services online or on TV. While our attendance was smaller than before Covid, the numbers involved in Community Groups or teams nearly exceeded those in worship on some weeks. This means that our vision *to be a church leaves the building* is becoming a reality. The gospel is not only being preached and received in worship, but also in homes, coffee shops, and in virtual spaces in and beyond our city. I sometimes lay awake at night in awe of the many people I know who have been profoundly impacted by the messages and community at Surprise Church. There's just something about a church where ALL are welcome because ALL are broken and admitting this allows people to face their struggles and find hope in Jesus!

In 2022 we are upping the ante! Not only will we continue to encourage people to enter into community to find Christ-centered relationships, grow in faith, and have a lot of fun, we are now providing an amazing tool that will help individuals assess their spiritual growth and take intentional steps to grow. Our goal this year is to gather 200 people into groups or teams WITH a personalized plan for spiritual growth. This is so very exciting and likely to keep me up even more at night rejoicing over stories of marriages saved, relationships mended, and lives changed by hope. What a privilege it is to be a part of this cosmic adventure!

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From the Elder Board



Janel Schmitz | Board President, Founding member of Surprise

What an exciting and humbling opportunity to become a part of this leadership group at Surprise Church. It is our job to set a vision for the next several years that is honestly out of our reach. When the Church's goals are set greater than what we as individuals can achieve, the Holy Spirit is necessary to inspire our efforts. I have no doubt that God is at work in the lives of everyone involved at Surprise!

Jamie Ressler | Vice President, Stewardship Team Liaison

What a difference a year makes! This time a year ago a group of awesome Surprisers were putting the finishing touches on our Constitution and By-laws and taking the steps to create our Elder Board. A year later, our Elders are meeting on a monthly basis and helping to shape the future of Surprise Church and making sure our awesome staff and volunteers have what they need to continue operating Surprise on a weekly basis! While we are still a new board, we are honored to be able to serve the people and vision of Surprise now and going forward. I am excited to how we can continue Surprise's vision of a Church that leaves the building and reaching new communities both inside and outside North Dakota and helping show more people God's Love! I cannot wait to see what this year brings for Surprise Church and hope that we Elder Board members can help lead us to new heights in 2022.



Renae Kondos | Board Secretary

My family and I are so blessed to call Surprise Church home. Being part of the Elder Board gives me a front row seat to all the amazing things in store for the mission and future of Surprise Church Bismarck. Our mission to reach as many people as possible across multiple cities is so impactful, and I pray that many other families will be as blessed as mine has been in calling this church their home. It is heartwarming to see such a growth within our Community Groups, as they truly are an amazing thing to be a part of.

Matt Anderson | Lead Pastor

It's been incredible to serve with and support our first ever Surprise Elder Board. This group is doing an incredible job providing a new level of leadership to Surprise, even as they evaluate candidates for our fifth and final Elder position. Please uphold them in your prayers as they aim to follow and articulate God's long-term direction for our congregation!



Financial Update

After a challenging COVID-19 season, Surprise Church had a positive financial year in 2021. Over the course of the pandemic, our talented team and dedicated financial partners pulled together to sustain our mission. As we emerged from that memorable season, we saw renewed growth in both attendance and giving, averaging between 150 and 200 per Sunday throughout the fall, including dozens of wonderful children and new families.

We praise that sixty-three people made their first-time donation at Surprise in 2021, which means that more and more people are deciding that our vision is worthy of their generosity.

To ensure that we could maintain our staff and programming at the start of the year, we did successfully apply for a PPP loan of \$30,000 in 2021, which was used according to guidelines and therefore forgiven.

2021 Budget

Income: \$296,719*

Expenses: \$291,493

Net Income: \$7,225

*Includes \$30,000 PPP loan

2022 Budget

Projected Income: 292,400

Budgeted Expenses: 291,379.00

Projected Net Income: \$1021

The projected revenue numbers remain approximate as we iron out the final details of our 2022 budget, which will include a well-deserved cost of living increase for our staff team. Expenses are based upon our needs for ongoing ministry programs and reductions in areas in which our team has tightened its belt, along with some new investments in outreach. These new monthly partnerships include \$400 to *Blessed Builders*, a local non-profit that helps people with addiction find sobriety in Jesus, \$450 to Pastor Dan Clites as he leads our new Twin Cities Community Groups movement, and \$200 to our parent denomination, LCMC. We also plan to continue our \$200 monthly contribution to the Crisis Care Chaplaincy program, a critical ministry led by Surprise band member Pastor Greg Carr, and reserve \$200 each month to help those who apply and qualify for emergency assistance.

Revenue projections are based in part upon our Generosity Party pledges from last November, in which 30 household estimated their 2022 giving for a total of 151,332. This is up from the \$134,136 pledge total in 2020. This increase, along with expected donations from in-person and digital giving enables us to project an income of just under \$300,000 for the calendar year. Thanks to all who have prayed, pledged, and supported our mission, because every dollar helps us to change lives for Christ!

Surprise wishes to thank Steph Honeyman for her time serving as our Director of Finance at Surprise. While our Stewardship Team steps in to build on her work of developing our financial stewardship while creating a strategy to fill this opening, we invite you to reach out to Elder Board member and Stewardship Team member Jamie Ressler with any questions (jaimieressler@gmail.com).

Praise God and thank you for enabling the Surprise vision to become a reality!





Surprise Church’s leadership structure is designed to pursue our God-given vision through an organized, effective, and accountable system. This “empowerment system” involves the following teams:

Vision & Constitution: In 2021, the Surprise vision was instilled in our new Constitution and Bylaws, which will direct our new Board of Elders in their oversight of the Surprise vision.

Board of Elders: Elders will be selected and approved according to the new Constitution and serve for specified terms. They will work with and oversee the lead pastor in pursuing and safeguarding God’s vision for Surprise. The Board will also make use of a team of External Ministry Consultants to gather input and wisdom from the wider church.

Stewardship Team: This team oversees all financial aspects of our church’s mission, including budgeting, monthly cash flow, policies and procedures, facility management, and timely reports.

Core Team: The Core Team is comprised of staff and volunteers who oversees all budgets, day to day operations, and team leaders in Surprise’s primary areas of ministry. This team meets weekly under the oversight of the Lead Pastor and Executive Director.

Team Leaders: Team leaders relate to one of the Core Team leaders for support and direction. Team leaders gather quarterly for training as they implement the annual ministry plans that they formulate each fall.

Facility Task Force: These individuals will evaluate potential facility alternatives for our Stewardship Team to make sure that we are most effectively using our resources with regard to our worship space.

Purpose:

Why we exist

To be the Surprise of God to a world in need

Vision:

The dream we chase

Imagine a church that leaves the building to love each other like family and transform cities.

Mission:

Our next big objective

To gather 200 people into Groups & Teams with a personal plan for spiritual growth.

Strategy:

How we'll get there

- 1- Prioritize Spiritual growth plans
- 2- Build tributaries to groups, not diversions
- 3- Implement a digital ministry strategy
- 4- Prioritize prayer
- 5- Create a system for leadership development
- 6- Create a clear evangelism/outreach plan

Persona:

Who we'll envision reaching

People needing a fresh start

Core Values:

How we want to behave

1. LOST PEOPLE MATTER
2. MAKE BOLD MOVES
3. MISSIONAL COMMUNITY
4. EQUIP THE SAINTS
5. MULTIPLY LEADERS
6. RADICAL GENEROSITY
7. STUBBORNLY SIMPLE

Distinctives :

Why we are different

- We are intentional.
- We see faith as an identity & lifestyle.
- We practice radical hospitality.
- We cultivate real relationships.
- We build missional community.
- We aim to multiply.

3-Year Outlook: *Where we'll be in three!*

1. Reach 20 new cities with non-local Community Groups/church partnerships
2. 316 people in groups/teams with a Spiritual Growth Plan
3. 10,000 souls engaged through content evangelism database
4. Budget of \$500,000

Surprise Church 2022 Goals:

1. Reach 3 new cities with non-local Community Groups
2. 200 people in groups/teams with a Spiritual Growth Plan
3. 2,000 souls engaged through content evangelism database
4. Budget of \$300,000+

Big Annual Events: *all hands on deck*

- >Group Launches
- >Big Days: Christmas, Easter, Family Funday
- >Volunteer Celebration

Marriage retreat, Egg Hunt, Camp Kindness

Keystone Ministries: *80% of our focus*

- Community Groups
- Leadership & Team Development
- Communications/Digital Ministry
- Family Ministry
- Worship

Key Processes: *systems we'll harness*

- Team Leader & Leadership Development
- Discipleship/Growth systems
- Donor relations
- Guest Assimilation

Key Metrics: *How we'll evaluate*

LEADING indicators:

- Content/video views
- Spiritual Growth Plan

LAGGING indicators:

- Giving
- Attendance
- Group/Teams

Stories of Growth



We recruited musician Devin Wicks to play with our volunteer team during last year's first Faces of Easter series at the Dakota Stage. After a year of spiritual growth on our team, Devin is now helping to plan this year's *Faces of Easter* series!



Surprise Kids used candlelight and music to help to prepare us for Christmas. Each week our team prepares a fun, friendly and inspiring lesson while supporting parents with resources to carry on the conversations at home. It's been amazing to watch families grow together at Surprise!



Our *Mercy Box* program (TheMercyBox.com) partners with dozens of local businesses to gather donations for a new charity each month. We select charities from who apply for the year ahead before mobilizing to collect tons of items to support their important work!



Church Outdoors is our summer, midweek worship gathering at Custer Park. This event helped those who are gone on summer weekends to feel connected, while enabling us to meet many new guests and celebrate some very special baptisms.



Surprise has well over 100 people in Community Groups, including this group for engaged and married couples. They gather weekly to share a meal, discuss weekly messages, and laugh often.



Under the leadership of Michelle Witty, Surprise Students has been gathering for a weekly meal, fun and discussion while becoming more active and involved on Sunday mornings. Kids are growing and lives are changing!



Any questions?

Simply email us to set up a conversation.

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